



## PRESS RELEASE

# 20,000 Companies are first target of new 'Carbon Reduction' Law

*Key Green Awards Acknowledge Slow Shift in Businesses Carbon Reduction  
New Law to Clamp Down on Inefficient Businesses*

**12<sup>th</sup> November 2009, London,** The Carbon Reduction Commitment Scheme comes into force in April 2010 and is the first climate tax passed through UK legislature in the form of the Climate Change Act. With only a few months to incorporate 'greener' processes that demonstrate positive change, many companies are joining forces with carbon positive companies. These companies, such as Citrica, a carbon clear commercial cleaning company, allow client companies to reduce their total supply chain carbon emissions, and bring about positive improvements in Corporate Social Responsibility policies.

The new law is aimed in the first instance at larger corporations and companies which exceed the carbon limit, it will affect up to 20,000 companies. The onus is therefore on business to clean up its act because this tax will eventually roll out to SMEs before it become mandatory for all business.

One common channel that all companies can strongly influence carbon reduction through is the supply chain, demanding that suppliers become cleaner and more efficient. In some situations companies within the supply chain already offer the capability to increase larger client organisations green credentials by achieving higher carbon standards than current suppliers and maintaining a carbon reduction committed supply chain for the client company to benefit from.

The UK lags behind many European and Scandinavian countries, for example only one UK based commercial cleaning company has achieved Carbon Clear status and the Carbon Standard Trust accreditation. Citrica, a SME based in Erith, South London, has taken pioneering steps to meet the strict carbon emission standards set out by both organisations and is the only Commercial Cleaning Company to ever hold the Carbon Trust Standard, audited by Carbon Clear. Citrica was the

first Commercial Cleaning company to be accredited with ISO:14001 and is the winner of the Sustainable FM Eco Award 2009.

Citrica is also a winner of the Green Apple Award from the Green organisation, which will be presented to them at the House of Commons, Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> November, 2009.

About Citrica

**Citrica offers a wide range of contract and building services and has long been an advocate of sustainability. Other achievements include being the first cleaning company to achieve environmental management standard ISO14001, and the first in the sector to go carbon neutral in 2008. Operating extensively within the M25 ring and around the Glasgow and Edinburgh areas, the company's green initiatives include using low emission vehicles; relocating to environmentally developed buildings, and creating a 'green' product supply chain.**

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### **Editor Background**

So why has an industry which every company needs and uses been slow to clean up its own act, especially when ironically it exists with the raison d'être of cleaning a local environment? Larger commercial cleaning companies are probably going to be one of those actually at risk from the effects of the Climate Change Act. The fact is that they could actually be adding to the carbon impact of the companies they are supposed to be cleaning.

The supply chain must be an area of carbon reduction for business to seriously look at. By knowing that the companies we employ have met carbon reduction targets, to carry out services we need throughout our supply chain, must have a positive overall impact on the environment.

As legislature comes into force and new business and building levies are talked about more frequently in the Government to incentivise companies to become more environmentally efficient, it is clear that the supply chain will eventually fall under the spotlight of financial directors, as well as facilities management

directors, as areas where substantial saving can be made. For companies such as Citrica who pick up their Green Apple Award at the Houses of Parliament on November 17<sup>th</sup>, who have already turned around their own carbon footprint, there is no doubt that being 'green' can also be a shrewd business move.

Managing Director, Danny Buckley points out that it has been his decision to make Citrica a carbon neutral company through choice rather than enforcement, and a move by the company to absorb those costs directly rather than pass them on through the business. "We differentiate from every other commercial cleaner in the UK. Our environmental stance means that we don't pass on any carbon footprint to the supply chain, nor do we pass on the cost for being green. If this was replicated throughout the supply chain the carbon emissions from UK business would be substantially reduced."

The Copenhagen Climate Conference (Dec 6<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>) may add to the pressure faced by business to make a serious commitment to changing the environment, and the question should be asked whether it is the role of government to enforce change or whether business can see the commercial benefits of going green and adopt change through choice and good business sense.

Many companies will already have taken steps to reduce its carbon footprint by investigating what it physically produces and will have made significant savings or offset its CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by entering a carbon trading scheme. With increased pressure being placed upon business through corporate social responsibility, other measures such as greening the supply chain will become an essential opportunity to reduce emissions without adding to the environmental spend and reduce the new climate change tax burden.