

E-Bulletin for the Environmental Industries

REGIONAL NEWS

Regional Updates:

♦ **Wales: World's largest biomass plant approved;** Britain is set to build the world's largest biomass plant after the Government gave the green light to a scheme in South Wales. The 350MW wood chip-fuelled plant, which will be based in Port Talbot, is expected to generate enough electricity to power half of the homes in Wales. For further details see the following [website](#).

♦ **Yorkshire & Humber: Calls for plastic wash plant investment;** RAY is seeking expressions of interest from businesses interested in investing in a wash plant for plastics within the region. RAY is currently delivering a project to increase the collection or recyclable and recoverable waste from the food and drink sector. For further details click [here](#).

Funding:

♦ **Collaborative R&D funding:** On 8th November 2007 the Technology Strategy Board announced a new competition for proposals for collaborative research and development, representing a Government investment in innovation of around £100m. Phase 1 includes Materials for Energy, Phase 2 includes low carbon energy technologies and Advanced Lighting, Lasers and Displays. For further details visit the following [website](#).

♦ **Irish government will provide water funding:** The Irish government has announced funding to improve water supplies for businesses and the public in Donegal County in the west of the country. John Gormley, Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government revealed that he has approved a Euro 42.2m scheme for the Lough Mourne and Letterkenny Water Supply Scheme. The planned improvements will provide for additional water storage at Lough Mourne by improving ameliorating measures and expanding the Meencrumlin Wastewater Treatment Plant. Click [here](#) for further details.

IN GENERAL

Skills:

♦ **Women and Work: Sector Pathways Initiative; Raising Skills and Unlocking Potential;** To help the up-skilling of women in the energy and utilities sector, Energy and Utility Skills is offering sector employers the benefit of a highly subsidised Women & Work: Personal Development Programme, designed to equip women with the tools they need to help with their career development. This opportunity is currently only available to employees working in England. Details can be found [here](#).

News:

♦ **Ambitious new target set for green energy:** The Scottish government announced increased targets for the amount of electricity that comes from green sources. They have set a target of 50% of all electricity coming from renewables by 2020. That compares with the previous aim of having 40% generated from such sources by 2020. Further information can be found [here](#).

♦ **Defra: Joint declaration to tackle climate change:** Three major cities – Bristol, Leeds and Manchester are set to develop tailored action plans to slash their CO2 emissions under a new scheme. New measures and initiatives will be introduced and include renewable energy and trigeneration (creating power, heat and cooling from a single source) along with energy saving

measures such as insulation and promoting cycling to work. Click [here](#) for further information.

♦ **Olympics on track for Green Goals:** London plans to use its position as Olympic host city to inspire environmentally sensitive behaviour and shine a spotlight on good practice. The London 2012 team published its sustainability plan, outlining the areas it will tackle and making commitments in a number of key areas. The 2012 team have looked at the games' potential impact on climate change, waste and biodiversity and how they can be a catalyst for positive change. Click [here](#) for further information.

♦ **UK's first gasification plant will reduce island's landfill:** Work has begun on a new £8m plant to convert waste into electricity on the Isle of Wight. The gasification plant, the first of its kind in the UK will convert residual waste into gas rather than incinerating it and divert thousands of tonnes of rubbish from landfill. It is expected to generate 2.3MW of electricity, which will power more than 2,000 homes on the island when it begins operating next year. Further [information](#).

♦ **UK: Major drive to decarbonise energy sources;** A major expansion of energy from renewable sources and the launch of the competition to build one of the world's first carbon capture and storage (CCS) plants were among the measures set out in a speech on climate change by the Prime Minister. More details on this can be found on the following [website](#).

♦ **Wind could power all UK homes:** All UK homes could be powered by offshore wind farms by 2020 as part of the fight against climate change, under plans unveiled by John Hutton. Up to 7,000 turbines could be installed to boost wind produced energy 60-fold by 2020. The business secretary admitted that it would change Britain's coastline and mean higher electricity bills. Further reading can be found [here](#).

♦ **UK: Defra backs campaign to cut food waste;** Defra has indicated it will not directly help more councils fund separate food waste collections – but it said it fully supports a major drive to tackle the waste stream. The campaign is targeting a 100,000 tonne reduction in the amount of unwanted food being thrown out by households. Further details can be found on the following [website](#).

♦ **Environment in your Pocket 2007:** The eleventh edition of *The Environment in your Pocket* has been published by Defra. It is the annual booklet that makes readily accessible environmental trends and statistics on climate change, air quality, water quality, land use, waste and recycling wildlife and other environmental issues. It includes several environmental indicators of sustainable development and also contains a section looking at pressures on the environment. For further details click [here](#).

♦ **Carbon Calculator can cut business emissions:** Government-funded climate company the Carbon Trust has launched a major new campaign to help business reduce its greenhouse gas emissions. Central to the business is a tool designed to help calculate the carbon footprint of a business. Details of this can be found [here](#).

