

## Environment Matters – 11 November 2005

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

- G20 climate summit pushes technology not targets** The industrialised and developing nations that emit the most greenhouse gases have pledged to work together to develop and deploy 'clean technologies' to tackle climate change. Meeting this week in London, energy and environment ministers from the 'G20' group of nations also agreed to work with the World Bank to create incentives for large-scale private investment in such technologies. By focusing on technological solutions rather than setting measurable targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, however, the ministers have dismayed campaigning organizations. ([Science and Development Network 03/11/05](#))
- European firms trade "emission credits"** Volumes in the European Union's new carbon dioxide emission trading scheme have soared with over 200 million tonnes of credits expected to change hands this year. Trade is expected to increase further next year as more companies, especially in southern and Eastern Europe, enter the market. The pioneering days are over. In the first three quarters of 2005 alone, estimated trading volumes reached 177 million tonnes, or eleven times global volumes in all of 2004. ([Reuters 28/10/05](#))
- Funds to promote renewable energy** The UK government has unveiled a £30m funding package aimed at promoting renewable electricity sources and reducing carbon emissions. The fund, called Low Carbon Buildings, is intended to increase uptake of technologies such as solar cells, biomass, and small-scale wind turbines. Industry has given a mixed reaction, with disappointment that the sums are less than in previous years. ([BBC News 02/11/05](#))
- Local authority slammed over wind rejection** West Somerset District Council has been criticised for rejecting an application for a new wind farm. The proposed West Hinkley wind farm would have generated energy for 16,000 households, saving 6,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions and meeting more than half of Somerset's regional wind energy target for 2010. The application was rejected on safety grounds relating to the wind farms' proximity to the Hinkley nuclear power station and concerns over the potential effect of turbines on the local bat population. ([Green Consumer Guide 01/11/05](#))
- How to kick the oil habit** The silver lining, as oil gets more expensive is that other energy sources and technologies that use less oil will become more competitive, and that's exactly what's happening. At the 2005 Tokyo Motor Show carmakers practically ran over one another promoting their versions of hybrid cars in attempts to catch up with Honda and Toyota, the technology's pioneers. ([WBCSD 31/10/05](#))

### Latest News from the Aardvark Team

- Aardvark have been appointed by UNITE Group to review the environmental performance of their latest student accommodation development at a UK university as part of a strategy to meet the growing demands of not only legislation but the increasing environmental awareness of their target market.
- For the latest Aardvark news please visit [www.aardvarkem.co.uk](http://www.aardvarkem.co.uk).

### And finally

- Smart directions for green ideas** Electro-car public transport and a scheme to track the proper disposal of waste are two of the smartest ideas for using satellite-navigation technology. The applications have just triumphed in an international competition seeking novel ways to employ Galileo, Europe's soon-to-launch satellite navigation system. The multi-billion-euro space venture will transform the quality of location and timing data available on Earth and entrepreneurs are being urged to develop innovative ways to exploit it. ([BBC News 02/11/05](#))