

## **New Minister addresses sustainability agenda**

Yesterday the newly appointed Minister of State for Climate Change and the Environment, Ian Pearson MP, gave his views on one of the Government's key priorities, sustainable consumption and production.

Mr. Pearson addressed 300 environmental professionals at the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) Annual Conference, which was held at the Chateau Impney Hotel in Droitwich Spa, Worcestershire.

He outlined the importance of every day products – food, cars, homes, and consumer goods – in terms of their impacts on the environment and on our economic performance. He emphasised the need to move towards a “one planet economy” and the opportunities and benefits that this presents for business. Mr Pearson said “We need to change our patterns of consumption and production, we need to capitalise on the opportunities for business and we all need to play a part in bringing this about”.

He highlighted the growth in environmental thinking in the market place and heightened consumer interest in “greener living”. “We need to build on this growing awareness to ensure products and processes are more sustainable”, he said.

He also emphasised the need for UK businesses to think innovatively and exploit the opportunities available to them, pointing to the wide ranging benefits arising from better resource efficiency. “Good environmental performance and good financial performance go hand in hand” he said.

The audience was predominately made up of IEMA members, of which there are now over 10,000. Mr. Pearson offered his support to the IEMA by saying, “I am delighted to have the opportunity to acknowledge the excellent work you're doing.” He

went on to praise the efforts of the IEMA in promoting the goal of sustainable development. “You are really in a position to help us...there is so much more we need to do.”

Before taking questions from the delegates Mr. Pearson closed his speech by saying, “I would like to thank the IEMA for their hard work in supporting DEFRA.”

The IEMA would like to thank Ian Pearson MP for attending the IEMA Annual Conference. We welcome his appointment to the position of Minister of State for Climate Change and Environment and we look forward to continuing our close relationship with DEFRA. Full details of Mr. Pearson’s speech will be available at [www.iema.net](http://www.iema.net).

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#### ENDS

*1) **The Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA)** is an independent membership body which provides recognition and support to environmental professionals, combining the disciplines of environmental management, auditing and assessment, encompassing both public and private sectors.*

*2) With over 10,000 members, the IEMA is a leading UK membership organisation dedicated to the promotion of the goal of sustainable development and to the professional development of individuals involved in environmental management and assessment.*

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