♦ **Private Finance Initiative: (PFI) – next stage for local waste projects;** seven projects that will 'deliver major waste infrastructure to help reduce the amount of England's waste ending up in landfill' have moved a step closer to securing PFI funding. The projects have been given the go ahead for the next stage of the PFI process after applying to Defra's Waste Infrastructure Delivery Programme (WIDP) for PFI credits. Further information on this can be found on the following [website](#).

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♦ US pushes for tighter shipping pollution standards:

American regulators are planning to implement new emissions standards for large ocean going vessels and are proposing they may be adopted globally under the aegis of the International Maritime Agency. The result would be a steep drop in emissions of Nox and particulates. Click [here](#) for further details.

♦ Irish businesses told to embrace greener working practices:

Retail businesses and suppliers in Ireland have been told that adopting 'green' practices could increase profits significantly. Irish companies attended a conference where they shared ideas about how green agenda is impacting on the retail sector and its suppliers. More details found [here](#).

♦ Water complaints up to 30%:

Consumers sent nearly 250,000 written complaints to water and sewerage companies in 2006 – 07, a water watchdog Ofwat has revealed. The Consumer Council for Water report said that this was an increase of nearly 30% compared to the previous year and there was an average of 80 unsatisfied customers in every 10,000. Details of this can be found on the following [website](#).

♦ Pesticides: Parliament tough on substances, more lenient on use:

Parliament has voted to expand the scope of substances banned from use in EU pesticide production. But tough restrictions on the use of pesticides, as proposed by Green MEPs were endorsed only partially. The pesticides package presented by the commission in July 2006 proposes a regulation to update a 1991 directive on the market authorisation of plant protection products, and a directive that covers the day-to-day use. [Details](#).

♦ Action plan targets Mississippi pollution:

An action plan for improving water quality and reducing nutrient pollution in one of the world's longest rivers has been published. The plan aims to reduce high levels of nitrogen and phosphorus in the Mississippi. A special task force, chaired by the US Environmental Protection Agency, released the proposals for tackling chemicals flowing into the River from sources such as agriculture, factory and wastewater treatment plants and soil erosion. For further reading click [here](#).

♦ China set to take global lead in renewable energy:

The emerging Asian super power is poised to surplus world solar and wind manufacturing leaders in Europe, Japan and North America in the next three years. At current growth rates, the report says China will likely achieve, and probably even exceed its target of obtaining 15% of its energy from renewables in 2020, up from 8% currently. [Details](#).

Studies & Analyses:

♦ Defra initiative on climate change projections publishes first report:

The first report "The climate of the United Kingdom and recent trends" from Defra's The UK Climate Impacts Programme is the first in a series of reports under the umbrella of the UK 21st Century Climate Change Scenarios (known as UKCIP08). The project brings together climate science from the Met Office to provide information to decision makers, academics and others, on the current climate and possible future changes. Its interactive website will provide customisable climate change projections when it launches in 2008. Further details can be found [here](#).

♦ Latest local authority waste statistics published:

Defra has published municipal waste statistics for all English local authorities in 2006/2007. These show how individual local authorities are contributing to national goals to reduce waste, recycle more and landfill less. Local authorities have collectively boosted national recycling and composting rates to 31% and

disposed of 1 million tonnes less waste in landfill in 2006/2007, compared to 2005/2006. [Details](#).

♦ **The Environment – scanning for uncertainty:** The environment researchers forum has produced an analysis of issues affecting the environment which might impact on the UK's interests over the next 20 years. In a horizon-scanning project four members and external experts identified broad themes of strategic importance to the UK. To view the report see the following [website](#).

♦ UK: Government launches sustainable procurement action plan;

In the 2005 Sustainable Development strategy the Prime Minister committed government to "lead by example" when spending taxpayers money sustainably. The UK Government and wider public sector buys £150 billion worth of goods and services each year. To view a copy of the plan click [here](#).

♦ Waste as a Resource – a step forward for sustainability:

A definitive Code of Practice is being produced through a collaboration managed by CL:AIRE. Aligning waste requirements to CLR 11 and building on previous Environment Agency documents, this Code of Practice will provide practical examples using a "lines of evidence" approach, on how industry can demonstrate that suitable on site materials do not become waste in the first place. [Details](#).

♦ Ofgem's Sustainable Development Report:

Ofgem have published their second publication of their annual Sustainable Development Report. The report is structured around a set of five themes and indicators Ofgem have developed to assess progress towards making the gas and electricity markets more sustainable. To download the report click [here](#).

♦ EU within reach of Kyoto targets:

The EU-15 can meet, and may even over-shoot, its 2012 Kyoto target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 8% below 1990 levels if Member states implement now all additional policies being planned, according to a new report from the European Environment Agency (EEA). Copies of the report can be found [here](#).

EU News:

♦ EU industry warns about carbon trading and renewables:

The industry lobby group BusinessEurope has warned that the EU must focus more on energy efficiency, rather than renewable energies and emissions trading if it wants to prevent energy-intensive industries such as chemicals and steel-making from taking their operations elsewhere. For more information, click [here](#).

