

2003



Snippets

Welcome to Sd3's sustainability news snippets for **May 6th – June 6th** digested, cut down and pasted from various sources

What's in the Press?

- ◆ Green Futures: The sustainable city <http://www.greenfutures.org.uk/>
- ◆ Sustain Magazine: Water partnerships, waste, energy <http://www.sustainmagazine.com>

Document links

[Auto sector/mobility](#) | [Climate Change](#) | [Sustainability management](#) | [Environment](#) | [Financial services sector](#) | [Electronics sector](#) | [Local authority/development](#) | [Reporting](#) | [Supply chain/logistics](#)

Snippet	Source, Go to	Date
Automotive sector and sustainable mobility		
GM and dow to work on fuel cell program General Motors Corp. will soon generate electricity with fuel cells for Dow Chemical Co., a bid to gain experience with the technology that could eventually power most automobiles.	http://www.wbcds.org/includes/getTarget.asp?type=DocDet&id=ODQ1	May 7
US drivers complain about fuel efficiency Low fuel [efficiency] is the second most common complaint about new cars in the US. This year's fuel efficiency for US vehicles could be the lowest ever.	http://www.edie.net/news/Archive/6988.cfm	May 12
Hydrogen: a review of the story behind pressure to find alternatives to oil as companies and politicians spend serious sums of money trying to bring this long-dormant environmentalist's dream to life.	http://www.wbcds.org/includes/getTarget.asp?type=DocDet&id=MTAxNw	May 13
Austria extends Brenner truck restrictions Austria's Tyrol government last week made permanent an existing night ban on heavy vehicles using a motorway approaching the Brenner pass, a major trans-Alpine transport route.	ENDS Daily http://www.iru.org/	May 15
UPS to test fuel cell vehicles in U.S. delivery fleet; Collaboration with EPA and DaimlerChrysler gathered at the government's premier fuel emissions laboratory & announced a collaborative project in which UPS will operate package delivery vehicles powered by hydrogen fuel cells.	http://www.csrwire.com/article.cgi/1842.html	May 21
EU biofuels directive enters into force A new EU directive aimed at promoting the use of biofuels and other renewable fuels in transport took effect on 17 May, when it was published in the EU's official journal.	Environment Daily 1448	May 21
Nuvera Fuel Cells, USA, has announced it has dramatically improved the performance of its gasoline fuel processors and PEM fuel cell stacks for automotive uses.	http://www.edie.net/gf.cfm?L=left_frame.html&R=http://www.edie.net/news/Archive/7060.cfm	May 30
Companies co-operate on fuel cell buses Munich-based utility vehicle group MAN and Ballard Power Systems have signed an agreement to deliver a fuel cell system for urban buses.	Umwelt Magazin, Germany	Jun 3

Swedish cars worst polluters in Europe Carbon dioxide emissions from private owned cars in Sweden are at the highest level in EU. Although the emissions have diminished at a marginal rate in 2002, the national road administration, Vägverket, expects and fears increasing levels due to the Swedes' car preferences.	EEP Newsletter & Miljö Rapporten	Jun 3
Coalition demands global fuel sulphur cuts Regulators, academics and vehicle manufacturers called on world governments to virtually eliminate sulphur in fuels, calling it the "lead of the new century".	Environment Daily 1456	Jun 4
German vehicle dismantlers have no excuse not to begin separating all major plastic components for recycling by the end of 03, in line with recent official guidelines. Presently almost all vehicle plastics are being shredded and end up in landfill sites.	Environment Daily 1454	Jun 2
LPG "cleaner than filter-equipped diesels" Britain's liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) industry has fought back against recent claims that the alternative road fuel is no longer "green" enough to deserve favourable tax treatment	Environment Daily 1458	Jun 6
Climate change		
Greenhouse-gas pollution in the European Union rose for the second year running, moving it further from the goals set down by the UN Kyoto Protocol on global warming, the EU's	http://www.wbcsd.org/includes/getTarget.asp?type=DocDet&id=ODYO	May 12
ExxonMobil now the only giant oil co. failing to act on global warming risks Investors face "significantly increased" climate risks since '02's annual meeting. ExxonMobil is now alone among the four "supermajor" oil companies in refusing to take meaningful action to mitigate the growing risks posed by global warming	http://www.csrwire.com/article.cgi/1828.html	May 14
USA is challenging Europe's moratorium on genetically modified (GM) product approvals before the World Trade Organisation (WTO). America claims the five-year moratorium is an illegal trade barrier, with no evidence of health or environmental risks from GM crops or foods.	USTR http://www.ustr.gov/	May 13
EU moving further away from meeting its commitment to cut emissions under the Kyoto Protocol The data reveal that emissions of greenhouse gases from the European Union have increased for a second consecutive year. The EU committed itself to reducing its emissions of the six 'Kyoto' gases by 8% below their 1990 level by 2008-2012.	www.eep.org	May 16
UK is one of the most innovative investors in low carbon technologies. The report, <i>Quantifying the UK's Incentives for Low Carbon Investment</i> , by researchers at the Carbon Trust, found that the current total is £1.3bn	Edie	May 15
Controls on aviation emissions sought Aviation in Britain could emit more CO2 by 2050 than the government's 2050 target for the whole country, policy think tank IPPR warned yesterday	Environment Daily 1449	May 22
Sustainability management in business, including CSR		
Mac-Responsibility Stakeholder feedback helped MacDonald's identify the following priority areas for future work: sustainable agriculture, nutrition and health, and employment policies and practices.	http://www.csrwire.com/article.cgi/1799.html	May 7

