

## E-Bulletin for the Environmental Industries

### REGIONAL NEWS

#### Regional Updates:

♦ **Wales:** On 13 February Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) announced **Programme of Action to Tackle Climate Change**. The first measures to cut carbon emissions include a requirement that all new buildings funded by the WAG must be built to BREEAM "Excellent" standard, the highest level of environmental performance for a new building, with this becoming a core condition of new projects and programmes within 6 months. Go to WAG's Climate Change [website](#) to read more information, including Welsh [consultation Responding to our Changing Climate](#).

♦ **Northwest:** The Lancashire Waste Partnership has signed its £2bn PFI waste disposal contract with Australian firm Global Renewables and construction company Bovis Lend Lease. Two new Waste Technology Parks will significantly reduce the amount of refuse going to landfill sites, avoid the need for incineration, increase recycling rates and have a direct impact on reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Click [here](#) for more information.

♦ **South West:** On 28 March the South West region launched its legacy strategy for the London 2012 Games and pinpointed five areas where the event's inspiration will improve the region's future. For more details read the following [press release](#) or download the 'Team South West Legacy Strategy for the 2012 Games' [document](#).

♦ **Scotland:** National Business Awards for Scotland: **The Environmental Awareness Award**. The judges will look for the organisation that can best demonstrate a company-wide commitment to minimising its impact on the environment. Closing date for entries is noon **22 May 2007**. For further information and to download the registration form please click [here](#).

#### Regional Initiatives003A

♦ **Northwest:** The Lancaster Environment Centre (LEC) now offers dedicated co-location facilities for 25 companies within the EGS sector. Located in a new building rated 'Excellent' by the BREEAM the companies will have access to PC facilities, laboratories, analytical facilities and other specialist research and development capabilities. The companies interested in [co-location](#) should contact Paul Tanner, T: 01524 510205, [p.tanner@lancaster.ac.uk](mailto:p.tanner@lancaster.ac.uk). LEC has also opened **2007 Business Creation Competition**: four winners will receive free 12 month accommodation and attractive package of training and mentoring to develop and refine their business plan. The submitted business plans should focus on creative and realistic environmentally focused business ideas. Please visit LEC's [website](#) for overview and further details.

#### Skills:

♦ **East of England: Towards 2010: Training Grants for the Environmental Sector in the East of England:** Towards 2010 provides small, quick-turnaround grants covering up to 70% of the costs of eligible training. Interested companies with base in East of England should contact EnviroLink UK on 0207 870 2415 or [l.dietz@envirolinkuk.org](mailto:l.dietz@envirolinkuk.org) to talk about how Toward 2010 could help your organisation.

♦ **E.ON UK Announces 'Skills Academy' for Power Engineers.** With the UK facing an engineering skills shortage, the academy has been designed to bring together technical and operational training covering entry level up to foundation degree to ensure that the next generation of UK engineers gets practical, pertinent training. For more information please visit the E.ON's [website](#) or contact Jane Branscombe on 024 7618 3681.

#### International Trade

♦ **Meet the Buyer at ET 2007:** UK Trade & Investment will be introducing overseas buyers to UK suppliers at a series of one-to-one meetings at ET 2007. This is the perfect opportunity for your company to meet overseas delegates from some of the world's fastest growing and most dynamic environmental technology markets. For further information and details on registration go to [www.meetthebuyer2007.co.uk](http://www.meetthebuyer2007.co.uk).

#### Funding:

♦ **UK: Spring 2007 Competition Announced.** Funding from the Technology Programme for Collaborative Research & Development Projects, with the total budget of £100m, will include £15m for energy technologies – both renewable low-carbon options and ensuring the continued production of hydrocarbon reserves. The competition will formally **open on 24 April 2007**, and will further boost the Technology Programme, which has contributed to over 600 projects across 40 technology areas with a combined business and Government investment of more than £900m since its launch in 2004. For more details click [here](#).

♦ **UK: DTI's Low Carbon Building Programme – Phase 2:** Grants for the installation of microgeneration technologies are available to public sector buildings (including schools, hospitals, housing associations and local authorities) and charitable bodies. Details of all aspects of the Phase 2 grant application process, suppliers, installers and technologies are available on this [website](#).

