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ISSUE 219 • **APRIL 2024**

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# EDITORIAL VIEWPOINT

By **Brendan Gilligan**

**Fly-tipping continues to be a major problem in our countryside, and it is increasingly becoming prevalent even in some towns and cities where dumping rubbish is more likely to be spotted or caught on CCTV. Unfortunately, arresting the culprits is not easy. Therefore, when offenders are caught red-handed, there is a cause for celebration.**

In February, two men discarded piles of industrial material onto a country lane near Meriden in Warwickshire. However, local people were determined to put an end to this practice. They blocked the vans to prevent the men from escaping and called the police. The police arrived shortly afterwards, making the men clear up the mess and impound their vehicles.

This was an excellent example of community co-operation in tackling this issue. However, this is just one success story in an increasingly grim picture. An estimated 3,000 fly-tipping incidents occur across England every day, and clearing up costs up to £58 million each year. In many rural areas, fly-tipping is a real blight, exacerbated by the rules surrounding it. The Environmental Protection Act makes it the responsibility of private landowners to clean up any rubbish illegally dumped on their land or risk prosecution.

This is fundamentally unfair, and offenders need to be dealt with firmly if others are to be deterred from engaging in this behaviour. The system of fines also needs reforming, as the fines can be lower than the cost of legitimate disposal, and prosecutions are rare.

Part of the problem is a lack of legitimate waste centres. Many centres are now for recycling only, and councils are closing dumps. This just encourages the less scrupulous to fly-tip and costs more in the long run than keeping a centre open.

To combat this issue, some boroughs have accessible "mega-skips" where materials can be discarded without charge. This practice should be emulated everywhere, and the closure of household waste centres must be stopped. It is time to take a firm stance on fly-tipping and end this despicable behaviour once and for all.

*If you're not following us on social media, you can find details for our four platforms in the column on the right.*

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*Sam Farmer*

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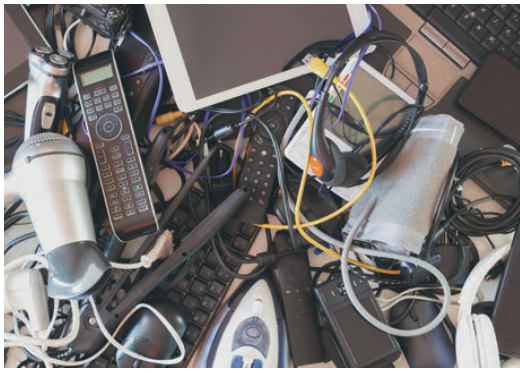
# MPs criticise Defra for not tackling 'e-waste tsunami'



**The Environmental Audit Committee (EAC) has criticised the UK Government for the lack of progress in addressing the 'e-waste tsunami' four years after it accepted or partly accepted recommendations from an EAC report. The committee is urging the Government to take more action to embed a circular economy, which emphasises the use, reuse, and recycling of electronic products.**

The EAC has welcomed the Government's proposal to impose producer responsibility requirements on online marketplaces, which will level the playing field with high-street retailers. It has also expressed support for proposals to mandate the collection of e-waste.

However, the Committee has criticised the Government for failing to address several of its 2020 recommendations, such as ensuring that products sold on online marketplaces comply with the law, tackling planned obsolescence, and enabling consumers to repair electrical items safely.

The EAC has raised concerns that the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) implementation of producer responsibility policies is "beset by delays". In 2020, the committee concluded its inquiry into Electronic Waste and the Circular Economy and issued 27 recommendations, of which the Government accepted one and partly accepted 22.

EAC has written to the Secretary of State for Defra Steve Barclay to set out its recommendations. In the letter, the Committee urged the Government to expand the scope of the consultation to move the UK to a zero-waste economy.

The Committee also sought assurances from Defra that it is "sufficiently well-resourced to make meaningful progress" on the Resources and Waste Strategy.

Commenting on the letter, EAC Chairman Rt Hon Philip Dunne MP said: "When the Committee reported on e-waste in 2020, each UK household had 20 unused electronic items hoarded at home, and there were enough unused cables in UK households to go around the world five times. Despite these extraordinary statistics, it appears the Government is yet to fully grasp the scale of the e-waste tsunami.

"It is not just the amount of waste created in the sector through planned obsolescence or insufficient recycling schemes, but the significant environmental impact of creating the products in the first place.

"I look forward to the Environment Secretary's response and to seeing how the EAC's recommendations can help shape this critically important piece of Government policy."