<p>European Parliament has voted for legislation making companies completely liable for environmental damage they cause. Individuals would be able to bring an environmental pollution case against a firm. Vulnerable industries include the insurance sector, along with the chemical, oil, agribusiness and nuclear industries. The new law could come into effect as early as 2005.</p>	Financial Times	May 13
<p>Tyco, UPS, Fannie Mae, GM and others meet to discuss corporate responsibility, June 17-19, Washington DC to learn more of adopting and progressing responsible strategy and policy development</p>	www.ethicalcorp.com/usa2003	May 15
<p>When will ExxonMobil wake up to climate-related risks? For the second year in a row, a report tells ExxonMobil shareowners to beware of the significant risks of how the oil giant addresses climate change</p>	www.socialfunds.com/news/article.cgi/article1123.html	Jun 2
<p>Companies leading on ebusiness are better at CSR European companies leading in the take-up of ebusiness are more likely to engage on social and environmental issues, according to a MORI survey commissioned for Digital Europe.</p>	http://www.digital-eu.org/publications/default.asp?pubid=36	Jun 2
<p>There are now more than 400 consultancies and at least 50 conferences each year devoted to corporate social responsibility, according to The Independent (a UK newspaper).</p>	http://news.independent.co.uk/business/news_analysis/story.jsp?story=405015	Jun 2
<p>European Parliament adopts its new Report on CSR See Http://www2.europarl.eu.int/omk/sipade2?SAME_LEVEL=1&LEVEL=4&NAV=S&LSTDOC=Y&PUBREF=-//EP//TEXT+REPORT+A5-2003-0133+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN</p>	DG Employment CSR flash newsletter 2003/8	Jun 2
Electronics/ICT sector		
<p>Information technology benefits questioned Editor of Journal of industrial ecology concludes that there is "no clear answer" concerning the effects of ICT on the environment/sustainability in the European and global economies.</p>	Environment Daily	May 29
<p>World Semiconductor industry issued strong policy recommendations for sound environment, safety and health practices.</p>	http://www.csrwire.com/article.cgi/1834.html	May 21
Environment		
<p>Benefits from German pack recycling The collection, sorting and recycling of packaging waste by Germany's monopoly packaging recovery firm DSD produced 67.5bn savings in primary energy use and 1.5mt carbon dioxide emissions in 2001.</p>	ENDS http://www.gruener-punkt.de/	May 6
<p>Traffic pollution affects male fertility and heart disease Italian researchers have discovered a link between air pollution and sperm health. A separate European study shows a link between sulphur dioxide and heart problems.</p>	http://www.edie.net/news/Archive/6950.cfm	May 12
<p>EU 'polluter pays' rules to include negligence The European Parliament is preparing to strengthen the proposed European Union (EU) directive on environmental liability, which is designed to ensure that polluters pay for damage that they cause through intent or negligence.</p>	http://www.wbcasd.org/includes/getTarget.asp?type=DocDet&id=MTEyMg	May 14
<p>Condition of Europe's environment assessed: Good in some respects but</p>	Environment Daily	May 18

