

E-Bulletin for the Environmental Industries

REGIONAL NEWS

Regional Updates:

♦ **South West:** £21.5m investment for Wave Hub, the world's largest wave farm planned off the coast of Cornwall. The project could generate £76 million over 25 years for the regional economy and would create at least 170 jobs. It is thought that construction could start as early as summer 2008. For more information contact Jason Clark on 01872 276276 or visit South West RDA [website](#).

♦ **South West:** Peninsula Enterprise selected as Business Link provider. They will now have the responsibility of providing advice and information for new and small and medium-sized businesses in Somerset, Devon and Cornwall. Contact: Pip Hatt, T: 01392 229567.

♦ **Scotland:** A recent plan has emerged to build an eco-village in Deeside. [Green Buildings Press](#) has stated that microrenewable energy is to be a fundamental design feature, including the use of wind, solar and geothermal power. The project will cost an estimated £100m to construct. A disused quarry is to be used as the village's central location.

♦ **Yorkshire & the Humber:** Climate change action plan for Yorkshire and the Humber, **Your Climate**, aims to provide a co-ordinated approach to reduce regional emissions and to develop solutions to adapt to the impacts of a changing climate. Further details and updates on progress are available on this [website](#).

Regional Initiatives:

♦ **London Technology Network (LTN).** LTN assists businesses in developing partnerships with research organisations. Links are made via direct requests for collaboration or offers of technology of businesses or organisations, and by participating in networking events. One of LTN's special interest groups focus on the environmental technologies. There is obvious potential for collaboration between LTN and the UKFEI and we look forward to discussing this in the near future. Please visit LTN [website](#) for more information on LTN's activities.

♦ **Carton recycling service launched nationwide.** A carton-recycling service is to be provided by Midlands-based collection company, Recresco, and supported by Tetra Pak. The service will enable cartons to be recycled after being collected by Recresco at local 'bring banks' and sent to Tetra Pak and on to Europe for reprocessing. More details on RAY's [website](#).

Funding:

♦ **Scotland:** In March 2007 Scottish Executive announced that six projects that will develop new technology for the energy industry will receive £1m funding through the **Scottish Renewable Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Support Scheme**. For more information see the following [website](#).

♦ **South West RDA:** £1.6m invested by SWRDA in Taunton's floodplain scheme, supporting town's regeneration and the environment. For more details visit the following [website](#).

IN GENERAL

UKFEI News:

♦ **UKFEI International Trade Group Event – Meet the Trade Association:** 16 May 2007. This event, supported by UKTI's Water and Wastewater Sector Team and UKTI's Environmental Industries Sector Unit and hosted by British Water, has provided a networking opportunity for trade associations relevant to the environmental goods and services sector and UKTI's regional international trade advisors to exchange knowledge

about export-related support programmes and the opportunities for collaboration. To obtain further details or contact details please contact [Stanislav Zizka](#), T: 01925 856044.

International Trade:

♦ **UK environmental technologies and solutions promoted overseas.** EISU Seminar Mission Programme 2007-2008 is being launched on 22 June 2007, which aims to promote UK environmental technologies and solutions at a global scale. Up to eight companies will be sponsored to participate in seminar missions to a range of countries that have already been identified as having potential markets for investment and trade with the UK. Seminars are scheduled to take place between June 2007 and March 2008. For further details please visit EISU's [website](#) or contact [Louise Colwell](#) or [Garry Poole](#).

News:

♦ **Sustainable Construction Guidance.** The Department of Communities and Local Government's new Code for Sustainable Homes is intended to become the single national standard for designing and constructing sustainable homes. The guidance covers carbon emissions, water use and waste generation, and materials of construction. Performance targets and detailed requirements for receiving a rating under the code are provided in the areas of energy, water, materials, surface water run-off, waste, pollution, health and wellbeing, management and ecology. The guide can be downloaded by visiting this [website](#).

