



E-Bulletin for the Environmental Industries

UK TO BE EU LEADER ON SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT BY 2009. Further to the release of the UK Sustainable Development Strategy, a task force, headed by Sir Neville Simms, is to draw up an action plan to make the UK a leader in the EU by 2009. The new UK Sustainable Development Strategy was launched on 7th March, alongside a new Framework for Sustainable Development across the UK, shared between the UK Government, the Devolved Administrations and the Northern Ireland Office.

REGIONAL NEWS

Skills & Training: Energy & Utility Skills SSC has secured £250k per annum over 3 years of funding from Water UK, which represents all water utilities. This is a significant development for the SSC's key objective of employer engagement and demonstrates the water sector's commitment to skills and training.

Innovation: Yorkshire Water is committing £2m to an innovative R&D partnership arrangement with Cranfield, Imperial, Leeds and Sheffield Universities. The R&D will be based around the utility's diverse future R&D needs and will involve funding of post-doctoral research.

New Initiatives: No news this week.

Grants & Schemes: No news this week.

Other: The **Northern Way Team** come North! On the 1st July senior civil servants from the ODPM's office are coming to an event in Warrington to discuss the opportunities offered by the Northern Way. John Roberts - Chief Executive of United Utilities - is hosting the event on behalf of the region and has invited a number of the region's public and private sector decision makers to come along and contribute to the discussion. **EnviroLink Northwest** staff have been invited along to make sure that ETS is represented. Environmental Economy of the Northwest II - In October 2000 EnviroLink Northwest produced a status report on the value of the environmental economy in the region in terms of jobs, wealth and GVA. EnviroLink are updating the report in time for the RDA's Regional

Economic Strategy Review. Figures will be out at the end of September with the Executive summary being launched in November.

IN GENERAL

Zero Emissions Enterprise competition: The closing date for registrations for the DTI Technology Programme's £20m 'Zero Emission Enterprise' challenge - which offers significant R&D opportunities in the environmental technology / clean production area - is 13th June. Bidders have until 20th June to complete their application.

An **applicant briefing** meeting for the Zero Emissions Enterprise competition will be held in London on 7 June. To register, see

<http://www.dti.gov.uk/technologyprogramme/forthevents.html>

DIARY DATES

3rd CIWEM North Western & North Wales Water Framework Directive (WFD) Conference - 21 June 2005 Peter Jost Enterprise Centre, Liverpool John Moores University. This one-day event, part sponsored by EnviroLink Northwest, will focus on issues related to the water framework directive (WFD) and sustainability, in particular climate change and flooding.

Building Sustainability into a Growing Economy: Conference 7th July - The NW regional office of the Environment Agency has been asked to host the sustainable development event on 7 July 2005 at the Halliwell Jones stadium in Warrington, as part of the public consultation exercise for the review of the Regional Economic Strategy (RES).

Enviro 2006 is an international conference & showcase 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

ANY QUESTIONS...?

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

For further information on the UK Forum for Environmental Industries and to submit news for future editions, contact: g.nowell@ukfei.co.uk