



Environment Matters – 30 June 2006

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

- **Low Environmental Impact Businesses To Benefit From Guidance Changes** More businesses that have a low environmental impact are set to benefit from lower charges following a guidance review by the Environment Agency. "Many businesses under Pollution Prevention Control (PPC) have a genuinely low environmental impact potential, so need minimal regulatory effort from the Environment Agency. The existing 'low impact installation' qualifying criteria was difficult for such operators to meet said Martin Bigg, the Environment Agency's Head of Industry Regulation. ([Environment Agency 26/06/06](#))
- **New Homes Drive Out Rare Wildlife** Government plans to build hundreds of thousands of new houses across Britain are a greater threat to the country's most at-risk species and habitats than climate change. A report this week on more than 500 of the most vulnerable plants, animals, birds and reptiles will admit that the majority are still declining or not recovering, 10 years after a national plan was launched to save them. Conservationists are also planning to add many more species to the list because they have slipped to dangerously low population levels, calling into question the government's key target to 'halt' biodiversity loss by the end of the decade. ([The Guardian 18/06/06](#))
- **Hackney 'Solar Trees' To Be Viewed By 14 Million Train Passengers** Three new solar trees will be "planted" by a railway viaduct in Hackney giving many millions of rail commuters a track-side view of renewable energy technology. The Hothouse arts project in London Fields has been awarded £25,000 from the EDF Energy Green Energy Fund to install renewable energy technology on the roof of the centre's extended arts venue, due to be completed in December. Passengers using the Liverpool Street to Stansted Airport train line, which serves 14 million rail users each year, will be able to see the 18ft tall solar trees. ([Environment Times 28/06/06](#))
- **Act To Aid Home-Grown Green Power** The Climate Change Bill, now approved by Parliament, will make it easier for small-scale producers of renewable electricity to sell their excess energy to their power supplier. The new Climate Change and Sustainability Act will encourage large producers to set up schemes that favour power produced by micro-wind turbines, solar panels and other de-centralised renewables. The Act will also make it easier for those selling micro-renewable power to reap the financial benefits of the Renewable Obligation - the Government's requirement that power companies include a minimum percentage of green electricity in the total they supply - the DTI has said. ([EDIE 23/06/06](#))
- **Carbon Limit To Raise Power Price** Electricity prices are set to rise after ministers announced tougher than expected limits on carbon emissions from businesses. Environment Secretary David Miliband unveiled the plans as the government tried to get its climate change policies back on track. The new limits would cut emissions by eight million tonnes of carbon a year and will mean a one-off rise in electricity prices of 0.5% for homes and 0.5% for businesses. ([BBC 29/06/06](#))

Latest News from the Aardvark Team

- **When is Waste a Waste?** Aardvark has been instructed to facilitate the use of 100,000 tonnes of used track ballast from Network Rail as engineering infill for a new Somerset infrastructure project. The project will require negotiations with the Environment Agency to exclude the ballast from the Waste Management Licensing Regulations.
- For all the latest Aardvark news go to www.aardvarkem.co.uk

And Finally

- **Napping For Nature, Sleep More And Save The Environment** The 5 per cent of Britons who regularly grab less than five hours sleep utilise 16 per cent more electricity, 9 per cent more gas and consume and burn over 1.5g more fat in each 24 hours than the 6 per cent of Britons getting over nine hours in the land of nod. ([The Observer 18/06/06](#))