## Disposable vape ban set for April 2025

**The Government has released a draft legislation outlining its plans to ban disposable vapes starting from next year.**

**The four UK Governments announced their intention to ban single-use vapes and lower the legal age for tobacco product purchase from 18 to 15 years in January.**

**A consultation launched earlier this year recorded that nearly 70% of the respondents supported the ban and other reforms. Consequently, the Government has published the draft statutory instrument, which is expected to come into force on 1st April 2025.**

**Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland will each introduce separate legislation for their own bans.**

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# UK firms urge Government to take action on food waste

**Over 30 prominent signatories from the UK's food, retail, and manufacturing sectors, including Compass Group, the UK's largest caterer, have led an open letter to the Government in collaboration with Too Good To Go and the British Retail Consortium (BRC).**

The open letter, addressed to Steve Barclay, the Secretary of State for the Department for Environment, Food, and Rural Affairs, calls for mandatory public food waste reporting. Signatories include Aldi, Danone, Marks & Spencer, Nestle, Sainsbury's, Tesco, and many others.

The letter highlighted that over a third of all food produced currently goes to waste, making it urgent to tackle this issue across the food sector. It also emphasised that food waste contributes 10% of global greenhouse gas emissions and costs £21.8 billion annually to the UK economy, from pre and post-farm gate food waste.

While acknowledging the progress made under the Courtauld Commitment and other initiatives, the companies claim that mandatory reporting is necessary to drive meaningful change. This will encourage more action across the industry through more data-driven strategies, drive efficiencies, and foster collaboration and economic growth.

Jamie Crummie, co-founder of social impact company Too Good To Go, said: "We're delighted to see the strong level of industry support for the introduction of mandatory food waste reporting.

"The stark reality is that a staggering 40% of all food produced globally goes to waste. In 2024, there is no room for half-hearted measures or commitments a decade away. The Government has an opportunity to lead the way in the fight against food waste by introducing mandatory food waste reporting, and we hope it will seize this chance."

Andrew Opie, director of food and sustainability at the BRC, said: "Mandatory Food Waste reporting is a key step in reducing food waste. It helps retailers understand their waste hotspots and where surplus food can be redistributed.

"While most retailers already report voluntarily through WRAP's Food Waste Reduction Roadmap, mandatory reporting will enable greater transparency across the supply chain. Retailers will continue to engage with the Government to ensure that the system works for all stakeholders and aligns across the four UK nations."

Aldi UK national sustainability director Liz Fox added: "It is important that we tackle the critical issue of food waste as an industry, and mandatory food waste reporting would be a significant step forward.

"Food waste reporting, and analysing opportunities for improvements, has already helped us achieve one of our food waste targets early – and allowed us to be even bolder in setting a new waste-reduction goal."

# BMRA launches Sustainability Hub for its members

**The British Metals Recycling Association (BMRA) is a trade association that represents the UK's metals recycling industry. Recently, it launched a Sustainability Hub, a major breakthrough that has brought its members a step closer to decarbonisation.**

**The hub includes a bespoke metal recycling Carbon Calculator and aims to guide members towards resources and information to educate employees and make tangible progress towards net zero.**

**Speaking about the launch of the Sustainability Hub, BMRA's CEO, James Kelly, said: "Publishing the Sustainability Hub is the culmination of over a year's work, which has leveraged the BMRA Secretariat's and members' expertise, including that of the Carbon Action Committee, to create a great offering for the metals recycling industry.**

**"The Sustainability Hub will offer members numerous benefits, including guides and strategies for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, offerings from experts in their fields, and our flagship product, a bespoke metals recycling Carbon Calculator.**

**"The user-friendly calculator will enable metal recyclers to measure their Scope 1 and 2 emissions. These are the emissions that are under their direct operational control, and they are most likely able to work towards reducing them."**

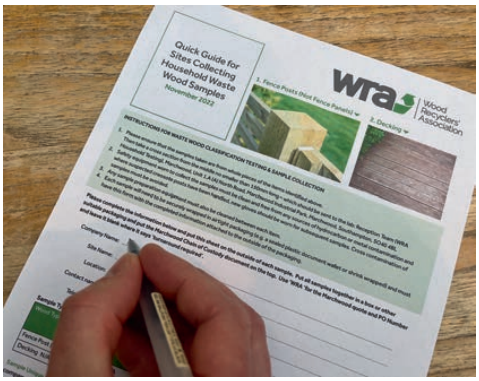
**For the first time, metal recyclers will have a single place to measure their emissions, identify emission hotspots, learn and implement carbon reduction methods, and access carbon offsetting.**

