

2003



Snippets

Welcome to Sd3's sustainability news snippets for **Mar 5th – April 6th 2003**, there is a lot to get through this month: digested, cut down and pasted from various sources for you

Use these links:

- [Automotive/Mobility](#)
- [Climate Change](#)
- [Sustainability management in business](#)
- [Environment](#)
- [Financial services and sustainability](#)
- [Electronics sector and sustainability](#)
- [Local authorities/local development and sustainability Reporting](#)

What's in the Press?

- ♦ Green Futures: More services less stuff; religion; green car <http://www.greenfutures.org.uk/>
- ♦ Ergo Magazine: Sustainable living <http://www.ergo-living.com/>

Snippets' recommended visit this month:

<http://www.england-in-particular.info/>

Snippet	Source, Go to	Date
Automotive sector and sustainable mobility		
French green transport plan gets EU nod to spend €100m over five years on cutting greenhouse gas emissions from its transport system. The aid will go towards reviewing transport organisation, developing cleaner vehicles and energy savings for inland waterway transport.	Environment Daily 1398 europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=qt&doc=IP/03/318101RAPID&lg=EN&display	Mar 5
European Investment Bank is lending the UK £110 million for work on the A1 in Yorkshire to improve traffic congestion and road safety. The A1 forms part of the Trans-European Network as the main highway connection between Europe, England and Scotland. The new motorway will carry up to 110,000 vehicles a day	http://www.edie.net/gf.cfm?L=leftframe.html&R=http://www.edie.net/news/Archive/6741.cfm	Mar 5
General Motors Corp and Shell Hydrogen have announced that they are combining resources to help make hydrogen fuel cell vehicles a commercially viable reality. The centrepiece of the partnership will be a real-life demonstration of hydrogen fuel cell vehicles and fuelling infrastructure technology in the Washington, DC area.	www.edie.net/news/Archive/6744.cfm ; www.eyeforfuelcells.com	Mar 5
Nissan developing fuel cells for environmentally friendly vehicles with U.S. aerospace group United Technologies Corp. The move comes after other Japanese companies, such as Honda, have led the charge in the race to develop viable, clean alternatives to the standard internal combustion engine.	Business Respect - CSR Dispatches No#51	Mar 9
Toyota Agrees to \$34 Million Settlement Over Air Violations after a federal lawsuit charged the automobile manufacturer with Clean Air violations involving 2.2 million vehicles manufactured between 1996 and 1998. The U.S. government alleged that the 2.2 million vehicles manufactured and sold by the Japanese automaker did not meet Clean Air Act emissions standards. Toyota, according to the government, failed to inform it of limitations in the operation of the system that checks for leaks in vehicles' evaporative emission control systems.	http://ens-news.com/ens/mar2003/2003-03-10-09.asp#anchor1	Mar 9
Hydrogen Car No Better than Diesel Hybrid Even with aggressive research, the hydrogen fuel cell vehicle will not be	Environment News Scan http://ens-	Mar 11

