



## Environment Matters – 2 June 2006

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

- **CO2 output savings from biofuels quantified** A British Fuels Company has quantified for the first time carbon dioxide emission savings made through the sale of biofuels. Greenergy, which supplies biofuels, which are retailed predominantly through supermarket forecourts, said more than 40,000 tons of carbon dioxide emissions have been saved during the first quarter of 2006. The savings, independently assessed by the Edinburgh Centre for Carbon Management, are equivalent to taking more than 50,000 family cars off the road for the three-month period. ([Reuters 12/05/06](#))
- **MPs throw their weight behind Local Food is Miles Better campaign** Farmers Weekly's 'Local Food is Miles Better Campaign' is winning the support of a growing band of MPs. Conservative MP Geoffrey Clifton-Brown (Cotswolds) has laid an Early Day Motion in the House of Commons, which has been seconded by shadow DEFRA secretary Peter Ainsworth. The motion highlights FW's campaign and suggests that buying locally grown food is an excellent way for consumers to reconnect with farmers and develop a better understanding of where their food comes from. It also calls on supermarkets to promote, stock and label locally produced food to cut food miles and support local farmers. ([Farmers Weekly 26/05/06](#))
- **Sustainable Schools for pupils, communities and the environment** As part of a new consultation from the Department for Education and Skills, developed with support from the Sustainable Development Commission, school leaders and pupils are being asked: "How should we prepare pupils for a more sustainable lifestyle?" The Government's aim is for all schools to be models of sustainable development for their communities by 2020. ([Sustainable Development Commission UK 30/05/06](#))
- **First British tourist accommodation eco-labelled** Two Yorkshire youth hostels were the first British tourist accommodation to be awarded the EU eco-label, joining a long list of energy and resource-efficient products and services. Buildings must fulfil the eco-label's energy and water-saving standards to qualify. Management must also raise awareness about green issues among both staff and visitors. ([EDIE 26/05/06](#))
- **Co-op snubs 'unethical' £10m** The Co-operative Bank turned away nearly £10m-worth of business for "ethical reasons" last year. The value of lost business increased to £9.9m in 2005 from £8.7m the year before, according to the bank's annual profitability analysis published today. More than half of the sum was for activity that conflicted with the Co-operative Bank's ecological policies, while £2.4m was linked to concerns about global climate change. ([The Telegraph 30/05/06](#))

### Latest News from the Aardvark Team

- The full effect of PPS9 *Biodiversity and Geological Conservation* is starting to come to light since it was published in August last year. The Aardvark team are involved with several high profile developments that under the new policy statement have to ensure that the potential impacts of planning decisions on the biodiversity in the area are fully considered. Local Planning Authorities are being told by the ODPM that if significant harm cannot be prevented or mitigated then planning permission should be refused.
- For all the latest Aardvark news go to [www.aardvarkem.co.uk](http://www.aardvarkem.co.uk).

### And Finally

- **Promise the Earth in 2006** The 5<sup>th</sup> June 2006 is World Environment Day where small promises make a big difference. Making little lifestyle changes can have a big effect if everyone does it. Whether you take a shower instead of a bath, reduce your energy use or use the car less, the benefits are big. If you run a business, you can make a promise on behalf of your business. ([Environment Agency](#))