

E-Bulletin for the Environmental Industries

REGIONAL NEWS

Regional Updates:

♦ **South West:** Wave Hub Project. The UK Government has given planning approval for the world's first large scale wave farm off the coast of Cornwall. The RDA has already approved funding for the project. Wave hub could generate enough electricity. For further details click [here](#).

♦ **South West:** ABS Biodiesel has been given the go-ahead to build a new bio-fuel production facility in Avon mouth Docks, following a decision by Bristol City Council planning department. ABS will be investing over £21 million in the new 24,500sq ft facility, which will cover three acres of undeveloped land at Bristol Port. It will be the UK's largest biodiesel production facility and one of the UK's leading sites for production and manufacturing processes. Click [here](#) for further details.

♦ **South East:** Proposal for a district-heating project in Kent. The project could be the first large scale community heating schemes in the UK, with 50,000 homes potentially being heated by excess steam from its proposed cleaner coal development. A community heating scheme would remove the need for gas-fired boilers in new homes or businesses. Further information can be found [here](#).

♦ **Scotland:** Robots will be brought in to clean up the seabed as part of a long-term operation to decommission a nuclear site in Scotland. Experts believe this will allow the off-shore clean up to be substantially completed within just 7 years, at a cost of between £18m and £25m. Trials of the robot will be carried out at the end of the year. Further [details](#).

♦ **London:** Residents in part of London who do not recycle their rubbish could now be faced with a £100 fine. Hammersmith and Fulham council launched a compulsory recycling scheme in Shepherds Bush in a bid to boost its household waste recycling rates from 25% to 30% by 2010. Householders will be expected to put recyclable material such as glass jars, cans and paper in the orange recycling sacks provided by the council, which are collected weekly. Click [here](#) for more details.

♦ **North:** Hull finds a greener way to recycle. A fuel efficient, carbon saving electric bin lift is being trialled by Hull City Council to provide a greener waste collection system for its residents. Results from a 5-month pre-trial of the bin showed significant improvements in carbon emissions, fuel efficiency and waste collection, equating to a carbon saving of 5.51 tonnes of CO2 per year on the trial vehicle. Further information can be found on the following [website](#).

Funding:

♦ **South East: Autumn grants to help businesses to invest in recycling.** At two briefing events, EnviroBusiness and WRAP are announcing details of two funding schemes to support recycling businesses to establish or expand activities in the South East. For further information, click [here](#).

♦ **South West: Gloucestershire:** More than one million in Grants have been offered to businesses in Gloucestershire through the small business flood recovery scheme funded by the South West of England Regional Development Agency (SW RDA). The campaign has been kick-started with £300,000 and additional funding from other sources is now being sought. For further details, click [here](#).

♦ **Wales: Food waste recycling given boost;** Recycling Schemes to collect household food waste, and turn it into compost or even fuel are to receive the Lion's share of a £14m grant package in Wales. Environment Minister Jane Davidson has announced the awards to 13 local councils over the next two years. Details of the funding can be found [here](#).

Skills

♦ **First ever technical engineering Apprenticeship for Northern Ireland:** The first ever of this kind has now been finalised with a view to being launched in September next year. EU skills put together an apprenticeship designed to fill a skills gap. For further details click [here](#).

♦ **CL:AIRE Training Programme:** In association with the Environment Agency and delivered in collaboration with key industry stakeholders and specialists, CL:AIRE has developed a professional and holistic programme containing of 9 x one-day remediation technology specific modules, together with a one-day Options Appraisal and Remediation Technologies Overview module.

IN GENERAL

International Trade:

♦ **EISU: Seminar Mission to Taiwan: Contaminated Land Remediation;** 13 – 18 Jan 2008. On this occasion, EISU is supporting a group of UK environmental companies specialising in contaminated land remediation that are interested in forging links with key players and potential customers in Taiwan. The missions enable delegates to both represent their sector and promote their own organisation. Click [here](#) to find out all details or visit the [EISU](#) website.

♦ **UKTI: Oldham valve firm opens up in Saudi Arabia:** Five years of negotiations result in successful joint venture. Comid Engineering is a small company with big ambitions. The Oldham-based business, which has just 15 employees, specialises in the repairing and reconditioning of valves used for handling fluids in a variety of industries, and has finally completed a successful joint venture in Saudi Arabia. Further [information](#).

