

GOVERNMENT TO MAP OUT 'THE ROUTE TO ZERO CARBON FE COLLEGES'

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Minister for Further Education Bill Rammell will today announce how a major building programme will deliver zero carbon, state-of-the-art FE colleges throughout England.

A new report, 'The Route to Zero Carbon FE Colleges', developed by design and engineering experts Arup, provides recommendations on how the Further Education community will ensure all new college facilities are zero carbon by 2016.

The announcement will be made at a reception hosted by Bill Rammell to celebrate the success to date of the capital programme for FE colleges and highlight excellence within the Further Education sector. The reception will be attended by over 100 people from Government, MPs and the education, building and construction sectors.

Bill Rammell said: "The completion of the Arup report is an important milestone in our long-term Building Colleges for the Future strategy. Arup's recommendations provide us with a template to help realise our goal to achieve zero carbon FE buildings by 2016.

"We have made huge progress over the last 10 years. In 1997 there was not one penny in the mainstream FE capital budget .Today is a celebration of the exciting transformation taking place within the FE Estate and our dedicated investment of £2.3 billion pounds over the next three years will continue to deliver state-of-the-art facilities to benefit learners and principals, employers and the wider community."

The Arup report is an important next step for the Government's capital investment programme *Building Colleges for the Future*. The programme commits to providing every community with state-of-the-art Further Education facilities, and a further £2.3 billion pounds will be invested over the next three years, with up to 150 colleges throughout England set to benefit. The Government has set a target to ensure colleges become zero carbon by 2016.

Specific recommendations outlined in the report include:

- The development of an incentive scheme for the building industry to encourage the widespread design of low carbon buildings
- An education programme for everyone involved in sustainable building practices in Further Education. This will help ensure that every step of the process, from the fabric used, the equipment installed and the behaviour and awareness of the occupants, is in line with the zero carbon objective
- The measurement of the energy consumption of colleges to ensure the predicted reductions in carbon emissions can be met

Over the next six months, an expert group will work with the Further Education sector to develop practical solutions based on these recommendations, to be implemented by early 2009.

In addition, Mr Rammell set out how the highest environmental standard will apply to new buildings from September 2008. The BREEAM excellent rating, to be

launched this summer will include mandatory requirements on energy consumption to raise the bar on environmental performance. In the autumn, colleges will be able to benefit from a second round of the SALIX carbon reduction scheme, which will help colleges meet their obligations on energy efficiency.

Mark Haysom, Chief Executive of the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) said:

“This significant investment demonstrates the Government’s continued commitment to deliver a world-class, state of the art, sustainable FE estate that we can all be proud of.

“We’re certain that this expenditure will have a positive impact on participation and attainment for both young and adult learners and will meet the needs of employers helping to increase the productivity and competitiveness of the nation.”

Ministers want new construction in the FE sector to be of wider benefit to local people and businesses. Contractors bidding for the work will be required to commit to training their workforce, for example through providing apprenticeships or engaging with the Train to Gain service.

Notes to Editors

1. This press notice applies to England only.
2. The £2.3 billion was announced on 16 November in the grant letter to the LSC from DIUS and DCSF. The money builds on investment of £2.4 billion over the last ten years and will be spent via the LSC as follows:
 - 2008-09, £694 million
 - 2009-10, £820 million
 - 2010 -11, £850 million
3. 150 colleges are set to benefit including, West Thames, East Surrey and Westminster Kingsway as well as colleges in Sheffield, Leicester, Grimsby and Derby.
4. For a full list of areas which are due to benefit from new public investment in colleges, or for photographs of colleges who have benefited from funding from the LSC, please contact the LSC press office on 0247 682 3640.
5. The National Capital Strategy and the Arup Report 'A route to zero carbon colleges' can be found at <http://propertyservices.lsc.gov.uk/capital-strategy/>
6. Colleges interested in accessing funding should get in touch with their local LSC or contact the national LSC. For more information email property@lsc.gov.uk

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Notes for Editors:

Learning and Skills Council:

The LSC exists to make England better skilled and more competitive. We are responsible for ensuring the availability of high-quality education and training for everyone. We have a single goal: to improve the skills of England's young people and adults to world class standards. Our vision is that young people and adults in England have knowledge and skills matching the best in the world and are part of a truly competitive workforce. We work nationally, regionally and locally to deliver this ambition on behalf of learners and employers.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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