

## E-Bulletin for the Environmental Industries

### REGIONAL NEWS

#### Regional Updates & Initiatives:

♦ **Yorkshire & Humber:** Recycling levels in York have broken through the 40% mark – with their best month ever. One key area where residents are being asked to help is by washing and squashing the plastic bottles they present for recycling. Click [here](#) for more information.

♦ **Yorkshire & Humber:** £65 million in PFI (Private Finance Initiative) credits have been awarded by Defra to a north Yorkshire partnership to improve local waste management facilities in the region. Plans include increasing recycling and composting as well as a mechanical and biological treatment plant and energy from waste plant. This will help to reduce landfill waste by over three quarters. Click [here](#) for further details.

♦ **London:** The government has given the go ahead to plans which will see a huge desalination plant built on the banks of the Thames, providing drinking water for up to a million people. The plants operation will be regulated by the Environment Agency and when fully operational, will provide 140 million litres of water per day. For further information see the following [website](#)

♦ **South West:** A new training and enterprise project in North Devon is celebrating a £200,000 boost from the South West of England Regional Development Agency (RDA). This investment is to be used to help fund the creation of a new centre on a two-acre site at Hatchmoor in Great Torrington, expected to be completed by September 2008. For more details contact [Ryan Martinez](#).

♦ **South West:** 600 businesses across South West England are set to benefit from an £800,000 investment to help them [go green](#). A new project will help them to reduce waste and cut down on water and energy use. It will save companies taking part around £100,000 in total, divert more than 5,000 tonnes of waste from landfill and reduce carbon emissions by around 320 tonnes.

♦ **South West:** One of the worlds leading marine engineering companies has received the keys to its brand new offices and workshops at Falmouth in Cornwall. The £6 million new premises have been funded by the South West of England RDA and the objective one partnership for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. More information is available on this [website](#).

♦ **East Midlands:** East Midlands airport makes wind turbine proposal. If given the go-ahead, the four turbines will generate 10% of the energy requirements and will be the first renewable energy devices of this kind to be installed at a British airport. The West Midlands may also increase its wind power capacity soon, with a 170m turbine planned for Essington, Wolverhampton. Further information can be found [here](#).

#### Funding:

♦ **Scotland:** Energy Technology Centre (ETC). Funding of £1.1 million has been announced from the Scottish Enterprise, Lanarkshire to support the project till 2010 in order scale up the activities of the ETC in East Kilbride. More information on the Energy Technology Centre can be found [here](#). For any further information contact Lucy Robb, T: 0141 22282995.

♦ **Boost for low carbon technology:** The UK government has awarded a grant of £1 million to fund low carbon technology. A group of companies each received the boost from the Carbon Trust to speed the technologies' development through to commercial reality and accelerate the UK's move to a low carbon move. [Details](#).

♦ **UK Challenge Fund:** This provides the opportunity for projects located within 10 miles of an active SITA-owned landfill site to apply for a funding award that will take place in 2007. The total fund available is £750,000 and consists of three £250,000 awards for the following three categories; Community Facilities, Historic Buildings/Structures and Sport & Recreational facilities. Application deadline is 27<sup>th</sup> September. For all details, visit the following [site](#).

♦ **O2 Energy Saver Fund: Open for Applications:** A joint initiative between O2 and the Energy Saving Trust designed to help local communities of between 10-25 households to install energy saving measures in their homes to help in the fight against climate change. For further details contact the [O2 website](#).

♦ **EU Structural Funds:** The EU is set to spend £308 billion between 2007 and 2013 in order to decrease disparities between the EU's poorer and richer regions. This funding will support three priority areas including convergence, competitiveness and employment, and territorial co-operation. More details can be found on the [EurActiv](#) website

♦ **Major Regional Development Bank launches climate change fund with \$20 million.**

A major regional development bank is set to start a new fund to help Latin America and Caribbean countries tackle climate change. The fund is intended to increase investment in renewable energy, energy efficiency, bio-fuel development and carbon financing. It will also be used to reduce the impact of climate change and to promote policies and projects that result in greater sustainable energy use. Further information can be found on the following [website](#)

♦ **Carbon Fund raises \$150 million:** The Asia Pacific Carbon Fund has raised millions to help develop clean energy projects in the Asia Pacific region. The seven European countries involved including Finland, Luxembourg, Portugal and Spain also expect this investment will help them achieve their carbon emission reduction commitments under the Kyoto Protocol. For more information click [here](#).

#### Skills:

♦ **Pilot Launched for Skills Development Workshops in Waste Management:** Energy & Utility Skills, the Sector Skills Council for the electricity, gas, waste management and water industries, has joined forces with waste management company Cory Environmental to launch an innovative pilot programme to up skill waste operatives. For more details please click [here](#).

♦ **Energy & Utility Skills Sector Skills Agreement (SSA):** The SSA stage 5 is focused on Energy & Utility Skills continuing to work with employers and stakeholders with a view to agreeing action plans for the delivery of skills solutions, which meet the needs of our industries across the nation and regions. Click [here](#) for further details.

