

2003



# Snippets

June 6<sup>th</sup> – August 6<sup>th</sup> Sustainability news digested, cut down and pasted from various sources

### What's in the Press?

- ♦ Green Futures: hydrogen future, change in the board room, renewables
- ♦ Sustain Magazine: aviation, steel, contaminated land <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](#) | [World development](#)

Snippet	Source, Go to	Date
<b>Automotive sector and sustainable mobility</b>		
Germany wins! It has in place the capacity to meet the recycling targets for old cars set out in the EU End of Life Vehicles Directive (one of the few countries to have done this)	<a href="http://www.edie.net">www.edie.net</a>	Jun 6
FedEx introduces hybrid electric delivery vehicles, while UPS is investing in fuel cell technology to help reduce their energy consumption and carbon emissions	<a href="http://www.socialfunds.com/news/article.cgi/article1138.html">http://www.socialfunds.com/news/article.cgi/article1138.html</a>	Jun 3
Fuel Cell Technologies Ltd has shipped its first 5kW solid oxide fuel cell unit. The unit is for German company RWE, Germany's largest electric power supplier	<a href="http://www.edie.net">www.edie.net</a>	Jun 6
Government challenge to design a 'green' family car. UK Secretary of State for Transport has challenged car makers to design and build a new, affordable, ultra-low carbon family car - in exchange for a £10 million prize. The race is on.	<a href="http://www.edie.net">www.edie.net</a>	Jun 16
'Toyota Recycle Vision' is a set of guidelines for a recycling-orientated society which sets specific targets for improving vehicle recovery rates, recyclable and recycled materials use, used parts use, & avoiding dangerous substances	<a href="http://www.edie.net">www.edie.net</a>	Jun 18
'Road fuel gases and their contribution to clean low-carbon transport: establishing sound Government support'. Consultation document seeks views on the future structure of the Government's support for the road fuel gases LPG and natural gas in the short to medium term. Deadline for response: 17/09/03	<a href="http://www.info4local.gov.uk/searchreport.asp?id=15619&amp;heading=e-mail+alert">http://www.info4local.gov.uk/searchreport.asp?id=15619&amp;heading=e-mail+alert</a>	Jun 18
Voluntary agreements under scrutiny for car makers. OECD report urges more instruments as "threats" if voluntary agreement misses its targets. EU has warned carmakers that legislation could be used if CO2 emissions from new cars are not reduced as agreed	Environment Daily 1468	Jun 23
Get tough on Ford. William Ford Jr has back-pedalled on his	Business Respect No#58	Jun 13

## 2003



pledge to protect the planet; environmentalists are fighting back. Two years ago, Ford pledged "to go beyond the requirements of the law to preserve and protect the environment."

**Pelcan brief.** Fuel cell company Pelcan has announced the integration of its 2kW fuel cell stack system, using the metal hydride hydrogen storage technology to power the next global transportation solution

**Hyundai and UTC Fuel Cells Collaborate** on all-weather fuel cell vehicle. Hyundai and UTC Fuel Cells are working on a car fuel cell power plant capable of operating in freezing conditions: one of the remaining hurdles to automotive fuel cells development

**New IPPR report: Tomorrow's Low Carbon Cars.** Examines the contribution that low carbon cars could make to the UK's Climate Change commitments (fuel duty incentives, road gas fuels, longer term investment in hydrogen and fuel cells, UK's Fuel Cell Vision)

**UK should end "unjustified" LPG support.** IPPR has urged the UK Government to stop tax breaks for LPG road fuels in favour of biofuels. IPPR attests that LPG environmental benefits over conventional fuels not sufficient to justify 40% tax break it enjoys

**USIS Group closer to zero emission vehicle.** USIS has bridged the gap between fossil fuel dependence and environmental responsibility: Unique Steam Induction Systems (USIS) mounts to a vehicle's existing gasoline- or diesel-powered engine to create a water/petroleum hybrid

**Freight onto rail, UK.** Carrying facilities by rail can be as flexible as road transport and Potter Group hopes to expand them in line with Government's target to increase rail-freight by 80% over ten years. Rail is 27 times safer than road and per tonne carried, produces around 80% less CO2 than road transport. Government should give rail-freight a level playing field with road-freight

