

# Press Release

March 19<sup>th</sup> 2007 - For immediate release



## **SocEnv supports 'Contraction and Convergence' for a fairer, low carbon world**

Colin Challen MP, Chair of the House of Commons All Party Committee on Climate Change, addressed the Society's Board, at its meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> March, on the value of 'Contraction and Convergence' – the so called 'C & C' framework for delivering sustainable and equitable low carbon economies worldwide.

Colin Challen told the Board, "We can compare the problem of adverse climate change to the effects of another world war. The situation today is similar to that which existed before World War II. The majority of people now recognise that climate change is a real threat having come through the 'denial phase'. Some are now in the 'appeasement' stage – thinking that we will find a simple solution and may not have to do anything, and that we can get back to business as usual. However, a few enlightened leaders such as Stavros Dimas, the EU Commissioner for the Environment, recognise that we are into the total war stage - where we need to radically change the way we operate our economies if we are to survive this crisis of global warming."

The Society's Board unanimously agreed that the 'Contraction and Convergence' framework provides an important step forward in helping all sectors of community, business and government to understand how we can move forward together, on a global scale, to tackle climate change. John Brady, Chair of the Society welcomed this approach and said, "*On behalf of the Society for the Environment I am proud to endorse the 'Contraction and Convergence' framework which will be important in helping us to work towards a sustainable and equitable future, not just for the UK but communities and economies worldwide.*"

Colin Challen said "*I am delighted that SocEnv has endorsed the Contraction and Convergence climate change framework. You join a growing number of environmental professionals who recognise that we can only deal with climate change by adopting a rational, disciplined approach. We must leave the guesswork out of our efforts to meet this challenge, and it is becoming obvious that the Contraction and Convergence movement is growing in proportion to people's fears that society is affording itself a short term relief at the expense of a long term pain.*"

**Ends**

## Notes to Editors:

- 1) Photos available at <http://www.socenv.org.uk/news-and-press-release/media-downloads/>
- 2) The Society's membership comprises seventeen leading environmental institutions and learned societies. Following receipt of its Royal Charter in September 2004, each institution can assess and award the qualification of Chartered Environmentalist (CEnv) to their appropriately qualified individual members. Between them the Member Institutions have individual memberships comprising over 260,000 practitioners.
- 3) "Contraction and Convergence, C&C, is a scheme to provide a framework for a smooth transition to a low level of CO2 emissions from human activity. The first step in C&C, 'Contraction', is based on agreeing a safe target concentration level and the determination of global annual emissions levels which should take the atmosphere to that target. ...Having defined a global budget, the second step, 'convergence' defines allocations to each country..."  
([http://www.gci.org.uk/model/ideas\\_behind\\_cc.html](http://www.gci.org.uk/model/ideas_behind_cc.html))

- 3) For further information contact:

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- 4) See [www.socenv.org.uk](http://www.socenv.org.uk) for further information about the Society.
- 5) The members and Constituent Bodies of the Society for the Environment are:

1. **Arboricultural Association (AA)**
2. **Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB)**
3. **Chartered Institution of Wastes Management (CIWM)**
4. **Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management (CIWEM)**
5. **Institute of Agricultural Management (IAgrM)**
6. **Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (IEEM)**
7. **Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA)**
8. **Institute of Fisheries Management (IFM)**
9. **Institute of Professional Soil Scientists (IPSS) (associate member)**
10. **Institution of Agricultural Engineers (IAgrE)**
11. **Institution of Chemical Engineers (IChemE)**
12. **Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE)**
13. **Institution of Environmental Sciences (IES)**
14. **Institution of Water Officers (IWO)**
15. **Landscape Institute (LI)**
16. **Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS)**
17. **Royal Meteorological Society (RMetS)**