

# BT calls for consistent energy carbon labelling

BT, THE biggest single consumer of renewable electricity in the UK, has launched a campaign for more accurate and consistent energy labelling.

The telecoms giant has written to environment secretary Hilary Benn and business secretary John Hutton with proposals for an electricity labelling scheme similar to the colour-coded A-G labels that are now standard on all white goods and new cars.

The company wants all electricity customers to be informed

of the specific carbon content of their electricity instead of the "grid average". BT said businesses could also make use of such data when working out their carbon footprints.

The call is led by Richard Tarboton, head of BT's energy and carbon unit, and is supported by the Major Energy Users' Council (MEUC) and The Climate Group.

Tarboton also said that the methodology proposed for companies reporting their carbon

footprint was inconsistent with the approach proposed for the UK emissions trading scheme, the Carbon Reduction Commitment. He argued that the current assessment methods risked "double counting" green energy.

Tarboton said that rather than use grid average data, electricity tariffs should have a label indicating carbon dioxide content at the point of generation, the fuel mix involved, a clear indication of any accredited renewable content and a clear indication of any

nuclear content (possibly including grammes of waste).

He said such a labelling system would give confidence to customers and allow suppliers to charge a premium for green power, which would help kick-start more renewable generation.

"We are seeking to work in partnership with government to find a solution that meets the needs of all electricity customers, and allow clear and consistent measurement of carbon footprints," he told *Utility Week*.