

Environment Matters – 22 July 2005

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

- **UK trade leads way on cutting carbon pollution** British industry last year cut the amount of CO₂ released into the environment by 14.4 million tonnes – more than double the target set by the government. Major manufacturers who are big users of energy reduced their 2004 emissions of CO₂ by 8.9 million tonnes. Firms are offered an 80 per cent discount on their climate change levy if they meet the targets. ([Downing Street Press Release 21/07/05](#))
- **Morley calls for environmental reporting** The Environment Minister stressed that business could no longer afford not to report on the environment. This came as he published for consultation a new generation of guidelines, to help UK business manage and report on its impact on the environment. ([IEMA 13/07/05](#))
- **Green energy will never meet needs, says Exxon** ExxonMobil has dismissed solar and wind energy as "inconsequential" and urges politicians to concentrate on sources that would continue to provide 99% of future energy needs. Lee Raymond, the chairman and chief executive, also argues that areas such as the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska should be opened to exploratory drilling. ([The Guardian 07/07/05](#))
- **Seeds of doubt sown over biodiesel's claims** Production of fuels such as biodiesel and ethanol from plants uses more energy than it generates, a new study has claimed. A professor of ecology and agriculture at Cornell University claims there is no energy benefit to using plant biomass for liquid fuel. "The US desperately needs a liquid fuel replacement for oil in the near future but producing biodiesel from plant biomass is going down the wrong road, because you use more energy to produce these fuels than you get out from the combustion of these products," he said. ([EDIE 15/07/05](#))
- **The World in 2040 – Blue Sky 35 predictions** A glimpse into how the world might look in the year 2040 by consultants, ADAS contains 35 predictions covering the period 2005–2040. Predictions include, "All biodegradable waste will be banned from landfill and waste incineration will increase", "Green tax introduced to fund climate change mitigation packages" and "Energy crops will account for 20 per cent of agricultural land area and challenge food crops for space". ([ADAS 18/07/05](#))
- **Mid-Devon named and shamed as bad planning council** The CPRE has published a list of those councils 'wasting' the countryside by failing to make use of brownfield land or who are building at such low densities as to encourage urban sprawl. The name and shame campaign comes only days after the Government published new housing and planning proposals which campaigners fear could encourage more development on green belt land. ([EDIE 21/07/05](#))

Latest News from the Aardvark Team

- **British Airports Authority Composting** This year's composting campaign at all three London's airports is well underway, Aardvark as BAA business partners in the composting operations will process grass and green wastes cut from the airfields as part of the ongoing management and anti-bird strike measures at Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted. For the latest news please visit www.aardvarkem.co.uk

And finally

- **World's most economical car** In the week that BMW and Toyota both announced new biofuel models, Swiss researchers have developed the world's most economical car that could circle the globe on only eight litres of fuel. The Pac-Car uses hydrogen fuel cell technology. The car could be ready for mass production in the next couple of years. ([Ananova 10/07/05](#))