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### UK firms unprepared for CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme claims survey by Solar Gard

Ignorance, Apathy and Confusion Abounds Amongst UK's Largest Energy Users as New Scheme Risks Stumbling at First Hurdle

12 Apr 2010

London, UK – The Government's new Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) Energy Efficiency Scheme is set for a rocky start when it launches on April 1st 2010, according to research published today.

The scheme is the UK's mandatory climate change and energy saving initiative. It is central to the UK's strategy for improving energy efficiency and reducing carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions, as set out in the Climate Change Act 2008. Around 5,000 organisations are expected to qualify for the scheme this year and all must comply legally with the scheme or face financial and other penalties.



However, a recent survey of senior managers responsible for energy management at many of the UK's biggest energy users highlights a staggering degree of ignorance, apathy and confusion about the scheme. The survey was originally undertaken for Solar Gard, an energy control window film specialist, to understand the attitudes of the UK's largest energy users towards reducing their carbon footprint.

Over half (53%) of the UK's biggest energy users likely to be affected by the scheme do not even realise that they will be affected and that they are required by law to register. If they do not register by the deadline of September 30 they face an immediate fine of £5,000 and an additional daily fine of £500. A single organisation that misses the deadline by a month will face a £20,000 fine. If 53% of the 5,000 organisations affected by the scheme miss the deadline by a month, they will collectively accumulate a first month fine of more than £50,000,000.

Other findings from the survey support the view that ignorance, apathy and confusion reigns among many large UK organisations when it comes to their energy use.

- ? A third (33%) of those surveyed who's organisation almost certainly qualifies for the scheme did not know what their annual energy usage was, despite this being the basic metric for qualifying for the CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme.
- ? Nearly half (45%) of those who know that they qualify for the scheme do not know when they are supposed to register.
- ? Unsurprisingly, the survey highlighted that more than a quarter (28%) of the UK's largest energy users who qualify for the scheme do not have a carbon footprint reduction strategy in place.
- ? Meanwhile, almost every organisation (97%) admitted they could do more to reduce their carbon footprint. Despite this honesty, almost half (48%) of those qualifying for the scheme either have no plans, or are waiting to be told what to do, to reduce their carbon footprint.
- ? Finally, indicating that almost no one knew what the financial impact of being in the scheme would entail, only five percent could correctly give the official price the scheme had placed on a one ton CO2 allowance. The correct answer is £12.

Commenting on the findings, Ian Penfold, Solar Gard's solar control window film expert, said: "Such a lax approach by UK organisations to the climate change issue illustrates the need for enforced legislation. But there's clearly been too much hot air around the CRC, and not enough cool action. Organisations across the UK, big and small, should take ownership for cutting their carbon footprint. The UK may have taken the lead in Europe to deliver climate change legislation, but we face huge embarrassment if, collectively, we fall at the first hurdle."

The survey was carried out by research company Vanson Bourne. The survey interviewed senior facility managers responsible for power management at 100 of the UK's largest public and private sector organisations, most of whom are likely to qualify for the Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) Energy

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