



NEWS RELEASE

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ENERGY PERFORMANCE CERTIFICATES VITAL TO TACKLING CLIMATE CHANGE
Government's commitment to EPC and 1 June implementation
of Home Information Packs welcomed by the NHER

The National Home Energy Rating (NHER) scheme for energy assessors has welcomed the Government's support for the energy performance certificate (EPC) as a key component of the home information pack, and is calling for more potential domestic energy assessors to come forward.

Responding to the announcement yesterday from the Department for Communities and Local Government, Austin Baggett, Head of the NHER scheme, says:

"The housing sector is responsible for nearly 30% of the UK's carbon dioxide emissions. Energy performance certificates are a neat way to help tackle climate change and promote energy efficiency. We are delighted that the Government is being so positive about a product that will give consumers vital information about the environmental impact of their home, and is so determined to make sure these critical changes to the home-buying process can start in just 18 weeks' time.

"Since launching our domestic energy assessor (DEA) training and assessment programme we have been delighted with the numbers of people coming forward to pursue this new career. But the country still needs more DEAs to compile the 1.5 million EPCs that will be required each year. As this latest announcement shows, the market demand for these energy professionals is growing in scale and urgency as every week goes by."

Austin Baggett welcomed the latest Home Information Pack Update consultation document, also released this week by DCLG.

"The consultation document highlights the importance of the full home condition report. It suggests that 40% of failed transactions are related to the survey or the condition of the property. Home condition reports should certainly be recommended in order to reduce this waste in the home buying process."

ENDS

Issued on behalf of National Energy Services and the NHER by Liz Male Consulting Ltd.

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Notes to Editors

1. National Energy Services (NES) owns and operates both the NHER scheme and SAVA. Since the company was launched in 1994, the NES team has grown to over 60 people, including software developers, environmental scientists, building services engineers, building physicists, business management specialists, statisticians and residential surveyors. NES is a trading subsidiary of the National Energy Foundation, an independent charity set up in 1988 to promote energy conservation and provide help to improve energy efficiency in residential buildings.
2. The National Home Energy Rating (NHER) scheme provides technical and business support for individuals and organisations involved in domestic energy efficiency. www.nher.co.uk
3. Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs) for Home Information Packs in England and Wales can only be produced by Home Inspectors or Domestic Energy Assessors.
4. It is envisaged that a Home Inspector or Domestic Energy Assessor will be able to carry out between three and five EPCs a day. Over 1.5 million residential properties are marketed each year in England and Wales.
5. Under the requirements of the EU Directive on the Energy Performance of Buildings, EPCs will also be required whenever a dwelling is rented (an estimated on-going demand in the private and social rented sectors of approximately half a million EPCs a year). The Government has not yet announced the timetable for introducing EPCs in the rental sector, but the absolute latest date allowed by the Directive is January 2009.
6. The NHER scheme recently launched its training and assessment programme for Domestic Energy Assessors. The programme includes eight days of intensive training on construction, thermal physics and energy efficiency. It also assesses candidate's knowledge and skills against the national occupational standards recently published by Asset Skills. For further information on the DEA programme, go to www.dea-training.co.uk