



WHY GREENING THE ECONOMY (AND THE BUDGET) IS IMPORTANT

Recent research by government agencies, businesses and non-government organisations reveals the current scale of the UK 'green economy' - and the substantial economic opportunities that still remain. Some key facts are presented below.

939,000

jobs in the UK's low-carbon and environmental goods and services (LCEGS) sector in 2011/12 (BIS, 2013)¹

£128 BILLION

Sales of UK LCEGS in 2011/12 (BIS, 2013)²

OVER 33%

of UK's economic growth in 2011/12 is likely to have come from green business (CBI, 2012)³

£1.573 TRILLION

estimate of the monetary value of selected components of the UK's natural capital in 2011 (ONS, 2014)⁴

PROGRESS TO DATE



£15.5 BILLION

potential annual health and environmental costs from industrial pollution in the UK that could be reduced by improving air quality (EEA, 2011)⁸

190,000

new jobs could be created by 2030 through measures to reduce UK carbon emissions in line with the first four carbon budgets (Cambridge Econometrics, 2014)⁵

500,000

new jobs could be created by 2030 if the UK were to make substantial progress in moving towards a resource efficient 'circular economy' (Green Alliance & WRAP, 2015)⁶

£1.4 BILLION

additional annual UK revenues that could be expected if UK fish stocks recovered to the average levels seen before the 1970s (NCC, 2014)¹¹

£1.2 BILLION

annual costs to the UK economy that could be reduced by avoiding soil degradation (Cranfield University, 2011)¹²

£2.1 BILLION

potential annual healthcare savings if every household in England had good access to quality green space (Natural England, 2009)¹⁰

£5.7 BILLION

potential annual increase in government revenues by 2030 as a result of measures to reduce UK carbon emissions in line with the first four carbon budgets (Cambridge Econometrics, 2014)⁹

£23 BILLION

potential cost savings to UK businesses (estimated for 2009) that could be gained from no-cost or low-cost resource efficiency measures within a year (Defra, 2011)⁷

FUTURE

