

About the EIC

The Environmental Industries Commission (EIC)



EIC

The Environmental Industries Commission (EIC) was launched in 1995 to provide the environmental technology and services industry with a strong and effective voice with Government in the debate about how to ensure that British companies succeed in the growing worldwide market. Over the years, constructive engagement between EIC's members and policymakers and regulators in Westminster, Whitehall and Brussels has borne fruit – thanks to EIC's lobbying efforts, they are all focusing on developing our industry's potential.

"The EIC is an influential and well informed organisation, representing a vitally important sector, and I value your views very highly".

*- Rt. Hon. Margaret Beckett MP,
Secretary of State for the Environment 2001-2006*

EIC's Vision - to be the lead association promoting and supporting the development of a strong, competitive UK environmental technology and services industry, with a sound home market from which to compete successfully worldwide.

EIC's Mission - to promote the international competitiveness of the UK's environmental technology and services industry.

EIC's Objectives are to:

- improve the UK environmental technology and services industry's competitiveness by identifying the barriers to growth;
- promote awareness of the commercial and environmental benefits of environmental technologies and services and achieve a positive public image;
- win support for a favourable legislative and fiscal framework by advocating practical and cost-effective policies to promote our industry, such as effective enforcement of existing legislation, enactment of progressive regulation (in line with our leading competitors) and the introduction of economic instruments (eg fiscal incentives and R&D funding);
- provide information and advice on UK and EU environmental legislation, R&D funding and market opportunities;
- facilitate the exchange of information and experience between EIC Members;
- support export initiatives that boost UK companies' competitiveness in overseas markets;
- promote innovation and technology transfer by providing an effective link between environmental technology and service companies and research organisations;
- organise an education programme for mainstream industry, promoting the use of environmental technologies and services;
- promote standards that enhance the industry's competitiveness;
- collaborate with other national and international organisations in areas of common interest, such as training.

About the EIC

Over 320 Member companies now participate in fulfilling EIC's Mission and Objectives.

EIC's Members are truly representative of the environmental technology and services industry and range from large public companies to SMEs.

To assist EIC's work, Member companies are supported by a (unpaid) Political Committee (comprising senior MPs and Lords from across the political spectrum) and a Council of Patrons (including business leaders, environmentalists, trade unionists and academics).

The Political Committee and Council of Patrons include, Lord Haskel (former DTI Minister), Lord Lewis (former Chairman of the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution), David Chaytor MP (Member of the Environmental Audit Committee), Rt Hon John Gummer MP (Former Secretary of State for the Environment), Dinah Nichols (former Director General of Defra), Ed Gallagher (former Chief Executive of the Environment Agency), and Jonathon Porritt (Chair of the Sustainable Development Commission).

EIC's Policy Platform and Successes

In its short history, EIC has been, in the words of Rt Hon Margaret Beckett MP, Secretary of State for the Environment 2001-2006, "an active and effective champion of the environmental technology and services sector."

The success of the UK ETS industry is dependent on high environmental standards in the domestic market. EIC is therefore focused on creating political support for environmental protection by demonstrating that high environmental standards make economic, as well as environmental sense.

Influencing the Policy Process

When EIC launched, policy makers largely ignored our industry, now it is at the centre of their agendas. Just a few of our successes are:

- commitments of support for our industry from all main political parties- including in Labour's 2005 Manifesto;
- formation of a Government sponsorship unit for the environmental industry;
- the formation and implementation of a high level EU Environmental Technology Action Plan agreed by Heads of Government;
- Regional Development Agencies prioritising the industry as a key sector for support;
- reform of Government assessment of the impacts of environmental regulations to recognise the economic benefits of high environmental standards – including to our industry;
- active involvement in the regulatory standard-setting process with the Environment Agency, Defra, DTI, ODPM and the European Commission;
- input into all the key policy reports and inquiries with relevance to our industry, for example by the Cabinet Office Strategy Unit;
- representation on key panels, for example the European Commission Working Group on the Priority Substances Directive.

Achieving Change

When EIC launched, our industry was frustrated and angry at the barriers created by the regulatory regime. Now, the EIC is providing our industry with a strong and influential voice to overcome these barriers. Our successes include:

- a wide range of tax breaks for purchasers of environmental technology and investors in land clean up;
- a new licensing regime for onsite contaminated land remediation techniques;
- the Renewable Transport Fuels Obligation to help boost sustainable biofuels;
- government action on enforcement of the LAPC regime;
- Defra and Environment Agency commitment to speed up implementation of the IPPC regime;
- enhanced investment in environmental schemes in the 2005 Periodic Review of water pricing;
- increased level of Landfill Tax to drive alternative solutions;
- a London Low Emission Zone supporting retrofitting of pollution control technology;
- regulations to require large companies to issue an annual review with a presumption in favour of reporting environmental performance.
- an EIC/EA/UKAS Steering Group for MCERTS for soils.