**France transposes EU end-of-life vehicles directive.** France was one of eight EU states against which the European Commission announced court action this spring for failing to transpose the directive by the April 2002 deadline

**Toyota has announced increased spending** on environmental protection measures by 24% compared from last year (due to rise in research and development costs for hybrids and fuel cells)

**Recycling waste oils to produce hydrogen.** Hese Umwelt GmbH, of Germany have demonstrated a system for treating used oils in a converter that will be developed into a system specifically for vehicle fuel cells

[http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/chronicle/a/2003/06/13/ED\\_226772.DTL](http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/chronicle/a/2003/06/13/ED_226772.DTL)  
[www.edie.net/news/Archive/7172.cfm](http://www.edie.net/news/Archive/7172.cfm)

Jun 27

<http://www.csrwire.com/article.cgi/1935.html>

Jul 2

<http://www.ippr.org.uk/research/index.php?current=20&project=94>

Jul 2

Environment Daily 1470

Jun 25

CSRwire

Jul 9

<http://www.csrwire.com/article.cgi/1960.html>

<http://www.transport2000.org.uk/>

Aug 6

Environment Daily

Aug 7

<http://www.environnement.gov.fr/actua/com2003/aout/5-voiture.htm>

[www.edie.net/news/Archive/7380.cfm](http://www.edie.net/news/Archive/7380.cfm)

Aug 6

Umwelt Magazin, Germany  
EEP.org

Jul 18

## 2003



Climate change		
Developed countries will see greenhouse gas emissions rise sharply again, despite stabilising in the 1990s, according to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. Emissions could increase 10% by 2010 against 2000 levels in the developed world, exceeding the cuts aimed for in the Kyoto Protocol	<a href="http://www.edie.net">www.edie.net</a>	Jun 6
Britain's sandy beaches could be banished from our coastlines in less than 100 years if climate change continues unchecked, a European project is urging those concerned to work with changes created by global warming, rather than against them	<a href="http://www.edie.net">www.edie.net</a>	Jul 27
Emissions trading directive adopted by European Council. The European Union emissions trading directive has been adopted and finalised by the European Council, formally creating the largest emissions trading scheme in the world	<a href="http://www.edie.net">www.edie.net</a>	Jul 27
Russia under pressure to ratify Kyoto. Russia under strong pressure from the European Union to ratify the Kyoto Protocol	<a href="http://www.edie.net">www.edie.net</a>	Jul 27
Biggest US corporations are not addressing financial risks posed by climate change and are failing to deal with the issues. These include ChevronTexaco, ExxonMobil and General Electric.	CERES	Jul 27
Sustainability management in business, including CSR		
Total, the French oil major came late to the glossy magazine party when it came out with its first report on corporate social responsibility in May. But the company, blessed with a government less active than that of the US in limiting trade ties for political ends, has no intention of changing its more controversial investments, including a pipeline in Burma	<a href="http://www.wbcsd.org/plugins/DocSearch/details.asp?type=DocDet&amp;DocId=MTM30Q">http://www.wbcsd.org/plugins/DocSearch/details.asp?type=DocDet&amp;DocId=MTM30Q</a>	Jun 11
Public still can't name a responsible company. Fourth annual CSR Monitor survey (>21,000 consumers, shareholders and corporate employees) in 21 countries shows significant numbers of people are unable to name a socially responsible company	<a href="http://www.csrwire.com/article.cgi/1904.html">http://www.csrwire.com/article.cgi/1904.html</a>	Jun 13
<b>**SPECIAL SNIPPET**</b> Summary of Nike vs Kasky From Kanzer & Williams: "Nike argues that in defending itself against charges of using sweatshop labour, its statements were 'political speech', subject to full First Amendment protections. If Nike win, they are not compelled to accurate and timely disclosure of all material corporate information - particularly information that is also a matter of broad public concern. Corporate speech on public issues should not have 'First Amendment protection' because it may threaten social investors' ability to file shareholder resolutions on social or environmental matters, because the SEC might not have the authority to compel corporations to include such 'political'	Kanzer & Williams, Business Ethics magazine See also <a href="http://www.reclaimdemocracy.org/nike">www.reclaimdemocracy.org/nike</a> <a href="http://www.corporatesunshine.org">www.corporatesunshine.org</a>	Jun 19