performance is "poor" in others. Big cuts in emissions of heavy metals and persistent organic pollutants; nitrogen oxides have been slashed; big cuts in releases of ozone-depleting substances, plus a fall in greenhouse gas emissions over the last decade. Waste output continues to climb; fish stocks in severe danger; urban and transport developments are sealing soils and fragmenting habitats. In central and eastern Europe road transport volume is rising rapidly.	EEA http://www.eea.eu.int/	
A PVC industry commitment made in 2000 to "deliver continuous improvement in product stewardship throughout the entire PVC lifecycle", is making better progress than ever.	www.edie.net/news/Archive/7010.cfm	May 13
UK Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs today published provisional figures for recovery and recycling of packaging waste that showed that an overall recovery rate of 53.6% was achieved in 2002.	http://www.defra.gov.uk/news/2003/030516a.htm	May 19
Georgia-Pacific and Home Depot being urged to end purchases of wood and pulp from Indonesia until that country's government agrees to stamp out illegal logging & restore property rights of its indigenous population.	http://www.wbcsd.org/includes/getTarget.asp?type=DocDet&id=MTEyMw	May 15
British Stainless Steel Association held its first conference on Sustainability. Delegates heard that stainless steel may have a vital role in solving environmental problems in applications such as renewable energy projects and more fuel-efficient vehicles.	http://www.environmental-center.com/articles/article1248/article1248.htm	May 30
Comprehensive EU recycling push promised The European Commission will recommend a fresh approach to EU waste recycling policies in a communication on Tuesday.	Environment Daily 1451	May 26
Financial services		
Co-op bank turned down €6,5 million from unethical companies over the last year from companies that failed to meet its ethical standards. The company claims that the loss was balanced against the value of business gained as a result of the bank's ethical stance - estimated at €48 million, or 24% of its €196 million profit	The Guardian, Financial Times & UNEP Finance Initiatives e-bulletin - May 2003	May 13
Co-operative Bank car loans Greener motoring with the Co-operative Bank's new car loan package: they will offset 20% of your car's annual carbon dioxide emissions through 'Climate Care'	Climate Care Newsletter	May 13
Problem with doing the right thing Australian Financial Review says Socially responsible investing has an image problem: robust ethics are seen as incompatible with robust returns.	http://www.wbcsd.org/includes/getTarget.asp?type=DocDet&id=MTE5Mg	May 22
Leading banks adopt CSR guidelines for finance in emerging markets At least four European and US banks have pledged to adopt the International Finance Corporation's social and environmental guidelines for project finance in emerging markets (ABN Amro, Barclays, Citibank and WestLB).	Financial Times	May 13
Co-op calls for end of corporate secrecy The Co-operative Insurance Society issued a call yesterday for all institutional investors to end the "veil of secrecy" over corporate governance and to publish their voting records, ahead of another week of shareholder showdowns.	Financial Times	May 27
Local authorities/local development		

Sustainability for Citizens and Communities is a new signposting site to some of the best up-to-date info on local sustainability, aimed at ordinary people and community groups in the UK	www.scc3.org.uk	May 13
"Liveability" initiatives that demonstrate contributions to sustainable development are due more funding from government through the UK's Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and the IDEa.	http://www.communities.odpm.gov.uk/plan/main/01.htm http://www.idea.gov.uk	May 15
Neighbourhood Renewal Unit: Review of community participation see www.info4local.gov.uk/searchreport.asp?id=15298&heading=e-mail+alert	Info4local.co.uk	May 20
Innovation Forum looks at how the councils identified as excellent by the CPA process are sharing ideas and good practice. http://www.idea.gov.uk/knowledge/may/?id=200503innovforum	IDEa	May 20
The Joseph Rowntree Foundation has published "What's in a Name? Local Agenda 21, Community Planning and Neighbourhood Renewal". download www.jrf.org.uk/knowledge/findings/housing/583.asp	SPN UK	Jun 4
Reporting/verification		
Company law reform will toughen environmental reporting, says committee Directors of large companies "will not be able to get away with assuming that environmental and social concerns are not relevant to their company", if planned reform of company law goes ahead, says the UK's parliamentary Trade and Industry Committee.	www.edie.net/news/Archive/6999.cfm & New Statesman	May 19
Best kept corporate secret Of the UK's FTSE 100, 97 mention CSR on their website but only 48 have a full report - and only 36 make it useful and attractive to users by offering some form of interaction.	http://www.csrwire.com/article.cgi/1860.html	May 23
UK: communication with stakeholders still too weak UK companies are still failing to communicate their CSR activities effectively online, claims a new survey by communications consultancies CTN and Futerra.	www.ft.com	June 2
Commission launches a consultation on its Action Plan on Company Law and Corporate Governance , open to public consultation until 31 August 2003.	http://europa.eu.int/comm/internal_market/en/company/company/modern/index.htm	Jun 2
Supply chain/logistics/packaging		
Cen prepares to relaunch packaging standards European standardisation body Cen today expressed confidence that it is on track to produce formal EU packaging standards at the second attempt as a committee was due to approve six texts for public consultation.	Environment Daily 1449	May 22

Snippets' recommended web visit this month: <http://www.projectsigma.com/> **New guidelines!**