



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **Environmental Industry Survey Criticises Labour for “Missed Opportunity” for Green Growth – Conservatives Win “Cautious Support”**

The Conservatives have a significant lead over Labour in having the right policies to promote future growth in the UK’s environmental industry, according to a new survey of environmental companies [1], published today by “The EIC Guide to the UK Environmental Industry” [2].

Only 7% of surveyed companies believe that Labour has the best policies for promoting industry growth – against 33% backing for Conservative policies and 19% for the Liberal Democrats’ policies. Furthermore, some 84% of respondents said the Labour Government is not doing enough to support the industry.

Commentating on the survey findings, Adrian Wilkes, Chair of The Environmental Industries Commission (EIC)[3] said: **“With recession prevailing Britain’s environmental industry has the potential to be a key engine of growth for the UK economy. Yet, as our new survey highlights, environmental companies are unanimous in criticising the Labour Government’s failure to turn positive rhetoric onto hard policy support – whilst expressing cautious support for Conservative policies.”**

**“The Labour Government must remedy this missed opportunity to secure major economic benefits for the British economy. Huge new markets are opening up worldwide as countries start to grapple with the range of environmental problems we face – predicted to be worth \$2,740 by 2020 [4].”**

**“We urgently need the Government to adopt an environmental industry growth strategy and a policy framework that will drive investment in the environmental technologies to put British companies at the heart of the \$1,370 billion global environmental marketplace. This is vital in tackling the recession whilst helping to avoid climate change and an ecological crises that would make today’s financial crisis seem like a tea party!”**

**“EIC therefore eagerly awaits the imminent publication of the Government’s proposals for a Low Carbon Economy Strategy – and US President Obama’s plans for a “Green New Deal”, which will pose a serious competitive challenge to the UK.”**

Other findings of the survey include:

- **95% of respondents believe that the UK Government should increase financial support for R&D into innovative environmental technologies**
- **88.9% of respondents believed that the UK Government should do more to develop skills needed by the industry**
- **Respondents would like the Government’s export support body (UK T&I) to provide more help in the environmental markets in China, Europe and the USA.**

**--ENDS--**

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**For a copy of the survey:** please email: [danny.stevens@eic-uk.co.uk](mailto:danny.stevens@eic-uk.co.uk)

**Note to Editors**

1. The survey was completed by over 109 companies involved in: environmental consultancy; remediation and reclamation of land; environmental monitoring, instrumentation and analysis;

water supply and wastewater treatment; waste management recovery and recycling; cleaner technologies and processes; air pollution control; and renewable energy.

EIC will be repeating the survey every six months.

2. For further information on The EIC Guide to the UK Environmental Industry see: <http://www.eic-guide.co.uk>

3. The Environmental Industries Commission (EIC) is the lead trade association for UK's environmental technology and services industry, with over 320 Member Companies. EIC represents the main environmental sectors (water, air, land, waste, transport, marine, climate change, etc). It has the support of leading politicians from all three major political parties, industrialists, trade union leaders, environmentalists, and academics. Visit [www.eic-uk.co.uk](http://www.eic-uk.co.uk)

4. The UNEP "Green Jobs" Report (September 2008) calculates the global market for environmental goods and services to be worth £1,370 billion pa and predicts that it will grow to \$2,740 billion pa by 2020.