♦ **May Day Company.** On 1 May 2007 over 1,000 business leaders gathered together to pledge action on climate change, forming a national movement on business leadership towards a low carbon economy. Collectively these businesses are known as the May Day Companies. Companies in all sectors are being encouraged to become May Day Companies. The aims of the initiative are to assist climate adaptation, compliance with regulatory provisions by the provision of advice and encourage accountability by reporting progress made on a business level. Click [here](#) for more details.

♦ **Local Government Association (LGA) launches Climate Change Commission.** As a response to the recent climate change bill that published the national aim to cut carbon emissions by 60% by 2050, this commission aims to look at the ways in which councils can tackle carbon emissions in council buildings and facilities, and public housing, transport and social services. Further information available on [LGA](#) website.

♦ **Shell turns to wood chips and straw in search for the road fuel of the future.** Shell and Choren Industries (a German biofuel company) will launch a new road fuel in Europe made from wood chips and straw, initially named 'Sunfuel' later in 2007. It will be made using a novel biomass-to-liquids (BTL) process. The current cost of BTL is high compared to oil but construction of a large plant is provisionally planned in Schleswig-Holstein in order to increase consumption to make it more commercially viable. Click [here](#) for further details.

♦ **Update on Energy Performance in Buildings Directive:** [Conference](#) held on 8 May presented the Government's plans for practical implementation of EPBD in the UK between 2007 and 2009. More recently Ruth Kelly has [told](#) MPs that Home Information Packs (Hips) will be delayed, amid problems implementing the scheme.

E-Bulletin for the Environmental Industries

◆ **Declaration on climate change by Trade Association Forum.** The Trade Association Forum has launched a voluntary Climate Change Declaration. It is a further initiative to encourage those trade associations who choose to join to commit to attempting to reduce their operations' environmental impact by reducing GHG emissions and using best practice technologies and general climate adaptation measures. Click [here](#) for more details.

◆ **Carbon footprints getting smaller in Oxfordshire.** A detailed plan to reduce carbon emissions and devote a large amount of money to environmentally-friendly practices has been announced by Oxfordshire County Council. Click [here](#) for more details.

◆ **Australia to phase out all incandescent bulbs by 2010.** The aim is for national and complete use of the fuel-efficient, compact fluorescent bulb in order contribute to Australia's target of cutting GHG emissions by 4m metric tonnes per year by 2015. Click [here](#) for more details.

EU News:

◆ **European Commission's performance on environment criticised in NGO review.** A group of 10 leading environmental NGOs, known as the 'Green 10', has released an unfavourable mid-term review of the Barroso Commission's environmental record. The Commission received an overall score of 4.3 out of a possible 10, sending the message that the EU executive is "failing" with respect to resource and energy efficient economic development. Please click [here](#) for more information.

◆ **European Commission 'too cautious on natural-resources strategy'.** MEPs have called on the Commission to set a binding target to halve natural resource-use by 2030 and propose measures within the next three years to decouple the use of land, fossil- fuels and other raw materials from economic growth. Please click [here](#) for more information.

◆ **MEPs expose huge climate cost of Parliament's 'travelling circus'.** The European Parliament's monthly move from Brussels to Strasbourg generates more than 20,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide a year, Green Party MEPs say. Green MEPs, backed by UK Conservatives, have fired up the debate on the Parliament's two seats with an expert study, which exposes the huge environmental cost of having plenary sessions in Brussels and Strasbourg. Meanwhile, MEPs voted to set up a special committee on climate change. Further information on [bbc.co.uk](#).

R&D:

◆ **Revolutionary car developed by MDI.** Moteur Developpement International (MDI) has developed a car that has been highly revered by motoring and scientific organisations for its superior comparability against traditional gasoline-powered engines in terms of its energy use and the thermodynamics involved. The cars are called Compressed Air Engine vehicles, or CAT's. They are expected to cost between 6000-9000 Euros, or approximately £5000, and will be available in countries where manufacturing licenses have been sold. Click [here](#) for more details.

