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Dear Deb,

Here in Shrewsbury the weather outside is positively balmy and spring-like. We have, however, seen dramatic changes in the weather for February from snow fall and frosts to sunshine and spring temperatures.

British weather is well-known for its unpredictability and can still take us by surprise when extreme or unusual weather conditions prevail. In order to better understand the climate change risks that are posed to us here in the UK, the Government has commissioned The UK Climate Change Risk Assessment, where they are asking for your opinions and ideas about how to maintain our country's resilience to extreme weather conditions. For more information, please see below.

Mandy Stoker



***National  
Adaptation  
Programme - UK  
Climate Change  
Risk Assessment***

The Government has commissioned the UK Climate Change Risk Assessment in

order to better understand the implications of climate change and which issues deserve most attention.

Defra are asking businesses, individuals and local authorities to develop the UK's first National Adaptation Programme to maintain the UK's resilience to climate change and changing weather.

To contribute to the National Adaptation Programme, please go to the Defra website -

<http://engage.defra.gov.uk/nap/>

***Get paid to heat your business?***

Do you spend thousands of pounds each year to provide heating or hot water for your business?

The Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) is a Government backed scheme to encourage the use of renewable heating technologies; dependent on technology and scale, owners of renewable heating equipment will be paid for the kilowatt hours (kWh) of heat they generate, index linked, for twenty years. The aim is to deliver around a 12% return on investment.

Eligible technologies include biomass (generally wood) boilers, ground-source heat pumps and solar thermal.

The RHI has been made available because technologies such as wood heating boilers are much more capital intensive than gas or oil boilers, frequently 3 times the cost or more, but all these technologies have constraints that must be considered from day one to avoid poor performance - and costly mistakes.

With such a significant investment to consider it is critical you get the right independent expert advice from the outset and we can do that for you.

For more information see [www.greenfieldsconsulting.co.uk](http://www.greenfieldsconsulting.co.uk) or give Nick Monether a call on 01691 655328 / 07940 570302.



### ***Stockport Council to invest £500k in local green issues***

Stockport local authority is funding a one-off initiative to support existing environmental projects and to create new green jobs.

The council have saved £2.3 million in waste disposal costs after the introduction of recycling and composting schemes and plan to re-invest some of the savings in local green business.

For more information on the scheme, please visit the Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council website [www.stockport.gov.uk](http://www.stockport.gov.uk)

### ***Electric van grant scheme for businesses***



The government has released a list of electric vans eligible for subsidies under its new plug-in grant for businesses, which was announced in January.

The scheme allows buyers to save 20% off the price of the electric vans up to a maximum of £8,000 and is an extension to the scheme previously offered to domestic car buyers.

Transport Secretary Justine Greening says, "Our new grant demonstrates that you can be a motorist and still be pro-environment."

"The new plug-in grant also makes business sense as it's been estimated that a small electric van will typically cost £100 less in fuel for every 1,000 miles driven compared to a diesel equivalent."

Electric vehicles are also exempt from congestion charge in London and qualify for zero-rate company car tax. Electric vehicles need less servicing as they have less moving parts and can be more suited to business use than domestic. Vans are often driven for less than 100 miles a day, which is the range of an electric van, and not used at night, so can be charged ready for the next day.

There are, however, downsides to electric vehicles. An electric van can cost twice that of a diesel one, mainly because of the cost of the battery. The battery lasts approximately 100,000 miles or seven years and will need replacing, which, in some cases can cost up to £20,000.



Waste and Resources Action Plan (WRAP) works in the United Kingdom with individuals and businesses reap the benefits of reducing waste, develop sustainable products and use resources in an efficient way.

## WRAP Funding

WRAP has a range of funding available to individuals and businesses -

1. eEquip - Leasing made easy - a leasing scheme that helps companies secure financial assistance for recycling plant and machinery.
2. Funding to support collections of food waste from businesses in England is available to local authorities, private sector or community sector organisations.
3. Anaerobic Digestion Loan Fund (ADLF) is a £10million fund designed to support the development of new AD capacity in England. Open for applications Jan 2012 -April 2012
4. The Mixed Plastics Loan Fund (MPLF) is a limited fund of up to £2 million that has been established by WRAP to address the reprocessing capacity gap that currently exists for mixed plastics within England.
5. Waste Prevention Loan Fund (WPLF) to enable the introduction of new business models and resource efficient processes - Closing date 29th February.
6. Funding available for West Midlands recycling firms - Small Scale Capital Grant Funding

For more information see [www.wrap.org.uk](http://www.wrap.org.uk)



## PROSECUTION

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### Businesses fined for illegally exporting waste

Two businesses from Bourne, Lincolnshire have been ordered to pay maximum fines for illegally exporting 259 tonnes of waste to China. The ten containers were routinely inspected at the port of Felixstowe and found to contain wastes not suitable, under international convention, to be exported to China on

the grounds of protection of human health and the environment.

Chungs UK Ltd, a company that sources and exports scrap metal and plastic to sell to China, pleaded guilty to breaching the regulations and was ordered to pay the maximum fine of £5,000. The containers were loaded at BW Riddle, a vehicle dismantling and scrap metal recovery site. Riddle was fined £5,000 for breaching the regulations and £4,000 for failing their duty of care by incorrectly completing paperwork. Both businesses were ordered to pay £6,500 towards costs.

The loads were found not to be hazardous but could not automatically be exported without a proper description of the waste and agreement with the country due to accept it. The transfer notes described the waste as 'Type A' including 'aluminium from construction and demolition waste'. The actual contents of the containers included steel car parts, copper wiring, aluminium foil and alloy parts, rubber and plastic hoses, jubilee clips, car tyres, plastic and rubber car parts, rubber car belts, circuit boards, UPVC window frames, chipboard, wood, glass, brick, stone and foam. China had not agreed to accept the containers and, as there was no description of the waste, it could not be guaranteed that the waste would have been handled in an environmentally acceptable way.

#### **Permit revoked from skip hire company**

A skip hire company from Northamptonshire has had its permit taken away by the Environment Agency after failing to provide information as to how its site would be managed. Abbey Skips, from Corby, can no longer take waste at its site and any waste currently on the site will have to be removed. The company were asked to improve the site and despite having done this, they were still failing the requirements of their permit. The company can apply for a new permit but until this is granted they cannot accept waste at their Fineshade site. They can still supply, transport and collect skips as long as the site to which the waste is taken has the relevant permit to receive the waste.

#### *Quick Links...*

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