**Cameron Leitch, BMRA's Policy and Public Affairs Executive and Sustainability Lead, added: "The green credentials of the metals recycling industry are well documented. The industry already provides huge emission savings for metal manufacturers who choose to utilise scrap metal as a secondary raw material within their manufacturing process. This new offering aims to make those emission savings even bigger."**

# WRA welcomes extension of RPS 249

**Following discussions with the Wood Recyclers' Association (WRA), the Environment Agency has extended its regulatory position statement (RPS) governing waste wooden fence posts and decking from households.**

RPS 249 – which allows household waste recycling centres (HWRCS) to move and process these potentially hazardous items as non-hazardous* – was due to expire at the end of March and has been extended until the end of September 2024.




The WRA requested the move to provide more time for the waste wood industry to sample and test this material to confirm earlier tests, which have shown that its hazardous content is diminishing and will no longer exist as these items fall out of the waste stream.

More time is required because fence posts and decking are very hard to find over the Autumn and Winter and are expected to be more abundant over the Spring and Summer.

Under its Waste Wood Classification Project, the WRA has already narrowed down the list of potentially hazardous household waste wood items to just two and paid for the testing of hundreds of samples of fence posts and decking from around 40 WRA member sites that receive wood from HWRCs.

However, the association requires a further 2-300 samples from its members or members' customers to ensure it has a robust evidence base.

Vicki Hughes, Technical Lead on the WRA Board, said: "We welcome the extension of this RPS, which we requested to allow more time to identify, sample and test fence posts and decking. These items make up a very small part of the waste stream, so finding them can be challenging, especially in the colder months.

"However, it is imperative that our members who receive wood from HWRCs now identify, sample, and test these items using the WRA01 testing suite. This will give us the evidence we need to draw final conclusions before the RPS is withdrawn at the end of September, allowing us to keep these items in the waste stream rather than segregate them as hazardous."

While the Environment Agency's extension only applies to England, regulators in Wales have adopted a similar position.

There is no change to RPS 291, which governs potentially hazardous waste wood items from construction and demolition.

**The RPS only applies if wood is sent to an Industrial Emissions Directive Chapter IV compliant biomass plant or incinerator or is used to manufacture panel board.*

# Government risks breaking its manifesto pledge to deliver bottle deposit scheme

**A coalition of retailers, drinks producers and environmental groups has warned that the Government risks breaking its manifesto commitment to deliver a flagship recycling scheme.**

The Deposit Return Scheme (DRS), promised in the 2019 Tory manifesto, aims to incentivise consumers to return single-use bottles and cans by offering a small deposit. However, the policy has been delayed, and the Government currently plans to introduce it by October 2025, which is later than expected. Recent reports even suggest that the scheme may not be operational until 2028.

Last month, several campaign groups and companies, including Greenpeace, Coca-Cola, the Rivers Trust, Surfers Against Sewage, the RSPCA, Keep Britain Tidy, The Federation of Independent Retailers, Reloop, and the British Soft Drinks Association, wrote a letter to recycling minister Robbie Moore warning that the Government risks breaking its manifesto commitment unless it urgently introduces legislation to Parliament.

The letter said: "The Government's intention to introduce deposits in England & Northern Ireland by October 2025, alongside parallel systems planned for Scotland and Wales, is a reform that is essential to boosting economic, social and environmental wellbeing up and down the country.

"We urge the Government to deliver its 2019 manifesto pledge by laying legislation this spring, ahead of the next General Election."

The signatories warned that the UK is falling behind other European countries that have a DRS – including Germany, Norway, Sweden, Ireland, Latvia, Slovakia and Hungary – while more are set to introduce a scheme in the next 18 months.

The letter cited a 2022 survey from Keep Britain Tidy, which found that drinks containers make up 75% of street litter by volume, as well as research from the Marine Conservation Society, which found them on 93% of UK beaches surveyed.

It also cited recent YouGov polling, which suggests that 66% of Britons supported the introduction of a DRS and only 13% opposed it.

Cassie Rist, senior policy officer and advocacy adviser at Wildlife and Countryside Link, said: "A Deposit Return Scheme is an essential part of investing in green infrastructure, boosting recycling rates and stopping the waves of pollution going into our oceans, beaches and other natural spaces.