News:

♦ **9 leading companies commit to carbon footprint products:** The Carbon Trust has announced 9 leading companies will make up a new wave of partners to use the draft product carbon foot printing standard, currently being developed in partnership with DEFRA and BSI standards. The new pilot partners will use the draft standard to calculate the embodied carbon emissions of selected products. It is the intention of the partners to reduce product carbon emissions and to work together within the Carbon Trust to explore the best way to communicate this information to consumers. [Details](#).

♦ **Eco-park given planning consent – Urban Mines calls for Registrations of Interest:** The ground breaking "Sustainable Growth Park" in West Yorkshire has been awarded outline planning permission. This development, anticipated to have a regional and national profile consists of 22 acres of reclaimed land on which will be constructed industrial units to form a centre for commercial resource recovery and recycling. [Details](#).

♦ **Environmental groups** have pulled out of a nationwide consultation on whether or not to build new nuclear power stations in Britain calling it a "sham". Greenpeace lawyers are now said to be examining the possibility of court action to overturn this second consultation as they did the first. Further details [here](#).

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◆ **WRAP funds aggregate recyclers to £2.3 million:** WRAP (Waste and Resources Action Programme) has funded £2.3 million of support for recycled aggregates processors in the latest round of its capital support competition. This funding will help the successful projects to increase their recycling processing capacity by an additional 751,000 tonnes a year, diverting a significant amount of construction waste from landfill and supporting the construction industry in its strides towards operating in a more sustainable way. Click [here](#) for more details.

◆ **Government announces phasing out of all high-energy bulbs:** It has been reported that all high energy light bulbs will be removed from sale in Britain within 4 years under the pioneering deal between the Government and major retailers. Bulbs rated at 150w will be taken off the shelves as early as January under the voluntary agreement launched. Millions of 100w bulbs will be removed a year later, with all incandescent lights phased out by 2011. For further information click [here](#).

◆ **N8 Water Project** – 8 World class water research universities – Durham, Lancaster, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle, Sheffield and York have formed a powerful alliance known as the N8 Water Group to look at new innovative ways of improving business performance and getting exciting new technologies into the global market place. The focus is on urban renewal in a changing global climate, efficient use of water in manufacturing and safe clean water for emerging economies. For more information contact [Jackie Seddon](#).

◆ **75% support legally binding build site waste plans:** Plans which aim to reduce waste on building sites have been broadly welcomed by the construction industry. These Site Waste Management Plans would look to reduce the quantity of materials used, encourage reuse and recycling and consider environmentally sustainable disposal where this was not possible. Around 13% of material delivered to construction sites goes unused while up to a third ends up in landfill sites. [Details](#).

◆ **Sustainability and the bio-economy:** The growth in demand for grain to fuel the ethanol industry has prompted US farmers to increase their corn acreage by 19% over the last year. The development has raised fears that extensive biomass crops may damage soil fertility and increase erosion. Scientists researching the transition towards an agricultural model that can produce more biomass and continue to produce food and fibre believe that the impact of biomass-based crops on agriculture can be as profound as that of biomass on energy security and the global climate. [Details](#).

Innovation Awards:

◆ **2008 Sustainable City Awards:** The awards in the sustainable procurement category are open to organisations around the country. The search is on to identify this year's sustainability stars as the City of London Corporation Sustainability Awards open for entries. Closing date for entries are **Wed 5 December 2007**. For further details and to download application forms click [here](#).

Studies & Analyses:

◆ **June 2007: New research finds out what's in the waste left after reuse, recycling and composting;** The research carried out by EnviroCentre consultants, found that a large reduction in residual wastes could potentially be achieved by

improving capture rates, and through addressing some high-tonnage waste streams. A copy of the report can be found [here](#).

◆ **October 2007: South-west;** SW England could lead the world in generating clean and secure electricity from the seas. The Severn estuary is identified as having 80% of the UK's tidal range resource, making southwest England internationally significant for tidal energy. The Sustainable Development Commission report lays out a series of recommendations for government on how to develop the UK's tidal power resources in a sustainable manner. [Details](#).

◆ **September 2007: London;** London energy policies are working. City Halls efforts to curb energy usage in London's buildings have led to real reductions in carbon emissions, helping to reduce the impact on climate change. This is the conclusion of a study undertaken by the London South Bank University, which calculates that the London plan will save over 135,000 tonnes of CO2 emissions each year.

