



Press release

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**DECARBONISATION OF POWER, TRANSPORT AND BUILDING SECTORS KEY TO
LOW CARBON ECONOMY**

Following the publication of the Committee on Climate Change Report, AEA Technology has responded by identifying the need to focus on the three key areas of power, transport and buildings, as quickly as possible, if we are to meet our carbon reduction targets.

Commenting on the report, Robert Bell, Chief Technical Officer at AEA said:

“Decarbonising all sectors of the economy is vital if we are to tackle climate change and deliver a low carbon economy. The latest report shows how much of a step change is needed to meet our reduction targets. While the recession will cause a short term reduction in emissions, for long term we must understand that this is only temporary and develop a clear strategic plan”.

Tackling each sector in turn, Robert Bell said:

“For our power generation systems, rapid change is needed so that electricity is generated from clean sources such as renewables, nuclear as well as fossil fuel plants fitted with carbon capture and storage technology. Early decarbonisation is essential to make deep cuts in emissions at moderate cost and furthermore there are economic opportunities from developing these technologies for the UK. “

An AEA study found that global investment in advanced coal-fired power generation including CCS could sustain a total of about 30,000-60,000 jobs in the UK in 2030.

On the transport sector, AEA agrees that this too must be transformed, with an urgent need for a long term strategy to commercially deploy electric vehicles whilst building consumer confidence in these technologies and improving the efficiency of conventional petrol and diesel vehicles.

Robert Bell added:

“The CCC’s deployment scenarios for electric and hybrid vehicles are ambitious targeting 240,000 electric or plug-in hybrid vehicles by 2015 and 1.7 million by 2020. A number of challenges will need to be addressed if these sort of deployment levels are to be realised on the 2015-2020 time frame. These include a three-or four-fold reduction in battery costs, sufficient up-front grants for car buyers and the development of extensive recharging networks.”

Finally, for buildings, the committee said that the focus must remain on existing stock with proven methods including condensing boilers and insulation remaining as affordable and effective methods to cut carbon emissions.

“By 2050, we will still have over 60% of our building stock that we have today so it is vital that we look at wide scale retrofitting of buildings and accelerate the installation of the most cost-effective energy efficient and low carbon technologies. Current policies are starting to deliver improvements but there remain substantial barriers to overcome.” Bell commented.

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Notes to Editor

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