

E-Bulletin for the Environmental Industries

REGIONAL NEWS

Regional Updates:

♦ **South East:** Following a launch of the *Invest in Recycling* initiative in Autumn 2006, **EnviroBusiness** concluded a capital grant scheme for investment in recycling infrastructure. This included assisting five companies to secure substantial grant funding to grow their recycling businesses in South East England. For more information on the scheme please contact Roy Williamson on 01293 813 911 or on roy.williamson@envirobusiness.co.uk.

♦ **Northwest:** EnviroLink Northwest has just updated their **Microgeneration Supply Chain Directory**. It includes a guide to the different microgeneration technologies available, useful contact details on grant funding and associations, and the company listings section provides information on the region's key suppliers and installers. The directories, being disseminated at various sector related trade shows, meet-the-buyer and other events, form one of the mechanisms through which EnviroLink Northwest promotes the northwest's innovative supply chain companies. To receive a copy, please contact Graeme Mullin, E: g.mullin@envirolinknorthwest.co.uk, T: 01925 856 057.

New Initiatives:

♦ **SEE (Social, Environmental and Economic) Change Centre.** The Centre, being developed jointly by Rodbaston College, Advantage West Midlands, LSC and Pro Enviro, aims to demonstrate the sustainable technologies; accelerate the skills of the regional workforce and promote the involvement of regional industrial organisations in the manufacturing and installation of sustainable technologies. For more details please visit the SEE Change Centre's [official website](#).

Skills:

♦ **Train to Gain** is a new service from the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) designed to help businesses get the training they need to succeed. Rolled-out across England during 2006, the service aims to help businesses improve their productivity and competitiveness by ensuring that staff have the right skills to do the best job.

♦ **Leitch Review of Skills: Prosperity for All in the Global Economy - World Class Skills:** In December 2006 Lord Sandy Leitch published his review of skills that shows that the UK must urgently raise achievements at all levels of skills. It recommends that the UK commit to becoming a world leader in skills by 2020, benchmarked against the upper quartile of the OECD. The official report can be downloaded from HM Treasury [site](#); you can also read some of the reactions to the Review on the following websites: [LSC](#); [Energy&Utility Skills](#).

Funding:

♦ **UKTI funding available to attend world environmental trade fairs.** Through the **Trade Access Programme (TAP)** scheme, eligible UK exhibitors can claim a grant of up to £1,800. The events supported by TAP in 2007/08 are **Okotech** (Budapest, 6-9 November 2007), **Pollutec** (Paris, 27-30 November 2007), **Wetex** (Dubai, March 2008), **IWWE** (Dublin, March 2008). For eligibility criteria and more details about the exhibitions, please contact Louise Conway at Birmingham Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Overseas Fairs Division, T: 01564 784 999, E: louise.conway@overseasfairs.co.uk.

IN GENERAL

News:

♦ **Sustainable Development Strategy for London 2012 Olympics published.** The organisers of the London 2012 Olympics want the games to be "the greenest in history"; they aim to champion low waste, low carbon emissions and green transportation. Chairman of the London 2012 organising committee, Lord Coe, said: "We intend to set the very highest standards in sustainability and legacy for other games to follow." To download the full version of ODA's Sustainable Development Strategy click on this [link](#). A useful summary and links to further articles on the Olympics 2012 sustainable strategy can be found on the EurActiv [website](#).

♦ **The New Climate Change Task Force.** The new task force of 17 business leaders from UK's biggest companies has been created by the **CBI**. Chaired by BT Chief Executive Ben Verwaayen the group will investigate the role business can play in tackling climate change and report later this year on the actions that are necessary to enable business to make that contribution. For further details please visit CBI's [website](#).

