

CHPA PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

DAVID CAMERON GIVES A GREEN LIGHT TO DECENTRALISED ENERGY

The leader of the Conservative Party has today shown strong support for the Decentralised Energy agenda, when he spoke prior to the Stop Climate Chaos carbon 'dating' event in Westminster, stating that "*achieving a sustainable world and combating the threat of climate change will require some really fresh ideas and radical thinking*" and that "*the concept of Decentralised Energy should be taken seriously*".

CHPA Director Phil Piddington comments:

"A clear strategy in support of Decentralised Energy would provide a much-needed platform to enable combined heat and power to reach its full potential. Providing heat and power locally, ensures that energy is delivered to consumers in the most efficient way. Renewed uptake of established combined heat and power technologies provides a natural bridge to a more sustainable low-carbon economy and has the potential to pave the way for the emerging range of low-carbon and renewable microgeneration.

The decentralised model is already well established in a number of competing economies such as Denmark, Finland and increasingly, in the USA, providing competitive advantage and increased security of supply.

The CHP industry warmly welcomes David Cameron's strong support for the Decentralised Energy agenda and the Association looks forward to working with the Conservative Party during their own review of energy and climate change policy in the UK."

A key part of the government's existing Decentralised Energy policy, is the target to reach 10GWe of 'good quality' CHP by 2010. However, the government have already stated that they anticipate failing this target by at least 20%.

ENDS

Notes to Editors

1. Decentralised energy systems are those generation technologies, which provide power, heat (or cooling) at the point of use. These range from microgeneration technologies operating in individual homes to community based systems such as those operating in Southampton or indeed large industrial CHP schemes powering over 200 industrial schemes in the UK at present.
2. Combined Heat and Power (CHP) is the simultaneous generation of electricity and useful heat in a combined, highly efficient process. The Government's target is to double UK CHP capacity to 10,000 MWe by 2010.
3. The Government's latest statistics show that every 1 MWe of CHP operating in the UK helps reduce carbon emissions by between 600 – 800 tonnes every year. Current installed CHP capacity of approximately 5,700 MWe, on over 1,500 sites across the UK, is already helping deliver savings of over four million tonnes of carbon annually, one of the largest single carbon reduction measures in the Government's Climate Change Programme.

For further information please contact:

Phil Piddington, CHPA Director

020 7828 4077

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