



Environment Matters – 4th July 2008

Welcome to Aardvark's fortnightly environmental news briefing,

- **Climate more urgent than economy, say voters** Voters think that taking action against climate change matters more than tackling the global economic downturn, according to a Guardian/ICM poll published today. ([Guardian 02/07/08](#))
- **Local areas will tackle environmental challenges** The environment, including climate change, is now firmly part of local government priorities throughout England. ([Defra 01/07/08](#))
- **New Welsh buildings must be green** New buildings in Wales will be expected to raise their sustainability standards and include renewable and low carbon energy technologies, such as solar panels and combined heat and power, as part of integrating Code for Sustainable Homes Level 3 and BREEAM 'Very Good' into tough new planning policies to tackle climate change. ([News Wales 03/07/08](#))
- **Low carbon London will tackle building emissions** A pilot project which has seen City Hall set up several showcase Low Carbon Zones in the capital is set to expand over the next four years. ([EDIE 03/07/08](#))
- **UK leads Europe in clean energy investment** Worldwide investment in renewable energy is increasing, according to new research, with the UK leading the way in Europe. Despite the ongoing economic slowdown, £74.48 billion was ploughed into renewable energy technology in 2007, according to United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). ([UK Trade & Investment 04/07/08](#))
- **Setback for Brown 'eco-town' plan** The Government's own Eco-Towns Challenge Panel says the "eco-towns" policy would mean some schemes would be no better than housing estates with green edges added. The UK's first Eco Towns homes are due to be built to Level 3 of the Code for Sustainable Homes (CSH) at times when all other homes will have to be built to higher Levels. ([BBC News 23/06/07](#))
- **Wildlife extinction rates 'seriously underestimated'** Endangered species may become extinct 100 times faster than previously thought, scientists warned today, in a bleak re-assessment of the threat to global biodiversity. ([Guardian 02/07/08](#))

Latest News from the Aardvark Team

- Aardvark has been instructed to undertake the BREEAM assessment of a 53,000ft² floor in the famous Fort Dunlop Building, Birmingham on behalf of an occupier currently fitting it out for office use. The building, formally the Dunlop Tyre factory has been redeveloped by Urban Splash into a multi-let office building. The occupier is targeting a Very Good rating for their fit-out works.
- For the latest Aardvark news and services logon to www.aardvarkem.co.uk.

And finally,

- **Volkswagen to Make Limited Edition of 1-Liter Car (282 MPG!) in 2010** The 1-Litre car has been around in prototype form since 2002 and greens everywhere have been drooling at its 282 miles per gallon fuel economy (or 1 litre per 100 kilometres, hence the name).([TreeHugger 03/07/08](#))