



Thursday 28 October 2010

STOP THE CLOCKS FOR CLIMATE CHANGE

- Clocks going back this weekend will significantly increase UK carbon consumption
 - Additional demand equivalent to entire electricity needs of Bristol
 - Calls made for trial of year-round British Summer Time

Ebico, the UK's only not-for profit energy supplier, is calling for a new trial of year-round British Summer Time in order to reduce the additional energy consumption brought about by darker evenings in the winter.

The clocks going back on Sunday 31 October will result in an additional half a million tonnes of carbon emissions for the UK, roughly equivalent to the entire annual electricity consumption of the city of Bristol.

Ebico was established as a social enterprise in 1998 with all surplus money donated in the pursuit of reducing fuel poverty and tackling climate change by helping householders reduce their carbon footprints.

Phil Levermore, MD of Ebico commented: "It may sound counter-intuitive for an energy supplier to petition for lower energy use, but we are committed to helping to create a low carbon future by encouraging people to cut their energy consumption. It is clear that lighter evenings in the winter will be one easy way to help us to achieve that.

"A study published recently in the Energy Policy journal has found the clock change results in an additional 500,000 tonnes of carbon for the UK. We are calling for a new two-year trial of maintaining British Summer Time throughout the year, along with detailed measurement of the resulting shift in energy demand. We believe stopping the clock change would not only have a real impact on helping to meet the UK's emissions targets, but would also provide other social benefits."

There is also growing political support - Conservative MP for Castle Point Rebecca Harris has submitted a private members bill calling for GMT to re-examined and on Thursday (28 October) the Commons' energy and climate change committee heard evidence from experts on the effect of energy usage on the clock change.

Ends

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Notes to Editors

About Ebico

Ebico is the UK's only not-for-profit energy supply company in the UK and is committed to the reduction and elimination of fuel poverty. The company's flat rate tariff with no standing charge rewards low users of energy. For more information visit www.ebico.co.uk