Studies & Analyses:

◆ APRIL 07: **USA: First EPA report on environmental impacts of energy use in leading manufacturing sectors.** On 12 April 2007 the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has released a report on energy use trends in major manufacturing sectors that highlights the environmental implications of energy use. The report concludes with a general overview of the barriers to energy efficiency and use of clean fuel technologies, and offers

some possible policy options for government to help address these barriers. Click [here](#) to read the details.

◆ APRIL 07: **Sustainable brownfield regeneration study.** In a recent study carried out under the EU-funded project RESCUE, European researchers have analysed the benefits and deficiencies of current financial, fiscal, legal, regulatory and policy initiatives with direct or indirect relevance to sustainable brownfield regeneration. For more information on the RESCUE (Regeneration of European Sites on Cities and the Urban Environment) or the study please visit the following [website](#) or contact [Gareth Thornton](#).

◆ APRIL 07: A report entitled '**The True Cost of Solar Power**' by Photon Consulting has stated that solar power is set to reach the delivered cost of coal-powered electricity in the next 4 years. For example, industry leaders are thought to be able to produce solar-powered electricity for \$0.12/kWh in Spain at the start of the next decade. It is expected that this will create a lower residential electricity prices than current electricity costs for more than 50% of all residential consumers in OECD. Further information on [edie.net](#) or Photon Consulting [website](#).

◆ MAY 07: **IPCC 3rd report released.** Report presents the costs and benefits of various current policies aimed at tackling climate change. It estimates that in order to successfully stabilise climate change global emissions must peak and begin to decline before 2030. The report suggests that the cost of achieving stabilisation at the desired level of 450ppm concentration is reasonable but the time available to achieve this is reducing. For more information please visit this [website](#).

EU Policy & Legislation:

◆ **EU plans shipping emissions cap.** The European Commission has said that it will draft legislation, by the end of the year, aimed at tackling the shipping industry's rapidly growing contribution to climate change, by including the sector in Europe's carbon dioxide cap-and-trade system. Further information on [EurActiv.com](#).

◆ **Germany announces plans to cut GHG emissions by 40%.** German Environment Minister, Sigmar Gabriel, has unveiled an eight-point climate-change action plan, promising to cut the country's greenhouse-gas emissions by 40% before 2020, or double the amount pledged by the EU as a whole. Further information available on [EurActiv.com](#).

◆ **Six European regions launch renewable-energy network.** – Renewable Energy Regions Network (RENREN) aims to enhance relations and co-operation between key actors and decision-makers in renewable energy industry, exchange best practice in the form of knowledge and technology and improve public awareness of the need and potential of renewable energy. Further information available on [EurActiv.com](#).

◆ **Germany wants 'energy passport' for buildings.** EU and G8 ministers and international experts have met to weigh options on how to boost energy efficiency through market-oriented solutions, giving new impetus to the European Commission's Energy Efficiency Action Plan. Further information on [EurActiv.com](#).

◆ **Brussels cuts Polish and Czech CO2 emissions plans.** Emissions reductions proposed by Polish and Czech Governments in their NAPs have both been cut by the Commission. There has been a backlash from both Governments centred on the subsequent effect that these strict emissions targets will have on their economies. Further information on [EurActiv.com](#).

E-Bulletin for the Environmental Industries

EU Consultations:

♦ **Biofuel use in transport:** The European Commission has launched a public consultation on "biofuel issues in the new legislation on the promotion of renewable energy", addressing issues such as how to achieve a 10% biofuel share and how to ensure environmental sustainability. The consultation will remain open until **4 June 2007** and can be accessed at [EC website](#).

DIARY DATES

♦ **Energy Services: 15-31 May 2007.** Energy Services and Technology Association (ESTA) are hosting a series of regional events on energy management on operational sites. The following [website](#) provides further information.

♦ **ALL-ENERGY '07 CONFERENCE: 23-24 May 2007, Aberdeen.** All-Energy is aimed at all companies involved in renewable energy industry, looking at the financing of projects, the feasibility of renewable energy sources, and the opportunities and potential in the industry to compete with traditional energy sources and meet national and international energy use targets. [Link](#).