Raising the Profile

When EIC launched, our industry was invisible in the corridors of power. Ten years later it is well known and listened to. Our successes include:

- high profile in Parliament, through EIC Political Committee, debates and inquiries;
- extensive coverage in the national and trade press of EIC's lobbying;
- high-profile events including pre-election debates with all main party spokesmen, annual Receptions at the Lords and Commons and an annual industry conference.

Member companies themselves are actively involved in driving forward initiatives to promote the industry – and their business development – through their involvement in EIC's Working Groups.

Ministers and Regulators welcome our input, as Barbara Young, Chief Executive, the Environment Agency, said at our National Conference: "EIC are the most effective lobbyists I know."

Membership Benefits

EIC provides a range of service to support its Members' business growth – "Your Voice with Government"

First and foremost, because the industry is driven by Government measures to protect the environment, EIC provides Member companies with direct contact with key regulators, politicians and civil servants. EIC is certainly a strong and effective industry voice – in the words of Michael Meacher MP, former Minister for the Environment: "EIC is unquestionably a very dynamic successful element in the industry of the future...EIC has a profound influence on Government Policy."

Events

EIC organises meetings, seminars and receptions to enable EIC Members to meet and influence senior politicians and regulators, network with leading industry figures and learn about key new Government programmes. These include EIC's annual National Conference that takes place in November to review how to ensure the developing environmental policy agenda leads to economic opportunities for UK industry. For more information on attending these events contact us: email: info@eic-uk.co.uk or phone: **020 79351675**

About the EIC

Policy Intelligence

EIC provides high-quality policy intelligence to keep Members abreast of the latest developments in London and Brussels (thereby helping them to identify future market opportunities) through its monthly *Enviro-Tech News UK* publication and its quarterly *Enviro-Tech News EU* and *Enviro-Tech News Export* publications.

EIC Members can also meet with key policy makers and opinion formers directly at Working Group meetings and seminars to get advance notice of the forthcoming Government policies that will affect their companies.

Networking

Members also benefit from networking with colleagues, exchanging ideas, experience and most importantly opportunities (particularly through the meetings of EIC's Working Groups).

Listings and Discounts

EIC Members receive free listings in the EIC Guide to the UK Environmental Industry, on EIC's website and in EIC's regular newsletter. Discounts have also been arranged for Members on advertising, publications, conferences, seminars and exhibitions.

EIC Export Support

All Members receive a regular *Export News Service* with details of missions, seminars and other news from relevant Government bodies. EIC has also been successfully encouraging the Regional Development Agencies to set up regional networks for environmental industry companies to support their export efforts and link into the national support available. And EIC International Business Working Group lobbies for greater support for environmental exporters.

In its short history, the EIC has become the lead association for the UK's environmental technology and services industry. It is certainly much more than a 'talking shop'. Most importantly, it has raised awareness and built support for the industry, has advocated innovative policies for promoting the industry and actively represented its Members on their specific regulatory concerns.

EIC Members are fulsome in their support – as the Testimonials illustrate.

For any company wishing to join in our efforts to promote the industry, or to find out more about the work of EIC, please visit our website:

www.eic-uk.co.uk

or contact us:

Phone: 020 7935 1675



EIC Members' Testimonials

“The need for an authoritative and cohesive voice for the environmental services industry in the corridors of power has never been greater. EIC speaks with the weight of over 290 Members and has rapidly grown to be the lead association for our industry. We have met with ministers and senior officials to get our message across and have achieved demonstrable successes.”

JOHN WATERS, ERM

“I have been closely involved with EIC for six years and have found it to be an extremely useful partnership. Through EIC we were able to lobby effectively for the Mobile Plant Licence system and subsequently for tax incentives and a broad brush review of remediation licensing. I would thoroughly recommend the EIC and its dedicated staff to any organisation working in the environmental industries.”

ALISTAIR KEAN, IKM CONSULTING

“Being an EIC Member enables us to keep abreast of environmental policy and be forewarned about key development. We have been able to meet with Ministers and senior Government officials to influence key issues for our industry.”

PETER RIPLEY - ACWA SERVICES

“EIC is by far the most influential organisation we are involved with.”

STEWART PURCHASE - VIESSMANN

“Membership of EIC has given me access to key policy intelligence that has been the basis of the business strategies that has driven my company's success.”

PETER ATCHISON, PA GEOTECHNICAL