"As well as further environmental impacts closer to home, any more delay to this would send a bad signal on the world stage as we get towards crucial talks on the Global Plastic Treaty this month."

Jenni Hume, UK and Ireland director of circular economy experts Reloop, said: "In the UK, continued delays mean that bottles and cans are still littering our countryside and entering landfill or incineration rather than recycling plants or being reused.

"Ministers must keep pace with international counterparts and deliver the necessary legislation before Parliament ahead of a General Election."

# New fund launched to support circular economy innovators

**The Chartered Institution of Wastes Management (CIWM) has launched a new fund to support circular economy innovators. The Circular Economy Innovators Fund is the first of its kind. It will award six small and micro businesses in the UK and the Republic of Ireland with fully funded brand communications, marketing, and design support worth £10,000 each.**

The aim is to help these businesses expand and broaden their offering by building on their marketing and communications strategies. This fund allows emerging circular economy innovators to receive guidance and skillsets crucial to growing their businesses.

The award-winning communications agency Barley Communications will provide tailored support to the winners. This includes experienced brand designers, media relations specialists, and social media experts who will work alongside them to develop a brand communications plan and create content to meet their specific needs.

CIWM's President Dan Cooke said: "CIWM's purpose is to move the world beyond waste and accelerating the transition to a more circular economy is vital to achieving this. The Circular Economy Innovators Fund is the first challenger fund to offer circular economy businesses access to specialist marketing and communications support and expert advice to fast-track their business growth.

"Many small and micro companies in the sector have incredible forward-thinking products and services, contributing to greater resource efficiency and a more circular economy. But they might welcome help accessing the skills required to tell their stories better and accelerate their business to the next level. Through partnering with a communications agency with strategic experts in a wide range of areas, winners can choose which communication channels they feel they will most benefit from."

The Circular Economy Innovators Fund is open to small and micro businesses that have a focus on contributing to a circular economy. This can include businesses promoting initiatives that involve sharing, leasing, reusing, repairing, refurbishing and recycling existing materials and products for as long as possible.

Applications are open until Monday, 22nd April. Successful applicants will be selected by early summer, and winning projects will be featured later in the year across CIWM's award-winning content channels.

*For more details on the fund and how to apply, visit* ***www.surveymonkey.com/r/cefund***

# ASKKIVERCO

**FINALIST:** RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS AWARDS NORTHERN IRELAND 2023

Kiverco, based in Dungannon in Northern Ireland, is a Recycling Plant designer and manufacturer that is World Famous for creating The World's Toughest Recycling Plant.

**Ask Kiverco** is a regular feature. For each issue, Kiverco's team will address questions about world-class engineering and how, by thinking big, we can all make big things happen. **Ask Kiverco** is useful and insightful. Lessons learned, challenges overcome. And real-world stories that spotlight the ups and downs of a business that went 'From Garage to Global' over 30 years.

**Answering questions this issue:**
**Aidan McKiver** is the Founder and Director of Kiverco, which just celebrated a significant milestone: 30 years in business. In a world of technological advancement and innovation, 30 years in business is a phenomenal achievement and certainly sets Kiverco apart as an experienced key player within the recycling industry.

Aidan founded Kiverco in 1993, at a time when the recycling industry was in its infancy. Today, waste separation is a fundamental driving force behind the circular economy globally, not only processing waste much more effectively than ever but also using new technologies to optimise the purity levels of outputs, significantly opening up options to waste processors.

***In this edition of Ask Kiverco, we ask Aidan about the key to achieving longevity in an engineering manufacturing business.***

## What prompted you to get involved in the recycling business all those years ago?

I always knew I wanted to own my own business, but I wasn't entirely sure what that would look like. I have a farming background and have always been curious about how machinery works, so it was probably inevitable that I would work with large plant machinery.

In the early years of Kiverco we were fairly small - I was initially undertaking some jobs for local companies. We then gained a reputation for high-quality work, and before we knew it, dealers were approaching us, asking us to work directly with them on larger jobs. And that was our first step into the world of recycling.

For further information visit:
**WWW.KIVERCO.COM**

## You have created a thriving business that employs almost 100 people from those early days. What, in your opinion, is the key to longevity in this industry?

For me, the key is listening – to everyone around me. First of all, and most importantly, I listen to our customers. I want to fully understand what they are trying to achieve, what their end goals are, and then I work back from there.

