

Environmental Legislation Briefing

Supplement 56

December 2009

Potential solar energy for Europe

A consortium of major European corporations is expected to announce funding worth €400 Billion to build a series of solar thermal power plants in north Africa.

If the project were to be carried out it would produce 100 gigawatts of electricity which would be enough to meet 15% Europe's electricity needs by 2050.



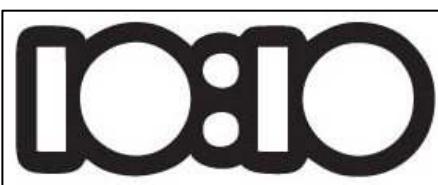
The electricity would enter Europe through 20 power lines under the Mediterranean Sea. These would use the latest technology which could reduce transmission errors to below 10%.

The power plant would also use a different type of solar panel which would heat up water which then generates power in a more conventional method.

10:10 Campaign

A new campaign named 10:10 has recently been launched with the aim to reduce CO₂ emissions by 10% in 2010 (based on 2009 levels).

This target is not just aimed at businesses or individuals but organisations, businesses, individuals as well as those in education. The guiding philosophy behind the campaign is that lots of little changes will build up to a big change in emissions.



created 10:10 tags. These are made from a melted down jumbo jet which needed decommissioning after flying into a volcanic ash cloud.

The campaign is run by charitable donations with a pledge that no money donated will go towards duck islands.

So far over 1,200 businesses and 36,000 individuals have signed up.

To assist in highlighting the campaign the organisation has

For more information visit www.1010uk.org

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New or Amended Environmental Law

Air Pollution

Carbon Budgets Order 2009

Forms an implementation package for the provisions of the Climate Change Act 2008. This include the Secretary of State having to set carbon budgets representing the maximum net UK carbon account, the first three of which will have to be set by June 2009.

Carbon Accounting Regulations 2009

This regulation introduces a system which will be used to monitor compliance with the UK's targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

The Climate Change Act 2008

Amendments have been made to change the 2020 target, set a limit on the use of carbon credits and clarifies certain definitions.

Renewable Energy Directive

Is part of the EU's package of measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through the Kyoto Protocol and has the aim of promoting the increased use of renewable energy sources.

Smoke Control Areas Order 2009

Exempts certain fireplaces from the provisions of Clean Air Act 1993 and amends the list of fuels authorised by the Secretary of State for use in smoke control areas

Effluent and Water

The total amount of nitrogen that can be applied on a farm has been limited to 170Kg/Hectare .

Development Control

The Energy Performance of Buildings Regulations 2009

Provides for greater disclosure of information. This includes a requirement that the documents be entered in a register kept by the Secretary of State or someone (in practical terms, a contractor) on his behalf.

The Planning (Hazardous Substances) Regulations 2009

Increases the range of dangerous substances for which consent must be obtained for storage or processing and revise the amounts allowed before consent must be obtained.

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For more information please e-mail enquiries@esp.uk.net.

Nuisance

Environmental Noise (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2009

The key objective of the regulation is to streamline procedures for the implementation of the Environmental Noise Directive, under which a new system of strategic environmental noise mapping and subsequent action planning was introduced for all major roads, airports, railways and major agglomerations.

Pollution Prevention & Control

The Environmental Permitting Regulations 2009

Covers the management of waste from land-based extractive industries by integrating the requirements into the single permitting system.

Waste Management

Landfill Tax Order 2009

Outlines seven uses of material on a landfill site which will be subject to landfill tax.



Follow ESP on Twitter

ESP has now joined the micro blogging website Twitter. Over the next few weeks and months we'll be keeping our followers of our news as well as some interesting articles we read.

So if you're signed up too why not find us at http://twitter.com/ESP_Ltd.

Waste Framework Directive

DEFRA has opened up a consultation on the above directive. It specifically looks at issues regarding:

- Waste hierarchy;
- Extended producer responsibility;
- Re-use and recycling;
- Principles of self-sufficiency and proximity;
- Hazardous waste;
- Waste oils;
- Biowastes;
- Waste management plans; and
- Waste prevention programmes.

Further information can be found at <http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/waste-framework/index.htm>



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School's innovative renewable energy approach

A school in the highlands of Scotland is using an innovative approach to producing renewable energy.

The school in Glenelg, Wester Ross, has used the spare space on top of a bike shelter to generate electricity from solar panels.

The 'Solar Shed' was installed at a cost of £20,000 and is due to be repeated at 32 other sites across the highlands, mostly at schools.

It is hoped that younger cyclists will use the shelter which will reduce CO₂ from car travel and also by producing renewable energy to classrooms.



Copenhagen Summit

65 world leaders are meeting in Copenhagen to discuss climate change in December in the hope of creating a legally binding treaty on limiting greenhouse gas emissions.

It was initially hoped that the summit may produce a agreement to replace the Kyoto Protocol which was agreed in 1997. However, lately hopes have been dampened and it is suggested that the conference may help to develop a template for future actions.

The Copenhagen summit follows a long line of international gatherings to discuss climate change. Previous meeting include those in Rio de Janeiro and

Kyoto have changed the way that climate change is acted upon worldwide.

Although the conference is being held from the 7th to the 18th December a number of negotiations have already been carried out before this. This has led to a number of targets by individual countries being made. This includes targets to cut emissions from Russia, China and South Korea and a target by India to increase the amount of Solar Power used.

A full update on the outcomes of the summit will be included in later supplements of this briefing and our [twitter page](#).