



Environment Matters – 20th October 2006

Welcome to Aardvark's fortnightly environmental news briefing,

- **Firms 'slow' on green standards** Many large UK firms do not have systems in place to become more environmentally friendly despite good intentions on the issue, research has claimed. One in three firms surveyed by the UK's national standards body did not have a formal plan for minimising emissions and improving their energy efficiency. ([BBC News 16/10/06](#))
- **Cuts 'funding' wind turbine drive** A £10m drive to add wind turbines to public sites and to promote renewable energy is being funded by cuts to other green projects, it has been claimed. The Partnership for Renewables scheme will work with private firms to put the turbines on sites such as hospitals. ([BBC News 13/10/06](#))
- **Environment Agency welcomes Natural England as new partner to protect and improve the environment** The Environment Agency welcomes Natural England as an important new partner to improve and protect the environment and create a better place. Natural England brings together the environmental land management functions of the Rural Development Service, the landscape, access and recreation elements of the Countryside Agency and the responsibilities of English Nature. ([The Environment Agency 11/10/06](#))
- **Composting sees rapid growth** Professional composting is growing at a breakneck speed but, according to the sector's leading trade association, there is still potential for huge expansion. This Wednesday, the Composting Association published its State of Composting and Biological Waste Treatment in the UK report, taking an in depth look at how the market has developed in recent years. ([EDIE 18/10/06](#))
- **Recycling up and landfill down latest figures reveal** The Government target to recycle and compost 25% of household waste in England by 2005/06 has been exceeded, according to provisional figures published today by Defra. They show households in England recycled 27% of their waste during 2005/06, 4% more than in the previous year. Defra can also confirm that all waste disposal authorities in England have successfully met their limits for the first year of the Landfill Allowances Trading Scheme (LATS) – helping reduce the overall amount of waste sent to landfill. ([Defra 12/10/06](#))
- **EU sets "ambitious" energy goals** An action plan to cut Europe's energy consumption by 20% before 2020 has been outlined by the European Commission. More than 75 "ambitious" measures include tougher energy standards for electrical goods, a low-energy building strategy and more fuel efficient cars. ([BBC News 19/10/06](#))

Latest News from the Aardvark Team

- Team Aardvark completed the Royal Marines Commando Challenge at Woodbury Common, near Exeter, Devon last weekend raising over £300 for the Gemini Radio Charitable Trust. The 7-mile challenge involved a pair of 2-mile runs and the famous 3-mile commando cross-country obstacle course.
- For all the latest Aardvark news log on to www.aardvarkem.co.uk

And finally

- **Toilet paper companies warned** Leading toilet paper manufacturers are failing to offer a suitably environmentally-friendly product range to UK consumers, according to the results of a new study. The research, which looked at the output of the five companies that make up 75% of the European toilet paper market – Georgia-Pacific, Kimberly-Clark, Metsa Tissue, Procter & Gamble and SCA Tissue - found that despite generally improved ethical performances the manufacturers were still not doing enough. ([Green Consumer Guide 16/10/06](#))