<p>better than the diesel hybrid in terms of total energy use and greenhouse gas emissions by 2020, says a new study by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Laboratory for Energy and the Environment (LFEE). The assessment looked at a variety of engine and fuel technologies as they are likely to be in 2020 if intense research is applied, but there are no real breakthroughs.</p> <p>Hydrogen fuel backlash continues Environmentally, there is no basis for preferring hydrogen fuel to internal combustion engine hybrid vehicles. So say researchers from the world-famous Massachusetts Institute of Technology, furthering the argument against focusing too much financial attention on hydrogen technology.</p>	<p>news.com/ens/mar2003/2003-03-11-09.asp#anchor8</p> <p>www.edie.net/news/Archive/6760.cfm</p>	
<p>Drive to Survive 2003 to Promote Alternative Fuels This spring, the Institute of Ecolonomics (IOE) will embark on the Drive to Survive, an ambitious cross-country journey from Los Angeles to Washington DC to demonstrate the viability and availability of hybrid and alternative-fuel vehicles and to "Drive Hydrogen Home."</p>	<p>http://www.csrwire.com/article.cgi/1636.html</p>	Mar 12
<p>Government consults on scrapped cars The UK Government has launched a three-month consultation on new regulations for end-of-life vehicles (ELVs) so that it can implement the European directive on the disposal of waste vehicles. These could include the requirement for dismantling manuals, and free take-back for vehicles. The draft regulations will bring into law a number of technical aspects of the directive. These include restrictions on the use of some heavy metals in vehicle manufacture and the introduction of a 'certificate of destruction' for scrapped vehicles. Those wishing to comment on the draft regulations should do so by 6 June 2003.</p>	<p>http://www.edie.net/gf.cfm?L=left_frame.html&R=http://www.edie.net/news/Archive/6757.cfm</p>	Mar 14
<p>Hybrid electric cars will secure tenth of European market by 2015 Hybrid cars will soon be featuring in a showroom near you, according to a new report. But which will you choose? A mild or a full one, madam? Consultants Frost & Sullivan predict that hybrid electric vehicles (HEVs) will adorn the glossy brochures of most major car manufacturers by the end of the decade. Their latest report suggests that HEVs will capture around 3% of the European market during the same timeframe, with shipments expected to grow from 900 units in 2000 to 450,000 units by 2010.</p>	<p>http://www.edie.net/gf.cfm?L=left_frame.html&R=http://www.edie.net/news/Archive/6747.cfm</p>	Mar 14
<p>The first Japanese testing facility for fuel cell vehicles has been opened. The Japan Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Demonstration Project is being run by five car manufacturers and other companies, with subsidies from the Japanese Government.</p>	<p>http://www.edie.net/gf.cfm?L=left_frame.html&R=http://www.edie.net/news/Archive/6764.cfm</p>	Mar 14
<p>CSR in the global automobile industry Triodos Advisory Services has published a new sector study on CSR in the global automobile industry. The study combines a screening on some 15 exclusionary criteria with a best-in-class analysis of companies in the sector. Within the best-of-class analysis, BMW (Germany) and Renault (France) emerged as the industry leaders. General Motors (United States) stood out for its best-of-class sustainability reporting, closely following the guidelines of the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI). For more information please contact dsresearch@sirigroup.org</p>	<p>CSR Europe</p>	Mar 14
<p>On Oscar night, it's not what you wear, it's what you drive Celebrities To Arrive At Red Carpet In Alternative Fuel Vehicles. Cameron Diaz, Robin Williams, Tom Hanks, Susan Sarandon and Tim Robbins are just a few of the growing list of stars you'll see pulling up to the Academy Awards (R) in hybrids and electric vehicles instead of limos.</p>	<p>CSRwire Weekly Alerts</p>	Mar 20
<p>Stationary fuel cells first on the market Stationary fuel cells (SFC) will probably be the first to appear on the market. Prototypes have been tested on pilot sites, but manufacturers must first improve reliability, and above all reduce costs. "Eventually, the market could reach 4 million individual homes, excluding multiple-occupancy buildings," claims Jean-Pierre Roncato, a director at Gaz de France. Clean and quiet, fuel cells are particularly suited to use in cities.</p>	<p>Environnement Magazine, France www.industrie.gouv.fr/energie http://veille.reseaupaco.org</p>	Mar 20
<p>Government says aviation polluters should pay and has launched a consultation into how the aviation industry can pay for pollution emitted by its aircraft. The Department for Transport wants to find ways of maximising the social and economic benefits of airports, while minimising their environmental impacts.</p>	<p>www.edie.net/news/Archive/6773.cfm</p>	Mar 21
<p>Rat-runs a problem for UK Transport 2000 found that 10% of road network (outside motorways) is a rat-run (high speed</p>	<p>The Observer</p>	April 6