♦ **Scotland: New Environmental Funding Schemes Launched.** The Environmental Justice Fund has £2m available for communities, and The Community Environmental Renewal Scheme has some £1.75m. The schemes are being managed by Forward Scotland and will run for one year to the end of March 2008. Both schemes will support projects that help communities enjoy their local environment and become more involved in the amenities and activities it provides, as well as the issues and decision-making that surrounds it. You can find more details about the funds, including contact details, application forms and guidance notes by clicking [here](#). Closing date for applications is **25 April 2007**.

♦ **East of England: New Fund to Encourage Innovation.** On 26 February a new £1.5m **Proof of Concept Fund** has been launched to develop the innovative capabilities in East of England. The fund, administered by the East of England Development Agency (EEDA), will help entrepreneurs research the commercial viability of their ideas. It will allocate between £5,000 and £40,000 per project, to a maximum of 75% of project cost over four seasonal rounds. The deadline for the first round closes on **20 April 2007**. Please visit EEDA's [website](#) to check the eligibility criteria and download the application forms.

### IN GENERAL

#### News:

♦ **Budget 2007:** Gordon Brown's 11<sup>th</sup> Budget included several reforms on the environmental front but has not been as green as many have been expecting. The key announcements impacting on the environmental sector included: an extra £5 per tonne per year on the Landfill Tax Escalator; the immediate allocation of £100m to the Spring Technology Programme; the development of the UK's first full-scale demonstration of carbon capture and storage; an increase in fuel duty rates; car vehicle excise duty rates based on the car emissions; extended support for biofuels; stamp duty rebates for all new zero-carbon homes; increased funds available through the Low Carbon Buildings Programme; and additional

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funds for Environmental Transformation Fund. The following sites contain details about the 2007 budget: [HM Treasury](#); [BBC](#).

♦ **UK Government Sustainable Procurement Action Plan Launched.** The Government presented a package of actions to deliver the step change needed to ensure that supply chains and public services will be increasingly low carbon, low waste and water efficient, respect biodiversity and deliver wider sustainable development goals. The Action Plan puts in place clear lines of accountabilities and reporting, and develops plans to raise the standards and status of procurement practice in Government. For more details visit Treasury [website](#) or download the [Action Plan](#).

### UKFEI News:

♦ UK Forum for Environmental Industries has been invited to share the stand of UK Trade & Investment at this year's Environmental Technology and Environmental Services 2007 Exhibition, part of Sustainability/live! If you are interested in the latest developments within the environmental goods and services sector visit us on stand H10.

### Studies & Analyses:

♦ **MARCH 07: WRAP and Defra have published three reports on cutting the carbon impacts of waste.** The reports anticipate the greenhouse gas effects of the UK's main waste streams between 2005 and 2031, and assess the different ways of dealing with household garden and food waste. To read the details and view the reports please go to DEFRA's [website](#).

♦ **MARCH 07: Prospective Scenarios for Renewable Energies and Carbon Capture and Storage.** A German team of scientists has recently compared the structural, economic and environmental aspects of carbon capture and storage (CCS) with renewable energy technologies. Published in International Journal Of Greenhouse Gas Control the authors conclude that even if CCS technologies emit more carbon dioxide than generally assumed and considerably more than renewables, CCS could lead to a significant absolute reduction of greenhouse gas emissions within the electricity supply system. However, depending on market forces, renewables could develop faster and become cheaper. For more details or a copy of the article please email [peter.viebahn@dlr.de](mailto:peter.viebahn@dlr.de).

### EU Policy & Legislation:

♦ **EU Agrees on Renewable Targets:** On 9 March the European Commission (EC) has put forward a proposal for a long-term Renewable Energy Roadmap. The proposal includes an overall binding 20% renewable energy target and a binding minimum target of 10% for transport biofuels for the EU by 2020, and a pathway to bring renewable energies in the fields of electricity, heating and cooling and transport to the economic and political mainstream. The EC is currently working on a methodology to calculate precisely how much each member state will take up of the 20% overall renewable "burden". Details are available from the following websites: [EU](#), [EurActiv](#), [BBC](#).

