



Environment Matters – 19th January 2007

Welcome to the 50th Edition of Aardvark's fortnightly environmental news briefing,

- **EU plans 'industrial revolution'** The European Commission is due to demand a new "industrial revolution" when it unveils a wide-ranging set of proposals on energy and climate issues. ([BBC News 10/01/07](#))
- **Big businesses' climate meeting** Major UK companies such as BT, Tesco and BA are to meet to collaborate on tackling climate change. The task force will discuss ways in which they can help the environment. ([BBC News 11/01/07](#))
- **Fortunes will be made from enviro tech – Minister** The environmental sector has the potential to create the next Bill Gates, according to Trade and Industry Secretary Alistair Darling. Speaking at the Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM) Forum last Friday, Mr Darling continued to promote the Government's position that environmental policy and economic progress were joined at the hip. ([EDIE 15/01/07](#))
- **Defra ups carbon offset standards** The UK government is to define criteria for carbon offsetting schemes to bring "greater clarity" to the industry. Environment Secretary David Miliband said offsetting was not "the answer" to climate change, but that the voluntary standards would "raise the bar". ([BBC News 18/01/07](#))
- **Solar Power Eliminates Utility Bills in U.S. Home** East Amwell, New Jersey – Michael Strizki heats and cools his house year-round and runs a full range of appliances including such power-guzzlers as a hot tub and a wide-screen TV without paying a penny in utility bills. ([ENN 17/01/07](#))
- **Global Cool Tonne Recognised as High Standard Offset** Global Cool's revolutionary offsets scheme, the Tonne of Cool, has been named by the Government, under their newly announced, 'Code of Best Practice' as one of only four that meets the new voluntary standard for offsetting. ([Global Cool 18/01/07](#))

Latest News from the Aardvark Team

- Always up for a challenge, the Aardvark team have decided to give up plastic for Lent this year. The team will attempt to avoid purchasing any plastic packaging, containers, food wrap etc. that cannot be recycled. Starting on February 21st the rules will apply both at the office and at home and all the team have signed up.
- Aardvark is looking to expand the team in 2007. For further information on current vacancies and for the latest Aardvark news log onto www.aardvarkem.co.uk.

And finally

- **Why the green lobby must be treated as a religion** Anthropologists have established how different cultures independently evolve similar myths – familiar stories, such as the myth of the Fall and the myth of the Apocalypse, which meet deep-seated human needs. The Christian tradition describes the temptation of Adam and Eve and warns of the Last Judgment. ([ft.com 09/01/07](#))