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PRESS RELEASE
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Consideration, Direction and Advice; IEMA leads the way with new practitioner guidance

The UK's first set of "crucial" practitioner guidance on climate change mitigation in Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for business, planning and development is launched this week.

The Institute of Environmental Management & Assessment (IEMA), the most authoritative body for environmental practitioners, is launching its ***Principles on Climate Change Mitigation & EIA***. The aim of the *Principles* is to provide over-arching practical advice on the integration of climate change mitigation within environmental assessment. The *Principles* have been developed as part of IEMA's focus on improving the integration of climate change in environmental assessment.

The draft ***Principles*** were consulted upon during early 2010 and now by officially launching the concise 4-page document, IEMA has provided the UK's first over-arching guidance on EIA and climate change mitigation. In order to make the *Principles* as relevant and useful as possible, the document covers:

- The need case for **considering** greenhouse gas emissions in EIA;
- **Direction** on scoping, assessing and mitigating emissions; and
- **Advice** on effective reporting and follow-up.

The launch of the ***Principles on Climate Change Mitigation & EIA*** demonstrates IEMA's dedication to environmental practitioners as well as its strategic focus on the key areas of Climate Change and Environmental Assessment.

The Institute's lead on Environmental Assessment **Josh Fothergill** is behind the development of the ***Principles*** and believes that organisations as well as practitioners will benefit from following the guidance. *"The relationship between climate change mitigation and EIA is now established and it is clear that action is needed to ensure EIA practice effectively delivers the climate change mitigation and adaptation information needed by decision-makers"* said Josh, Senior Adviser – Environmental Assessment at IEMA.

"Therefore, these Principles are crucial to the confidence and competence of environmental assessment practitioners, developers and planning, or other consenting, authorities" He continued.

IEMA's EIA and climate change advice will be expanded throughout 2010 to include ***Principles on Climate Change Adaptation & EIA***, supplementary advice notes and case studies. All information can be found at our new dedicated web-pages at www.iema.net/eia-cc.

For more information on IEMA, its policy, position on green jobs and skills as well as IEMA events, services, products, membership, training and publications, visit www.iema.net or contact Communications Co-ordinator Katrina Pierce at k.pierce@iema.net or any contact details listed at the top of this release.

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Notes to Editors

1. The Institute of Environmental Management & Assessment (IEMA) is the most authoritative membership body for environmental practitioners, placing environmental professionals at the heart of change.
2. IEMA helps its members to make a strategic environmental difference by embedding environment in decision making at all levels. We do this by helping members develop the right combination of knowledge about key environmental issues; the ability to apply key tools in practice; and required skills through knowledge exchange, research, conferences, training and publications.
3. With over 15,000 members working across business, consultancy, public and local authorities IEMA is the most authoritative professional body in the UK.
4. The Principles on Climate Change Mitigation & EIA document, *as well as other supporting information, can be found at www.iema.net/eia-cc.*
5. Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is a procedure to ensure that environmental consequences of certain projects are identified and assessed before authorisation is given. The public can give its opinion and all results are taken into account in the authorisation procedure of the project. The public is informed of the decision afterwards. EIA is based on the EIA Directive (EU legislation 85/337/EEC as amended) on Environmental Impact Assessment of the **effects of projects** on the environment was introduced in 1985 and was amended in 1997. The EIA Directive outlines which project categories shall be made subject to an EIA, which procedure shall be followed and the content of the assessment. For further information on the EIA Directive see: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/eia/eia-legalcontext.htm>
6. Climate Change is caused by increasing concentrations of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, which at least in part are due to human activities. To limit the resulting adverse global impacts, society must reduce its reliance on the traditional fossil fuel-based economic model. Governments are responding by developing increasingly comprehensive and aligned strategies for slowing the rate of climate change. Organisations are under pressure to conform to both voluntary and mandatory measures designed to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases – these include regulatory and fiscal measures and initiatives to encourage widespread reporting of emissions and targets for improvement. Additional pressures for change come from other stakeholders, including customers wanting suppliers to conform to their own climate change initiatives, and from investors seeking enhanced returns from businesses adopting emissions and energy reduction strategies and developing innovative low carbon products and services.
7. For more information on the IEMA, its events, conferences, services, membership, training and publications, please visit www.iema.net.