



E-Bulletin for the Environmental Industries

UK ENVIRONMENTAL INDUSTRIES ON A PAR WITH AEORSPACE & DEFENCE

A recent study by the Environmental Industries Unit shows that the scale of opportunity for UK companies is immense. Environmental industries in the UK are already estimated to generate an annual turnover of over £25 billion; this has risen from an estimated £16 billion just two years ago. The study further shows that the UK is employing 700,000 people within over 17,000 companies. The English Regions and Devolved Administrations are all reporting rapid growth in the sector.

REGIONAL NEWS

Skills & Training:

Northern Ireland businesses given free online website demonstrations, environmental publications and one-to-one confidential advice clinics at a series of eight Environmental Roadshows across NI in February and March.

Innovation:

A 'Waste to Asset' anaerobic digestion project at Ludlow, partly funded under DEFRA's New Technology Programme and **Advantage West Midlands**, received full planning permission in March.

Procurement:

£1m of exports generated for North West environmental technology companies at a recent 'Meet the Buyers' event staged on Merseyside by **Envirolink Northwest**.

New Initiatives:

Yorkshire Forward has established the Future Energies Company, with the objective of transforming the market for new & renewable energies in Yorkshire & Humber. This company will be focused on capturing the economic benefits resulting from the pursuit of climate change targets.

Grants & Schemes:

A Black Country company, West Bromwich Pallets, which recycles pallets and wood, has secured £1.2m from **Advantage West Midlands** to help expand and double its workforce to 100.

IN GENERAL

Climate change: Kyoto protocol came into effect in Feb 2005. Defra launches 3-year, £12m communication initiative to change public attitudes to climate change, and Carbon Trust launch campaign to alert businesses to potential energy efficiency savings.

DTI Technology Programme: committed £20m to a Zero Emission Enterprise Challenge for its April 2005 competition to stimulate collaborative R&D on cleaner production.

US Venture Capital data: shows 30% returns on Cleantech investments, compared with 26% industry average. Cleantech quoted stocks also outperformed the S&P 500.

Energy Utility Skills Sector Skills Council: have set up an industry taskforce to address waste management sector skills needs.

Legislation: Firms contest UK stance on Waste Oil burning- official interpretation of **EU waste incineration directive** will 'harm environment', warns asphalt industry.

EU recycling rules for **TVs and mobile phones** have been delayed while DTI considers lessons learned from fridges. Recycling will now be introduced in Jan 2006.

ANY QUESTIONS...?

Please send your questions, on any aspect of the UK environmental industries, to g.nowell@ukfei.co.uk, and every attempt will be made to answer them in the next edition.

DIARY DATES

Enviro 2006 is an international exhibition & conference on innovations in the environmental technologies sector. The event is being held at the Manchester International Convention Centre on **7th – 9th February 2006**. To find out more, and to book your place, visit www.enviro2006.co.uk

Forestry & Climate Change Policy Course, run by Eco Securities, is being held on 15th July in Oxford. For details, visit www.proforest.net

For further information on the UKFEI, on the information contained in this E-Bulletin, and to submit news for future editions, contact: g.nowell@ukfei.co.uk