short cuts through residential streets). The pressure group maintained that the government should research and help with solutions to the problem.		
Jojoba sparks a new type of fuel Jojoba oil is finding its way into car tanks and is already holding its own as a top lubricant for high speed machinery and cutting tools, says the United Arab Emirates University. A collaborative study between UAEU and Helwan University in Cairo has found that jojoba could also rival diesel in the fuel stakes.	www.edie.net/news/Archive/6789.cfm	Mar 21
Vauxhall enters 26th year of partnership with disabled drivers Prime Minister Tony Blair congratulated Motability - nearly 30% of whose vehicles are Vauxhalls - on their landmark anniversary of serving disabled people in the UK. Motability is a charitable organization whose function is to enable disabled customers and their families to purchase or obtain the use of a vehicle at low cost. There are 37,000 Vauxhalls registered to Motability customers.	Vauxhall http://buypower.vauxhall.co.uk/hubs/mobility.jhtml	
The JetTrain has been put on display in Washington and is the first and only train in the world powered by a jet engine which can reach a speed of 240 kph. Emissions from the engine will be 30% less than from a conventional diesel, while environmental impact in terms of noise will also be reduced. According to studies carried out in the United States, the introduction of the JetTrain will result in significant fuel savings per passenger, 50% less than a car and 82% less than a plane according to calculations carried out over a distance of 500 km.	Hi-Tech Ambiente, Italy	Mar 27
Green fuel to replace petrol and diesel Petrol and diesel will gradually be replaced in service stations by green fuels produced from agricultural raw materials. From 2005, 2% of fuel sold in the EU will be green, and the proportion is expected to be at least 5.75% by 2010.	Umwelt Focus, Switzerland	Mar 27
Climate change		
Feeling the heat The British government has set itself a number of energy-related targets for the coming years as part of a programme to encourage more efficient, less carbon-intensive energy use. Achievements so far are virtually all due to the dash for gas in the 1990s, when the electricity generating industry switched from coal-fired power stations to more efficient Combined Cycle Gas Turbines. The Labour government halted this at the end of the 1990s and emissions began to rise again. The British government has now been placing much reliance on Combined Heat & Power (CHP) and made a commitment to achieve 10GW of installed CHP capacity by 2010. Increases in uptake are however low.	Environment Business Magazine, United Kingdom	Mar 20
UK emissions down The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has published the Government's latest data on greenhouse gas emissions, which show that carbon dioxide emissions are down 8% on 1990 levels.	www.edie.net/news/Archive/6804.cfm	Mar 28
Energy taxes with little impact Finance Ministers have finally agreed on an EU energy taxation directive to curb the use of fossil fuels and encourage sustainable transport. But a European campaign group warns the directive is so watered down it will have little effect on energy prices and consumption.	Edie	Mar 28
UNEP Guidelines for Calculating Greenhouse Gas Emissions for Businesses and Non-Commercial Organizations now available from UNEP	http://www.uneptie.org/energy/act/ef/GHGin/index.htm	Mar 28
Sustainability management in business, including CSR		
No clear "owner" of CSR within companies There remains no clear centre within businesses of CSR-related activities: accountability for CSR often rests either with a specialist committee of the board, the corporate communications or public affairs department, or the board itself.	Business Respect - CSR Dispatches No#51	Mar 9
Mining companies good at CSR Despite its bad reputation, the mining sector is making good progress with regards to corporate social responsibility, according to a new CSR index. Other shining lights include the telecommunications, insurance and accountancy sectors.	http://www.edie.net/gf.cfm?L=left_frame.html&R=http://www.edie.net/news/Archive/6754.cfm	Mar 14
New UK index rates corporate social responsibility performance UK-based Business in the Community launches its	http://www.socialfunds.com/news/	Mar

Corporate Responsibility Index, which benchmarks corporate social responsibility performance. The index, which is the first of its kind, benchmarks the corporate social responsibility (CSR) performance of companies. This year's index includes 122 companies that volunteered to be assessed.	article.cgi/article1062.html	18
Measuring sustainability in the construction sector The Sustainable Economy Programme has published a new report to present its experiences in developing methodologies for sustainability accounting and piloting them at a construction project. The report is available online at http://www.ciria.org/acatalog/search.html	CSR Europe Newsbundle - Issue 41	Mar 18
European sugar industry becomes first sector to sign CSR code of conduct setting minimum standards on corporate responsibility with the European Federation of Trade Unions in the Food, Agriculture and Tourism sectors. "Our vision is to create added human and social value by incorporating corporate social responsibility into all our activities," said Peter Rasmussen, chairperson of the joint working group.	CSR Europe Newsbundle - Issue 40	Mar 18
Starbucks issues its second corporate social responsibility annual report to provide greater transparency Starbucks Coffee Company has issued its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Annual Report detailing activities and initiatives for fiscal year 2002. The report covers Starbucks sustainable business practices throughout its supply chain - from coffee bean to coffee cup - including the company's efforts to help improve the lives of coffee farmers, its commitment to the environment and its support for local communities.	http://www.csrwire.com/article.cgi/1693.html	Mar 26
Investor relations act as a catalyst for social and environmental change A new study by CSR Europe/INSEAD suggests that investors are beginning to ask more informed and detailed questions about companies' corporate social responsibility performance. It reveals that the awareness of social and environmental issues among investor relations professionals is much higher than previously thought.	CSRwire Weekly Alerts	Mar 26
World's first corporate responsibility assurance standard launched to ensure the credibility and quality of corporate public reporting on social, environmental and economic performance, as demanded by campaigners and the public, and increasingly investors and regulators. The AA1000 Assurance Standard will help address a growing crisis of confidence in business (a recent MORI poll concluded that 73% of British public does not believe that business acts socially responsibly).	CSRwire Weekly Alerts	Mar 26
US-based business service provider, Kinko's Inc has announced a new forest-based product procurement policy incorporating a strict set of vendor requirements and establishing a central set of recycled content standards. Rainforest Action Network said it's one of the most effective and meaningful policies put in place by a company to help protect endangered forests and end old-growth destruction.	www.edie.net/news/Archive/6791.cfm	Mar 21
CalPERS Says Xerox's Corporate Governance Not Worthy of Copying Pension fund giant names six companies that need to improve their corporate governance. Copier and printer-maker Xerox topped the California Public Employees' Retirement System's annual list of worst corporate governance performers	http://www.socialfunds.com/news/article.cgi/article1075.html	Mar 27
Electronics sector		
Annual Reputation Quotient survey by Harris Interactive puts Intel in its top 20 The survey ranks companies in six key areas including financial performance, workplace environment, social responsibility, vision & leadership, emotional appeal, and products & services. Others that scored in the top twenty include Coca-Cola, Microsoft, Procter & Gamble; Johnson & Johnson were no. 1.	CSR Europe Newsbundle - Issue 41	Mar 18
HP now advocates a contribution by all US computers makers in proportion to their market share to cover part of the cost of recycling their products	Green Futures, Mar-Apr p 17 www.hp.com/hpinfo/globalcitizenship	Mar/Apr
Environment		
EU surveys public opinion on energy Almost 70% of EU citizens want increased spending on renewable energy research,	Environment Daily 1399	Mar 6

