

## Environment Matters – 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2007

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

- **Frustration over delays on clean coal** The UK Offshore Operators Association (UKOOA) has joined calls for the government to stop dragging its feet over a technology that a number of industry experts say could significantly affect climate change and extend the productive life of the North Sea ([The Sunday Herald 18/02/07](#))
- **Guide to clarify flood-proof planning** A new guide was published this week is to help planners in creating flood-proof development by deciphering the contents of the new PPS25, the Government's policy statement on planning and flood risk. ([EDIE 22/01/07](#))
- **Britain's first custom-built green estate** Tree-powered TVs and rainwater toilets feature in a unique development in London. Britain's first entirely green housing estate, complete with wind turbines and rainwater harvesting facilities, is to be built in London's Docklands. ([The Independent 27/02/07](#))
- **Second warmest winter in 350 years** Despite being battered by snow storms, floods and even the odd tornado, new figures reveal that England has this year basked in the second warmest winter on record. ([Daily Mail 01/03/07](#))
- **Dry reality - China and India face up to curbs on carbon** Beijing's eerily mild winter has provoked anxious media coverage in the Chinese capital. In India, the melting of the Himalayan glaciers that feed the country's great river systems is alarming policymakers. The world's two fastest-growing large economies are growing increasingly conscious of the global warming in which their rapid development is playing a part. ([Financial Times 27/02/07](#))
- **Australia pulls plug on old bulbs** Australia has announced plans to ban incandescent light bulbs and replace them with more energy efficient fluorescent bulbs. The environment minister said the move could cut the country's greenhouse gas emissions by 4 million tonnes by 2012. ([BBC News 20/02/07](#))
- **Green vision for London outlined** In what was billed as the most important document of his administration, Ken Livingstone has spoken of his intention to step up London's fight against climate change. Launching his Climate Change Action Plan, Action Today to Protect Tomorrow, the Mayor outlined four programmes, which would underpin his vision of slashing London's carbon emissions, are therefore its contribution to climate change. ([EDIE 01/03/07](#))
- **PM will back renewable targets** Tony Blair will back binding EU targets for renewable energy, Downing Street said. Reports on Wednesday said Blair would commit to ensuring 20 per cent of European generation capacity comes from green sources, including wind and solar, by 2020. ([ePoltix.com 01/03/07](#))

### Latest News from the Aardvark Team

- A Flood Risk Assessment submitted by Aardvark for a new residential development in Oxfordshire has been considered by the Environment Agency to meet the requirements of Planning Policy Statement 25 and have issued a letter of compliance for the principle of development. The scheme architects, Hamilton Gould Associates, will submit the planning application for the scheme in the next few months.
- For the latest Aardvark news logon to [www.aardvarkem.co.uk](http://www.aardvarkem.co.uk).

### And finally

- **Retailers in fresh pledge to tackle plastic bags** A group of UK retailers have today agreed to reduce the overall environmental impact of their carrier bags by 25% by 2008. WRAP - the Waste and Resources Action Programme - announced that over 25 companies have agreed to encourage the reduction, re-use, recycling and recycled content of carrier bags. ([Letsrecycle.com 28/02/07](#))