◆ **October 2007: Environmental Research Funders Forum (ERFF);** During its first 4 years, the forum has done much to develop a common understanding of the issues facing environmental research in the UK and is increasingly being recognised as the overall coordinating body for environmental activities in the UK. Several reports have recently been produced. To view these please see the following [website](#).

◆ **October 2007: State of the planet, in graphics;** Globally human populations are growing, trade is increasing and living standards are rising for many. But, according to the UN's latest Global Environment Outlook report, long-term problems including climate change, pollution, access to clean water, and the threat of mass extinctions are being met with "a remarkable lack of urgency." [Further details](#).

◆ **July 2007: True potential for water saving in the EU;** Water scarcity and droughts is a growing concern in Europe. In this context, in a recent study commissioned by the European Commission, researchers and consultants estimated the water saving potential across Europe by 2030. Overall the results show significant possibilities for water savings by avoiding over-exploitation, non-conventional water production and promoting integrated water saving measures. To view the report click [here](#).

EU News:

◆ **EU not giving up on nuclear in-quest for low-carbon future:** With increasing energy import dependency and the quest for climate friendly energy production at the top of the EU's political agenda, the Commission announced the creation of a new research platform to study 'sustainable' nuclear energy. For further details see the following [website](#).

◆ **European Projects: DEPUIS.** The design of environmentally Friendly Products Using Information Standards aims to improve the environmental friendly design of new products and services through the innovative use of new information standards known as Product Data Technology (PDT). In order to promote the use of the PDT and life cycle thinking (LCT) DEPUIS partners are developing a multimedia handbook of self training learning courses which will allow anyone at anytime, anywhere to gain the knowledge they need in order to use existing PDT international standards. For further information click [here](#).

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◆ **Commission to help small and medium-sized businesses to become greener:** Helping small and medium-sized businesses use energy and resources efficiently is the aim of a recently published Commission Communication. The programme will channel financial resources towards support networks, simplify access to environment management systems, and promote greater awareness of environmental issues among these companies. For further information click [here](#).

EU Policy & Legislation:

◆ **Landfill laws change next month:** At the end of October, rules which govern what can, and what cannot be sent to landfill will change – with tighter restrictions on a wide range of waste. The changes are part of the EU-driven Landfill Directive and come into play on October 30th 2007. The transition will be regulated by the Environment Agency. For more information click [here](#).

◆ **Europe commission proposes soil strategy:** The European Commission has proposed a strategy to ensure that Europe's soils remain healthy and capable of supporting human activities and ecosystems. The strategy will boost research on soil and raise public awareness and ensure public participation in the preparation and review of the programmes and measures adopted by the Member States. Click [here](#).

Consultations:

◆ **Building a Greener Future: Closing date 20 November 2007.** This policy statement confirms the Government's intention for all new homes to be zero carbon by 2016 with a major progressive tightening of the energy efficiency building regulations – by 25% in 2010 and by 44% in 2013 – up to the zero carbon target in 2016. [Details](#).

◆ **Standard Rules and Guidance for the Introduction of the Environmental Permitting Regulations:** Environment Agency; **closing date 6 December 2007.** The consultation seeks views on the first set of standard rules that the EA intend to make available when the Environmental Permitting (EP) regulations are due to come into force in April 2008. The EP regulations will streamline and combine the existing Waste Management Licensing and Pollution Prevention Control regimes. [Details](#).

DIARY DATES:

◆ **11th International Conference on Urban Drainage: 31 Aug – 5 Sep 2008, Edinburgh International Conference Centre, Scotland;** The conference proposes to inform urban drainage professionals, designers, practitioners and researchers of the latest advances, concepts, design and best practice across all technical, environmental, social and economic aspects of urban drainage. [Details](#).

◆ **2nd Centre for Remanufacturing and Reuse Stakeholder Conference: 22 Jan 2008, Broadway House London;** The event is free to CRR members and will enable you to find out about the centre's current work in 2007/08 and allow it to gather feedback from key representatives in UK remanufacturing to help shape our future work for 2008/09 and beyond. [Details](#).

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. Open link for more information <http://technologies.ewindows.eu.org>.

CONTACT THE UKFEI

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