

PRESS RELEASE

FROM: Fiona Bruce MP for Congleton Constituency

DATE: 19th May 2011



Secretary of State congratulates Middlewich Company

The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change today congratulated Middlewich Company, Convert2Green, on their recent award of Environmental Company of the Year from East Cheshire Chamber of Commerce and Enterprise after Fiona Bruce MP highlighted this in the House of Commons.

In a question to the Secretary of State Fiona asked that consideration be given to continuation of the 20p duty differential for biofuels, which has helped Convert2Green to develop its Middlewich factory where used cooking oil, such as chip fat, is refined and converted into fuel for vehicles and other uses.

Full text of the question raised by Fiona, and the Secretary of State's answer appears below:

T6. [56282] **Fiona Bruce** (Congleton) (Con): The Middlewich company, Convert2Green, in my constituency, recently won the East Cheshire chamber of commerce environmental company of the year award. It converts used cooking oil, which would otherwise go into drains or landfill, into biodiesel for use in vehicles and elsewhere. The 20p duty differential for biodiesel has helped it to develop its innovative processes. What assessment has the Department made of the contribution of the 20p duty differential to the UK's renewable energy targets, and what are the Government's future plans for the differential?

Chris Huhne: I join my hon. Friend in congratulating the company involved. The recent quarterly renewable transport fuel obligation report gives clear evidence on the effectiveness of the 20p duty differential for biodiesel derived from used cooking oil in assisting the Government to exceed their greenhouse gas savings target, and in increasing substantially the retrieval of waste cooking oil, which otherwise would literally be poured down the drain or go to landfill. The differential has therefore made a valuable contribution to the Government's renewable energy targets and waste strategy, and to the growth of the low-carbon economy.

Speaking, today, from Parliament, Fiona said:

'One of my key priorities is to help local businesses to grow and develop and so create sustainable jobs for people in my constituency – especially young people. I have been impressed by Convert2Green's approach to training young people with new skills. They are making a valuable contribution to the growth of both the low carbon and the local economy. It is great to have such a recognised industry leader in my constituency.'

Mark Sneesby, Director of Convert2Green said, today:

'We are very grateful to Fiona Bruce MP for fighting the corner of a local company like ours in Parliament. Since her election last May, she has been highly active in supporting Convert2Green in many ways, not least in pressing for the continuation of this duty differential, which has helped provide the investment we need to continue to develop.'

Fiona added:

'Climate Change Minister, Greg Barker MP, said this week that the climate change agenda is moving from worrying about damage to our planet to the opportunities for our economy that a green economy offers. Just as energy security and an ambitious UK renewable programme are two sides of the same coin, so we don't have to choose between growth or green. Combining the two is our best hope for long term prosperity. Convert2Green is at the forefront of this.'

NOTE TO EDITOR

Photograph 1 shows Fiona Bruce MP with Mark Sneesby, Director of Convert2Green during her visit to the Company with one of their cooking oil collection tanks at recycling depots throughout Cheshire East.

Photograph 2 shows Fiona Bruce MP with Mark Sneesby and his wife, Lesley, at the East Cheshire Chamber of Commerce and Enterprise Awards.

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