♦ **Developing New Qualifications Opportunities for the Water Industry:** Since February 07, Energy & Utility Skills has been working with City&Guilds and Develop on a trial to provide more flexible and focused qualifications for the water industry. Click [here](#) to read more details.

#### IN GENERAL

##### International Trade:

♦ **EISU: Seminar missions to overseas markets:** EISU Seminar mission programme 2007-2008 was launched in June 2007. The aim is to introduce and help the UK environmental goods and services sector gain its share of worldwide markets. The

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missions enable delegates to both represent their sector and also promote their own organisation. Seminars are scheduled to take place between June 2007 and March 2008. For further details contact [Louise Colwell](#) or visit EISU's [website](#).

♦ **EISU: Seminar Mission to Hong Kong:** Missions are open to UK-based environmental companies, focusing on markets where promising opportunities have been identified for UK products, services, technologies and skills in particular sectors. The air pollution and environmental protection technologies and services seminar is being held on 21 – 28 October 2007. Click [here](#) for further details.

### News:

♦ **Ambitious plans for UK energy from food waste infrastructure:** Plans are to build 9 more energy from food waste plants within 5 years have been revealed by project developer Encycle. Each plant will have a processing capacity of 180,000 tonnes per year and will generate 22MW of electricity. Sites have been identified in Newport, North London and Bristol. Click [here](#) for more details.

♦ **UK-Government seeks 2016 commitment to zero carbon homes:** It has been announced that more than 100 organisations have signed up to a new commitment to work for zero carbon housing by 2016. If the government housing ambitions are met, we should be building an additional 240,000 homes every year, but these should not add to the carbon emissions associated with housing. Details can be found [here](#).

♦ **US report tells 'hard truths' about energy.** The US must moderate its growing demand for energy, diversify its energy sources and cut CO<sub>2</sub> emissions if it is to meet the global energy challenge. The world is faced with a looming oil supply that will require the United States to tap into all available energy sources therefore reducing its CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. For further details click [here](#).

♦ **New technologies catalogue available.** [Dan Clayton](#) of Urban Mines has completed the 2007 revision of the New Waste Technologies Catalogue, which he compiled for Defra last year. To view the new catalogue, please click [here](#).

♦ **New inquiry announced: Waste Strategy for England 2007:** The Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee has decided to examine the Government's Waste Strategy for England, which was published by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on 24 May 2007. Click [here](#) for more information.

♦ **Sustainable Transport:** The commission set out a 10 year strategy on sustainability in the transport sector in its 2001 White Paper on Transport Policy. The strategy focused predominantly on balancing the different modes of transport, harmonising legislation within specific sectors, and enhancing transport safety. Due to the pressure from accelerating globalisation, high oil prices etc, the EU is looking to adapt its initial strategy. Click [here](#) for further information.

♦ **New York offers cash incentives to 'Build Green':** Plans have been issued to offer incentives of up to \$10,000 per home to help offset the 'typical 5%' increase in construction costs when green measures are included in building projects. The incentive will help to yield significant energy and cost savings for the homeowner in the long term. More [details](#).

♦ **New Generation of Advanced Oxidation Technologies** developed, designed and tested by ESCO International. Conventional treatment technologies are increasingly challenged by the identification of more difficult contaminants to oxidise, the rapid growth of the population and industrial activities on the one

hand, and the diminishing availability of water resources on the other hand. Now this problem has been overcome. For details contact [ESCO International](#).

♦ **Netherlands: Method for on-site soil cleaning.** A new technique of thermal cleansing of polluted soil has just won the first prize in Belgium's Brussels Innovation Award. Thermopile is a completely new approach to thermal cleaning of polluted soils. The traditional method involves digging up the soil and placing it in a furnace where pollutants are vaporized. After this, the resulting gases are themselves treated at an even higher temperature. With Thermopile, a network of pipes is introduced into the soil, and air circulating through them progressively heats the soil. The hot gases, which escape, are re-used in this process. Contact: [Website, m.kingmans@depp-green.com](mailto:m.kingmans@depp-green.com).

### Policy:

♦ **Environment Agency: Importing and exporting waste - new rules** - International waste shipments from the UK can be either prohibited, where movements are not allowed under any circumstances or subject to notification controls. Further details available [here](#).

### R&D:

♦ **UK House of Lords to investigate waste reduction:** The House of Lords Science and Technology Select Committee has appointed a sub-committee to look at sustainable approaches to waste reduction. The inquiry will focus on the first level of waste hierarchy, waste reduction, and will look into ways in which products and production processes can be made more sustainable and therefore produce less waste. The committee invites evidence on a range of questions. For further information on the inquiry please contact [Cathleen Schulte](#) via e-mail or, Tel: 020 7219 2491.

### Innovation Awards:

♦ **Scotland:** Scottish Waste Management Awards. The award categories have been designed to reflect the widening sustainability agenda faced by all sectors. For more information click [here](#).

♦ **Rushlight Awards:** Closing date 31<sup>st</sup> October 2007. The Rushlight awards promote and celebrate the leading environmental technology and innovation by organisations throughout the UK and Ireland. There are 22 initial awards to choose from. The awards dinner is being held on the 10<sup>th</sup> December 2007 at the New Connaught Rooms in London. For more information and to enter the awards click [here](#).

