



Institute of Environmental
Management & Assessment

**Dedicated to creating a sustainable future through
environmental skills, knowledge and thought leadership**

Mandatory reporting of greenhouse gas emissions will turn the environment into a mainstream business opportunity

***80% of environmental professionals working in UK businesses say that
mandatory reporting should be introduced***

The Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA), the UK's leading environmental professional association representing over 15,000 practitioners, responded to the launch of the government's consultation on GHG reporting published today.

"IEMA warmly welcomes the Government's consultation into GHG reporting for business. UK plc is at a turning point with environmental reporting, with the right support from Government we can move GHG reporting into the mainstream and turn this into a business opportunity by helping companies to reduce costs and improve their competitiveness. Over 80% of environmental practitioners we surveyed say that mandatory reporting of GHG emissions should be introduced for companies," said Martin Baxter, Executive Director, Policy, IEMA.

Some businesses are working hard to embed environmental practice into every aspect of their business using a variety of measures - staff engagement is considered critical with 63% adopting such programmes, alongside 71% of those surveyed introducing active 'on site' energy management techniques.

Government is consulting on how GHG reporting should be implemented and how many companies should take part in the scheme. The business and environmental case is clear the more businesses that participate in mandatory reporting, the greater the UK economy will benefit, and deliver environmental benefits. GHG reporting can deliver significant benefits with those reporting reductions indicating an annual average of 4.5% CO2 equivalent savings. 90% of survey respondents identified cost savings as a

benefit of reporting, and around 80% said improving their reputation amongst stakeholders, customers and investors was also a benefit.

“As the UK’s leading environmental professional body representing over 15,000 practitioners we will be using this opportunity to again survey our members and with other previous consultations provide DEFRA with the vital evidence around the environmental and business benefits that GHG reporting can deliver,” said Martin Baxter, Executive Director, Policy, IEMA.

Notes to editors

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The Institute of Environmental Management & Assessment (IEMA) The Institute of Environmental Management & Assessment (IEMA) is the UK’s leading environmental professional association. IEMA is dedicated to creating a sustainable future through environmental skills, knowledge and thought leadership. IEMA is an independent and international, not for profit membership organisation that represents the views of 15,000 environmental professionals. For further information please see Appendix 1.

The Special Report - GHG Management and Reporting was derived from a comprehensive survey of 1,674 practitioners who are members of the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment. Further in-depth research was conducted through a series of workshops attended by 200 practitioners to further discuss and examine key issues. ***A media executive summary of the report can also be found on - www.iema.net/ghgpress and a full copy of the report on www.iema.net/ghgreport***

Case studies of that demonstrate the benefits of GHG reporting and management can also be found on www.iema.net/ghgreport/cases. The companies include RSA and Balfour Beatty.

Explanatory notes

UK lags behind on GHG reporting

According to DEFRA’s report to Parliament on “The contribution that reporting of greenhouse gas emissions makes to the UK meeting its climate change objectives – A review of the current evidence” (November 2010) the UK is lagging alongside other countries (EU and other) when it comes to GHG reporting. For example in 2010, 50% of UK FTSE 350 companies made their disclosures public compared to 65% in the rest of the world. And only just over half (54%) reported on their GHG emissions in their annual corporate report compared to 73% (CDP 2010 global survey). This highlights that UK businesses are not matching the rest of the world in providing transparent and comprehensive GHG reporting to investors and stakeholders.

IEMA's contribution to DEFRA's December evidence to Parliament on GHG reporting

IEMA's report is one of 4 key pieces of additional evidence cited in DEFRA's report which was laid before Parliament on 30 November 2010.

The Climate Change Act requires that by April 2012, the Government will have introduced regulations under the Companies Act to require the inclusion of GHG emissions in company reporting, if not reasons have to be presented to Parliament.

The Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment has been calling for the introduction of mandatory GHG reporting (and in October 2010 issued a report on the status of GHG management and reporting – in surveys undertaken to inform this report 80% of its members called for the introduction of mandatory GHG reporting).

IEMA's report has been quoted extensively in Government's evidence to Parliament on GHG reporting and gives the view of the 15,000 environmental professionals that it represents.

Martin Baxter, Executive Director of Policy, IEMA is available for comment on this subject and to explain why mandatory GHG reporting is key for UK business.

Appendix 1

Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment

The Institute of Environmental Management & Assessment (IEMA) is the UK's leading environmental professional association. IEMA is dedicated to creating a sustainable future through environmental skills, knowledge and thought leadership.

IEMA is an independent and international, not for profit membership organisation that represents the views of 15,000 environmental professionals.

IEMA delivers the following services:

Policy and Legislation – IEMA frequently contributes to the development of key areas of UK policy and legislation. Recent contributions include:

- The Department of Energy and Climate Change's (DECC's) consultations on proposed national policy statements on energy, carbon budgets and Guidance on Carbon Neutrality.

- The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) on the development of guidance for the measurement and reporting of greenhouse gas emissions, a requirement under the Climate Change Act 2008.

- - The House of Commons Environmental Audit Committee inquiries in to green jobs and skills and climate change adaptation.

- **Professional development, training and qualifications** – IEMA sets the standard for the development of environmental skills and knowledge, ensuring that environmental professionals are equipped to make a difference as sustainability becomes a key business driver.

IEMA's training courses and continuous professional development provision cover a range of subjects from resource efficiency to environmental management, auditing, carbon reduction and procurement, spanning many levels from diploma to foundation course, tailored courses for senior executives and for those at the top of their profession, including Chartered Environmentalist. IEMA provides opportunities for members to share best practice and develop their knowledge by hosting events and discussions.

- **Central source of information** – IEMA acts as a central source of information providing events, publications and knowledge sharing. These activities include:

-The Environmentalist - the monthly professional magazine that is the resource guide for environmental professionals across the UK and internationally. With a growing circulation of nearly 15,000 the publication covers the latest research, technical news, policy updates, legislation practical tools and skills updates.

- events and conferences including 3 national events and over 100 regional workshops for environmental practitioners across the UK

- practitioner guides, special reports and briefing notes that focus in on key environmental topics and issues. Recent climate change examples are: Mitigating Climate Change: a guide for organisations (2009), Adapting to Climate Change: a guide to its management in organisations (2009).