



## Environment Matters – 22 December 2005

Welcome to the Christmas edition and the last in 2005 of Aardvark's fortnightly news briefing

- **Dreaming of a green Christmas?** Dream no more, The Woodland Trust, which oversees the national phenology project and the popular Springwatch and Autumnwatch initiatives, believes parts of Britain could be poised for their first "green Christmas", with some particularly verdant species having foregone their traditional autumnal show of reds, browns, russets and yellows. The reason can be traced to the balmy days of October when temperatures were 2.5C above normal. That was followed by an exceptionally bright November with sunshine levels 50 per cent above the 30-year average. ([The Independent 15/12/05](#))
- **Christmas is damaging the environment** A report titled "The Hidden Cost of Christmas" calculated the environmental impact of spending on books, clothes, alcohol, electrical appliances and chocolates during the festive season. Water that would approximately fill 42,000 Olympic-sized swimming pools was used in the production of Christmas drinks last December -- most was used to grow barley for beer and grapes for wine. The reports said that gifts like DVD players and coffee makers generated 780,000 tons of greenhouse pollution, even before they were unwrapped and used. A third was due to fuel consumption during production. ([Reuters 15/12/05](#))
- **Pop the wine cork this Christmas** When stocking up with wine for the Christmas and New Year festivities WWF is urging everyone to ensure they buy bottles with cork stoppers. Cork comes from the bark of cork oak trees in the Mediterranean and cork extraction is one of the most environmentally friendly harvesting processes in the world. Cork is also an important source of income for many people in the Mediterranean. ([WWF 19/12/05](#))
- **Cutting down on Christmas waste** The Woodland Trust has announced that people will be able to recycle their Christmas cards at all WH Smith high street stores and all major Tesco stores across the UK, following Christmas 2005. The scheme is being launched on the 2nd January 2006, although bins will be present throughout January. Last year's campaign ensured the recycling of 58 million Christmas cards (the equivalent 1150 tonnes!), and the Trust are aiming to beat the 60 million mark this time. ([Waste Online 20/12/05](#))

### Latest News from the Aardvark Team

- The Aardvark team have just submitted an eco-opportunities report for a new rural business centre in Hertfordshire. The 20,000 sq ft scheme, located on a 1,800-acre private estate hopes to meet the waste, energy and water demands from occupiers from the Estate's own resources without comprising the finished buildings specification or the prospective tenant's occupation of the units.
- For all the latest Aardvark news please visit [www.aardvarkem.co.uk](http://www.aardvarkem.co.uk).

### And Finally

- **Tuna's 25,000-mile swim down marine highway** A few months ago a great white shark named Nicole completed the first known ocean crossing by a lone shark over a distance of more than 12,500 miles from South Africa to Australia and back in nine months, the fastest known return journey. Now another epic migration, this time of a 200lb Bluefin Tuna (*Thunnus orientalis*) nicknamed Terry, has been followed by marine scientists tagging fish to reveal marine highways and to help to preserve endangered stocks. The tag broadcast Terry's trans-Pacific wanderings - three crossings in 20 months, a distance of 25,000 miles. Why the fish did this is a mystery. ([Telegraph 15/12/05](#))