### Studies & Analyses:

♦ **Britain could be carbon neutral in 20 years:** Environmental pioneers at the Centre for Alternative Technology have produced a report claiming that the UK could be carbon neutral by 2027. It details how Britain can eliminate emissions from fossil fuels and break our dependence on imported energy. They also outline how to get there. Click [here](#) for more information.

♦ **Wind Energy: Status and Trends.** Wind energy is believed to be capable of playing a major role in reaching the EU's target of 12% renewable energy by 2010. A small wind farm of 5-10 turbines at a good wind site can be installed in 2-3 months, and can meet the annual electricity demand of 4000 European households. A recent study investigated current wind energy technology and how it is deployed in Europe. Contact: [r.barthelmie@ed.ac.uk](mailto:r.barthelmie@ed.ac.uk)

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♦ **Public Perceptions of Household Waste Disposal:** Recently British researchers performed a survey of 1,450 households in 3 areas of England, in order to assess the collection and reuse rate of bulky items in England. The survey reveals that 14% of bulky items are reused, over one year, 65% of respondent's discarded bulky items and also the level of affluence of the household appears to influence the quality of discarded items. For further information please email to: [tcu@soton.ac.uk](mailto:tcu@soton.ac.uk).

### EU News:

♦ **EU states urged to support private-sector R&D investment.** Despite multiple EU initiatives aimed at increasing investment in research, the average R&D intensity stagnates since the mid-1990s, according to the new commission data. Member states have, however agreed to increase investment in R&D to 3% by 2010, with two thirds of it expected to come from the private sector. Further information can be found [here](#).

♦ **EU urged to adapt to Global Warming.** Forest fires, heat waves, population displacements, disease proliferation and increased water scarcity for agriculture are some of the inevitable consequences of climate change that EU countries need to prepare for. The European commission has warned in a new Green paper. Click [here](#) for further details.

♦ **Energy Efficiency: the EU's action plan.** Europe has embarked on an ambitious plan to cut its energy consumption by 20% by 2020 in a bid to reduce its dependency on imported oil and gas and slash its energy bill by an estimated 100 billion euros every year. If it delivers, the plan would also prevent 780 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> from being emitted in the atmosphere. Click [here](#) for further information.

♦ **Parliament wants more money and an 'EU Force' for natural disasters:** Financial assistance is to be made more readily available in the light of the UK floods and Greek fires over summer. In a joint resolution adopted on 4<sup>th</sup> September, MEP's insisted that the EU must adapt its solidarity instruments in order to deal with increasingly common 'extreme phenomena' such as violent floods in the UK. It is important to improve the response capacity of the EU in relevant cases. Click [here](#) for more information.

### EU Policy & Legislation:

♦ **New EU Waste Shipment Legislation Comes into force:** The new regulation aims to ensure that waste is properly handled from the time it is shipped to the time it is disposed of or recovered at destination. The regulation provides for greater enforcement measures and requires member states to carry out inspections and spot checks. Click [here](#) for more information.

♦ **Water shortages: EC policy recommendations:** The commission has put forward a set of recommendations and policy options, including higher prices and conservation measures. Increased water demands, coupled with factors related to climate change, are contributing to water scarcity and drought in the EU. Click [here](#) for more information.

### Consultations:

♦ **Implementation Proposals of the Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC).** Closing date: 9<sup>th</sup> October 2007. Further information available [here](#).

♦ **Nuclear Energy:** Capturing the views of green groups, energy companies, businesses, consumers and academics. Closing date: 10<sup>th</sup> October 2007. Further information available [here](#).

♦ **A Sustainable Construction Strategy.** BERR consultation. Closing date: 30<sup>th</sup> November 2007. Further information available [here](#).

### DIARY DATES

♦ **Remediation for Remanufacturing: 10<sup>th</sup> October 2007, University of Leeds.** This one day seminar promises a range of interesting showcases and an ideal cross sector networking opportunity. For more information on the programme for the day and to download a copy of the registration form please click [here](#).

♦ **The Next Frontier for Sustainable Energy: 31<sup>st</sup> October 2007, Central London.** Tackling the third of homes that are hard to treat. All day conference to bring together major stakeholders in domestic sustainable energy to address relevant issues. [Details](#).

♦ **HHIC Annual Conference: 20<sup>th</sup> November, Hilton Metropole, Birmingham.** This event will inform all stakeholders of policy issues and their implications, market drivers, key developments and opportunities in the domestic heating market. Further details available [here](#).

### USEFUL LINKS

♦ **European Environment Agency: Environmental Technologies Atlas:** The atlas is a new web-based geographic service to assist the public to locate environmental technology and eco-efficient innovation players across Europe. Click link for more information. Link: <http://technologies.ewindows.eu.org>

♦ **Green Awards:** Join the growing list of companies and organisations who are part of this innovative and exciting initiative. Link: <http://www.greenawards.co.uk>

### CONTACT THE UKFEI

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