Often, a customer comes to us with a solution in mind, and we like to take a collaborative approach with them to help find an even better solution. It is imperative to me that the product we sell to a customer is the best product possible – so listening to customers, suppliers, and our team of engineers is crucial to ensure we achieve that.

Another key to longevity is our people. We have some of the best people working at Kiverco, and they truly care about the service we offer our customers. They will always look at each new project and strive to ensure it is the best it can be. Some of our people have been with us for over 20 years and have enjoyed working on multiple projects with long-standing customers. Even though the technology has changed, and the market has higher demands from recycling plants, our people's commitment to striving for the best has remained.

Our people are our key asset. Even as we have grown, we want them to feel that they work for a family business that really respects them. They, in turn, pass that respect on to our clients.

## Sustainability is a key part of every business's strategy in 2024 – what are your thoughts on that?

We are very lucky because our core business model is based on sustainability. I started manufacturing plant machinery all those years ago because I always looked at machines and knew I could do a better job myself. I hated seeing manufacturers taking shortcuts, using cheaper materials, or turning around 'make-do' projects. I just saw that as a wasteful way of working. When I started out in business, if I could re-use a part instead of asking a customer to buy a new one, I would… It has just been inherent in how I think, and this philosophy has now filtered into the culture of the entire business.

We made a decision in the early 2000s to make our plant modular, meaning that if a customer's waste stream changed at any time, we could take a modular section of their plant out and replace it with another modular section, therefore eliminating the need for them to invest in an entirely new plant. These sustainable design practices have been a fundamental part of our success.

For me, sustainability quite often means thinking a little bit smarter. Everyone knows that my motto is *'do it once, do it right'*. It is vital we work with customers and try to future-proof their plant as much as possible - the end result is a happy customer and a sustainable business.

# Keep Britain Tidy unveils a new version of the waste hierarchy

**Keep Britain Tidy has released an updated version of the waste hierarchy to reshape public perception surrounding waste management. This initiative is based on the charity's new report, *A Guide to Improving Public Understanding of Waste Prevention,* which prioritises waste reduction and reuse rather than focusing solely on recycling.**

The report highlights the UK's unsustainable consumption levels and identifies a gap in public understanding. The current consumption model requires resources equivalent to 2.6 Earths, underscoring the urgent need for a circular economy where waste is minimised and resources are reused at their highest value.

Despite progress, research findings indicate that engagement in waste prevention activities remains low. Only a tiny fraction of the UK population repairs, buys second-hand, or uses refill services. Therefore, there is a pressing need for the widespread adoption of waste prevention behaviours.

The newly designed waste hierarchy offers more options and details than the traditional "reduce, reuse, recycle" mantra. It presents them in a logical, visually engaging format that resonates with the public's everyday experience. It is envisioned to be more than a guide; it is a call to action that helps people understand the actions they should consider taking

beyond recycling to reduce their environmental impact.

After being exposed to the new hierarchy, most participants recognised better ways to reduce their environmental impact than solely relying on recycling. Moreover, a significant percentage felt motivated to protect the planet and indicated a willingness to change their consumption habits.

Commenting on the initiative, Allison Ogden-Newton OBE, Chief Executive of Keep Britain Tidy, said: "We have made a lot of progress by emphasising the recycling part of the waste hierarchy. But we can't just recycle our way out of the climate emergency; we urgently need to shift mindsets and make reuse and consumption reduction a social norm."

In line with the report's recommendations, Keep Britain Tidy urges local authorities and the wider waste resources sector to use the provided guide to frame recycling as a less favourable option compared to reducing and reusing without dissuading audiences from recycling altogether. The goal is to foster an ingrained culture of 'reduce and reuse' across the UK.

The report also stresses the importance of varied and trustworthy messengers in communicating waste prevention. Almost half of the UK public would listen to waste prevention information from their immediate social networks, highlighting the potential for messaging that can be amplified through word of mouth and social media.

Ogden-Newton added: "Embracing better, insight-led communications like this new waste hierarchy is an essential piece of the puzzle as it will have a significant bearing on how widely adopted reduce and reuse behaviour becomes.

"We urge practitioners across the industry to follow our new guidance and, vitally, to come together to tackle the issue."

# New construction waste reuse hub to open in Wolverhampton

**A new initiative called The Reuse Hub is set to open in Wolverhampton. This project aims to reduce landfill waste by reusing and selling surplus construction materials such as bricks, tiles, and flooring.**

The Reuse Hub is a joint project run by The Rebuild Site CIC and the All Saints Action Network (ASAN) charity, which received a £100,000 investment from the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA).