♦ Rich EU countries to bear greater renewables 'burden':

In March 2007, EU leaders committed themselves to an EU-wide target of producing 20% of energy from renewable sources by 2020, setting the stage for heated debate about how the commitment will be divided between member states. Currently 8.5% of EU consumption stems from renewable energies, meaning the share would need to be increased by 11.5% over the next 12 years to reach the 20% target. Details can be found [here](#).

♦ European Commission work programme 2008:

The European Commission's recently published work programme for 2008 puts climate and energy high on their agenda. One of the main priorities for 2008 listed in the programme is to have a sustainable Europe so that tackling climate change is an integral part of the Commission's priorities to secure sustainable prosperity for Europe. The Commission will propose a White Paper on the Adaptation of the impact of Climate Change, which will include an EU energy policy. Further [details](#).

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♦ **EU overtakes US in productivity growth:** For the first time since 2001, the EU has outstripped the US in productivity growth, according to a recent competitiveness report from the European Commission that sees Europe on a 'growth path'. Overall, the European Industries retain their positions on the global market better than their US or Japanese counterparts, according to the report. Click [here](#) for further details.

♦ **Commission seeks to tighten pollution controls:** Most member states have missed a deadline to issue pollution permits for industrial installations as mandated by a 1996 directive. The commission, which is currently drafting a proposal to revise the directive, may impose stricter rules and has warned that the implementation delay could lead to infringement proceedings. The permits include precise emission limit values and are to be issued by the competent authorities in the member states. [Details.](#)

♦ **Business urges more 'demand' for research;** The EU is too focused on creating infrastructures and generating research activity when it should concentrate on creating markets and demand for research and innovation, argues BusinessEurope ahead of a council meeting with a heavy research agenda. Details of this demand for research can be found [here.](#)

♦ **Austria launches electronic products energy efficiency campaign:** Austria has launched a campaign to encourage the replacement of old, inefficient electronic products for new ones which are more energy efficient. The electronics industry and energy suppliers have led the initiative. Details of this can be found on this [website.](#)

Consultations:

♦ **An EU System for the Environmental Technology Verification: Closing date 20th January 2008.** The European Commission aims to establish an EU-wide system, offering credible verification of the performance and the potential impacts on the environment of new technologies: Environmental Technology Verification (ETV). [Details.](#)

DIARY DATES:

♦ **Energy Efficiency Partnership for Homes: 17th January 2008, 10am – 2pm Royal Horticultural Halls, 70 Vincent Square, London:** The framework for local authority action on sustainable energy is about to change radically. A new government performance framework for climate change and fuel poverty has the potential to bring action on energy in homes to the top of the councils agenda. [Details.](#)

♦ **Water Industry Forum: Business Opportunities in the Water Sector in Northern England; 17th January 2008, Majestic Hotel, Harrogate:** This event has been organised to inform delegates of a number of initiatives currently underway in the North of England. It will feature presentations from UKTI, Water Industry Forum, N8 group and Environmental Knowledge Transfer Network. To view more details of the event click [here.](#)

♦ **Exploring Innovative Change Remediation Techniques for Contaminated Land and Groundwater: 30th Jan 2008.** This seminar is a day workshop and networking event taking place at Haberdashers Hall, London. When you register for the event please quote **CON2**. For further details see the following [website.](#)

♦ **Unlocking Global Market Opportunities: 31st Jan-1st Feb 2008, Vienna, Austria;** The European Forum brings together business, policy makers, bankers and academics to share

perspectives on environmental technologies. See details on European Commission's [website.](#)

♦ **Climate Modelling risk management and adaptation: 27th February 2008, Methodist Central Hall, Westminster, London;** This timely conference will look at the latest developments in climate modelling technology and reporting, and will demonstrate how the outcomes of the latest academic research can help to inform decision-making in the areas of forward planning, risk management, mitigation and adaptation. When you register for the event please quote **CM1**. To view the event programme click [here.](#)

♦ **IWEX 2008: 20th-22nd May 2008, NEC Birmingham:** IWEX is the largest national event for the water and wastewater industry and part of SustainabilityLive. Further details can be found [here.](#)

♦ **Irish Water Waste and Environment: 5th-6th Mar 2008, RDS, Dublin:** Meet the buyers, suppliers and consultants from the Irish environmental and water markets. Whether you want to enter the Irish Market, need advice or are looking for the latest technologies you will find it at IWWE. [Details.](#)

USEFUL LINKS

♦ **International Clean Energy Circle:** ICE Circle is a unique network of global and industry leaders, eminent scientists, and investors. ICE Circle identifies and accelerates investments and compatible partnerships in the renewable and clean energy markets with the exchange of innovative technological, financial and geographical support. In particular, a high level network will enable the scaling up of strategic commercial partnership opportunities within Europe, USA, the BRIC's countries (Brazil, Russia, India and China) and the developing world, notably in Africa. For further details visit <http://www.icecircle.org>.

♦ **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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