



Environment Matters – 11 August 2006

Welcome to Aardvark's fortnightly environmental news briefing

- **July sears its way into history, and the heat is still rising** It probably comes as no great surprise, last month is the hottest July since records began in Central England in 1659, the longest-running weather archives in the world. Average temperatures for the month will probably come out at 19.8C (67.6F). The scorching temperatures brought buckled railway lines, shrivelled vegetables, increased air pollution, soaring sales of fans and water, and exotic new fish to the English coast. ([Times Online 31-07-06](#))
- **Blair urges home pollution checks** Tony Blair is urging people to measure how much global warming pollution is produced by their homes. He told BBC Radio 1's Newsbeat that individuals as well as governments must do their bit to tackle climate change. Ministers were looking at making "carbon audits" of homes more widely available, he said. No 10 was now using energy efficient light bulbs. ([BBC News 07-08-06](#))
- **Latest report indicates progress on sustainable development** More than half of the official measurements of environmental, social and economic wellbeing have indicated improvements in the UK. The measurements have been published in the 'Sustainable Development Indicators In Your Pocket' 2006 report by DEFRA's Government statisticians ([DEFRA 02-08-08](#))
- **Drought takes its toll on the environment** Dead ducks and fish, toxic algal blooms and rivers being reduced to trickles are all becoming a common sight this summer as the drought takes its toll on the environment. At more than 100 sites across England and Wales over the past two months, low water and oxygen levels have caused fish to gasp for air, turned ponds green, and stranded several types of insects that live in water, as rivers dry up. Rivers are silting up because of low flows, trees are shedding their leaves earlier than normal, and dry wetlands are causing problems for breeding waders who use the wetlands for food sources. ([Environment Agency 09-08-06](#))
- **UK's 'first' building-integrated wind turbine and PV system to go up** A renewable energy system combining building-integrated wind turbines and photovoltaics will be the first such project in the UK, according to the London Climate Change Agency. The 84kW system will provide electricity for the new offices of the London Climate Change Agency (LCCA), due to move into the Palestra building on Blackfriars Road in September. "This is the first combined photovoltaic and building-integrated wind turbine system in the UK," said LCCA chief executive Alan Jones. ([EDIE 09-08-06](#))

Latest News from the Aardvark Team

- Aardvark have been asked to help the annual TREC equine event on Exmoor assess its environmental impact by calculating the greenhouse gas emissions arising from participants and visitors attending the event. The TREC 2006 European Championships run from 15-17 September at Holnicote, near Minehead, Somerset.
- For all the latest Aardvark news logon to www.aardvarkem.co.uk

And finally

- **In Warmer World, Even Inuit Buy Air Conditioners** With signs that the world is warming, even Inuit peoples of the far north are ordering air conditioning. Better known for building igloos during hunts on the polar ice, Inuit in the village of Kuujuaq in Quebec, Canada, are installing 10 air conditioners for about 25 office workers. "Our Arctic homes are made to be airtight for the cold and do not 'breathe' well in the heat with this warming trend," said a leading campaigner for the rights of 155,000 Inuit in Canada, Alaska, Russia and Greenland. Temperatures in Kuujuaq, home to 2,000 people, hit 31 Celsius (88 Fahrenheit) in late July. ([Planet Ark 08-08-06](#))