♦ **Invitation to Inspiration: 31 May 2007, Design Centre North, Barnsley.** You are invited to join Recycling Action Yorkshire (RAY) to view a unique, design-led exhibition of products manufactured from recycled materials. [Link](#).

♦ **'Towards a low carbon global economy' Conference: 5 June 2007, Westminster, London.** UKTI are hosting this conference to allow businesses to engage with global policymakers on future policy for climate security and the low carbon economy. [Link](#).

♦ **The Marine Bill & the Maritime Economy Conference: 7 June 2007, Marriott Hotel, Liverpool City Centre.** This event, hosted by SWIMMER, is an opportunity for Merseyside and Northwest businesses, developers and planners in the maritime sector and interest in the coastal environments and developments to examine forthcoming Marine Bill and its effects on the maritime economy and on businesses that use maritime and coastal resources. Free attendance. For more information please contact [Frazer Kearney](#), T: 0151 795 4651.

♦ **Scottish Marine Renewables, Supply Chain Awareness and Opportunities: 14 June 2007, Quality Hotel Perth Station, Perth.** The aims of this one-day conference are to set out the political and policy aims of the Scottish Executive; provide market information on the Scottish wave and tidal sectors; outline the technologies under development; highlight key end-user requirements and facilitate contact between suppliers and purchasers. You can book online on this [website](#).

♦ **EIC National Contaminated Land Conference: Regenerating Brownfield Sites: Policy, Practice and Profits: 20 June 2007, Central London.** This conference brings together the leading policy makers and practitioners to set out how you can work in current regime to deliver successful projects - and how the regulatory regime will develop in the future. Contact [Becky Roberts-Hughes](#), T: 020 7935 1675, [website](#).

♦ **The Institute of Economic Affairs' 8th Annual Conference: Water 2007 – Preparing for PR09 and the Water Framework Directive: 25-26 June 2007, One Whitehall Place, London.** At this conference, water companies will be presented with opportunities to engage with their peers and the industry regulators as they embark on the planning phases for PR09 and the WFD. Book online visiting this [website](#).

♦ **Energy Efficiency Partnership for Homes: Annual Conference: 26 June 2007, London.** Focus on the initiatives that are driving changes in the strife for energy efficient housing in the UK. To register contact [Emily Bacon](#). The agenda is available on this [website](#).

♦ **LGA 2nd Sustainable Communities Conference and Exhibition: 11-13 March 2008.** Opportunity of sponsorship to be headline partner, conference partner, conference supporter and associate supporter during the event, including brand exposure and leading workshops. Contact [Richard Mole](#) on 020 7664 3157.

USEFUL LINKS

♦ **Biomass Energy Centre** – the Centre provides advice and guidance on a wide range of biomass fuels and conversion technologies. W: www.biomassenergycentre.org.uk

♦ **Lancaster Environment Centre (LEC)** – Based at Lancaster University, this centre provides opportunities for training and research. The centre strikes up partnerships between businesses and active researchers by co-location in order to optimise competition in environmental industries. W: www.lec.lancs.ac.uk

♦ **London Climate Change Services (LCCS)** – LCCS is a forum to promote the shared interests of the member service providers in the climate change and emissions trading sectors. W: www.londonclimatechange.com

♦ **Welsh short film on climate change:**
W: www.wales.gov.uk

♦ **Green Guide Online** – eco-friendly purchasing guide aimed at purchasers, including the general public, and promoters and advisers within the environmental technologies and industries sector and potential volunteers. W: www.greenguide.co.uk

♦ **Environmental Product Declarations** – communication tool to assist organisations in international markets when preparing, registering and marketing EPDs. W: www.environdec.com

CONTACT THE UKFEI

For further information on the UKFEI and to submit news for future editions, contact us at info@ukfei.co.uk or visit www.ukfei.co.uk