

MEDIA ALERT

7,500 businesses will miss CRC registration deadline

- Analysts calculate that 1,500 companies will miss full registration deadline
 - Around 6,000 will fail to make an information declaration
 - Many companies still unaware of the demands of registration

20 July 2010

Analysis from global environmental consultancy WSP Environment & Energy today reveals that 7,500 businesses are expected to miss the 30 September deadline for Carbon Reduction Commitment Energy Efficiency Scheme (CRC) registration.

Under CRC, more than 20,000 organisations have to register with the Environment Agency by the end of September this year. 5,000 of these organisations have to make a full registration, while 15,000 lower energy users have to make an information disclosure.

WSP Environment & Energy forecasts that, even with a late upsurge in registrations, around 7,500 of those 20,000 obligated businesses will miss the deadline. 1,500 of these will be full registrants.¹

David Symons, Director at WSP Environment & Energy, comments:

“Despite the initial clamour around CRC, many companies remain unsure about the extent of their obligations, and our forecasts show that there will be a significant shortfall in registrations.

“Those businesses which are well-organised are finding that CRC registration is not a complicated exercise. However, our findings indicate that a lack of awareness and engagement among participants could prevent thousands of companies from complying with the scheme on time.

“The Environment Agency is committed to supporting companies who make an effort. But with fines of £5000 for missing the registration deadline, and further penalties of up to £500 per day, the costs of non-compliance could be significant.

WSP will update its predictions as the Environment Agency provides further news on CRC registrations.

- Ends -

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Notes to editors

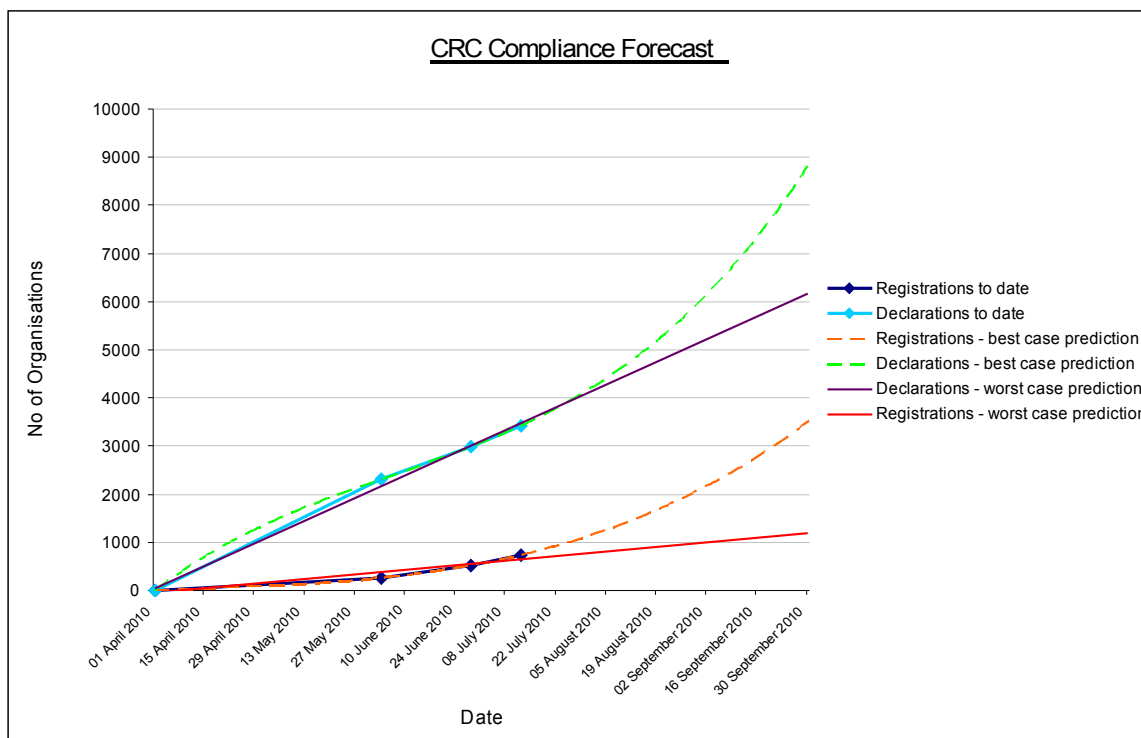
WSP Environment & Energy provides innovative solutions to environmental, energy, sustainability, climate change, and business risk issues. It works across all sectors, including construction, property, automotive, electronics, transport and industrial, and employs more than 1,000 environmental specialists worldwide.

The firm has international expertise in balancing clients' commercial requirements with the need to satisfy governmental and regulatory controls in the areas of environmental and energy management. In 2008, WSP Environment & Energy was voted 'Sustainable Consultant of the Year' by Building Magazine and recognised as one of the 'Top 12 Green Leaders in Business' at the Barclays Awards.

It is a division of WSP Group plc, one of the world's fastest-growing design, engineering and management consultancies.

¹ See Figure 1, overleaf

Figure 1: WSP linear and polynomial projections of CRC registration



Notes to accompany chart:

- Registration for CRC opened on 1 April 2010 and will close on 20 September
- Data on CRC registrations and information disclosure has been obtained from Environment Agency news releases.
- Our best-case predictions are based on a five order polynomial regression analysis of the data points, extrapolated to the end of September. In both cases r^2 values = 1, indicating that the fit is good through the data points. Predictions significantly beyond the data range may, however, be subject to change and error.
- Worst-case predictions are based on a straight line of best fit. These are likely to underestimate registrations as it provides for no increase in the rate of registration as the deadline approaches.