



THE PRINCE OF WALES'S
CORPORATE LEADERS GROUP

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Climate experts' report must spur urgent action, say business leaders

Business leaders from across the EU are urging immediate action from governments, businesses and society to reduce carbon emissions and increase resilience in response to the first part of the 5th report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), released today.

The Prince of Wales's Corporate Leaders Group (CLG) responded to the report of the 1st working group of the IPCC, which reveals the strongest consensus yet amongst scientists that human activities are the main cause of warming since the 1950s. The report confirms a clear warming trend that is still apparent.

Ian Cheshire, Kingfisher's Group Chief Executive said: "As companies, consumers, and citizens, we all face significant potential risks from the changing climate, which we must work together to address. This calls for leadership, vision and cooperation. We hope that the UK and other European governments will continue to demonstrate their commitment to developing a new, competitive low-carbon economy."

Carmen Becerril, Chief International Officer from Acciona said: "This warning from the science must provide a trigger for action. A comprehensive, effective and ambitious global response must be agreed at the UN climate change meeting in Paris in 2015, which means we need to start working now to greatly enhance global cooperation and build the foundations for a workable deal and investment in low carbon solutions."

Peter Simpson, Managing Director of Anglian Water, said: "The science is clearer than it's ever been and is borne out by events on the ground. At Anglian Water we are dealing with increasing extremes of weather, including the impacts of drought and flooding. Rather than spending time worrying about the precise degree to which these are driven by climate change, businesses, politicians and the community need to be renewing their commitment to work together to address the causes and deal with the effects."

Hubert Patricot, executive vice president and president at Coca-Cola Enterprises said: "Climate change has significant impacts on our core business, and is something we are already factoring into our long-term strategy. This report highlights the reality of climate change to all businesses, but we can't make a meaningful change alone. Government and business need to work together to mobilize a concerted and coordinated response to address the most significant environmental issue of our time."

Andrew Bester, Group Director & Chief Executive, Commercial Banking, Lloyds Banking Group said: "UK Companies from the smallest SME to the largest multinational are the lifeblood of the UK economy and as they regain confidence and look to grow, it is vital that they seize the opportunities of adopting sound environmental practices and manage the risks posed by environmental issues such as climate change. Those that do take action could see cost, competitive and operational benefits, that could help them steal a march on rivals and contribute to the success of the supply chains in which they operate."

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Communications at Anglian Water on 0871 677 0123 or +44 1480 323993; Juan Ramon Silva Ferrada, Executive Director, Sustainability for Acciona, +34 916633086 or +34 607614377. Spokespeople also available from Coca Cola Enterprises: contact Amy Barry to arrange.

Notes:

1. The Prince of Wales's Corporate Leaders Group (CLG) brings together business leaders who believe there is an urgent need for new and longer-term policies for tackling climate change. Members include AECOM, Acciona, Alstom, Anglian Water Group, Aviva, BT Group, Coca-Cola Enterprises Inc, Doosan, EDF Energy, Glaxo Smith Kline, Heathrow, Johnson Matthey, Kingfisher, Lloyds Banking Group, Philips Lighting, Shell, Skanska, British Sky Broadcasting, Tesco, Thames Water, Unilever, United Technologies Corporation, Virgin Group and Vodafone. The group is managed by The University of Cambridge Programme for Sustainability Leadership (CPSL).
2. CPSL is producing a series of Business Briefings on the Latest Climate Science, including "The UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Fifth Assessment Report: Implications for Business" See more at www.cpsl.cam.ac.uk/ipcc