♦ **Energy Efficiency Watch Website Launched.** A coalition of energy efficiency-related industries, MEPs and environmental groups launched a website - [www.energy-efficiency-watch.org](http://www.energy-efficiency-watch.org) - to track EU states' efforts to improve energy efficiency. This new body will follow the relevant actions at EU and national level, facilitate exchanges in best practice amongst Parliamentarians across Europe and closely monitor the actions and results proposed in the EU Energy Efficiency Action Plan and the National Energy Efficiency Action Plans. All member states are required to draw up such plans by June under the 2006 energy end-use efficiency and energy services directive. The coalition's goal is to ensure that the plans are ambitious.

### Job Opportunity

♦ **Environmental Enterprise Hub Manager:** Centre for Sustainable Engineering (CSEng), UKFEI member in the East of England, is currently recruiting for an Environmental Enterprise Hub Manager. One of his/her responsibilities will be to run the Environmental Enterprise Hub in the East of England and stimulate and support the growth of the region's EGS sector companies. For more details please visit CSEng's [website](#) or contact Phil Sheppard on 01733 865002 or 07917 858022.

### Consultations:

♦ **UK Draft Climate Change Bill Consultation:** On 13 March 2007, Secretary of State for Environment David Miliband laid out the Government's plans to reduce GHG emissions by 60% by 2050. Following the Bill's publication Defra has opened a consultation to ensure that all interested parties have the opportunity to contribute their opinions at an early stage of policy development. Closing date for comments is **12 June 2007**. The draft Bill and all related documents are available via Defra's [website](#).

♦ **Biofuels Consultation.** The Department for Transport (DfT) has issued a consultation on the renewable transport fuel obligation, which requires fuel suppliers to blend an increasing amount of biodiesel or bioethanol into their fuels, beginning in 2008. The deadline for responses is **17 May 2007**. Please visit DfT's [website](#) for more details.

♦ **Consultation on Tax Incentives for Development of Brownfield Land:** This consultation on improving tax incentives for brownfield land reinforces Government's commitment to using the tax system to support development on contaminated and long-term derelict sites. Focusing on the two existing tax reliefs, land remediation relief and the landfill tax exemption for waste from contaminated land, it responds to recommendations in Kate Barker's reviews of housing supply and planning. The consultation can be viewed on the Treasury [website](#). The consultation period ends on **14 June 2007** and any reforms will not be enacted before 2008.

### DIARY DATES

♦ **Essential Cleantech 2007: 17 April 2007, BFI IMAX Theatre, London.** Cleantech presents a unique forum to discuss how potential solutions to climate change can also provide significant business opportunities. The event will address the need for 'joined-up thinking' by embracing the development and integration of innovative technology, with a view to creating tangible clean energy solutions and viable business prosperity. Please click [here](#) to register for the event.

♦ **Recycling Organic Resources to Land: Ensuring a Sustainable Solution: 18 April 2007, Lancashire County Cricket Club, Manchester.** This conference aims to review organic resource recycling in the context of sustainability, establish how the sustainability of various practices can be assessed, consider how to use this information to guide future policy and consider how this may be communicated to the public and opinion-formers. Click [here](#) to register for the event.

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♦ **Clean Heat Biomass Conference: 20 April 2007, Calke Abbey, Ticknall, Derby.** Biomass Fired heating systems represent an exciting opportunity for the investment in low carbon technologies. The event will be a demonstration of the whole wood fuel supply chain from tree to boiler; including fuel feed stocks, processing and boilers, as well as presentations of the technology and how it can be used in different situations. To find out more details please contact Carole Fenn on 01780 444 532 or email [info@bioenergygroup.org](mailto:info@bioenergygroup.org).

♦ **Business Success in a Low-Carbon Economy – Means, Methods and Partnerships: 24 April 2007, Institute of Physics, London.** Following the publication of the Stern Review and IPCC's reports, few doubt that climate change is a real and serious concern for the world economy and all businesses will be affected. The central issue is the management and reduction of carbon emissions - and every company will find themselves involved in the resulting carbon economy. This conference is designed to answer the critical questions and give business leaders the information they need to respond positively to this change. To download the programme click [here](#).

