



## Environment Matters – 6<sup>th</sup> October 2006

Welcome to Aardvark's fortnightly environmental news briefing,

- **Campbell faces crucial battle to save green tax package** The Liberal Democrats' new tax message was thrown into disarray yesterday, as activists offered a double challenge to the leadership's plans and proposals for a new property levy emerged. Sir Menzies Campbell's attempt to introduce a "fairer, not higher" tax package with a strong green component was under threat from two amendments as the party's conference in Brighton began. ([Guardian Unlimited 18/09/06](#))
- **Green taxes needed to fight "hot war" say Tories** Stepping up the green rhetoric at their conference in Bournemouth this week, the Conservatives have been keen to show that they are the best bet for the environment while maintaining their traditional position as the business party. ([EDIE 4/10/06](#))
- **Blair's 'radical' energy overhaul** Tony Blair has pledged to make the environment a focus of his last months in office with "the most radical overhaul of energy policy since WW2". He says energy from renewable sources will rise fivefold; investment in clean technology trebled and every new home will be at least 40% energy efficient. ([BBC News 26/09/06](#))
- **Climate change threat 'daunting'** One of the world's most prominent business leaders has expressed his fears over the "daunting" challenge of preventing dangerous climate change. Rick Samans, head of the Davos based World Economic Forum, said the global effort to tackle the problem was beginning 10-15 years late ([BBC News 04/10/06](#))
- **Greener flight plan unveiled** Virgin boss Sir Richard Branson yesterday unveiled plans to slash the amount of pollution created by the airline industry. He called on other airlines to follow his lead and help cut the world's carbon emissions by a quarter over the next two years. One plan involves using a "starting grid" at major airports to cut down on the amount of fuel burned before take-off. ([Daily Record 28/09/06](#))
- **How green are the Tory blues?** David Cameron is determined to put in place policies that really will start reducing carbon emissions and yet environmental groups say they can be excused for being wary, because they have been down this route before with the Labour party. Tory activists have wryly pointed out that the only target the Labour government is meeting at the moment, as far as climate change is concerned, is the number of senior political figures telling us all how serious it all is. ([BBC News 02/10/06](#))
- **Natural England formally established** On 1 October Natural England, the integrated countryside and land management agency, and the Commission for Rural Communities, the independent adviser, watchdog and advocate for rural people were formally established, taking on their full statutory responsibilities ([DEFRA 02/10/06](#))

### Latest News from the Aardvark Team

- Aardvark has been instructed to advise on three retrospective planning applications for the storage and screening of soils, crushing of stone and the retention of fill material and restoration of land as a result of the Environment Agency enforcing the Waste Management Licensing Regulations more stringently on landowners.
- For all the latest Aardvark news logon to [www.aardvarkem.co.uk](http://www.aardvarkem.co.uk)

### And finally

- **How green is your car?** Shadow Transport Secretary Chris Grayling has launched a new website - [www.howgreenisyourcar.co.uk](http://www.howgreenisyourcar.co.uk) - containing environmental information about every car currently on sale in the UK. During a debate on the environment at the Conservative Party Conference he said, "It contains the league tables that the Government will not publish." ([Conservatives.com 02/10/06](#))