## 2003



speech in their proxy statements. Nike concedes this in its own brief, stating that "virtually everything a company does is ultimately intended to improve its financial bottom line". Thus virtually everything a company says is commercial speech, and must be accurate. If Nike succeeds in enlarging corporate political speech, it could permanently undermine the most effective tool we have for holding corporations accountable -- timely, accurate information. This would be a huge step backwards at a time when investors need greater corporate transparency."

**US oilmen fight Blair on transparency.** US oil companies were fighting to prevent a British anti-corruption initiative being made mandatory. ExxonMobil, ConocoPhillips and ChevronTexaco made clear they wanted a proposed code on the transparency of payments made to host governments left voluntary

<http://www.wbcsd.org/plugins/DocSearch/details.asp?type=DocDet&DocId=MTUxOA> Jun 19

**Investors managing \$3 trillion back Blair's extractive industries Transparency Initiative.** Developing countries are being prodded to support oil and mining companies' disclosure of payments to governments. PM Blair unveiled Statement of Principles and Actions for the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, which encourages companies to disclose payments to the governments of countries where they operate

<http://www.socialfunds.com/news/article.cgi/article1150.html> Jun 18

**Green survey highlights lack of action among small and medium-sized enterprises.** Only 20% of micro businesses - those with fewer than ten staff - questioned had taken practical measures to limit their environmental impact compared with 44% of medium-sized firms with 50 to 250 staff

Info4local Jun 25  
<http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/news/504401?lang=e>

**CEO pay goes up in 2002 while the stock market goes down.** The Corporate Library's report shows how CEO pay increased in 2002 despite the fact that the stock market declined significantly, a trend that does not sit well with investors

<http://www.socialfunds.com/news/article.cgi/article1156.html> Jul 1

**CFOs: low confidence in own financials.** Senior managers at 150 of the world's largest organisations reveal that only 27% are very confident in the financial facts and figures presented to them. A worrying 5% of companies expressed a total lack of confidence

[www.cartesis.com](http://www.cartesis.com) Jul 2

**Sustainability management/CSR spending due to increase.** More than 80% of large US company executives rate sustainability as essential/very important to their company. 55% of executives say they're planning to increase spending on corporate governance

PricewaterhouseCoopers Management Barometer survey Jul 2

**Corporate social responsibility heading in the wrong direction.** CSR is in danger of becoming the victim of its own success argues Tomorrow's Company who identify "compliance" CSR (driven by

CSRwire Jul 8  
<http://www.csrwire.com/article.cgi/1959.html>

## 2003



external expectations and reporting pressures) and “conviction CSR” (led by the vision and values from within). Compliance CSR is ahead of conviction CSR on the boardroom agenda and risks creating a passive box-ticking mentality rather than real change

**Corporate social responsibility issues gradually being adopted by consumers.** European consumer magazines, examining the ethics of leading sports shoe companies, have identified Adidas-Salomon and Nike as the overall “frontrunners” in terms of quality and CSR. A similar report on bananas is also underway

**What do stakeholders really expect of companies?** See BitC’s ‘Statbank’ for bite-sized examples

**Responsible business attracts the best people; keeping them improves the bottom line.** Research on 1,000 employees across UK shows they see a clear connection between responsible business practice and positive impact on the bottom line

**Companies that are less exposed to social, environmental and ethical risks are more highly valued by the market.** Over a longer period, both the Dow Jones Sustainability Index and stocks in the FTSE4Good index have outperformed. Since its launch in 1994, the DJSI has outperformed the FTSE World Index by 17%

**GlaxoSmithKline, Coors (formerly Bass) & BBC join Business Council for Sustainable Development UK (BCSD-UK)**

**Unilever puts heat on its big investors.** Anglo-Dutch group turns tables in governance debate by asking shareholders to explain their failure to vote

