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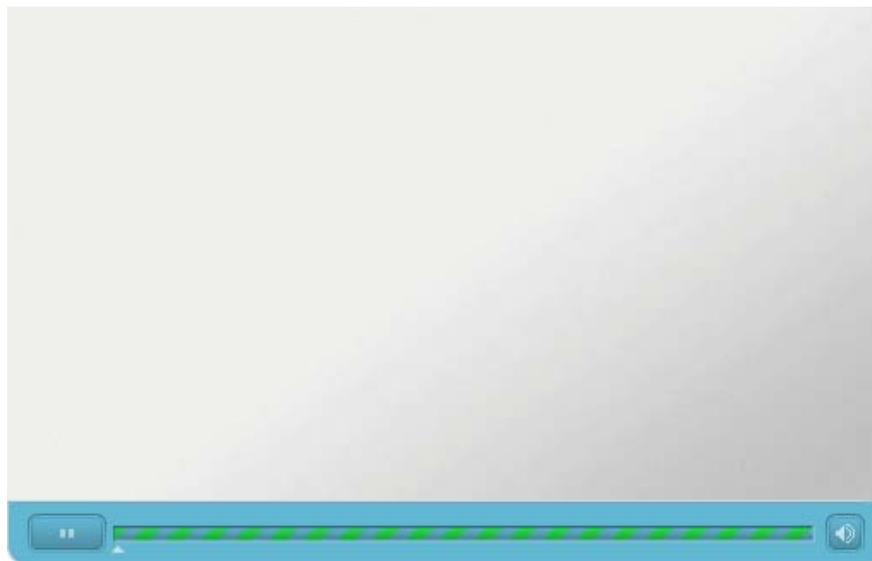
Countdown to Copenhagen -

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Copenhagen has two weeks to change the world

The following film 'Low Carbon, High Potential' is aimed at encouraging small and medium-sized enterprises to seize the opportunities presented by addressing climate change has been launched ahead of COP15, the UN Climate Change conference in Copenhagen.

The ten minute film is the result of a collaboration between The Carbon Trust, the Department of Energy and Climate Change, The Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Business in the Community and The Prince of Wales's Corporate Leaders Group on Climate Change. It features interviews with UK businesses that have worked with the Carbon Trust to reduce carbon emissions and develop new low carbon technologies including Adnams brewers, Continental Clothing and 4energy.



On 7th December, in Copenhagen, the long awaited two week international negotiations on climate change commence. It has been billed by Lord Stern as the "most important meeting since the Second World War".

The meeting has the potential to achieve a step change in the world's ambition to reduce man made carbon emissions and to definitively fire the starting gun on the race to a low carbon economy but the negotiations are complex.

Key issues at stake include:

Setting the level of the overall emissions reduction ambition.

Agreeing individual developed nation targets to 2020 and 2050 and the nature of developing nations' low carbon growth plans.

Putting in place new supporting mechanisms to ensure finance flows into low carbon investments.

Developing local capacity building for energy efficiency and technology innovation in developing countries.

A vital outcome of Copenhagen is an increase in certainty for business and investors that action to tackle climate change will be rewarded. Without this investors and businesses are unlikely to invest at a sufficient rate to successfully limit carbon emissions.

A deal at Copenhagen will be of specific relevance to certain industries, in particular:

Businesses involved in carbon offsets or trading in the carbon markets.

Aviation and maritime shipping, who may come under new international frameworks to reduce emissions, although the nature of these is uncertain.

Installations in the EU ETS, who could see a tightening of the cap on emissions from a 21% reduction to around 30% if the EU decides to change its 2020 emissions reduction target from 20% to 30% versus 1990 levels.

In the UK, non EU ETS sectors such as buildings, transport, waste and agriculture will be particularly impacted if the UK moves to its 'intended' budget of a 42% reduction in emissions by 2020 versus 1990 levels, as recommended by the Committee on Climate Change if there is a global deal.

Whatever the outcome at Copenhagen it will not be the last word from international climate change negotiations. Even with a strong global deal, much of the detail will take many months or even years to finalise. Given the compelling need for the world to rapidly decarbonise, the enormous economic opportunities offered by the low carbon economy will go to those who move boldly and early.

[Find out more about climate change policy in the UK and overseas.](#)

[Further information on the Government's role in the Copenhagen negotiations.](#)