



NEWS RELEASE

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The LowCVP welcomes launch of Government's consultation on biofuels carbon and sustainability reporting

The Low Carbon Vehicle Partnership (LowCVP) welcomes the launch of the Government's consultation on the carbon and sustainability reporting requirements for biofuels as part of the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation (RTFO). It commends the Government for giving regard to public anxiety about the sustainability of biofuels and responding promptly. We are also pleased to support proposals to strengthen the reporting requirement through rewarding biofuels on the basis of their greenhouse gas savings and, if possible, moving to exclude fuels produced unsustainably.

The LowCVP has been leading the development of carbon and sustainability reporting requirements on behalf of the Government, working with consultants from Ecofys and E4tech. This includes a calculation toolkit to measure the greenhouse gas savings of all biofuels produced, or imported into the UK. It also includes a reporting framework for monitoring the wider risks of supplying biofuels.

The systems have been developed in close collaboration with a broad range of stakeholders including environmental and social NGOs and the oil and biofuel industry.

The LowCVP Director Greg Archer said: "Today's announcement, once implemented, should reassure motorists filling up with biofuels they are making a difference and not causing direct destruction of rainforests or other environmental damage. The Government should be commended for listening to public concerns and acting promptly. We look forward to assisting with the detailed design of the

proposals including the proposed Kitemark scheme that can be used by biofuel producers, guaranteeing their supplies are truly sustainable.”

Research shows that the greenhouse gas benefits of biofuels vary greatly with the system of cultivation and processing and use of by-products; but, in most cases, biofuels are better than the fossil alternative. Greg Archer commented: “The proposal to reward biofuels on the basis of their greenhouse gas savings from 2010 will help to provide the stimulus needed to encourage all biofuel suppliers to maximise the climate benefits and help to create the market for advanced biofuels.”

A public consultation on the carbon and sustainability reporting requirements is being conducted in parallel with a piloting exercise with a number of companies including: Argent Energy, BP, Biofuels Corporation, DI Oils plc, Greenergy, Harvest Energy, Neste Oil and Petroplus.

Andrew Owens, Chief Executive of one of the participating companies, Greenergy, commented: “Greenergy welcomes this announcement as, for the first time, we see the three key drivers for a credible and sustainable market for biofuels being brought together under one umbrella. The consultation recognises that biofuels are an essential part of the long-term transport fuels mix, that the sourcing must be sustainable and the carbon saving both quantifiable and significant. We look forward to continuing to contribute to the pilot scheme and feeding in results from the carbon audits we already carry out on all feedstocks”

An extended summary of the detailed RTFO Carbon and Sustainability Reporting Requirements (8 pages) and the work of the LowCVP is available on the LowCVP website: www.lowcvp.org.uk or by calling the LowCVP secretariat on: 020 7222 8000

Notes to Editors

- I. The Low Carbon Vehicle Partnership was established in January 2003 with funding from the DfT and the DTI with a mandate to accelerate the shift to low carbon vehicles and fuels. The establishment of a stakeholder partnership was one of the central actions arising out of the Government's 'Powering Future Vehicles' strategy that identified greenhouse gas emissions reduction as a priority of future transport policy. The Partnership now comprises over 250 members representing government, the motor and fuels industries, vehicle users, environmental groups, consumer representatives and others. The Partnership is coordinated by a secretariat based in central London.

For further information:

Neil Wallis, Head of Communications, LowCVP

Phone: 020 7340 2695 Mobile: 07974 255720 email: neil.wallis@lowcvp.org.uk