

Environment Matters – 20 June 2005

Welcome to the latest edition of Aardvark's fortnightly news briefing.

- **World's largest wind farm planned for Thames Estuary** The world's largest wind farm is being planned for the Thames Estuary and could provide energy for a quarter of greater London homes. Planning applications have been submitted this week for the project that would see up to 270 turbines being built 20km offshore from the coasts of Kent and Essex. ([EDIE 10-06-05](#))
- **South West in Good Health** The South West has the overall best environmental quality of all English regions according to the latest report from the Environment Agency. However the report also reveals growing concerns over flooding, soil run-off caused by poor land management and the growing waste problem. ([Environment Agency 09-06-05](#))
- **£20M wave power plan** A pioneering tidal energy project off the coast of Devon is to be expanded with the creation of a £20 million tide turbine farm. The Seaflow is capable of generating 300 kilowatts of electricity – enough to power 200 homes. ([Western Morning News 01-06-05](#))
- **Biofuels could halve gas emissions** Biofuels from UK cereals and oilseeds could help significantly cut total greenhouse gas emissions and energy inputs. The Home Grown Cereals Authority's report found that using bioethanol from wheat could cut energy inputs by 61% and greenhouse gas emissions by 65% for each megajoule of energy created. ([Farmers Weekly 13-06-05](#))

To Watch Out For

- **Two developments will affect the way in which the EIA works.** Article 3(2) of the 1999 regulations provides that a planning authority should not grant planning permission "unless they have first taken the environmental information into account". Also where information has to be provided to "the public concerned", non-governmental organisations that promote environmental protection will now be included. These changes are intended to come into effect on 25 June 2005. ([Estates Gazette May 2005](#))

Latest News from the Aardvark Team

- Aardvark is presently undertaking research into the various formulas used in the environmental marketplace for the calculation of carbon emissions from commercial and domestic activities. The report will consider problems associated with establishing reliable figures for sequestration rates. This was highlighted recently in New Zealand where their Kyoto target will be missed by 36.2 millions carbon dioxide equivalents through miscalculation. For the latest news please visit www.aardvarkem.co.uk

And finally

- **Snow free roads to heat houses** A revolutionary new British invention that uses the surfaces of major roads and motorways to collect and store energy begins a Highways Agency trial on the M1. The new technology called Inter-seasonal Heat Transfer (IHT™) is a low-cost, low-maintenance process that uses roads to collect and store solar energy. ([Transport News Network 09-06-05](#))
- **Big Bird Race has ended in tragedy** Unprecedented mortality has occurred amongst this year's Albatrosses. The transmitters have been checked leaving only one plausible explanation; the birds are dying in unprecedented numbers. The only cause that immediately suggests itself is very poor fishing. In 2005, Mother Nature has been the harshest of judges – underlining, if ever one needed to, the absolute urgency in curtailing the catastrophic additional effects of longlining. ([Big Bird Race 2005](#))