

2003

Snippets

Welcome to Sd3's sustainability news snippets: digested, cut down and pasted from various sources for the period **Feb 5th - Mar 6th 2003**

Use these links:

- [Automotive/Mobility Sustainability management in business Environment](#)
- [Tomorrow Magazine: Sustainable construction <http://www.tomorrow-web.com/index.html>](#)

What's in the Press?

- Green Futures: Business risks of ignoring sustainability management <http://www.greenfutures.org.uk/>
- Tomorrow Magazine: Sustainable construction <http://www.tomorrow-web.com/index.html>

[Financial Services and Sustainability/CSR](#)
[Local Authorities/Local Development and Sustainability Reporting](#)

Snippets' recommended visit this month:
 Don't forget that the next two weeks are Fairtrade fortnight. See www.fairtrade.org.uk/fortnight2003/index.htm

Snippet	Source, Go to	Date
Automotive/Mobility		
Motoring towards sustainability is one of the major research projects of the IPPR's Sustainability Team. The project will examine the role of the car in progressive and environmentally sustainable transport policy with a view to influencing the Government's review of the Ten Year Plan for Transport	http://www.ippf.org/research/index.php?current=20&project=94	Feb 5
Dutch revisit road pricing debate by urging the introduction of a system based predominantly on charging per kilometre driven and per hour parked. Its report into the "mobility market" says that higher per kilometre rates should be charged at times and places where road-space was in short supply and foresees that road pricing would be accompanied by the abolition of vehicle and road taxes, and a considerable reduction in fuel duty.	Environment Daily 1379 http://www.raadvnw.nl/www.environmentdaily.com/docs/30206a.doc	Feb 6
Cool German cars "threaten climate policy" . German environmental think tank, the Wuppertal Institute, warned that fast-increasing use of vehicle air conditioning containing the potent greenhouse gases HFCs risks undermining efforts to cut climate impacts from cars. The EU is aiming to cut average CO2 emissions from new cars from 185 g/km in 1995 to 120 g/km by 2010 at the latest, a reduction of 65 g/km. A reduction to 140 g/km by 2008 is supposed to be achieved by car makers under a voluntary agreement signed in 1998.	Environment Daily 1375 Wuppertal Institut http://www.wuppertalinst.org/	Jan 31
Online information services Fuel Cells 2000 and Fuel Cell today have published what they describe as the most comprehensive guide and information package on hydrogen fuelling stations and dismisses the popular 'chicken and the egg' dilemma of not bringing in either vehicles or fuelling stations until the other is available first	Edie	Feb 10
Ford Germany acts on particle pollution . A coalition of German environmental and health NGOs has claimed a major victory in its "no diesel without filter" campaign, launched last November, to have new diesel cars in Germany fitted with filters to trap particulates; although no timetable for introduction of the new technology is available. Other German carmakers have refused to bow to pressure from the campaign, arguing they are already developing engines that considerably reduce particulate emissions.	Environment Daily 1380 Deutsche Umwelthilfe http://www.duh.de/ Ford http://www.ford.de/ VDA http://www.vda.de/	Feb 7

Business Sustainability - Integrating economic, environmental and social management

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Registered & London Office: Sd3 Ltd, The Balcony, 49 Romola Rd, London, SE24 9BA

