

## Environment Matters – 30 September 2005

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

- **UK 'needs yearly climate updates'** Draft legislation just published in the UK would require the Prime Minister to make annual reports to Parliament on measures to curb climate change. It would also establish national targets for small-scale renewable energy projects. Britain's greenhouse gas emissions have risen for the last two years. The private member's bill, which has cross-party support, is being introduced by Labour's Mark Lazarowicz, and will be debated in November ([BBC News 29/09/05](#))
- **Blair is accused of Kyoto U-turn** Tony Blair was accused last night of backing down on the Kyoto agreement to tackle climate change after he confessed to 'changing my thinking about this'. It comes as Labour faces the embarrassing prospect of failing to meet Britain's own Kyoto targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions because of rises in pollution since Labour came to power in 1997. ([The Guardian 25/09/05](#))
- **Katrina fuels clash of science and politics** Advocates for more aggressive U.S. climate policies say Katrina is a costly and deadly wakeup call to the growing threat from rising sea temperatures and ocean levels. They are urging President Bush to change his global warming positions based on what they see as a growing body of scientific work that shows more intense storms are on the horizon. While acknowledging that a link can be made between climate change and growing hurricane strength, Bush's top science advisers said that the administration's policies are already on track towards limiting carbon dioxide emissions. ([World Business Council for Sustainable Development 15/09/05](#))

### To watch out for

- **Hazardous waste: consultation on changes to waste management licensing exemptions** Defra have confirmed proposals for changes to existing waste management licensing exemptions involving hazardous waste, which are now out for full consultation. The proposed revised exemptions cover the management of a range of hazardous wastes from solvents and treated wood to paint and medical waste and include additional requirements on storage. These additional requirements are in keeping with the need for more specific rules to encourage recovery of waste, to better protect the environment and human health. ([DEFRA 23/09/05](#))

### Latest News from the Aardvark Team

- The Aardvark team, working with Andy Pickersgill, have just submitted their latest IPPC (Integrated Pollution Prevention & Control) applications, this time on behalf of 3 dairy operations in Northern Ireland. With the intensive poultry sector requiring IPPC permitting by the end of January 2007, Aardvark are already advising several major poultry farming operations on the requirements of the regulations.
- For the latest Aardvark news please visit [www.aardvarkem.co.uk](http://www.aardvarkem.co.uk).

### And finally

- **Carbon Trading for Individuals?** It is 2015, and you are buying fuel for your hybrid car. You go to pay, and are told that your purchase will cost £100, plus 50 carbon credits. You have just received your regular top-up of free carbon credits due to your low carbon consumption into your online carbon account, so you hand over your carbon ID card. Sounds far-fetched? Well maybe not. ([SDC 16/09/05](#))
- **Plastic carriers: Nasty old bags** Plastic carriers are among our biggest polluters taking up to 1,000 years to biodegrade. It is estimated that we use 10 billion plastic carrier bags in Britain each year. "And that's a conservative figure," says Richard Swannell, of Waste and Resources Action Programme "The figure could be as high as 17 billion." ([The Independent 26/09/05](#))