

Environment Matters – 14 July 2006

Welcome to the **Energy Review** special edition of Aardvark's fortnightly news briefing -

- **Few surprises from Energy Review** A new generation of nuclear power stations and measures to boost renewables are, as widely predicted, at the heart of the Government's Energy Review. The long-awaited findings of the review have met with a mixed response from the environmental sector, which has welcomed proposals to increase the share of renewables in the energy mix but, by and large, has been angered by the drive for new nuclear. The review also calls for improved energy efficiency, a streamlined planning system to ensure projects can be delivered faster and a concerted effort to clean up electricity generation from fossil fuels such as coal and gas. ([BBC News 12-07-06](#))
- **Energy Review** Nuclear power should make a "significant contribution" to Britain's energy mix, Alistair Darling announced. The six-month review argued nuclear energy was economically viable, paving the way for a new generation of nuclear power plants. However, it said private industry should "initiate, fund, construct and operate" nuclear plants and take their "full share" of dealing with waste. It recommended upgrading targets for renewables from 15 to 20 per cent of the energy mix, and called for charges on high-polluting activities and greater measures to cut energy use. ([politics.co.uk 14-07-06](#))
- **Nuclear planning to be speeded up** Local objections to nuclear power plants could be over-ridden under planning changes proposed by the government's energy review. Councils could alter the appearance and precise location of the sites but would be unable to reject power plants on the grounds they were not needed. Trade Secretary Alistair Darling told the Financial Times a "statement of need" would prioritise energy projects. ([BBC News 6-07-06](#))
- **TV standby buttons will be outlawed** The Government is to outlaw standby switches on televisions and video and DVD players to cut the amount of electricity wasted in the home. Refrigerators, washing machines and dishwashers will have to become energy-efficient, and light bulbs that burn too much energy will be phased out. Standby facilities use 8 per cent of all domestic electricity. ([Timesonline 12-07-06](#))
- **Energy review urges barrage study** Environmental groups have welcomed the UK government's caution over the possibility of a Severn barrage. The energy review, revealed on Tuesday, recommended further study of the £14bn project, but said it would raise "strong environmental concerns". The 10-mile (16km) barrier would run from Lavernock Point, near Cardiff, to Brean Down, near Weston-super-Mare. It is estimated it could provide about 5% of the UK's energy needs by 2020. ([BBC News 12-07-06](#))

Latest News from the Aardvark Team

- Aardvark have been instructed to advise on the sustainable development principals to be adopted in the design of the new Visitor and Environmental Study Centre at the Lakeside Energy from Waste plant at Colnbrook, Middlesex.
- For all the latest Aardvark news logon to www.aardvarkem.co.uk

And finally

- **Kiwis Lick Renewable Energy** Last week New Zealand made all green philatelists salivate. They released a series of stamps celebrating the fact that over 60% of the country's electricity is generated as renewable energy via their hydro schemes. The stamps not only reflect the influence of this source of fossil fuel free energy, but myriad other forms too, the largest wind farm in the southern hemisphere is at Tararua, Palmerston, supplying juice to 30,000 homes. ([Treehugger 07/07/06](#))