



Thursday 10th April 2014

Danny Alexander: “We can – and must – have both green and growth... Auto sector is a beacon for excellence in CO2 emissions cuts”

Speaking at an event in Westminster, ‘Green and growth; we can have both - lessons from the road transport sector’ hosted by sustainability hub in association with the Low Carbon Vehicle Partnership (LowCVP) the Rt Hon Danny Alexander MP, Chief Secretary to the Treasury said today: “Green and growth objectives can and must be pursued together – as demonstrated by the five projects that the Technology Strategy Board has just identified to receive £11m funding to advance the use of green technologies in the production of cars and commercial vehicles.

“This funding will support the development of new and pioneering supply chains, demonstrating how the green growth agenda can help support jobs and investment now and in the longer term, and that this Government is doing everything it can to encourage growth in cleaner technology, to provide jobs and reduce emissions.”

The event, held in Westminster examined how the UK can secure and maintain a technological edge, encouraging industry to continue to invest in low carbon vehicle technologies through an ongoing, consistent and long-term policy approach, avoiding calls to roll back commitments aimed at helping to achieve a low carbon future.

Experience from the road transport sector was compared and contrasted with experience from other sectors by a collection of leading policy and industry speakers and commentators.

Chaired by **James Murray**, Editor, Business Green, speakers included: The **Rt Hon Danny Alexander MP**, Chief Secretary to the Treasury; **Iain Wright MP**, Shadow Industry Minister; **Stephen Crisp**, Director of Global Government Affairs, Jaguar Land Rover; **Joe Greenwell**, Chief Executive Officer, Automotive Investment Organisation; **Professor Paul Ekins**, Director, UCL Institute for Sustainable Resources; **Jennifer Webber**, Director of External Affairs, RenewableUK; **Dave Sowden**, Chief Executive, Sustainable Energy Association; **John Sauven**, Executive Director, Greenpeace UK; **James Cameron**, Chairman, Climate Change Capital.

Andy Eastlake, Managing Director of the LowCVP, also a speaker at the event said: “Road transport has delivered historically unprecedented carbon emissions reductions over the last decade or so; cutting overall emissions despite rising levels of motoring. The sector has also been delivering very high levels of investment and jobs. The experience of road transport shows that we really can – and must - have both ‘green’ and growth.”

Karen Potter, Project Director, sustainability hub said, ‘We are a collaborative initiative promoting engagement with political leaders, industry executives and third sector groups working towards a smarter, more sustainable future. The sustainability hub is pressing for political action on sustainable policy; clean tech investment and energy diversity.’

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Notes:

Background

Is the UK in danger of losing its technological edge as industries fail to invest in low carbon products and services if Government rolls back policy commitments aimed at delivering a low carbon future?

The automobile industry has, in recent years, emerged as an exemplar for successful collaboration between industry, policy makers and other stakeholders enabling Government to provide generally clear and consistent policy signals for the road transport sector at national (and European) level and through different governing administrations.

The results have been impressive. Carbon emissions from new cars sold in the UK have fallen by nearly a quarter in the last ten years. The UK motor sector has been a bright spot in a generally bleak economic picture with many examples of significant investment, particularly in electric/hybrid vehicle production and other low carbon technologies which have provided jobs and growth, often in regions of otherwise low growth and weak economic prospects. This seminar examined how to apply lessons from the auto industry to other sectors including building, renewables and energy.

The event: 'Green and Growth we can have both' took place on Thursday 10 April at 12.30-5.00, RICS, 12 Great George Street, London SW1P 3AD.

sustainability hub is a collaborative initiative promoting engagement between political leaders, industry executives and third sector groups working towards a smarter, more sustainable future. www.sustainability-hub.org Twitter: @sustainhub2014

The Low Carbon Vehicle Partnership (LowCVP), established in 2003, is a public-private partnership that exists to accelerate a sustainable shift to lower carbon vehicles and fuels and create opportunities for UK business. Nearly 200 organisations are engaged from diverse backgrounds. www.lowcvp.org.uk Twitter: @the LowCVP

sustainability hub members: Association for the Conservation of Energy, ADBA, APG for Intelligent Energy, Calor Gas, Carillion, Conservative Environment Network, EN Algae, Energy Bill Revolution, Energy for London, Friends of the Earth, Green Alliance, Greener Journeys, Green Liberal Democrats, Greenpeace, Larkfleet Homes, LowCVP, Mitsubishi Electric, National Energy Action, National Right to Fuel Campaign, Network of Energy Centres for Doctoral Training, PRASEG, RenewableUK, SERA, Solarcentury, Solar Trade Association, Sustainable Energy Association, Tata Steel, Worcester Bosch, WWF