according to a new Eurobarometer opinion poll for the European Commission. Swedes were most strongly in favour of more renewables research (80%), while Portuguese (46%) were the least so. In heavily nuclear-dependent France, 68% supported more R&D for renewables while only 10% wanted more atomic research.	http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/energy/pdf/eurobarometer_energy_en.pdf .	
Europeans reluctant to make energy savings Eurobarometer survey of public opinion shows that most Europeans are not prepared to cut back on their energy consumption, despite growing awareness that Europe is becoming critically dependent on imported energy. Few were prepared to change lifestyles to save energy but a third said that energy consumption was an important consideration in buying an appliance, and a significant proportion being prepared to pay more for energy from renewable sources.	http://www.edie.net/gf.cfm?L=leftframe.html&R=http://www.edie.net/news/Archive/6729.cfm	
To register for this year's Green Apple Awards , you can telephone 01604.810507 or write to Green Apple Awards, Barton Mill, Earls Barton, Northampton NN6 0NR. Contenders will then be invited to submit a short paper over the next few months, outlining what they have done to help the environment. www.thegreenorganisation.info	SPN UK	Mar 7
Fears are growing over the long-term sustainability of the EU's EMAS environmental management scheme: the number of participating organisations continues to slide and there's a bleak future for it unless companies can be persuaded that the extra effort involved in EMAS compared with the similar ISO 14001 standard is worth it. Total EMAS registrations fell by 3.4% in 2002 to 3,780 in January. The less demanding ISO 14001 certifications grew by 42% to 20,400.	www.edie.net/news/Archive/6772.cfm	Mar 21
Financial services		
Firms fail to count the cost of global warming A report by the Carbon Disclosure Project, a group of 35 institutional investors, has warned that most of the world's top 500 companies are failing to manage the risks associated with global warming. According to the report, companies and their investors face dangers from two sources: the damaging knock-on effects of global warming (particularly extreme weather events) and heavy fines for breaches of new government regulations curbing greenhouse gas emissions. Sectors that could be significantly affected include financial services , transportation, semiconductor, telecommunications and electronics. Of the 260 respondents to the poll of chairmen of the world's 500 largest companies, only 35 - 40% said they were taking action on problems related to global warming.	Financial Times	Mar 7
Oekom applauds insurers employing SRI but chides rest of sector's non-transparency Lack of transparency prevented the German corporate research firm from conducting corporate responsibility ratings on the majority of global insurance companies. Few insurance companies are making the effort to disclose their social and environmental performance. That is one of the findings in a recent corporate responsibility report by Oekom Research on the global insurance industry.	http://www.socialfunds.com/news/article.cgi/article1066.html	Mar 25
Local authorities/local development		
Rewarding innovation for sustainable communities The UK's most innovative regeneration schemes will get the recognition they deserve, with a new Award for Sustainable Communities announced by Deputy Prime Minister, John Prescott. The award will showcase success and pay tribute to the commitment and enthusiasm of leading innovators who are making a significant contribution towards the building of thriving and successful sustainable communities.	http://www.odpm.gov.uk/news/0303/0045.htm	Mar 17
Manor Place refurbishment seeks to boost Southwark's recycling rates Recycling rates at Southwark Council's Manor Place re-use and recycling centre - which is used by the public for bulky household waste - have soared from 10% to 40%. Improvements by Southwark Council cost more than £600,000, and is expected to assist the Council in meeting its overall household waste recycling target of 10% by 2003/2004.	Edie http://www.edie.net/gf.cfm?L=leftframe.html&R=http://www.edie.net/news/Archive/6765.cfm	Mar 17
On a site formerly owned by the London Borough of Sutton a range of organisations have collaborated to build their idea of what the future will look like. The Beddington Zero Energy Development (or BedZED for short) is in your face sustainable. Everything has been thought through, from where residents' food will come from to what happens to their sewage. The waiting list of potential purchasers for future projects is more than 500.	IDEA Knowledge Update 25.03.2003 www.bedzed.org.uk	Mar 25

