



## Environment Matters – 1<sup>st</sup> August 2008

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

- **Solar power from Saharan sun could provide Europe's electricity, says EU** A tiny rectangle superimposed on the vast expanse of the Sahara captures the seductive appeal of the audacious plan to cut Europe's carbon emissions by harnessing the fierce power of the desert sun. ([Guardian 23/07/08](#))
- **Renewables mandate 'undermined'** The UK's business department, BERR, has been accused of trying to sabotage Europe's rules on renewable energy. BERR is trying to change a line in an EU Directive which mandates that energy sources such as wind and wave should get priority connections to the grid. ([BBC News 23/07/08](#))
- **Simple and fairer waste exemptions from environmental permitting** Proposed changes to the system of environmental permit exemptions will increase waste recovery and recycling, whilst maintaining high levels of environmental protection and saving businesses money. ([Defra 31/07/08](#))
- **Credit crunch no excuse to stop focusing on environment** The past decade has seen significant improvements in environmental performance by many businesses in England and Wales. But there are still lots of companies that need to do more - and what progress has been made should not stop just because of a slowdown in the economy, the Environment Agency warned today. ([Environment Agency 23/07/08](#))
- **2000 Megawatt Wyoming Wind Farm to Produce Power for Southern California, Las Vegas, Arizona** A new massive wind project proposal may be bringing more clean energy to Southern California, Las Vegas and Phoenix, Arizona. ([Tree Hugger 31/07/08](#))
- **'Oil from algae' promises climate friendly fuel** A liquid fuel made from plants that is chemically identical to crude oil but which does not contribute to climate change when it is burned or, unlike other biofuels, need agricultural land to produce sounds too good to be true. ([Guardian 31/07/08](#))

### Latest News from the Aardvark Team

- Aardvark has added the Code for Sustainable Homes (CSH) and Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) accreditations to BREEAM as part of our commitment to deliver up to date sustainable development advice to clients. With a CSH assessment required for all new homes and EPCs on all transactions of non-domestic properties being mandatory from this year this is expected to be an increasing area of work for the team.
- For the latest Aardvark news and services logon to [www.aardvarkem.co.uk](http://www.aardvarkem.co.uk).

### And finally,

- **Fuel conservation priority for local police force** Fuel efficiency lessons are being given to police officers in Devon and Cornwall, it has been reported. In an effort to reduce costs amid soaring fuel prices, police in the area are being trained to use less fuel and adopt alternative modes of transport. ([LowCarbonEconomy.com 29/07/08](#))