SiRi Group	Jul 9
<a href="http://www2.bitc.org.uk/resources/research/statbank">www2.bitc.org.uk/resources/research/statbank</a>	Jul 15
<a href="http://www.csrwire.com/article.cgi/1963.html">http://www.csrwire.com/article.cgi/1963.html</a>	Jul 10
<a href="http://www.wbcd.org/plugins/DocSearch/details.asp?type=DocDet&amp;DocId=1835">http://www.wbcd.org/plugins/DocSearch/details.asp?type=DocDet&amp;DocId=1835</a> From Financial Times	Jul 24
BCSD-UK	Jul 31
WBCSD, FT	Aug 8

### ICT/Electronics sector

**Electronics firms promote EU law guidelines.** A coalition of big consumer and household electronics firms has published operational principles it wants included in national legislation implementing the EU's waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) directive

**Nokia and WWF** are launching a training programme on environmental issues. The three-year project will help Nokia employees get a better understanding of environmental issues. And it marks the first time WWF has been engaged in this way

**EU urged to harness ICT's green potential.** The EU should support applications of ICT that can create significant environmental and social benefits eg, “smart buildings services” to reduce energy consumption

**Toshiba is to stop using harmful chemical substances in all its**

Environment Daily 1461	Jun 12
Ethical Corporation	Jul 2
Environment Daily <a href="http://europa.eu.int/comm/enterprise/index_en.htm">http://europa.eu.int/comm/enterprise/index_en.htm</a>	Aug 4
New Materials Japan	Aug 1

## 2003



products, including industrial machinery, by March 2005, one year ahead of the introduction of tougher health and safety regulations by the European Union and China

Environment		
DIY retailer Focus Wickes is the latest retailer to sign up to Friends of the Earth's pledge to phase out risky chemicals from their products. Homebase and B&Q signed the pledge last year. Focus Wickes has 430 stores across the country: the three companies own 1,060 stores in UK, which is 40% of the DIY market	<a href="http://www.edie.net">www.edie.net</a>	Jun 6
<b>European photovoltaic industry is growing rapidly:</b> market share now at 25%, and Germany, the main EU force behind the industry's expansion, now looking to export this energy	<a href="http://www.edie.net">www.edie.net</a>	Jun 6
<b>European environment and health plan released.</b> European Commission's environment, health and research directorates have joined forces to launch a strategy "to reduce childhood diseases linked to environmental factors"	Environment Daily 1461, <a href="http://europa.eu.int/rapid/star/t/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gett xt=qt&amp;doc=IP/0">http://europa.eu.int/rapid/star/t/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gett xt=qt&amp;doc=IP/0</a>	Jun 12
<b>EU confirms disposal ranking for waste burning.</b> European Commission confirmed that energy recovery from dedicated waste incinerators can no longer be counted towards waste recovery targets under the EU Packaging Directive. By extension, the same should logically apply also to the End-of-Life Vehicles (ELV) and Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Directives. All three directives require higher rates of recovery than recycling. Industry groups expressed dismay at the development	Environment Daily 1462	Jun 13
<b>Agreement on environmental liability.</b> After a decade of attempts to legislate EU-wide in this sensitive area, European Commission welcomes the political agreement by the EU Environment Ministers on the Directive on Environmental Liability	EEP	Jun 18
<b>"Drilling for oil can help save forests."</b> Indonesia-based Centre for International Forestry Research argues that high incomes from oil and minerals can relieve pressure on forests as the more money countries make from drilling and mining, the less temptation there is to clear forests	Edie <a href="http://www.edie.net/news/Archive/7173.cfm">www.edie.net/news/Archive/7173.cfm</a>	Jun 27
<b>WRI urges governance reforms to stop environmental decline.</b> "Decisions for the Earth" report stresses the urgent need with respect to environment and the crisis of global poverty	CSRwire <a href="http://www.csrwire.com/article.cgi/1965.html">http://www.csrwire.com/article.cgi/1965.html</a>	Jul 10
<b>UK warned of impending waste chaos.</b> UK's haphazard implementation of the electroscrap (WEEE) and End-of-Life Vehicles (ELV) Directives could result in an even greater fiasco than the fridge mountain of 2002, the government's official better regulation taskforce (BRTF) warned today	Environment Daily BRTF <a href="http://www.brtf.gov.uk/">http://www.brtf.gov.uk/</a>	Jul 28