<p>EU sulphur-free fuel gets final nod. A new EU directive stipulating that all road vehicle fuels be sulphur-free by 2009 is set to enter force after European ministers last week formally approved a conciliation agreement forged last year. It demands a sufficient geographical distribution of sulphur-free diesel and petrol to allow vehicles adapted to run on it to circulate freely throughout the bloc.</p>	<p>Environment Daily 1381 http://www.consilium.eu.int/pressData/en/educ/74435.pdf</p>	<p>Feb 10</p>
<p>Choosing a green vehicle or fleet? The 'Alter Project' helps you choose a green vehicle</p>	<p>http://www.edie.net/library/features/xx2032.html www.edie.net/news/Archive/6522.cfm</p>	<p>Feb 13</p>
<p>Compressed air fuels city cars. Cars that run on compressed air will soon be hitting city streets. A French car firm is about to open its first factory, which will produce 'zero emissions' cars at a rate of two per hour. MDI's range of cars and taxis are built with the capacity to compress and run on air. Overnight the cars are plugged into the grid, and need around 22KW to refill their tanks. During the day, the cars can average 200km around a city before they need to be recharged and refuelled.</p>		
<p>Sustainability management in business, including CSR</p>		
<p>New review suggests corporate lobbying will become a key business risk in 2003 and describes a growing interest and concern about the relationship between corporations and governments lobbying by companies and their trade associations against social and environmental regulations or against measures to help citizens in poorer countries is identified.</p>	<p>http://www.lifeworth.net</p>	<p>Feb 12</p>
<p>Changing the sales pitch on eco-friendly products. Governments need to change their tactics to entice consumers to buy environmentally friendly products. The United Nations Environment Programme is enlisting psychologists and human behaviourists to find more effective ways of convincing people to adopt eco-friendly lifestyles. Studies show only 5% of westerners live green lives, says UNEP.</p>	<p>Edie</p>	<p>Feb 12</p>
<p>A recent study suggested that negatively labelled products would have more of an effect on consumer purchasing than positively eco-labelled products (see related story <http://www.edie.net/news/Archive/6267.cfm>).</p>	<p>Edie</p>	<p>Feb 12</p>
<p>Environmentally friendly products and services can also be difficult to find (www.edie.net/news/Archive/6359.cfm), which is why UNEP is also drawing up 'green procurement' information material for governments and local authorities available through the internet.</p>	<p>Edie</p>	<p>Feb 12</p>
<p>Business leaders try to lift trade barriers for developing countries. A group of eight leading UK and global companies, including BP, Ford and Shell, have announced an initiative with Oxfam aimed at opening up western markets to developing countries. The other signatory companies are Centrica, Vodafone, Merrill Lynch Europe, Rio Tinto, and WPP.</p>	<p>Source: The Guardian/CSR Europe</p>	<p>Feb 7</p>
<p>Italian government gives ethical firms bidding priorities. Companies certified under the SA8000 ethical workplace standard have been given preferential treatment when bidding for local government contracts in a region of central Italy.</p>	<p>Ethical Performance / CSR Europe</p>	<p>Feb 7</p>
<p>Dutch consumers' union blacklists CSR offenders The Dutch consumers' union has launched a "Know what you buy" campaign to educate consumers about companies' social and environmental records. As part of the campaign, the organisation is publishing black lists of companies that don't maintain adequate CSR standards. The first black list, which focuses on the clothing industries, includes brand names such as Hugo Boss, H&M, Mexx and M&S Mode.</p>	<p>CSR Europe</p>	<p>Feb 7</p>
<p>A number of case studies were added to the WBCSD Case Study Collection during the past few weeks</p>	<p>http://www.wbcsd.org/casestud/index-list.htm</p>	<p>Feb 18</p>
<p>No clear "owner" of CSR within companies, says a recent UK study by Pielle Consulting Group. Nearly 70 percent of the 200 respondents agree that CSR is Corporate Governance in action; 30 percent of the responding companies have no formal system in place to drive improvements following the social audit; Stakeholder dialogue is developed mainly through formal meetings, company websites, annual report, as well as informal meetings in the surveyed companies.</p>	<p>http://www.enviroreporting.com/</p>	<p>Feb 28</p>

