



Sustainable Energy Policy Network Newsletter: April 2007

Welcome to the April 2007 SEPN newsletter. Recent developments include:

Defra backs new campaign to slash CO2 emissions

David Miliband and Tony Blair gave their backing on 23 April to a new campaign to help people cut their personal CO2 emissions.

'We're in this Together' aims to provide people with both ideas for behavioural change and practical solutions to reduce their household emissions by one tonne over three years.

Eight companies (B&Q, Barclaycard, British Gas, Marks & Spencer, O2, Royal & SunAlliance, BSkyB & Tesco) are providing products, services and advice to make it easier for consumers to reduce CO2 emissions. More brands are set to join the campaign throughout 2007, including HSBC and National Express.

Defra is actively supporting the campaign, along with the Energy Saving Trust, the National Consumer Council and The Church of England.

The campaign website (see link below) gives information about the products and services offered. It invites people to sign up electronically and be part of the effort to meet the targets set by the campaign.

The campaign is spearheaded by the Climate Group, a non-government organisation created to act as a catalyst between business, state and civil groups to tackle climate change.

[We're in this Together website](#)

[Defra website: Climate Change](#)

[Directgov website: Environment and greener living](#)

Consultation launched on Aviation and Emissions Trading

Government Ministers launched a consultation on 29 April, on how the aviation sector can play its part in combating climate change through the European Union's Emissions Trading Scheme (EU ETS).

The EU ETS places a total cap on the amount of carbon dioxide that industries covered by the scheme can emit and allocates allowances to cover emissions within this. If airlines within the scheme emit more than their allocation of carbon allowances, they will have to buy an equivalent number allowances from the carbon market. Those that emit less - for example, as a result of introducing more efficient technology - will be able to sell their allowances. Putting a price on emitting carbon creates an incentive for industry to invest in low carbon technology.

The consultation seeks responses on a number of issues, including the following:

which flights should be included in the scheme, for example, those arriving in and departing from the EU or just those flying between EU airports;
when aviation should enter the scheme;
how the scheme should be regulated; and

how allowances will be allocated.

The consultation will run for 9 weeks from 30th March and closes on 1st June.

[Department for Transport website: Aviation and emissions trading consultation](#)

[DTI website: EU Emissions Trading Scheme](#)

Energy statistics

Energy Trends and Quarterly Energy Prices publications were published on 29 March by the Department of Trade and Industry. Energy Trends covers statistics on energy production and consumption, in total and by fuel, and provides an analysis of the year on year changes.

The March edition of Energy Trends also includes articles on: "Carbon dioxide emissions and energy consumption in the UK", "UK oil industry over the past 100 years", "UKCS capital expenditure survey 2006", and a number of articles concerning energy consumption in the regions. Quarterly Energy Prices covers prices to domestic and industrial consumers, prices of oil products and comparisons of international fuel prices.

[DTI website: Energy Trends](#)

[DTI website: Quarterly Energy Prices](#)

350th North Sea field approved

The continued central role of the North Sea in meeting the UK's oil and gas needs was underlined on 29 April as Trade and Industry Secretary Alistair Darling announced approval for the 350th offshore field in its 40 year history.

He confirmed three fields - Caravel, Shamrock and Kelvin – which will be operated by Shell (in partnership with ExxonMobil) and Conoco Phillips.

While underlining the commitment to the industry, he will also set out the opportunity for the North Sea to lead the world in carbon capture and storage.

In total the three fields should add an extra 340 billion cubic feet of gas to overall UK reserves.

[Press Statement](#)

Connecting offshore wind to the National Grid

Details were announced on 29 March of the licensing regime for would-be offshore wind electricity transmission owners.

After a joint consultation the DTI has decided in agreement with Ofgem that Britain's monopoly electricity transmission network owners will have the opportunity to compete against a wider range of transmission companies to build, own and maintain the links.

The aim is for this 'non-exclusive' system to deliver cheaper and more timely connections from offshore wind farms to the onshore Grid, while encouraging innovation through competition and enabling new entrants to compete in the market.

[Consultation document](#)

[Government response](#)

Finally...

If there is anything you would like to see mentioned in the SEPN newsletter, please...

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