



Environment Matters – 14 October 2005

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

- **Blair Backs Nuclear** Tony Blair has decided to back new nuclear power stations, which would be built on the sites of existing plants and presented to the public as a job-creating answer to climate change. A Government inquiry into Britain's future energy requirements concludes that more nuclear energy is the only plausible answer to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. ([IEMA 11/10/05](#))
- **Plan To Bring Aviation Under Emissions Trading Scheme** The European Commission has presented a plan for reducing air travel's growing contribution to climate change. In a Communication, it says the most promising way to tackle aviation emissions is to bring aircraft operators into the EU's Greenhouse Gas Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS). ([Europa 27/09/05](#))
- **Driving Down Global Warming** Forty new Ford Focus Flexi-Fuel Vehicles, the first manufactured Bio-ethanol powered car in Europe, will soon be on Somerset's roads as part of Somerset County Council's goal to drive down CO2 emissions, offering an overall 70% reduction in CO2 emissions. Five bio-ethanol fuel pumps will be located around the country but the cars will be capable of running on any mixture of bio-ethanol and petrol. ([Your Somerset – October issue](#))
- **EA Launches Campaign To Tackle Flood Apathy** The Environment Agency is warning that too many people are ignoring the risk of flooding in this country. Five million people in two million properties in England and Wales live in flood risk areas, yet EA research indicates that 41% of these people are still unaware of the threat. ([Environment Agency 12/10/05](#))
- **Bobber May Outperform Offshore Windfarms** Manchester, famous for bobbins in the cotton era, has now invented the "bobber" - an electricity generator that uses rising and falling floats to create power. Tests at Manchester University suggest that the device could outperform wind farms by harnessing the motion of waves. ([The Guardian 3/10/05](#))

Latest News from the Aardvark Team

- A Somerset cheese maker advised by Aardvark has been granted planning consent for their new effluent treatment plant for the treatment of trade effluent arising from their cheese making process. The proposal is designed to meet Environment Agency Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control (IPPC) Regulations.
- For all the latest Aardvark news, visit www.aardvarkem.co.uk

And finally

- One hectare of wheat produces enough bio-ethanol to drive a car around the world, with enough fuel left over for a further 4000 miles. (www.somerset.gov.uk)
- A return flight for two from Amsterdam to the Thai resort of Phuket produces considerably more of the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide (CO₂) than the average new car does in a whole year. ([Europa 27/09/05](#))