

news release



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GLA/2007/777

11 December 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mayor joins with London businesses to launch groundbreaking climate initiatives for employers

Ikea, Marks & Spencer, Tesco, Chelsea FC, Sky, EDF Energy, Land Securities, Hermes Real Estate, Grosvenor are among first top names to sign-up

The Mayor of London today launched a groundbreaking programme to help large business organisations cut climate change emissions by three million tonnes by 2010, saving £300 million in energy bills.

The two schemes launched today deliver on the commitments made in the Mayor's Climate Change Action Plan, and represent the most comprehensive range of climate change services for businesses of any city in the world:

- The Green500 will offer practical support and recognition awards to large businesses and public sector organisations in order to become more carbon efficient - companies who sign up will receive a carbon assessment, will be helped to develop an emissions reduction plan in line with the Mayor's target to cut London's emissions by 60 per cent by 2025 and, critically, will commit to publish their progress annually. Companies will be offered a 'carbon mentor' who will work with businesses to help implement the plan and achieve their target - there will be yearly awards to recognise those that reach their target and for top achievers. Initial membership of the Green500 costs £3,500.
- The Better Buildings Partnership is a collaboration between London's leading commercial landlords to improve the carbon efficiency of existing commercial property in the capital. Members of the scheme will commit to setting and achieving benchmark carbon levels for their property portfolios and finding solutions to remove barriers currently preventing the widespread take-up of sustainable building improvements - such as the fact that current rental values rarely take into account the energy efficiency of a building. The Partnership will be managed by its members with the support of the London Climate Change Agency and the London Development Agency and will include links with professional organisations. Membership of the Better Buildings Partnership is £10,000.

The Mayor also announced that the following high-profile companies will be the founding members of the green organisations programme:

City Hall, The Queen's Walk, London SE12AA

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- The Green500 - Marks & Spencer, Tesco, Ikea, Chelsea Football Club, EDF Energy, The John Lewis Partnership, Eversheds, Guy's and St Thomas' Hospital, Transport for London, and Sky.
- The Better Buildings Partnership: Land Securities, The British Land Company, Hammerson, Hermes Real Estate, Transport for London, Grosvenor.

Business organisations and public sector employers currently produce around a third of the capital's emissions, but if all of the actions in the Green Organisations programme were introduced, employers could save up to 20 per cent on their energy bills as achieving significant reductions in carbon emissions. The Climate Change Action Plan – a comprehensive set of initiatives to reduce London's annual 44 million tonnes of carbon emissions by 60 per cent by 2025, also includes programmes for the capital's homes, transportation and energy supply system. The green homes organisations programme will cost £2.7 million pounds, and will be delivered by the London Development Agency.

The Mayor of London, said: 'The London green organisations programme will motivate, support and reward organisations to reduce their carbon footprint. This is a world first, and places London at the forefront of government and business working together to cut carbon emissions. The impressive range of companies who have already signed up to the Green500 and Better Buildings Partnership shows that leading businesses want to take a lead in helping to prevent climate change, and recognise that it increasingly makes commercial sense to do so. I am confident that many more businesses will now follow their example. These programmes are open to all, with the only requirement being a genuine commitment to stop climate change before it is too late.'

'Today's announcement comes after the launch last week of the London green homes programme to help individuals reduce emissions in their homes as part of our wider programme to cut London's carbon emissions by 60 per cent by 2025.'

London Development Agency Chief Executive Manny Lewis, said: 'The Green Organisation package is not only a pioneering means to help businesses be energy efficient and to reduce London's carbon footprint, but will also help to maintain London's global status as an economy. Globally the value of the low carbon energy sector could be as high as three trillion dollars worldwide – the London Development Agency is at the centre of driving that new economy in London by stimulating demand for energy efficient measures which will lead to new industries, new businesses and new jobs.'

Charlie Brown, UK Environment Manager Ikea, said: 'Ikea UK believes that leadership is key to achieving improvements in environmental performance which is why we are amongst the first companies to have signed up to the Mayor's Green500. We want to demonstrate that we can be a good business whilst doing good business. To that end, we are committed to reducing energy consumption by 20 per cent, and sourcing 100 per cent renewable energy. The actions that we have taken already not only have positive environmental impact but also contribute to pure bottom line profit - tackling climate change is obviously a clear driver, but it also makes good business sense.'

Mike Hussey, Managing Director, Land Securities - London Portfolio, said: 'The commercial property industry has to develop sector wide solutions on climate change. Collaboration across the industry is vital and the Better Buildings Partnership enables us to do just that. An integrated approach with the Green500 offers a real chance of tackling these issues in a practical way bringing tenants and landlords together with the common goals of improving sustainability and reducing the carbon footprint of London's existing building stock.'

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NOTES TO EDITORS

- The Mayor's Climate Change Action Plan was launched in February 2007. It sets out the measures the Mayor will take to reduce London's carbon footprint, including enabling Londoners to use energy more efficiently.
- The London Development Agency works to improve quality of life for all Londoners and drive sustainable economic growth.
- The London Climate Change Agency, part of the London Development Agency, developed the Better Buildings Partnership. The London Climate Change Agency delivers carbon emissions reduction projects in the sectors that impact on climate change especially energy, transport, waste and water
- Commercial landlords interested in finding more about the Better Buildings Partnerships should visit: www.lcca.co.uk, or contact Tatiana.bosteels@lcca.co.uk. Businesses interested in finding out more about Green 500 can do by visiting www.green500.co.uk

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For media enquiries please call Hilary Merrett on 020 7983 4755.

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For non-media enquiries please call the Public Liaison Unit on 020 7983 4100.