



Environment Matters – 28 July 2006

Welcome to Aardvark's fortnightly environmental news briefing

- **World 'needs new wildlife body'** A group of eminent academics in this week's edition of the journal Nature called for the establishment of an Intergovernmental Panel on Biodiversity (IPB) to parallel the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). Recent studies show continuing loss of biodiversity, with the hippo and polar bear just added to the danger list. The 2006 Red List of Threatened Species showed more than 16,000 plants and animals sliding towards their demise, including a third of amphibian species and a quarter of mammals. ([BBC News 20-07-06](#))
- **Tread carefully - no more land filling of tyres** Businesses are being reminded that used tyres can no longer be sent to landfills from 16 July 2006 when new regulations came into force across England and Wales, which will ban used whole and shredded tyres from being disposed of in all landfill sites. Tyres will now have to be recovered, recycled and reused. ([Environment Agency 16-07-06](#))
- **Recycled paper use falls in UK** The amount of recycled paper being used in the UK is falling, according to new figures released by the paper industry. The Confederation of Paper Industries reported that the use of recovered paper in the UK has fallen by 118,000 tonnes (2.6%). With collection rates for waste paper rising by 5.5%, the figures suggest a growing reliance on exports in sustaining the UK's paper recycling rates. ([Letsrecycle.com 17-07-06](#))
- **Wind farms are given green light** Somerset County Council has given the go-ahead to plans for wind turbines to be installed on some of the Council owned farms in the County. The council will now choose a wind energy developer who will recommend sites best suited for the turbines. Sites considered viable will be subject to feasibility studies and a consultation will be held with tenants. ([BBC News 26-07-06](#))
- **What's the (environmental) damage?** The London Motor Show demonstrated how manufacturers have responded to calls for 'greener' vehicles. Electric cars, bio-ethanol cars, promises of huge investments in research and development, all took on the flavour of absolution from past sins. Never has neutrality, provided it's carbon neutrality, seemed so positive. ([Belfast Telegraph 25-07-06](#))
- **We drank 26m bottles in one week of heatwave. But at what cost?** Water is life - It is also money. Amid last week's soaring temperatures, water also emerged from the shadows of other popular drinks to become one of the fastest growing commercial "brands" in the world. Transport is the fastest growing source of greenhouse gas emissions, and transporting water adds to that. We could help reduce these damaging effects if we all simply drank water straight from the tap. ([The Independent 27-07-06](#))

Latest News from the Aardvark Team

- Following the recent installation of a mobile reedbed unit at Heathrow Airport for BAA Plc, Aardvark have been instructed to design and install a water re-circulation system for the composting operation.
- For all the latest Aardvark news logon to www.aardvarkem.co.uk

And finally

- **Grass is dead - long live the plastic lawn** A growing numbers of suburban gardeners are beating the heat wave by resorting to plastic turf to keep their grass green. The country's biggest makers of artificial lawns have reported — to the horror of gardening purists — a doubling in business as householders' despair of keeping their grass presentable. ([Times Online 23-07-06](#))