## 2003



New 'Focus on London' launched - useful facts and stats about London including environment, transport, population...	<a href="http://www.statistics.gov.uk/london/">http://www.statistics.gov.uk/london/</a>	Jun 25
<b>Financial services</b>		
<b>Banks' Equator Principles.</b> Ten banks announced adoption of the Equator Principles (EPs), voluntary guidelines for promoting social and environmental responsibility in financing development projects, especially in emerging markets. Social investors and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) welcome them, but caution that the EPs contain potential pitfalls and loopholes	<a href="http://www.socialfunds.com/news/article.cgi/article1140.html">www.socialfunds.com/news/article.cgi/article1140.html</a> <a href="http://www.csrwire.com/article.cgi/1885.html">www.csrwire.com/article.cgi/1885.html</a> <a href="http://equatorprinciples.ifc.org">http://equatorprinciples.ifc.org</a>	Jun 5/11
<b>Digital technologies can improve environmental impact of business.</b> Digital Europe, in partnership with Barclays plc and EMI, found that digital technologies can reduce pressure on the environment. E.g. On-line banking can have almost one third of the environmental impact of branch banking	<a href="http://www.digital-eu.org/publications">www.digital-eu.org/publications</a>	Jun 10
<b>Standard Chartered wins two major awards for community projects.</b> SC's community work wins Global Business Coalition on HIV AIDS Award for Business Excellence in the Workplace for its staff peer education programme while BitC awarded the bank a 'Big Tick', Award for Excellence for its 'Community Partnership for Africa'	<a href="http://www.standardchartered.com/ourbeliefs">www.standardchartered.com/ourbeliefs</a> <a href="http://www.csrwire.com/article.cgi/1974.html">http://www.csrwire.com/article.cgi/1974.html</a>	
<b>Nationwide's first sustainability report is published.</b> "Sustainability is at the very heart of Nationwide as a mutual organisation"	<a href="http://www.nationwide.co.uk/bettersociety">www.nationwide.co.uk/bettersociety</a>	July 25
<b>Pressure crucial in order to 'green' Denmark's financial services industry</b> which is unlikely to become 'greener' without "stronger economic incentives than market signals are currently offering," according to the Danish environmental protection agency	Environment Daily Danish EPA <a href="http://www.mst.dk/">http://www.mst.dk/</a>	Jul 31
<b>Local authorities/local development</b>		
<b>London Sustainability Week</b> , held in the first week of June, has been a judged a success by its organisers, London 21	<a href="http://www.ralph29.freereserve.co.uk/cheb/page10.html">http://www.ralph29.freereserve.co.uk/cheb/page10.html</a>	SPN UK
<b>Zero waste to landfill by 2010 for Norfolk County Council.</b> Under the European Landfill Directive, waste going to landfill must be reduced by 75% of the 1995 rates, by 2010	<a href="http://www.edie.net">www.edie.net</a>	Jul 27
<b>IDeA and Audit Commission</b> have joined together in a more formal, strategic alliance to help drive improvement in public services and maximise the support to individual authorities (joined-up work programmes, better sharing of information, special projects on critical areas, performance management, measurement and information (PMMI), etc	IDeA Improvement News 6 <a href="mailto:olatunji.awoyungbo@idea.gov.uk">olatunji.awoyungbo@idea.gov.uk</a>	Aug 1
<b>UK Government slashes council red tape</b> and announces plans to	<a href="http://www.odpm.gov.uk/pns/">http://www.odpm.gov.uk/pns/</a>	Jul 22

## 2003



reduce the inspection burden. By the end of 2005, authorities will only be required to produce six major service plans, in addition to BV Performance Plan and Community Strategy

</pnattach/20030144/1.doc>

**New community engagement resource** on IDEa Knowledge features a case study on Ryedale District Council which took an innovative approach when building its 10-year community plan by adopting a community participation method called 'Imagine' (involving citizens at the start of the decision-making)

