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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Time to Commit: Industry calls for Government action now on Carbon Capture

- Trade body CEO calls for commitment to develop at least two regional Carbon Capture, Utilisation & Storage (CCUS) clusters
- Parliamentary Committee told that action now could make the UK a global pioneer in CCUS technology
- Government CCUS Deployment Pathway due to be published imminently

Today, industry experts urged the Government to commit to a clear, deliverable and ambitious deployment pathway for CCUS this year, in order to capitalise on the UK's potential to lead the way in delivering this crucial technology at scale.

MPs from the Business Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) Select Committee were told that failure to act now could sacrifice a prime opportunity for the UK economy and would make it near impossible for the country to hit its existing climate targets.

The UK has one third of Europe's carbon dioxide storage capacity, and as much as the rest of the EU combined – creating a potentially significant market opportunity to 'sell' storage space. It also has the considerable assets, infrastructure and skills needed to become Europe's leader in developing the technology.

Deployment of CCUS would also benefit important regional economies, preserving and creating jobs in our industrial heartlands. Five areas have been identified as being particularly suited to becoming CCUS clusters; Teesside, Yorkshire & the Humber, the North West, Scotland & South Wales.

The Government is due to publish its CCUS Deployment Pathway imminently, possibly within weeks. In order for the UK's potential to be realised, industry has called on the Government to commit to developing at least two regional CCUS clusters as recommended by the CCUS Cost Challenge Taskforce.

Luke Warren, Chief Executive of the Carbon Capture and Storage Association, said:

“Despite an impressive reduction in our power sector emissions over the past decade, the UK stands at a climate change crossroads. In order to have any hope of meeting our existing climate change targets, we need to drive deeper decarbonisation in heating, transport and heavy industry.

“CCUS, and its suite of enabling technologies, can decarbonise these harder to reach sectors, whilst at the same time ensuring our industrial heartlands remain competitive for decades to come.

“The UK wind industry is a perfect example of what can be achieved with commitment, a strong supportive framework and collaboration between industry and Government. If the Government now does its bit by committing to develop at least two regional CCUS clusters, this industry could become another success story, positioning the UK as a leader in a significant global market.”

ENDS

Notes to Editors

For media enquiries please contact Jonathan Andrew on 02038266211 or email jonathan.andrew@fieldconsulting.co.uk

- To find out more about the Carbon Capture Storage Association (CCSA) please visit the CCSA website at <http://www.ccsassociation.org/>.
- CCUS, or Carbon Capture, Usage and Storage, is a low carbon technology which captures carbon dioxide (CO₂) from the burning of coal and gas for power generation, and from the manufacturing of steel, cement and other industrial facilities. The carbon dioxide is then transported by either pipeline or ship, for safe and permanent underground storage, preventing it from entering the atmosphere and contributing to anthropogenic climate change.
- The UK's Committee on Climate Change has estimated that CCUS has the potential to more than halve the cost of meeting the UK's climate change targets. The IPCC has also concluded that without CCUS, the cost of achieving global climate goals would increase by 138%.
- If you would like more information on CCUS please get in touch using the above details.