



Press notice

Embargo: immediate release

Green Alliance response to Conservative - Liberal Democrats coalition

Responding to the programme of measures on climate change and the environment announced by the new coalition government, Amy Persson, senior policy adviser at Green Alliance¹ said:

“We welcome the range of climate change and environment measures released as part of the Conservative - Liberal Democrat coalition agreement, particularly the cancellation of the third runway at Heathrow; the intention to increase the renewable energy target; and the creation of a Green Investment Bank.

David Cameron and Nick Clegg have shown strong leadership within their parties on climate change issues and we urge them to continue this leadership as they face the huge task of overseeing the UK's transition to a low carbon economy.

There are huge opportunities for the UK in terms of green jobs, energy security and economic renewal as we make this transition. With the economy centre stage at the present time, the most obvious consensus should be around the need to create a low carbon economy, and we welcome the announcement on a Green Investment Bank. The government must now make sure it is of the scale necessary to create jobs and leverage investment in emerging low carbon industries.

For this to happen, the previous government's commitment to setting up the Bank with £1 billion of public capital (funded from asset sales) should be honoured. A proportion of the revenues from the auction of EU carbon permits should also be earmarked for the bank from 2012.

Mf...

Green Alliance is also keen to work with the new government as they tackle the deficit. A recent Green Alliance report, *Cutting back on carbon spending*², indicated that £12 billion could be slashed from the national debt through a package of public spending cuts and the abolition of tax allowances that promote growth in carbon emissions.”

Ends

For more information contact: Matthew Davis, media adviser Green Alliance - 07758 300 007; matthew@3-c.uk.net

Notes to editors

1. Green Alliance (www.green-alliance.org.uk) is an influential environment think tank working to ensure UK political leaders deliver ambitious solutions to global environmental issues. Green Alliance was named Think Tank of the Year in the 2009 Public Affairs News awards. For more information on Green Alliance’s activities go to www.green-alliance.org.uk
2. The report, *Cutting back on carbon spending* was commissioned by Greenpeace, the RSPB and WWF-UK and reviews the options for reducing spending and tax anomalies to accelerate the transition to a low carbon economy: <http://www.greenalliance.org.uk/grea1.aspx?id=3938>