

For immediate release **press release from Living with Environmental Change**



Chair announced for Living with Environmental Change Business Advisory Board

Colin Drummond, Chief Executive of Viridor, Executive Director of Pennon Group plc and Chair of Environmental Sustainability Knowledge Transfer Network, has accepted the position of Chair of the Living with Environmental Change programme's new Business Advisory Board.

Living with Environmental Change is an unprecedented partnership of UK research and policy-making organisations, with a commitment of £1 Billion of funding over 10 years. Since the programme began in 2007, over £450 million has been committed towards environmental change research programmes.

The Business Advisory Board will help to ensure that the UK will get the full economic benefits from this major government investment, by providing strategic business input and advice on how to achieve the greatest impact from current and future activities.

Colin Drummond says:

'The Government's £1 Billion Living with Environmental Change programme is a major commitment to the Green Economy. Changes in the environment present great challenges but also huge opportunities for UK industry. I am delighted to accept the position of Chairman of the Business Advisory Board and look forward to assisting in maximising the UK's competitive advantage as we react to the challenges of environmental change.'

Iain Gray, Chief Executive of the Technology Strategy Board one of the Living with Environmental Change member organisations, says:

'This is an important and significant step forward for Living with Environmental Change. Many of the programme's objectives will be met through business engagement and it is important that we encourage and invite business to take part in a movement towards a low carbon economy. Every single member organisation understands that while much can be done to mitigate climate change, we all have a responsibility to help society and the economy to adapt to it. The work of the Business Advisory Board will be an important contribution towards the preparation work that needs to be done to enable this adaptation to take place.'

Professor Andrew Watkinson, Director of the Living with Environmental Change programme, says:

'The Business Advisory Board will help Living with Environmental Change deliver its vision of providing business with the foresight required to take up the opportunities presented by the need to adapt to and mitigate upcoming environmental changes.'

Contact details:

For more information please contact

Ruth Welters, Living with Environmental Change Communications Specialist
01603 593906

ruth.welters@lwec.org.uk

Notes to editors:

1. **The Living with Environmental Change programme** is an unprecedented partnership of 20 UK organisations that fund, carry out and use environmental research, including the Research Councils, government departments, devolved administrations and delivery agencies. For more details of the partner organisations and accredited activities, see www.lwec.org.uk

2. **Additional members are currently being invited to the Business Advisory Board** and these will include leading figures in business sectors of relevance to environmental change, such as agri-food, construction, energy, environmental consultancy, environmental instrumentation and process technologies, financial services and insurance, health, marine, retail, systems integrators, transport, water and sewerage services and waste management.

3. **The Business Advisory Board will carry out the following activities:**

- Advise on priority sectors and business areas for engagement.
- Identify gaps and provide early business input into the design of new programmes and activities.
- Advise on the benefits of linking programmes to achieve added value and business benefit.
- Advise on routes for business engagement and knowledge exchange in order to achieve maximum impact from existing and future programmes.
- Identify major commercial opportunities from existing and future research.

In addition, the Board will:

- Work with government departments to help them to understand how they can modify their existing policies and introduce new policies in order to present greatest opportunities for UK business.
- Advise individual Living with Environmental Change partners on future strategy for research and knowledge exchange activities to achieve maximum impact.

4. **Colin Drummond Biography:** Colin Drummond has been an Executive Director of Pennon Group PLC and Chief Executive of Viridor, one of the UK's leading waste management and renewable energy companies, since 1993. Prior to joining Pennon, Colin was Chief Executive of Coats Viyella Yarns Division, an Executive Director of Renold PLC, a consultant with the Boston Consulting Group and an official with the Bank of England.

In addition to his appointment as Chair of Living with Environmental Change Business Advisory Board, Colin is Chairman of the Environmental Sustainability Knowledge Transfer Network, Chairman of UK Trade and Investment's Environmental Sector Advisory Group and a Director of Sustainability South West. He is a Visiting Senior Research Fellow in Earth Sciences at Oxford University and was Master of the Worshipful Company of Water Conservators for 2007/08. He has an MA from Oxford and an MBA from Harvard where he held a Harkness Fellowship.