The initiative is expected to divert around 600 tonnes of material away from landfill in its first year of operation, which is equivalent to the weight of 250 Ozzy the bulls or 20 West Midlands Metro trams.

When it opens later this summer, leftover materials from construction sites, builders' merchants and wholesalers will be taken by The Reuse Hub and sold on at a discounted price.

The project is based at ASAN's wood depot in Dixon Street and is expected to create employment opportunities, apprenticeships and host repair and skills workshops.

Andy Street, Mayor of the West Midlands and WMCA chair, said: "Growing the circular economy is one of the most effective actions that we can take to reduce waste, protect the environment and achieve our net zero ambitions."

Debbie Ward, director at The Rebuild Site CIC, added: "We are delighted to receive this funding, enabling us to work with the region's construction sector to decrease waste, maximise resources, and reduce carbon emissions while delivering positive social impact."

*Alzheimer's Society's Community Fundraiser, Cambs, Suffolk and Norfolk, Natalie Skipper (far left) joined BMRA Board members to celebrate the milestone total members raised for the charity*

# BMRA members help raise nearly £42,000 for Alzheimer's Society

**The British Metals Recycling Association (BMRA) would like to thank its members, who raised a massive £41,913.45 for the Alzheimer's Society in 2023.**

Raffles and auctions held at the BMRA's Golf Day and Annual Dinner over the year, as well as Photography Competition prize donations, saw the total reach this remarkable milestone.

Each year, the BMRA's President, Susie Burrage OBE, selects a charity that funds will be raised for. Ms Burrage added: "In recent years, we've been delighted by the generosity of our members who participate in our fundraising activities, especially when rising costs have challenged individuals and businesses.

"The amount raised for Alzheimer's Society has astonished us, and we are extremely grateful to our members for their generosity and support. This money will enable Alzheimer's Society to make a real difference to people living with dementia, along with the research it funds to understand the causes, develop effective treatments, improve care and hopefully find a cure."

Natalie Skipper, Community Fundraiser for Alzheimer's Society, said: "This is a truly remarkable achievement, and I can't thank BMRA members enough for their incredible support.

"Dementia is the UK's biggest killer, and one in three people born today will go on to develop the condition in their lifetime.

"The Royal College of GPs endorses a free symptoms checklist on our website at **www.alzheimers.org.uk/memoryloss**. It can be filled out, downloaded, and shown to a person's doctor as a conversation starter."

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**BUSINESS CLINIC** HR & RECRUITMENT

## LISA GILLESPIE

**Managing Director, Meliora HR**

Lisa has worked in the HR industry for over 25 years across all sectors. She has a post-graduate diploma in HR Management and qualifications in law, philosophy, and psychology.

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# Scooby Dooby Doo Where Are You?

**Throughout my professional life, I have stumbled accidentally into HR cases that turn into Scooby Doo plots, and right now, I'm dealing with a really crazy one. It's a good job I have a sense of humour.**

My clients work for a 'charity' that was set up during the pandemic by someone I will refer only to as 'the CEO' whom I can only describe as a narcissistic alcoholic. Regrettably, it's pretty serious. The CEO is unable to account for where over £100,000 of charity donation funds have gone.

Following months of denials, gas-lighting and histrionics, my clients have done the right thing and reported their concerns to the Charities Commission and other relevant authorities.

This appears to have tipped the CEO over the edge, as my clients received an email from said person making a data subject access request on behalf of the charity. The email is littered with thinly disguised threats and makes outrageous claims, such as that the Information Commissioner has advised that and that they are in big trouble, blah blah blah. I can imagine it was written after a three-litre box of wine had been consumed, as it is complete nonsense.

Notwithstanding this, my clients were very upset, but they are protected by law as whistle-blowers. They are now being threatened and victimised for exercising their right to speak out.

They were relieved when I explained that an organisation could not make a data subject access request to an individual, that they were not in any trouble, and that all the claims about the Information Commissioner's advice were fabricated. The writer clearly doesn't understand the law on data protection.

Data protection law concerns protecting individuals and how their data is used. Nowadays, it is rarely discussed in the media as it is a vulnerable area for organisations and notoriously difficult to manage from a security perspective.

Last month, we learned that clinical workers allegedly attempted to access data on the Princess of Wales' medical records. It sounds like this may have been an unsuccessful attempt. However, data protection policies are regularly breached, with huge potential costs.