IDEa Aug 6  
<http://www.idea.gov.uk/knowledge/august/?id=050803communityplan>

**TeacherNet and SD in schools.** Can you offer teachers/school managers information or advice for lesson plans or a school SD strategy? Contact TeacherNet via [Virginia.collins@dfes.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Virginia.collins@dfes.gsi.gov.uk)

SPN UK Aug 6

### Reporting/verification

**Material World.** 2003 Benchmark Survey of Global Reporting. Key findings: distinct differences in reporting around the world; notably fewer companies reporting in the U.S. than Europe or Asia; increase in reporting on social categories including H&S, equality and diversity, and human rights. More companies now produce a combined social and environmental report than purely environmental report

CSR Network Jun 17

**Striking the balance report launched.** Executives from three multinationals made the case in Paris recently for open disclosure of companies' environmental and social impacts. This new WBCSD report explains how reporting on sustainable development and becoming more accountable can increase a company's value

WBCSD Jun 18  
<http://www.wbcd.org/include/s/getTarget.asp?type=DocDet&id=MTU1Nw>

**Automotive & IT sectors head up CSR reporting.** 90% of companies from the computers & electronics and the automotive sectors produce a stand-alone CSR report, with most notable areas of increased reporting in the social areas. 49% of companies reported on the sustainability of their product or service in 2003. Key trend is growth of independent assurance: 18% have independent assurance in reports in 2002 (AA1000 assurance standard most used), up from 8% in 2000

CSRwire Jul 2

**New Zealand's Ministry of the Environment** has become the first government agency to report on its social and environmental impacts using the GRI guidelines

GRI Jul 3

**South African stock exchange will require GRI reporting.** From Sept 1, Companies have to comply with King II governance codes and GRI guidelines. Reporting on HIV/AIDS is likely to be the key challenge, but see Impala Platinum, New Africa Capital and Anglo Gold for specific calculations on impact of HIV/AIDS on operations

SocialFunds.com Jul 28

**Premier Oil's first sustainability performance report out.**

<http://www.premier-oil.com> Jul 28

## 2003



Stresses that corporate social responsibility at Premier Oil is “work in progress” and “a continuous journey”, including performance targets for the future: “beyond our previous benchmark”

Ethical Performance

### Products/packaging waste/supply chain/logistics

**European Commission waters down green product policy.** EC fails to deliver key “policy-drivers” in its Integrated Product Policy (IPP) proposals and will fail to create significant reductions in the environmental burden of products as it lacks the most vital component – a legislative platform. Very few of its early ambitious objectives now remain in the current communication

Edie  
<http://www.edie.net/news/Archive/7167.cfm> Jun 27

**European Parliament votes on doubling minimum recycling target** under Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive. In 1999, 63.5m tonnes packaging waste was generated in the EU which is around 17% of municipal solid waste and 3% of the total waste generation by weight

EEP Jul 18

**Investigation reduces packaging waste recycling figures.** Following Defra investigation, UK forced to reduce the 2002 figures for wood packaging waste recycling by 76,400 tonnes after allegations that fraudulent PRNs and PERNs were being issued

[www.edie.net/news/Archive/7301.cfm](http://www.edie.net/news/Archive/7301.cfm) Jul 25

### World development

**Starbucks and fair trade.** Global Exchange planned dramatic demonstrations to make Starbucks sell fair trade coffee but Starbucks wanted dialogue on how to offer consumers coffee made from beans grown under more humane conditions, and sold at more remunerative prices for poverty-stricken growers

<http://www.wbcsd.org/plugins/DocSearch/details.asp?type=DocDet&DocId=1753> Jul 18

**Coca Cola accused of causing water shortages.** Villagers in the Indian state of Kerala are accusing Coca Cola of causing severe water shortages and environmental contamination

[www.edie.net](http://www.edie.net) Jul 27

**Astris Energi Inc announces fuel cell discussions** with India’s government alkaline fuel cell project, the largest in the world eg, electrification of 60,000 villages currently without power

CSRWire Jul 24