



Environment Matters – 4th January 2008

Welcome to Aardvark's fortnightly environmental news briefing,

- **2020 deadline set for zero carbon non-domestic buildings** A UK Green Building Council report sets a challenging timeframe for the new code and claims the cost premium could be from 3-30%. All new non-domestic buildings could be built to zero carbon standards by 2020, a major new industry report has revealed. ([bdonline 18/12/07](#))
- **Eco-homes forest plan put forward** Plans to restore the ancient tradition of living and working in woodland areas are being submitted in the Highlands later this month. ([BBC News 02/01/08](#))
- **World's greenest office block set for Paris** The architect behind New York's Freedom Tower - built on the former site of the World Trade Centre - has announced that it is to construct what promises to be the world's greenest office building. The office block, which will be branded Energy Plus, is to be built in the run-down area of Gennevilliers in the outskirts of Paris. ([The Telegraph 03/01/08](#))
- **EMR and MBA collaborate to build high-tech plastics plant in UK** A trans-Atlantic union between two large plastics and metals recyclers will see a "state-of-the-art" plastics recycling facility built and operational in the UK by early 2009. ([RWM 04/01/08](#))
- **'Inflexible' PFI works against sustainability** Long-term deals are like supertankers you can't turn around, says report. The PFI process is a major barrier to reducing the carbon emissions produced by buildings, a new report claims. ([bdonline 14/12/07](#))
- **Firm plans 'eco retreats' across 14 UK National Parks** A company offering 'eco retreats' plans to expand across 14 National Parks throughout the UK. Natural Retreats is to build nine new lodges on an existing site near Richmond in North Yorkshire to bring the number of properties up to 19 by July. ([Travel Mole 03/01/08](#))
- **Surge in renewable energy** The West Country is home to a fast-growing 'cleantech' industry, which is at the leading edge of creating new technologies that make better use of resources and create cleaner ways to a sustainable economy. ([The Lawyer.com 03/01/08](#))

Latest News from the Aardvark Team

- Aardvark has conducted preliminary waste water and energy reviews for a number of leading 5 star hotels in Siem Reap, Cambodia including Raffles, Le Meridien, Victoria, La Residence D Angkor and Hotel de la Paix. Each is keen to reduce their impact on the environment and save costs on fuel which is the primarily used in their individual large generators, one of which has over 2000 kVA of capacity (equivalent to 1700 homes).
- For the latest Aardvark news and services logon to www.aardvarkem.co.uk

And finally,

- **A green light for Eurostar: The train that takes the eco-strain** When the first Eurostar left St Pancras for Paris yesterday, it wasn't just the convenience that passengers were excited about: it was the environmental friendliness. ([The Independent 04/01/08](#))