

Environment Matters – 29 Jan 2005

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

- **Blair highlights environment as world leaders get together** Tony Blair takes over as chairman of the G8 group of industrialised countries this year and makes the keynote speech that World Economic Forum organisers said would highlight environmental issues.
- **Everest is losing height** The accepted theory was that the peak was rising by a few centimetres a year because of the movement of the earth's crust, but now the Chinese Bureau of Surveying and Mapping believes the melting glaciers have reversed that process and knocked 1.2m off the height of the summit. ([The Australian 27/01/05](#))
- **New recycling figures show improvement** The Government published new figures for recycling this week, claiming that England is recycling more household waste than ever before and is poised to meet its national recycling and composting target of 17% for 2003/04 ([EDIE 21/01/05](#))
- **Environment Agency Advises South West Businesses to Prepare for Flooding** The Environment Agency now has a comprehensive Online Flood Preparation Guide for Businesses to help small to medium-sized businesses (SMEs) in the southwest prepare for the serious threat of flooding. ([Environment Agency 24/01/05](#))
- **Organic Recycling Company Prosecuted for Licence Breach and Smell Nuisance** A Somerset organic recycling company that makes compost out of organic waste for the horticulture and agricultural industries, has been ordered to pay £5,200 in fines and costs after breaching its licence and producing an offensive smell. ([Environment Agency 18/01/05](#))

To Watch Out For

- **Countryside and Rights of Way: Government acts to give clarity to users of 'Green Lanes'** Inappropriate use of public rights of way by mechanically propelled vehicles will be curtailed via legislation, Rural Affairs Minister Alun Michael confirmed ([DEFRA 20/01/05](#))
- **Hazardous Waste Regulations** From July this year terminology will change, so the meaning of 'Hazardous Waste' will be extended to include 'Special Waste'. This could mean that, for the first time, your business's waste will be classed as 'Hazardous'. This means that there will be a considerable reduction in the capacity available to landfill waste from about 240 sites to fewer than 15, and correspondingly the cost of disposal is likely to rise. ([Netregs Jan 2005](#))

Latest News from the Aardvark Team

- **Ecology and Habitat Survey completed** Aardvark has recently completed a comprehensive ecological survey of a private woodland on the Blackdown Hills, Somerset. The survey examined the ecology of the woodlands based on an initial field study and an assessment of the surrounding biodiversity data
- **Visit www.aardvarkem.co.uk for all the latest news from the team.**

And finally

- **Tests reveal high drinking water contamination levels on aircraft** Nearly one fifth of drinking water provided on-board aircraft is contaminated with bacteria such as E Coli, a shocking set of random tests conducted by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has revealed. ([EDIE 21/01/05](#))
- **Cross-dressing cuttlefish is Casanova of the reef** Scientists call it "facultative female mimicry" but to everyone else it is known as cross-dressing and the leading exponent of the art was revealed yesterday as the humble cuttlefish ([Independent 20/01/05](#))