



Environmental Legislation Briefing

ESP Ltd.

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Europe's Largest Wind Farm Opens in Scotland

On 20th May Scottish First Minister Alex Salmond opened Europe's largest on-shore wind farm south-west of Glasgow.

them to explore the whole area so that some of the myths about wind farms might be dispelled.

In total there are 140 wind turbines that cover an area the same size as Glasgow city centre which represents a huge step forward towards cutting CO₂ emissions.



The biodiversity of the area will also be improved with the felling of 2 million non native conifers and the promotion of habitats for Red and Black Grouse and other upland wildlife.

The site is also due to help educate the public about renewable technology with a visitor centre due to open in the summer and the site being opened up to ramblers, walkers and cyclists. This will allow

There are already plans to expand the total number of wind turbines by 36. If these plans go ahead the site would produce enough power to supply 250,000 homes.

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ESP

Environmental Management

Landscape Architecture

Health & Safety

ESP Launches New Look Website

ESP is proud to announce that it has launched a new look website.

Here at ESP we are very proud of the website and are glad that we can now show our more modern look.



New features includes a download page where you can find all our latest briefings and a news page which will keep you updated with all that's happening at ESP.

Special Points of Interest:

- Carbon Reduction Commitment
- Fluorinated Greenhouse Gases Regulations 2009
- Environmental Damage Regulations 2009
- Four Seater Electric Car Launched



New or Amended Environmental Law

Development Control

Site of Special Scientific Interest Regulations 2009

These regulations clarify the process for appealing against the refusal, modification or withdrawal of a consent to carry out an operation likely to damage the SSSI.

Hazardous Substances

Ozone Depleting Substances Regulations 2009

Updates minimum requirements for qualifications in light of updated Fluorinated Gases Regulations 2009. See page 3 for more details

Health & Safety at Work Act Regulations 2009

Extends "dangerous substances" to include environmentally hazardous substances

Environmental Management

Environmental Damage Regulations 2009

Operators of activities listed in schedule 2 are liable for any damage to land, water or habitats/species. Other operators however are only liable for damage arising from their negligence or where they intended to cause damage. Once the damage has occurred operators are expected to propose remedial measures.

Carbon Reduction Commitment

The Carbon Reduction Commitment is a mandatory emissions trading scheme with the aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 to at least 80% of 1990 levels.

The scheme which begins in April 2010 only applies to organisations that fill certain criteria. To fully participate an organisation must:

- Have at least one half hourly meter (HHM) settled on the half hourly market, and
- Have an annual electricity consumption, through all half hourly meters, of at least 6,000 MWh.

Organisations that have at least one HHM settled on the half hourly market, but whose annual energy consumption is less than 6,000MWh do not have to participate fully in CRC. However these organisations do have to make an information disclosure.

Within this information disclosure you must:

- provide the administrator with a list of all your organisation's HHMs settled on the half hourly market, and
- calculate how much electricity you consume through all HHM, including any automatic meter reading meters.



Environmental Law under Consultation

Pollution Prevention & Control

Consultation follows from the first phase of streamlining environmental permitting.

Air Pollution

DEFRA has opened up a consultation regarding the Air Quality Directive and Carbon Reduction Commitment.

A consultation has started regarding the Paint Products Regulations 2005.

Effluent & Water

DEFRA is holding a consultation regarding the Water Resources Act 1991 so that the process of designating water protection zones is clarified.

The first stage of consultation on developing a policy framework for flood emergency planning and response has begun.

DEFRA has undertaken a consultation exercise concerning proposed amendments to the Marine Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2007.

Air Pollution

Proposed amendments to the Environmental Noise Regulations 2006 are currently under consultation.



Fluorinated Greenhouse Gases Regulations 2009

From 4th July 2009 it becomes a legal requirement for all businesses that install, maintain or service stationary refrigeration, air-conditioning, heat-pump (RAC) or fire protection equipment that contains "F gas" refrigerants to hold a Company Certificate issued by an appointed Company Certification Body. It will be an offence to carry out these activities without a Company Certificate.

For more information from the DEFRA appointed Certification Body visit www.bureauveritas.co.uk/fgas.

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ESP Explores Alternative Technology

Recently ESP took the opportunity to explore the world of alternative technology at The Centre for Alternative Technology (CAT) near Machynlith in Wales.

CAT is a unique place where different types of alternative technology can be viewed on working buildings. The types of technologies on display include grass roofs, renewable energy sources and a variety of sustainable building materials.

One part of the site which particularly caught our attention was the roof that consisted of part glass and part solar panels. The roof, pictured below, was a fantastic example of how a building can be truly sustainable and can provide both natural light and electricity.

Along with the larger scale ideas there are also a number of more practicable day-to-day suggestions to help protect the environment. This included the Rotaire which is a cover for an outdoor washing line which means that washing can be put outside in any weather, reducing the need to tumble drying.



Four Seater Electric Car Launched

The Electric Car Corporation has launched the UK's first all electric, four seater production car. It's based on the Citroën C1 and is called the 'C1 ev'ie' and can travel 60 to 75 miles in one charge and has fuel costs equivalent to 300 mpg.



The car offers all the mod-cons of a standard Citroën C1 but instead of the standard engine there is a battery which charges from empty in 6 to 7 hours. The ev'ie also contains a KERS (Kinetic Energy Recovery System) system similar to those in this season's

Formula 1 cars. This means that the surplus energy created during braking goes to re-charging the battery, making it last even longer.

The car can either charge through a normal, domestic 13 amp electric socket or can be connected to free charging

points (although the majority of these can be found in London). However, something to remember is that if your electricity supply does not come from a renewable source then greenhouse gasses are still emitted.