Manchester United, just up the road from my house, is facing High Court action over a serious data breach in 2018. During the breach, names, NI Numbers and other sensitive data were sent via email to 167 employees.

Oddly, the Information Commissioner took no action on this, so I doubt there will be much interest in my clients and the drunken CEO's demands for data.

Please don't get me wrong; I understand that alcoholism is an illness. However, someone abusing their position of power and sending drunken, threatening emails is a very serious issue, too, and the effect on my clients' mental health has been significant.

Ironically, the email contains a vitriolic gloat that the CEO has shared my clients' data and confidential correspondence about their concerns, which were initially raised internally, with numerous parties. Oh dear, oh dear... that smacks of a whopping data breach to me, as they had not permitted their data to be processed by external parties!

So, guess what we will be doing next, eh? Yes, a complaint to the Information Commissioner and data subject access requests to the charity and all the other parties to whom the CEO states she has sent my clients' data. What a saga this is becoming.

I have a feeling that this one could run until the authorities get a grip on the situation, but I'm sure looking forward to the mask finally being pulled off the villain at the end!

# Win £10'000 and become the next Biffa Change Maker

**Biffa has launched a nationwide search for its next Change Maker as part of its *What Iff* campaign.**

One sustainably minded entrepreneur using waste to create new products or improve existing recycling rates, further enabling the UK's circular economy, will be awarded £10,000 and tailored business support.

Biffa will collaborate with the winner to assess the support required and how it will be best used. For example, it might involve finding space to work from, logistical advice, or a marketing strategy.

There's no need to own an established business, either. Biffa wants to hear from anyone with a sustainable idea or skill that could grow into something more. The company asks only that the candidate be passionate about reusing and/or recycling, giving new life to waste materials

Ultimately, by answering the question - *What if brand new was old news?* Biffa aims to encourage the nation to see waste differently and unlock the potential value of waste materials.

Prospective Change Makers can apply by recording a 60-second video. They need to explain their business concept, why they believe themselves to be a Change Maker and how Biffa can help. Videos should be submitted via WeTransfer to **changemakers@biffa.co.uk** along with a completed submission form via the website.

The deadline for entries is 30th April 2024, when a panel of Biffa and external judges will shortlist a final five. The public will make the ultimate decision, and they can vote via Biffa's website and social channels. The worthy winner will be announced at Biffa's *Waste Net Zero* event in June 2024.

*For further information and to enter, visit www.biffa.co.uk/campaigns/changemakers*

# Saved from a skip: Shells from Captain Cook's final voyage now back on display

**After more than 100 years, an 18th-century shell collection has returned to Chesters Roman Fort and Museum and is now on display.**

In the 1980s, the collection, which included specimens from Captain Cook's final voyage, was accidentally thrown into a skip and believed lost forever. But much to the joy of scientists, it was recently rediscovered safe and sound and donated to English Heritage.

The surviving collection consists of more than 200 specimens, including an extinct species and several believed to have been sent back from Captain Cook's ill-fated third voyage.

The shells were the lifelong passion of collector Bridget Atkinson, who died in 1814 at the age of 82. Dr Frances McIntosh, English Heritage's Collections Curator for Hadrian's Wall and the North East, described Atkinson as a "remarkable woman," with a real curiosity about the natural world.

"At a time when women generally collected shells to decorate their furniture and grottos, Bridget was collecting them for their scientific and geographical interest rather than their aesthetics."

Her passion for collecting was inherited by her grandson, John Clayton, who grew up with Chesters Roman Fort and Museum in his garden and whose own archaeological collections formed the basis of its museum. Around 200 of Atkinson's shells remained on display in the museum and were loaned to the zoology department of Armstrong College, now Newcastle University.

In the 1980s, the shells were thrown out during an office clear-out at the university.

It has now been revealed that a passing lecturer and marine biologist – Dr John Buchanan – happened to spot the shells in the skip and took them to his family home.

The family of Dr John Buchanan explained: "Following the death of our mother, we discovered the shells were part of the Clayton Collection. We were delighted to return the collection to English Heritage for future generations to enjoy."

*Dr Frances McIntosh, English Heritage's collections curator for Hadrian's Wall and the North East, with a collection of shells (Image: English Heritage)*

Dr Tom White, Principal Curator of non-insect Invertebrates at the Natural History Museum, helped English Heritage identify and catalogue the shells.

White said: "'Bridget Atkinson was one of the earliest known women to have amassed a scientifically significant shell collection from around the world.

