

## Environment Matters – 7 July 2005

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

- **Companies that go "Beyond Reporting" create business value** Companies can turn regulatory compliance and heightened corporate governance efforts into opportunities that create value for their businesses, according to a new report from the World Business Council for Sustainable Development. ([IEMA 12-06-05](#))
- **Aviation groups set targets to limit their environmental impact** The aviation and aerospace industries sought yesterday to combat the growing campaign against the rapid growth in air travel by launching a comprehensive programme for long-term reductions in aviation's impact on the environment. The initiative received a strong endorsement from the government, which is backing a big increase in airport capacity, including the building of at least two new runways in the southeast of England, but environmental groups attacked the initiative. ([FT 21-06-05](#))
- **G8 Leaders should act now to check the predicted rising costs of extreme weather from climate change, says the ABI** Ground-breaking work from the ABI (Association of British Insurers) based on international scientific research shows that the worldwide costs of major storms is likely to increase by as much as two-thirds taking the total cost in an average year to £15 billion (\$27 billion). The good news is that the ABI's report, Financial Risks of Climate Change, shows that these costs can be reduced if government stake action now. ([ABI 29-06-05](#))
- **Cuts in carbon dioxide emissions vital to stem rising acidity of oceans** Cuts in emissions of carbon dioxide are the only way to stem the rising levels of acidity in our oceans and prevent potentially damaging consequences for marine life. Ocean acidification due to increasing atmospheric carbon dioxide from the burning of fossil fuels has already increased the acidity of the world's oceans to a level that is irreversible in our lifetimes. This is because the oceans act as a sponge, taking up carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, which dissolves and forms an acid in the seawater. ([Royal Society 30-06-05](#))
- **"One Planet Olympics" – London plans the most sustainable Olympic Games ever** Building on the ecological and sustainable ideals developed in Sydney and Athens, London's bid to host the 2012 Olympic Games was a bid for the most sustainable Games ever. ([DEFRA 07-07-05](#))

### To Watch Out For

- With last weekend's Live8 events and the G8 Summit beginning in Scotland there is a renewed focus on climate change and its impacts on the developing world. Meanwhile, the US continues to argue its position of not adopting Kyoto targets. Here in the UK market forces are starting to have an impact.
- Next week there will be special G8 Edition of **Aardvark News** looking specifically at news from the summit and its implications for the environment.

### Latest News from the Aardvark Team

- Since the last issue of Environment Matters, Aardvark has started a sustainable wastewater management feasibility project at The Charterhouse Centre near Cheddar Gorge. This is the latest environmental initiative for Charterhouse, which is situated in an AONB and offers outdoor activities from schools to business teams and special interest groups. The Centre has already installed a wind turbine, biomass boiler and green roof on their new accommodation wing. For the latest news from the team please visit [www.aardvarkem.co.uk](http://www.aardvarkem.co.uk)