

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Environmentalists welcome upcoming ratification of Paris Agreement by the UK**

Coventry, England (20 September 2016)

The Society for the Environment (SocEnv) has welcomed Theresa May's pledge for ratification of the Paris Agreement by the end of 2016 and the Government commitment to mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions. SocEnv hopes it is a first step towards embedding the environment and climate change within the UK's new business strategy.

SocEnv Chief Executive Officer, Dr Emma Wilcox, said: "We believe that the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy presents a great opportunity for the embedding of environmental damage mitigation and reversal within the heart of UK business and industrial strategy. The ratification of the Paris Agreement is a promising move towards doing so. We urge Government to not just base the industrial strategy upon our commitments to the Paris Agreement, but go beyond the targets set for the benefit of the environment and people's wellbeing."

SocEnv Chair, Dr Peter Matthews, said: "Whilst this is long awaited news, we are pleased that the Government has finally confirmed ratification of the Paris Agreement by the end of 2016. By doing so outside of the EU, it shows that the UK has a strong commitment to greenhouse gas mitigation beyond its previous obligations to the EU and that environmental protection will be as strong, if not stronger, in the future."

END

### **CONTACTS:**

t: 0345 337 2951 e: [communications@socenv.org.uk](mailto:communications@socenv.org.uk)

### **NOTES TO EDITOR:**

The Society for the Environment, is comprised of 24 Licenced Professional Partners, with over 500,000 members between them. It received a Royal Charter in 2004, which empowers it to regulate the Chartered Environmentalist (CEnv) qualification in the UK. There are now over 7,000 CEnvs who share a common vision of delivering sustainability through environmental professionalism. Further information can be found at [www.socenv.org.uk](http://www.socenv.org.uk).

### **About Dr Peter Matthews**

Peter Matthews is a Chartered Environmentalist, Chartered Chemist, and Water and Environment Manager. He has held a variety of senior positions in the environmental field, in both the private and public sectors. After a career in the water industry spanning almost 35 years, he retired from Anglian Water International as Deputy Managing Director International in 1999. And after serving on the board of the Environment Agency and as Chair of the Northern Ireland Utility regulator, he was appointed in August 2012 as Founding Chair of the Welsh Government's new body for managing natural resources in Wales, Natural Resources Wales NRW, a position he held until December 2015.

### **About Dr Emma Wilcox**

Emma has been CEO of the Society since July 2015 and since joining the organisation has led the development of a new five-year strategy increasing registrations and profile for Chartered Environmentalists and Registered Environmental Technicians.

Her career has spanned a number of disciplines including scientific research, knowledge and technology transfer, skills and education, programme and business management and stakeholder and relationship management. Emma's strong academic background is supported by an in-depth knowledge of both public and private sector landscapes.

**The Licensed Partners of the Society for the Environment are:**

Arboricultural Association (AA)  
Chartered Association of Building Engineers (CABE)  
Chartered Institute of Architectural Technologists (CIAT)  
Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM)  
Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB)  
Chartered Institution of Wastes Management (CIWM)  
Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management (CIWEM)  
Energy Institute (EI)  
Institute of Agricultural Management (IAgrM)  
Institute of Chartered Foresters (ICF)  
Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA)  
Institute of Fisheries Management (IFM)  
Institute of Materials, Minerals & Mining (IOM3)  
Institute of Water (IWater)  
Institution of Agricultural Engineers (IAgrE)  
Institution of Chemical Engineers (ICHE)  
Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE)  
Institution of Engineering Designers (IED)  
Institution of Environmental Sciences (IES)  
Institution of Mechanical Engineers (IMECH)  
Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS)  
Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC)  
Society of Environmental Engineers (SEE)  
Society of Operations Engineers (SOE)