

## Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. What is the aim of the May Day Summit?

The Prince of Wales's Business Summit on Climate Change is a first for Scotland, bringing together over 100 of the country's top business leaders to pledge action on climate change. It aims to create a nationwide business movement of companies taking a lead in the achievement of a low carbon economy. Companies will be expected to commit to taking action in their own company, but also more widely with their employees, customers and suppliers.

### 2. What will be discussed and who is speaking?

The day breaks down into two main parts. The first concentrates on the scientific consensus and business imperative to take action and the second part centres on the specific actions to which businesses can commit. Sandy Crombie CEO of Standard Life and HRH Ambassador for CSR in Scotland, will be introducing the Summit, with Stewart Stevenson, Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Climate Change and Sir Crispin Tickell also contributing on the day. Unlike other events, the Summit will be interactive and discursive with delegates contributing to the development of the day.

### 3. What types of businesses are attending and how did you decide who to invite?

Importantly, this is not an event just for those companies who have already begun to take action on climate change, but also for those that wanting to start their journey. Scottish Business in the Community member companies were invited as well as a number of others companies and organisations connected to the issue, including Scotland's Top 500.

### 4. Is the Summit in Scotland the only one taking place?

The Summit will consist of 3 simultaneous events taking place in Scotland and Wales connected by BT video-conferencing technology. HRH is hosting the event in Wales. Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland were prevented from participation in the original Summit due to elections being held in the Nations on May 3<sup>rd</sup> 2007. The inaugural Summit involved a central Hub event held at St James's Palace and 9 regional events held across England. They were linked via BT Video Conferencing technology and were hugely successful, involving over 1000 businesses.

### 5. What are the expected outcomes of the Summit and how will you monitor and ensure progress?

On the day of the Summit, businesses will make firm commitments to take action on climate change and additionally to report on their progress against these pledges. The pledges cover issues like reducing the carbon footprint of companies' supply chain and setting targets for carbon reduction. Collectively, these companies will be known as the 'May Day companies'. Scottish Business in the Community and the Carbon Trust will follow-up on company commitments and provide support to companies in achieving the goals of their pledges, reporting on individual company and collective progress against the pledges on 7 Nov 2007.

### 6. What will happen to those companies who do not meet their pledges?

We are asking companies to make achievable commitments and to develop integrated strategies that supped those goals. If they fail to meet their pledges they will be given the support and encouragement to get back on track.

#### **7. How will the success of the event be measured?**

The May Day Summit marks the beginning of a wider business movement on climate change. The success of the event will be measured against the pledges made and how they are achieved over time and the ongoing commitment of the May Day Companies.

#### **8. Why should businesses take action on climate change?**

The scientific consensus is that human action is causing an increase in average global temperatures. Businesses are directly contributing to this increase and are therefore key to the solution. The Stern Review, released in October 2006, claimed that the evidence shows that ignoring climate change will eventually damage economic growth. Climate change therefore presents considerable drivers for business change, requiring companies to take a lead on tackling the issue. The opportunities created through this approach are equally considerable, including cost savings, improved reputation and access to new markets through the development of new products and services.

#### **9. What action has Scottish Business in the Community taken to reduce the Summit's carbon footprint?**

Scottish Business in the community has taken all practical steps to reduce avoidable emissions. Unavoidable CO2 emissions created by each event will be offset through the CarbonNeutral Company on two climate friendly projects, making the venues carbon neutral. Scottish Business in the Community is also encouraging delegates to travel by public transport where possible, and where not, to share cars and taxis. Delegates will also have the opportunity to offset their transport emissions through the CarbonNeutral Company.

#### **10. If every business could do one thing, what should it be?**

Companies at the Summit will commit to action in 10 key areas, including measuring emissions, developing a carbon reduction plan and encouraging suppliers to minimise their carbon footprint. The most important action for a company will depend upon the nature of its business and how far along it is in its climate change journey. The Summit will help companies to identify what this action will be.

#### **11. Some of the companies attending have already taken strong action on climate change. Is there anything more they could do or learn?**

Companies that are considered leaders in tackling climate change recognise that they are only at the beginning of a long journey to a low carbon economy. The Summit will allow these companies to share their knowledge with other businesses and learn what their peers are doing to tackle climate change, providing them with new ideas to shape their future progress.

#### **12. Some of the companies attending have poor environmental records - isn't there a risk the Summit will allow them to pay lip-service to climate change?**

By attending the Summit, all companies have taken a first step in committing to action on climate change. At the end of the Summit, companies will be asked to take a further step (If making firm commitments on the actions they intend to take.)

#### **13. Why is the HRH The Prince of Wales involved?**

HRH The Prince of Wales is a leading advocate of the need to tackle climate change. He is also President of Scottish Business in the Community and worked for many years to encourage responsible business practices.

#### **14. Why May Day?**

May Day is the traditional spring festival with associations of natural renewal. It is also an emergency call sign, reflecting the urgency of the topic of the day.