Hampshire launches unique county-wide water management scheme A unique water strategy has been launched by a group of organisations in Hampshire, which is believed to be the first of its kind in the UK.	www.edie.net/news/Archive/6832.cfm	Apr 4
Reporting/verification		
How many social and environmental reports by companies did you read in detail last year? Business Respect's poll had 349 votes (mainly informed readers). Results: Less than five 244 (69.91%); More than twenty 37 (10.6%).	Business Respect - CSR Dispatches No#51	Mar 9
Callaway golf creates corporate governance website Following a different means of reporting, Callaway Golf Company (makers of wood and metal clubs) today announced the creation of a comprehensive Corporate Governance section on its Company website: www.callawaygolf.com/corporate/corp_gov.asp and is a thorough overview of the Company's policies and procedures intended to assure adherence to high standards of corporate integrity.	http://www.csrwire.com/article.cgi/1644.html Callaway Golf Company larrydow@callawaygolf.com	Mar 12
GRI to publish guidelines on dealing with HIV/AIDS The Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) has announced that it has begun working on new guidelines on the disclosure of HIV/AIDS. Eight companies (Ford SA, BMW SA, Daimler-Benz, DeBeers, Transnet, Port Authority of South Africa, MetroRail and Telkom) are currently taking part in trials in South Africa.	CSR Europe Newsbundle - Issue 41	Mar 14
CSR reporting high among South African firms More than 90% of South African firms are currently reporting on their social responsibility and good governance issues, according to a forthcoming study by the Ethics Institute of South Africa.	CSR Europe Newsbundle - Issue 40	Mar 18
Meacher criticises business community The Co-operative Bank, Unilever and Shell are among the companies winning awards for their corporate sustainability reporting at a ceremony at the British Library. However, Environment Minister Michael Meacher has criticised the business community in general for failing to follow the lead of these companies. The winners were: Sustainability category - Best Sustainability Report: The Co-operative Bank, Runner-up: Shell International. Environmental category - Best Environmental Report: Unilever; Best First-time Reporter: Canary Wharf Group. Best SME Reporter: Best Foot Forward. Social category - Best Social Report: FRC Group; Best First-time reporter: BAT.	Edie	Mar 21
CEOs advocate economic, environmental, and social sustainability at conference The Forum for Corporate Conscience issued a white paper that elucidates the six areas discussed: economics, leadership and corporate sustainability, justice, the environment, community, and family.	http://www.socialfunds.com/news/article.cgi/article1067.html	Mar 25
First Ever Global Survey of Sustainability Reporting ECC Research and Fishburn Hedges invite individuals that have been in contact with sustainability reports to participate in the 15 minutes survey. The survey aims to aid the improvement of company reporting methods as well as the way in which the reports address the needs of readers and users. The results of the survey will be widely publicised. Go to: http://ww3.umfragecenter.de/uc/sa_ecc-fh-survey , until April 9th 2003	The UNEP Finance Initiatives e-bulletin ww3.umfragecenter.de/uc/sa_ecc-fh-survey	Mar 28
First prize for BASF sustainability BASF recently received the German environmental reporting award (DURA) in Berlin. BASF's report has three parts: the annual report, a paper on "Environment, safety and health", and a report entitled "Entrepreneurial responsibility". BASF will also participate in the European Environmental Reporting Awards (EERA) presided by the commissioner for the environment, Margot Wallström.	Umwelt Magazin, Germany In eep.org	Mar 27
Ben & Jerry's and banana company win US sustainability reporting award Ice cream firm Ben & Jerry's and banana company Chiquita Brands International have jointly won an award for their outstanding sustainability reporting. The new awards are run by the Coalition for Environmentally Responsible Economies (CERES) and the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA), which has been running awards for UK and European reporting for a number of years.	www.edie.net/news/Archive/6847.cfm	Apr 4