



**Hambleside Danelaw Ltd**  
**Press Release – 25 May 2007**

**Hambleside Danelaw's environmental credentials boosted by  
Planet Positive™ certification  
Group's landfill waste now equivalent to ordinary British household's**

Multi-environmental award winning Hambleside Danelaw, which manufactures insulated GRP rooflights and other roofing materials in Inverness and Daventry, has been certified as Planet Positive™ by leading carbon solutions company dcarbon8.

The Group is also on track to achieve by the end of 2007 a reduction in its total landfill waste from 904 tonnes in 2001 to approximately 3 tonnes – the latter being equivalent to the waste of the average British household. This achievement should be measured against the fact that Hambleside Danelaw is manufacturing circa 1.5 million square metres of roofing materials each year.

Hambleside Danelaw has gained Planet Positive™ certification because its design and production processes already embody an environmentally responsible footprint which is imperative to receiving certification. The Planet Positive™ mark will inform contractors that Hambleside's business carbon footprint, the volume of greenhouse gasses generated by the company's manufacturing and distribution processes, is more than offset by activities that reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The certification relates to the processes behind all of the Group's building products and Hambleside Danelaw is currently the only UK rooflight manufacturer to carry the Planet Positive™ mark. Other leading companies in the building industry, who are members of dcarbon8 and are working towards Planet Positive™ certification, include CA Group.

As well as meeting high environmental objectives, dcarbon8's off-site projects around the developing world seek to improve the social and economic well-being of the local

area. This can be done in many ways, for example, reducing energy costs, improving employment, education, health or saving habitats and wildlife.

Hambleside Danelaw has chosen to support two of dcarbon8's selected projects: the first is a hydroelectric power plant connected to the national grid in Guatemala, which provides a constant source of renewable energy that has significantly reduced the country's demand for fossil-fuel generated electricity. The second project aims to install solar panels into remote, rural schools in the Eastern Cape of South Africa with the additional installation of much needed ICT and internet facilities.

Robin Jeffery, Hambleside's vice-chairman, said: "The Planet Positive™ certification is perhaps the strongest indication yet to our clients that we wish to be seen as a market leader for environmental responsibility in the building industry. A major attraction of being a dcarbon8 member is that we can work with the company's experts to constantly source further improvements in our sustainability performance."

Janet Kidner of dcarbon8 said: "I saw on my recent visit to the Group's manufacturing facility in Inverness the significant steps that Hambleside Danelaw has taken to set a carbon footprint benchmark which, in our experience, only a few others in the building industry currently match. But dcarbon8 is encouraged that the sharing of best environmental practice in the sector is really starting to gather pace."

Hambleside Danelaw is now working with dcarbon8 to certify their products as Planet Positive™; this will include a detailed carbon footprint analysis of its products. When this process is complete, contractors who purchase products from Hambleside Danelaw will be given dcarbon8 carbon credits to select rigorously approved carbon offset projects for further investment.

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For further information, contact Aidan Relf on 07710 305182

#### **Notes to editors**

##### **1. About dcarbon8 and Planet Positive™**

dcarbon8 states: "A product, person or business is Planet Positive™ if it has measured and verified a net positive impact on the planet, its eco-systems and the communities they work within." Businesses or individuals with the Planet Positive™ mark must commit to reducing their emissions and offset their remaining carbon footprint by investing in Planet Positive™ approved projects and initiatives, which will cut emissions in a quantifiable and verifiable way. More information is available at: <http://dcarbon8.com/index.php>.

## **2. The dcarbon8 projects supported by Hambleside Danelaw**

### **a) Link Charity Development Phakama Project, South Africa**

The Link Charity Developments (LCD) Phakama Project works with 150 schools in the Eastern Cape province of South Africa. It aims to improve the quality of rural education and how districts work and support their schools. This project aims to install solar panels into schools in the Eastern Cape, providing them with a reliable, cost effective and sustainable energy supply. The further installation of internet and printing facilities and the provision of training to school staff in the use of solar technology and the internet improve essential communication with the provincial education staff, LCD staff and other schools. As a result, teacher absenteeism, transport and mobile telephone costs are all reduced.

### **b) Hydroelectric Power Plant Project, Guatemala**

Hydroelectric power relies on the movement of water, a constant and renewable force that can be captured and converted into electricity. A hydroelectric power plant connected to the national grid in Guatemala provides a constant source of renewable energy that has significantly reduced the demand for fossil-fuel generated electricity. As well as providing local employment, the project incorporates a reforestation programme on the banks of the rivers for boosting rain levels, decreasing erosion and further cleaning the atmosphere.

## **3. About Hambleside Danelaw Ltd and its commitment to the environment**

Hambleside Danelaw Ltd ([www.hambleside-danelaw.co.uk](http://www.hambleside-danelaw.co.uk)) manufactures Glass Reinforced Polyester (GRP) rooflights and other roofing and ventilation products in Inverness and Daventry. As part of the Hambleside Danelaw Group with headquarters in Waterlooville in Hampshire, its turnover is currently in excess of £10 million a year and it employs almost 90 people. The Group was established in 1975 with its first factory at Inverness for manufacturing GRP products becoming operational in 1978. In addition to winning numerous environmental awards, the factory has attained BS 14001:2004 in recognition of its environmental management systems. It was independently assessed as carbon neutral last year. In 1992, the company began producing in Daventry non-GRP products primarily for roof and cavity wall ventilation.

In 2006, the Group won a Business Commitment to the Environment award as well as a Queen's Award for Enterprise: Innovation for its Insulator GRP thermally efficient rooflight. Last November, the Group won its third UK national Green Apple award for Environmental Best Practice. This was followed by Hambleside Danelaw's third Vision in Business for the Environment of Scotland (VIBES) award in five years in the medium sized companies' category.

Hambleside Danelaw made submissions to Sir Nicholas Stern's review of the economics of climate change, setting out how tax incentives could encourage the building industry to construct more energy efficient buildings. The Group has since been involved in discussions with Treasury ministers on the issue and the matter has been taken up by the Environmental Audit Committee at the House of Commons.