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USWITCH.COM WELCOMES NEW GREEN DEAL CONSUMER PROTECTION MEASURES

The Government's 'Consumer Protection in the Green Deal' report published today has been welcomed by uSwitch.com, the independent price comparison and switching service, for the way it has placed consumer confidence and protection at the heart of the Green Deal. The report outlines plans for consumers to access up to £10,000 to improve the energy efficiency of their homes, repayable through energy bills. The report also announces the creation of accredited and licensed energy assessors and building firms to undertake the work.

Ann Robinson, Director of Consumer Policy at uSwitch.com, says: "Consumer trust and confidence is key for the success of a scheme that potentially requires signing up to a 25 year contract. If consumers don't understand the process or feel comfortable with the quality of work going on in their home, they simply won't take up this opportunity to improve their property's energy efficiency.

"In the age of rising energy bills, energy efficiency has never been more important for British householders. However, empty pockets and tightened belts have left many consumers reluctant to invest in such measures, especially when they cannot understand the return or savings they will make. By spreading out repayments of up to £10,000 through their energy bills, consumers are given an affordable way to install measures that could in the long run save them significant amounts on their energy bills.

"In order for homeowners to fully embrace the Green Deal, the Government must firmly convince consumers of its low risk, long term cost benefits. The consumer protection measures outlined in this report are an excellent step in the right direction."

For more information visit www.uSwitch.com or call 0800 093 06 07

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For more information please contact:

Jo Ganly, uSwitch.com on 0207 802 2915 or joganly@uswitch.com

Beth Murray, Lansons Communications on 0207 566 9728 or bethm@lansons.com

Lisa Grando, Lansons Communications on 0207 294 3669 or lisag@lansons.com

About us

uSwitch.com is a free, impartial, online and telephone-based comparison and switching service, helping consumers compare prices on gas, electricity, water, heating cover, home telephone, broadband, digital television, mobile phones and personal finance products including mortgages, credit cards, current accounts and insurance. In 2010 uSwitch.com celebrated ten years of saving customers money.

uSwitch.com is the first comparison website to achieve the Plain English Campaign's Internet Crystal Mark, which is recognised as a standard that a website has clear language, is accessible and easy to use, and has been tested on a sample of its users.

uSwitch.com is dedicated to helping consumers save money whether they have internet access or not. It offers a dedicated call centre, manned by uSwitch customer service representatives, as well as a freepost 'Send us your bill' service, whereby customers can post their latest energy bills with their telephone number to FREEPOST USWITCH, to get a free call back from a dedicated customer services representative. The service is also available via fax, email and post. Consumers should fax 0203 214 8417, email CustomerServices@uswitch.com or write to Customer Services, uSwitch.com, Centro 3, 19 Mandela Street, London, NW1 0DU with their postcode and usage details.

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