UKFEI News:

♦ On Thursday 22nd March 2007 **UKFEI Skills Special Interest Group** will meet in Birmingham to talk about latest developments in the regional skills agendas in the environmental technologies sector. In addition to regional skills representatives, a representative from EU Skills Sector Skills Council, we will also welcome representatives from LSC regional offices to hear about their activities in the sector and discuss possible future engagement. Amongst others the implications of the Leitch Review for the sector will be discussed. For further information please contact Stanislav Zizka, E: s.zizka@ukfei.co.uk, T: 01925 856044.

Studies & Analyses:

♦ **JANUARY 07: Energy (R)evolution: a Sustainable World Energy Outlook.** Renewable energy can deliver half of the world's primary energy needs by 2050, according to a report produced by the European Renewable Energy Council (EREC) and Greenpeace. The report is available by clicking on this [link](#). However, these findings contrast with International Energy Agency's [World Energy Outlook 2006](#) that is less optimistic about the future of renewables.

♦ **FEBRUARY 07: IPCC's Fourth Assessment Report (AR4) Climate Change 2007: The Physical Science Basis.** On 2 February, the UN-sponsored Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released the first part of its AR4. This first volume assesses the current scientific knowledge of the natural and human drivers of climate change, observed changes in climate, the ability of science to attribute changes to different causes, and projections for future climate change. The full climate science report will be released later in the year. More details available on IPCC's [website](#) or EurActiv [website](#).

♦ **FEBRUARY 07: Barriers and Drivers for the Biofuels Industry in Europe.** Published in Energy Policy Journal this research, jointly undertaken by researchers from Sweden, the Netherlands, Luxembourg and Australia, have compared and analysed the development and diffusion of both biodiesel and bioethanol and the socio-economic context for the biofuels industry in Germany and the UK. For more detail please email: kes.mccormick@iijee.lu.se. To download the summary of the article please click on the following [link](#).

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♦ **FEBRUARY 07:** On 5th February the **Better Regulation Commission (BRC)** published its response to the regulatory aspects of **Stern Review** in which it "expresses concern that hasty and inappropriate action may be taken." BRC Chair Rick Haythornthwaite warned that we must not let climate change become a victim of 'quick fix' legislation and added: "We have devised seven basic tests for climate policy; which should be adopted by all who contribute to the policy debate and we will review progress against them in the Autumn". Press release and the text of BRC response are available on BRC [website](#).

♦ **FEBRUARY 07: The European Paper Industry: A Bio-Solution to Climate Change.** This study by the **Confederation of European Paper Industries (CEPI)** suggests that it is four times more economically viable to use wood as a paper-resource first than to use it for energy. Promoting the use of wood first as a raw material to make products, encouraging the recycling of used products, and then recovering energy when recycling is no longer feasible would make a far greater contribution to environmental, social and economic targets. This reacts to the increasing competition between wood for bio-energy and for the paper industry. The paper is available on CEPI [website](#).

EU Policy & Legislation:

♦ **Brussels to cap car emissions.** EU Environment Commissioner Stavros Dimas is currently striving to impose tough CO2 emission limits on new cars sold in Europe. The future legislation intends to provide the necessary innovation incentive that will make Europe produce cleaner cars. The current proposal expects to reduce the car emissions from existing 162 grammes of CO2 per kilometre to 130 g/km by 2012.

♦ On 10th January 2007 the European Commission (EC) introduced its **Integrated Energy and Climate Change Package**. The package of proposals sets a series of ambitious targets on greenhouse gas emissions and renewable energy and aims to create a true internal market for energy and strengthen effective regulation. The proposals include a binding target of 20% of EU overall energy mix to be sourced from renewable energy by 2020; a minimum target for biofuels of 10% by 2020 and reiterated objective of saving 20% of total primary energy consumption by 2020. EU will also prepare its first Energy Technology Plan and intends to increase annual spending on energy research by at least 50% for the next 7 years. The March summit of EU leaders will decide on the fate of the Commission's energy package. For more details please go to EC [website](#).