♦ **Carbon: Evaluating the Latest Technological Advancements in Capture, Storage and Sequestration: 24 April 2007, Royal Geographical Society, London.** This seminar will address increasing concerns over climate change and emphasise how important it is to achieve an energy system which is environmentally sustainable, socially acceptable and meets energy needs securely and affordably. Programme is available on the [website](#) of London Technology Network or contact Natalie Tamiollo at [n.tamiollo@ltnetwork.org](mailto:n.tamiollo@ltnetwork.org).

♦ **Finding Innovation - Funding Innovation: 25 April 2007, University of Birmingham.** For businesses of all sizes and in all sectors, innovation remains the only source of genuine sustainable competitive advantage. Effective innovation improves business efficiency and reduces costs, develops better products and services, and helps build a competitive edge that lasts. The University of Birmingham has been at the forefront of innovation from over 100 years. Whether engaging with major corporate organisations on long-term collaborative R&D programmes, or providing funding, expertise and access to advanced technologies for regional SMEs, we can help all companies, large or small, innovate in ways which help build their competitive edge. For details please visit the event's [home page](#) or email [innovation@vin.bham.ac.uk](mailto:innovation@vin.bham.ac.uk).

♦ **Reducing and Managing Waste in the Food Industry: 25 April 2007, Institute of Physics, London.** This workshop will evaluate current best practice techniques to minimise waste throughout the supply chain, highlight using case study examples how particular technologies and techniques have been applied within companies to help increase profit margins, focus on emerging technologies to recover waste including anaerobic digestion and waste-to-energy and provide important networking opportunities for companies including best practice organisations in the field. Please click [here](#) to read the event programme. For further information please contact Sapna Suchdev at [s.suchdev@ltnetwork.org](mailto:s.suchdev@ltnetwork.org).

♦ **IWEX Conference 2007: Sustainable Water Management - Policy, Pricing and Practice: 1 May 2007, NEC Birmingham.**

The water environment is presenting ever increasing challenges to those who manage it. Climate change, shortage of supply and floods and the standards set in the Water Framework Directive are all becoming urgent priorities. At this conference, leading experts from Government and industry will provide clear guidance on how policy, pricing and practice will have to change as we face up to these challenges. To book your place email [iwex@fav-house.com](mailto:iwex@fav-house.com) or visit the following [website](#).

♦ **Sustainability/live! 2007: 1-3 May 2007, NEC Birmingham.** This is the UK's largest forum for excellence and innovation in environment, water, land and energy. Focusing on the environmental, land remediation, energy and water sectors Sustainability/live! offers a high level conference, networking and innovation forums, as well as special events that take place throughout the show. Official website: [www.sustainabilitylive.com](http://www.sustainabilitylive.com).

♦ **Mass Market Renewables 2007 - "Zero Carbon Development – New Hope for Renewables?": 14–15 May 2007, New Century Hall, Manchester.** This two day conference will cover the political and technical issues affecting small scale and localised renewable energy development and look at the initiatives and legislation surrounding the zero carbon building agenda. The event will also examine the vision for sustainable building, along with planning policies, building regulations as well as show-casing case studies. Click [here](#) to read more details and download the programme and booking form.

### USEFUL LINKS

♦ [www.ClimateCrisis.net](http://www.ClimateCrisis.net): This website accompanies Al Gore's recent film *An Inconvenient Truth* about climate change. As well as information about the film, the site provides tips on how you can take action to help mitigate the effects of climate change.

♦ [www.carbon-label.co.uk](http://www.carbon-label.co.uk): The Carbon Trust has launched a carbon reduction label that demonstrates a commitment from companies to reduce the carbon footprint of their products. In this initial phase of the scheme's development, the label and methodology will be trialled by a number of major brands including Walkers, Boots and innocent, in order to test and build consumer understanding.

♦ [footprint.wwf.org.uk](http://footprint.wwf.org.uk): World Wildlife Fund (WWF) has launched a new concept in calculating ecological footprint. The average UK resident is currently using resources from the equivalent of 3 Planet Earths. Find out how many you are using.

#### CONTACT THE UKFEI

For further information on the UKFEI and to submit news for future editions, contact: [s.zizka@ukfei.co.uk](mailto:s.zizka@ukfei.co.uk) or visit [www.ukfei.co.uk](http://www.ukfei.co.uk)