

GREEN LIFE



Trade winds

Britain and the US have teamed up to offer huge rewards to the company that provides a successful design for floating wind turbines. Traditional wind turbines are rarely sited in more than 200 feet of water as they need to be anchored to the sea bed. However, winds are consistently stronger over deeper water, and floating turbines have the advantages of being out of sight from land and having the facility to be towed ashore for maintenance, as opposed to costly repairs at sea. Although floating wind turbines are nothing new – both Italy and Norway have deployed them – the trick is to come up with a design that minimises movement of the whole unit caused by waves and wind, thus maximising the energy transferred to the generator so that it can be stationed in deeper water. The UK has around a third of Europe's total offshore wind potential.

[HTTP://ENERGY.GOV](http://energy.gov)

Olympic hurdles

Next month, as all eyes are on London for the Olympic and Paralympic Games, The Big Smoke will have one eye on what happens once the athletes depart. Four years ago, Beijing was left with several white elephants when the echoes of national anthems died away in stadia that are now infrequently used. The UK capital is keen to avoid similar pitfalls. The 2012 Games will bestow upon London the largest new urban parkland in Europe for 150 years, and organisers claim that the Olympic Stadium will be "the most sustainable in history". The Olympic Delivery Authority announced it will attempt to offset the carbon emissions of construction by spending over GBP 1 million on energy improvements such as insulation and draught-proofing in local public buildings and private homes.

[WWW.LONDON2012.COM](http://www.london2012.com)



Green elephant

Implanted in the heart of the Masai Mara, Elephant Pepper Camp (EPC) is one of just three camps to be awarded Eco Tourism Kenya's Gold Level rating, and with good reason. Aside from the typical eco-resort features – 100 percent solar powered, minimal waste through recycling, and the use of natural construction materials – it's worth noting that the majority of EPC's employees are local, and the camp recently funded the building of a new classroom and kitchen at a local primary school. Even the money from their glass recycling is donated to East African Women's League to support a family planning scheme. So when EPC's guests emerge from their tents for an early morning game drive, they can be assured that their visit is having a low impact on the stunning surrounds and is actively contributing to the sustainability of the community and the environment.

[WWW.ELEPHANTPEPPERCAMP.COM](http://www.elephantpeppercamp.com)