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## Distillers energised by efficiency results

UK spirit drink producers continue to successfully meet tough government energy-efficiency targets, according to new figures published today by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA).

Spirits Energy Efficiency Company participants - covering 67 industry sites across the UK - now use 13.5% less energy per litre of alcohol produced compared to 1999 baseline levels. While spirits production was up 4% during the period, the sector's carbon dioxide releases have decreased by 10%.

The Spirits Energy Efficiency Company was set up in 1999 to effectively manage the industry's efforts to improve energy-efficiency under its Climate Change Agreement with DEFRA. It is a joint venture created by The Scotch Whisky Association and The Gin & Vodka Association.

Commenting on the results, Edwin Atkinson of The Gin & Vodka Association said:

"UK distillers can take some pride that their investment in efficiencies and updated equipment have helped them to meet government targets and in turn reduce carbon dioxide releases. These are encouraging results and show that we are an industry living up to our excellent record of environmental protection."

Julie Hesketh-Laird of The Scotch Whisky Association said:

"Protecting the natural environment from which we draw our raw materials is fundamental. These results represent good news for the environment, as well as savings to companies in their energy bills. Moving forward, energy-efficiency will remain a key focus for distillers, with environmental sustainability at the forefront of industry planning."

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Note to Editors:

1. The full DEFRA results are at: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/news/2007/070726b.htm> and cover the period October 2005 to September 2006.
2. Issued by David Williamson - 0131 222 9230 and 07730 496 151.