



## Environment Matters – 22 September 2006

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

- **Climate change 'was the making of civilisation'** Rather than marking the demise of civilisation, severe climate change was the primary ingredient of its successful birth. British Association Festival of Science was told that without dramatic changes in the climate thousands of years ago, we might have remained farmers, herders and hunter-gatherers. ([The Telegraph 08/09/06](#))
- **Solve climate 'whatever it costs'** Climate change is "potentially the most serious threat there has ever been" to security and prosperity, according to Britain's new climate ambassador. John Ashton says climate change must be tackled "whatever it costs". He argues that the costs of not solving it will inevitably be larger. Environmentalists welcomed Mr Ashton's appointment, but warned the UK position is undermined by its rising emissions. ([BBC News 08/09/06](#))
- **California to sue car makers over carbon damage to environment** California has launched an action to sue six of the world's largest car makers, including General Motors and Toyota, over global warming, charging that greenhouse gases from their vehicles have caused billions of dollars in damages. The lawsuit filed in US District Court in northern California was the first of its kind to seek to hold manufacturers liable for the damages caused by their vehicles' emissions ([The Scotsman 21/09/06](#))
- **Biggest Nuggets Taken in Global Carbon Rush** A business fix to save the planet, where rich world polluters pay the developing world to cut greenhouse gas emissions on their behalf, is drawing breath after 'hoovering' up its biggest money-spinning deals. The trading idea relies on heavily polluting companies in poor countries being able to achieve more dramatic pollution cuts more cheaply than industry in the developed world. ([Reuters 11/09/06](#))
- **BMW launches first luxury Hydrogen car** BMW is launching the world's first pollution-free luxury car to run on hydrogen. The super-green car will have a top speed of 143mph, sprint from rest to 62mph in just 9.5 seconds - yet the only thing to come out of the exhaust pipe will be water vapour. A clutch of celebrity customers is expected to endorse the car's environmental credentials by being the first behind the wheel. ([This is London 12/09/06](#))
- **Sainsbury's ready meals to come in bio-friendly packaging** Ready meals from Sainsbury's will in future come in trays that can be composted and fed to the rose beds instead of filling up the dustbin, it was announced yesterday. The retailer began what has the makings of an environmental revolution by extending the use of compostable packaging, made from maize, sugar cane or starch, from 15 product lines to 500. Sainsbury's says this will remove four thousand tons of plastic from landfill each year. ([The Telegraph 08/09/06](#))

### Latest News from the Aardvark Team

- Aardvark has been appointed to undertake an ecology/habitat survey with a difference. In-house ecologist, Jo Clayton will be heading to the financial district of London next week to advise on enhancing the biodiversity and ecological value of 15,000 sq ft of roof terraces as part of an environmental assessment of the City of London Corporation's property portfolio.
- For all the latest Aardvark news logon to [www.aardvarkem.co.uk](http://www.aardvarkem.co.uk)

### And finally

- **Thaw and storms opened channel to North Pole** A warm summer and late storms in the past few months briefly opened a channel in the Arctic ice big enough to allow a ship to sail to the North Pole, said the European Space Agency. The agency said satellite images showed "dramatic openings" over an area bigger than the British Isles in the Arctic's sea ice, which normally stays frozen all year. ([New Zealand Herald 21/09/06](#))