



## Environment Matters – 25 August 2006

### Welcome to Aardvark's fortnightly environmental news briefing

- **Wealthy nations now hit by water shortages warns report** Lack of water, often seen as a problem only of the poorest, is increasingly affecting some of the world's wealthiest nations. A report by WWF, entitled Rich Countries, Poor Water, is the most up-to-date overview of water issues in the developed world. It shows that a combination of climate change, drought and loss of wetlands, along with poorly thought out water infrastructure and resource mismanagement is creating a truly global crisis. The report documents water problems in Britain, Australia, Spain, America and Japan. ([The Telegraph 16-08-06](#))
- **Higher bills fuel further inflation** Inflation remained above the Bank of England's 2% target last month as higher gas and electricity bills continued to take their toll, official figures show. The Consumer Prices Index rate of inflation hit 2.4% in July compared with a rise of 2.5% in June, said the Office for National Statistics. The ONS warned of further pressure on inflation towards the end of the year, as recent hikes in household energy bills by the likes of British Gas and EDF Energy filter through. ([IC Wales 16-08-06](#))
- **Domestic energy suppliers face carbon reduction targets** Microgeneration and behavioural measures could be included in the next phase of the Energy Efficiency Commitment. The EEC requires energy suppliers to meet individual energy efficiency targets for energy supplied to households. DEFRA wants to replace the energy efficiency target with a carbon reduction target. Another key proposal is to expand the range of measures supported by the scheme to include microgeneration technologies smart meters to encourage people to use less energy. ([The ENDS Report 17-08-06](#))
- **Farmers to 'plant' mini wind turbines** Thousands of wind turbines could be "planted" in hedgerows on farmers' land in a new £200m energy scheme. Proven Energy, a Scottish wind turbine manufacturer, claims that the miniature turbines will be less obtrusive than traditional machines. They plan to install around half-a-dozen turbines on each of 5,000 farms across the UK. Each turbine can generate 15kW of electricity, enough to provide electricity for 15 homes. ([The Independent 20-08-06](#))
- **The key questions at the heart of the UK's environmental future** Scientists have drawn up a list of the 100 biggest questions to face the UK environment. The list, a roll call of Britain's most pressing ecological problems, is based on the suggestions of more than 650 experts in universities, conservation groups and government institutes. It is intended to inform policy-makers and steer research over the next decade. Bill Sutherland, an ecologist at the University of East Anglia who led the exercise, said: "Scientists tend to think that policy-makers ignore the science, this was an attempt to narrow that gap." ([Guardian Unlimited 21-08-06](#))

### Latest News from the Aardvark Team

- Aardvark has been commissioned to develop a sustainable wastewater strategy for a leading semi conductor factory in Plymouth. Phase 1 will be to determine the effectiveness of advanced reedbed technology using one of Aardvark's mobile reedbed units, which are also currently being trialled on Exmoor in a joint project with the National Park's Sustainable Development Fund.
- For all the latest Aardvark news logon to [www.aardvarkem.co.uk](http://www.aardvarkem.co.uk)

### And finally

- **Madonna's nuclear powers** Madonna has been lobbying the Government about a "mystical" Kabbalah fluid, which she believes, can be used to clean up radioactive waste. Madonna claims the water has proved successful in neutralising dangerous nuclear waste in Russia. ([ITV News 21-08-06](#))