



'Britain must urgently re-think its energy policy in the face of global risks' - Twigg

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Speaking ahead of the launch of the Foreign Policy Centre's new pamphlet on Britain's Energy Future, Director Stephen Twigg said: 'The UK government has made the case for a rapid shift to renewable energy sources from a number of perspectives: national security, economic prosperity and the protection of the global environment – yet its targets for renewables are amongst the lowest in Europe.

'Spiralling oil prices threaten to jeopardise Gordon Brown's aim of reducing poverty in the developing world. This new pamphlet and the programme it introduces will highlight that energy policy isn't just a domestic issue – it is also a matter of economic prosperity, national security and international stability.

'At a time in which Britain is increasingly dependent on the Gulf states and Russia, it is imperative for the government to develop a domestically sustainable energy policy. Renewable energy must be central to this.

'As highlighted in the pamphlet, we need a civic education campaign - backed up by corresponding government policy - that will empower UK citizens, both individual and corporate, to take a new role as 'energy wardens', a present day home guard.

Editor's Notes

The Foreign Policy Centre is launching this pamphlet as the starting point of a nine month project on Britain's energy future. The launch will be held at the Corporation of London on Tuesday 13 September at 1800. Embargoed copies of the pamphlet in pdf format are available on request.

The programme is launched with the backing of the Corporation of London and Oxfam. Its steering committee involves Professor David Fisk, Chief Scientific Adviser to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister; Charles Hall, global investment strategy adviser; and Dr Shimon Awerbuch, financial economist specialising in utility regulation.

Over nine months, it will bring together key constituencies through high-intensity, high-profile seminars and events. These will be accompanied by a raft of publications and media outreach so as to mobilise a sea-change of opinions on the renewables issue.

The Foreign Policy Centre is an independent think tank launched under the patronage of Prime Minister Tony Blair in 1998 in order to inject fresh thinking into debate about global issues.

For more information on the pamphlet and the programme in general, please consult www.fpc.org.uk or email press@fpc.org.uk

**For briefings, interviews or a copy of the pamphlet,
call Fiona Grant on 0207 388 6662**