Consultations:

♦ **EU Online Consultation on Carbon-storage Risks:** Preparing a legislative proposal that aims to establish the regulatory framework for the capture of carbon dioxide and its geological storage, EC seeks views on benefits and challenges of CCS. Deadline: **16th April 2007**. More information and online questionnaire can be found on EC [website](#).

DIARY DATES

♦ **Launch of UK Environment Competitive Advantage Statement: "The UK: A World Leader in Environmental Solutions": 1st March 2007, DTI Conference Centre, London.** Prepared by UKTI's Environmental Sector Advisory Group (ESAG) this document will be launched by Rt Hon Ian McCartney MP, Minister of State for Trade, Investment and Foreign Affairs. Alongside the Minister the audience will also be addressed by Jackie Seddon, Chair of UK Forum for Environmental Industries and

Colin Drummond, Chair of ESAG. To obtain a formal invitation please contact Louise Colwell, T: 020 7215 4479.

♦ **The Fourth Annual Solar Cities Conference: 2nd March 2007, Dundee College, Kingsway Campus.** The conference will open with speeches by well respected speakers and the afternoon workshop sessions will enable you to put forward your key issues and suggestions to form the basis of an election manifesto for Solar Cities Scotland. To download flyer and a booking form please click [here](#).

♦ **Which KTN?: 7th March 2007, Warrington, Wolves Stadium.** Envirolink Northwest brings together 10 KTNs relevant to the EGS sector as well as Health and Safety Laboratory and Defence Diversification Agency. This event should help EGS businesses decide which and how many KTNs they should participate in. To register or obtain more information contact Linda McGeechan on 01925 813200 or email your contact details to l.mcgeechan@envirolinknorthwest.co.uk.

♦ **Sourcing Sustainable Solutions Meet the Buyers: 15th March 2007, Emirates Stadium, London.** This MTB event focuses on helping organisations meet with suppliers who can provide them with innovative environmental and sustainable products and services that will help lessen the environmental impact and improve the sustainability of their supply chain. To book your place click [here](#) or contact Angela Sobers or Emma-Jane Allen on 020 7700 0008.

♦ **Leitch/FE Reform Regional Roadshows 2007 – Delivering World-class Skills in a Demand-led System: Before 30th March 2007.** In each of the nine English regions Mark Haysom, Chief Executive, Learning and Skills Council and Stephen Marston, Director General Lifelong Learning and Skills at DfES will address senior representatives from across Further Education and key regional skills stakeholders, as part of a sector-wide dialogue to discuss and plan how to accelerate the progress needed to achieve a world class, demand-led system. For exact dates and locations please click [here](#) or contact Conference Office, E: leitchroadshow@livegroup.co.uk, T: 020 8481 3325.

♦ **Fuelling The Future: Making the Renewable Transport Fuels Obligation Work: 29th March 2007, London W1.** This Conference brings together the key players in Government and industry to discuss the practicalities of making the RTFO work and the future policy trends how to develop biofuels. To download the flyer please click [here](#). For more information please contact Alex West on 020 7935 1414 or email eicmarketing@eic-uk.co.uk.

♦ **Technology Roadmap for Northern Water Utilities: 30th March 2007, Bridgewater Hall, Manchester.** This event will outline the findings of Envirolink Northwest's report into the technology requirements of the Northern Water Utilities (Northumbrian Water, Yorkshire Water and United Utilities). Compiled by Mouchel Parkman the report is being produced to help communicate these needs to the water and wastewater supplier base, Universities and research organisations in the North of England. Please visit Envirolink's [website](#) for more information.

USEFUL LINKS

♦ www.rustonwheb.com – **Ruston WHEB** is a specialist executive search firm focused on helping companies recruit exceptional talent within the clean technology, resource conservation and sustainability sectors. For more details please contact Garfield Cameron, T: 020 7299 4127.

CONTACT THE UKFEI

For further information on the UKFEI and to submit news for future editions, contact: s.zizka@ukfei.co.uk or visit www.ukfei.co.uk