<p>Oracle and Computer Associates are among big name software companies about to be kicked out of the Calvert Social Index, one of the leading Socially Responsible Investment (SRI) indices in the US</p>	<p>www.environmental-expert.com</p>	Mar 3
Environment		
<p>Energy saving schemes to heat low income households, hospitals and other public buildings received a £5.2 million boost from the government were announced at the beginning of February.</p>	<p>http://www.defra.gov.uk/news/2003/030206b.htm</p>	Feb 6
<p>Congestion Charging Explained. London's Congestion Charge is up and running. Even if you don't live and work in the capital, it will still impact on you to some degree.</p>	<p>http://cars.msn.co.uk/carnews/congestioncharging/</p>	Feb 8
<p>A report from the Environment Agency is urging the government to build on existing energy efficiency policy measures, after a study found that industry could cut its energy consumption by a fifth by 2020 if the right policies were put in place.</p>	<p>www.eep.org Env Business Magazine</p>	Feb 18
<p>Britain to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 60%. See the Energy White Paper launched Feb 24th. See also www.tomorrow-web.com/index.html</p>	<p>http://www.dti.gov.uk/energy/whitepaper/</p>	Feb 24
<p>Sustainable energy provides economic benefits Promotion of renewable energy and energy efficiency could provide economic benefits as well as the expected environmental bonuses, according to researchers in Australia.</p>	<p>www.edie.net/news/Archive/5979.cfm</p>	Feb 28
Financial Services and Sustainability/CSR		
<p>The European Investment Bank has published its first environmental report, showing that the bank loaned €17.9 billion to environmental projects during 2001-2002, with over €10 billion going to urban transport, urban renewal and water and wastewater projects.</p>	<p>www.edie.net/news/Archive/6657.cfm</p>	Feb 14
<p>A growing body of empirical evidence shows a correlation between non-financial performance, such as social, environmental and corporate governance practices, and corporate financial performance. This evidence increases the relevance of corporate social responsibility rating agencies, such as New York City-based, Innovest Strategic Value Advisors; Boston-based, KLD Research & Analytics and Munich-based, Oekom Research.</p>	<p>http://www.socialfunds.com/news/article.cgi/article1033.html</p>	Feb 18
<p>CDC Capital Group is a new signatory to the UNEP Statement by Financial Institutions on the Environment & Sustainable Development. CDC provides private equity and risk capital for private sector businesses in emerging markets. The firm has had social and environmental policies in place for some years, engaging constructively with its clients to implement international good practice in these areas. http://www.cdccgroup.com</p>	<p>UNEP FI bulletin</p>	3 Mar
<p>Zurich Cantonal Bank achieves ISO 14001 Switzerland's third-largest bank received the ISO14001 certificate for its environmental management system (EMS); the auditors praised the ambition of the top management to regard sustainability as a key strategic issue and to apply this within a systematically implemented EMS. As the most important impacts upon the environment arise through financial products (rather than through direct impacts like energy usage), the EMS includes all activities that relate to offering financial products to customers. See their annual Sustainability Report (which is fully integrated into the Annual Report) and website. http://www.zkb.ch/sustainability</p>	<p>UNEP FI bulletin</p>	3 Mar
<p>Rabobank helps rural farmers protect against coffee price falls. The Dutch bank, Rabobank International, is offering East African coffee farmers a chance to protect themselves from the worst effects of low world market prices. This is achieved by using a form of insurance widely used on Western commodity exchanges, bought to protect farmers against price falls. A Ugandan business has already become the first to use this tool. The company bought a small volume of price insurance for three groups of producers in Ishaka, Uganda. It sold back the insurance when it was no longer required. This transaction benefited about 450 small Ugandan coffee farmers. Further transactions are expected during the crop season, which ends in February. http://allafrica.com/stories/20030210776.html</p>	<p>UNEP FI bulletin (citing The Monitor (Kampala) February 17, 2003)</p>	3 Mar



<p>Local Authorities/Local Development and Sustainability</p> <p>Northampton conference aims to pave the way for sustainable communities. More than 100 regeneration experts are to attend a conference in Northampton on sustainable urban extensions, which will demonstrate practical methods for fulfilling the Government's Sustainable Communities plan: The event takes place 9.30am to 2.30pm, 18 March 2003 at the Guildhall, Northampton. Contact: Oliver Roberts, The Prince's Foundation Tel: 020 76138523. Email: oroberts@princes-foundation.org</p>	<p>http://www.englishpartnerships.co.uk/Pages/news_detail.asp?newsid=172&pageID=200</p>
<p>Reporting/verification</p> <p>New support for European initiatives on monitoring and verification of codes of conduct. The Netherlands-based Centre for Research on Multinational Corporations (SOMO) recently launched a project to facilitate cooperation among European companies, trade unions and NGOs that monitor and verify codes of conduct in the garment and sportswear industry. Further information can be found at http://www.somo.nl/monitoring/</p>	<p>SAI & SA800 News</p> <p>Feb</p>