



## Environment Matters – 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2006

Welcome to Aardvark's fortnightly environmental news briefing,

- **Publication of the Stern Review on the Economics of Climate change** The most comprehensive review ever carried out on the economics of climate change was published today. The Review, which reports to the Prime Minister and Chancellor, was commissioned by the Chancellor in July last year. It has been carried out by Sir Nicholas Stern, Head of the Government Economic Service and former World Bank Chief Economist. ([HM Treasury 30/10/06](#))
- **Climate change fight 'can't wait'** The world cannot afford to wait before tackling climate change, the UK Prime Minister has warned. A report by economist Sir Nicholas Stern suggests that global warming could shrink the global economy by 20%. ([BBC News 31/10/06](#))
- **Report's stark warning on climate** The Stern Review says that climate change represents the greatest and widest-ranging market failure ever seen. And on the basis of this intellectually rigorous and thorough report, it is hard to disagree. ([BBC News 29/10/06](#))
- **How do we react to the Stern report on global warming?** Politicians' reaction to the latest concerns about global warming is to propose yet more taxes on the individual. It is not clear how this policy will help the environment, since it is unlikely to affect any but those who can least afford it; the remainder will pay up and carry on as before. Neither are we told how this extra revenue will be spent; surely it can be justified only if it is to be devoted to projects that will help the environment, such as extending the rail network. ([The Times 01/11/06](#))
- **Pollution rockets on Bonfire Night** A significant share of the UK's annual dioxin emissions are released by Bonfire Night celebrations which also create a spike in levels of other pollutants as fireworks and smoke fill the sky. ([EDIE 30/10/06](#))
- **Microgeneration homes boost** Homeowners aiming to install renewable micro-generation technology on their houses have been given a boost, with the announcement of further funding under the Low Carbon Buildings Programme (LCBP). £6.2m of the total £28.5m phase one funding will be transferred to the householder stream, after a positive response to the scheme since its launch in April. ([Green Consumer Guide 30/10/06](#))
- **Water friendly farming initiative gathers momentum** The key elements of a programme to help farmers tackle the causes of harmful water pollution are now in place, Environment Minister Ian Pearson announced today. The England Catchment Sensitive Farming Delivery Initiative, launched in December 2005, targets priority catchments across England where changes in farm practices are being sought to reduce water pollution from agriculture. It is estimated that the cost of removing harmful pesticides and nitrates from drinking water is £7 a year for every water customer. ([Defra 31/11/06](#))

### Latest News from the Aardvark Team

- Aardvark has completed four pre-tender submission environmental site reports for a national house builder. The team advised on ecology, environmental impact assessment and potential contamination issues, which could give rise to restrictions on site development or abnormal development costs.
- For all the latest Aardvark news logon to [www.aardvarkem.co.uk](http://www.aardvarkem.co.uk)

### And finally

- **Top 100 eco-heroes as voted by their peers** The Prince of Wales has been named in the top 10 of a peer poll conducted by the Environment Agency to find the world's Top 100 Eco-Heroes. Rachel Carson – arguably the world's original advocate for organic farming – who topped the poll. ([The Environment Agency 29/10/06](#))