

31 March 2011

Press Release

## **ENERGY SECRETARY PRAISES THE CLEANTECH REVOLUTION AT SMARTLIFE CENTRE**

**Energy Secretary Chris Huhne visited the SmartLIFE Centre at Cambridge Regional College yesterday to meet cleantech businesses – and took the opportunity to watch CRC students practicing their ‘green’ construction skills.**

The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, obviously impressed by the students’ work, watched them construct a timber-framed building within the centre, home to CRC’s Modern Methods of Construction course.



Energy Secretary Chris Huhne with CRC Principal Anne Constantine and Hugh Parnell of Envirotech

He spent some time talking to Barrie Wicklen - CRC's associate principal for sustainable development - about the innovative construction methods taught at the College before moving on to meet more than a dozen of the city's leading cleantech companies.

Mr Huhne also chatted to CRC Principal Anne Constantine, along with the chairman of the Greater Cambridge and Greater Peterborough Local Enterprise Partnership Neville Reyner, CBE DL, and Cambridgeshire County Councillor Tony Orgee, who all formally welcomed him to the SmartLIFE centre.

The minister praised the cleantech businesses and described the industry as the "third industrial revolution" as he talked to the Cambridge experts in the field, responsible for innovations in green energy options, smart metering, energy from renewable sources, low energy ventilation systems and even the conversion of waste into construction materials.

Exhibitors included Envirotech Ltd, ARM, AlertMe, Cambridge Nanotherm, the University of Cambridge Cavendish Laboratories, Econovate, Breathing Buildings and the British Antarctic Survey, as well as The Hive enterprise and education park – a joint venture between CRC, the County Council and Future Business.

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### **MEDIA ENQUIRIES**

For more information, please contact Lynn O'Shea, Communications & PR Manager, on 01223 418773 or email [loshea@camre.ac.uk](mailto:loshea@camre.ac.uk)

### **NOTES TO EDITORS**

Cambridge Regional College is the second largest provider of full-time further education for 16 to 19 year-olds in the eastern region. The College has more than 4,000 full-time and 6,000 part-time students. Students come in from a 40-mile radius, covering Cambridge and its surrounding villages, eastern Bedfordshire, northern Essex and western Suffolk.