

Jumping on the plastic-banned wagon

Britain is the latest country to announce a ban on plastic bags, most likely with a levy. It joins the following countries in prohibiting the bags.

Australia	announced a ban
China	announced a ban through levies starting June 2008
France	most grocery stores charge a fee
Germany	users pay between 5 and 25 Euro cents per bag
India	plastic bags for food items banned
Ireland	users pay 22 Euro cents per bag and more for thicker bags
Kenya	ban on thin plastic bags and extra charge for thicker bags
Norway	users pay 12 Euro cents
South Africa	users pay the equivalent of two to three Euro cents — AFP



Stars for bridges too ★★★★★

Buildings have sustainability ratings, so why not other structures, too? That's the idea behind the creation of a rating system for bridges, airports, marinas and other constructions. The Australian Green Infrastructure Council is developing the rating scheme to help improve sustainability in infrastructure. Categories for assessment include water efficiency, energy and greenhouse emissions, resource use and waste, land use, and ecology and biodiversity.



Green beer anyone?

Drinking beer just got a whole lot more environment friendly. Tasmanian brewer Cascade has produced the first Australian carbon neutral beer, aptly named Cascade Green. The "full-flavoured lager" is certified Greenhouse Friendly by the Australian Government's Department of Climate Change. The company has offset all carbon associated with the beer, from picking the hops to bottling it with lightweight, minimum 50 per cent recycled glass, and using biodegradable vegetable inks on the packaging.

Marine wilderness protection

The tiny Pacific Island nation of Kiribati has established the world's largest marine protected area, encompassing eight coral atolls and two submerged reef systems. The 410,500-square-kilometre boundary includes "an extensive seamount and deep sea habitat, tuna spawning grounds, and as yet unsurveyed submerged reef systems," said Greg Stone, vice-president of global marine programs at the New England Aquarium in the US.

"What is Carbon Gardening?"