"The collection includes numerous rare species, including New Zealand endemics obtained from her connections to James Cook's third voyage, the extinct Distorsio cancellina and others, like the giant clam, that are now CITES protected.

"These would have been extraordinarily sought after in 18th-century Britain, during the golden age of shell collecting, when single specimens could sell for thousands of pounds."

***Head to Chesters Roman Fort and Museum to see this fantastic collection and learn more about the shells and Bridget. The exhibition will be on display until 1st November 2024.***

**Please mention *Skip & Waste* magazine when replying to any adverts**

# What you see is what you get

WASTE & RECYCLING

## THE 'SECRET' MANAGING DIRECTOR

### Episode 2

**I am writing this new column as one of you. I am the MD of a company that operates a fleet of over 10 trucks. I have been in this business for a long time and have connections with many of you. This column aims to use *Skip & Waste* magazine as a platform to discuss our shared views and experiences regarding the frustrations that we face with the Environment Agency, illegal operators who compete with us and the regulations and legislation that are designed in favour of national operators, which puts local operators like us at a disadvantage.**

**Is increasing bureaucracy pricing us out of the market? Why can't I write this under my company's name? We all know the answer.**

I'm now not writing this column as just me. I'm speaking for many of us owners and operators I talk to daily. We have these same views. Please air yours.

I can only write as I speak. I'm not university-educated, and I did not do very well at school either. You're never going to believe this, but as a child I never thought about entering the world of clearing up everyone else's sh@te! We all share this, I believe, unless Dad had already bought his first truck.

That said, we did the best we could with it some 30 years ago and are still doing it today. Frankly, I'm amazed and still loving it! We're from humble beginnings, but I'm proud and, most of all, grateful for the life this bonkers and ever-changing industry has given to me and my family.

It's challenged us to deliver. The Government has challenged us to deliver. Society has challenged us to deliver. The media has challenged us to deliver. We are, however, all on the same page because we want to deliver.

We are SMEs (small family companies in our cases), and our voices are not heard enough. We face increasing regulation, scrutiny from our enforcers, and compliance, while some of us (I'm being polite to the EA there) feel we are easy targets as we are running permitted sites and doing our utmost to comply. The policing of the non-conforming operators (that's as polite as I could put it) is frankly not even a bad joke.

The woeful prosecutions and then 'substantial fines' are a joke, an insult to those of us who try to comply. We who read, subscribe to, and converse with this publication are abiding by the regulations imposed on us and adhering to those associated costs.

What the hell is going on in the 'waste world' that many of us are happy to say this stuff off the record?

***COMMENT FROM EPISODE 1:***
***Well done for giving a platform to somebody who can point out the shortcomings of the current Regulatory regime without fear of retribution!***

***At one time, the EA and ESA had an arrangement where the former staff would spend some time working with the latter's membership to understand the practical problems of running modern waste management businesses. It doesn't seem to be working properly if it's still in place. Being a good Enforcement Officer takes more than just being able to 'quote the Regulations'. Several nowadays seem to think that the more contraventions they can find on a site visit, the better their bosses will think they're doing their job.***

***More power to the Secret MD's arm!'*** *(anonymous)*

We'd love to hear what you think of our new column and your opinion. Please send your comments to **editor@pal-media.co.uk**
We may even publish them (anonymously) in the next edition so that the 'Secret' MD can read them too.

HAVE YOUR SAY!

## Samson partners with Hampshire Constabulary to help fight knife crime

**Via a direct initiative by PC Matthew Jones of Hampshire and Isle of Wight constabulary, they have teamed up with Samson Containers in designing a Knife disposal bin, which he hopes will encourage people to consider their choices when they are in possession of a knife and create an anonymous amnesty by disposing of the knife safely in the purpose-built disposal bin.**

Initially, three are being supplied with a view to rolling the scheme out nationally, which hopefully will significantly reduce knife crime and the crime rate.

PC Matt Jones said: "There were 50,500 offences involving a knife in the year up to March 2023, and it's rising every year. We need to do something to tackle it and enable anyone with a knife to give it up and dispose of it safely and anonymously. Teaming up with Samson Containers provided us with a great partner to help get this initiative progressing forward, and I'm delighted with the product they have created. If successful, this is something that every county police force will be looking to roll out."

Steve Hardwick of Samson Containers said: "We were very enthusiastic about working with PC Matt Jones and the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Police force on this project. We hope it is a huge success and reduces knife crime in the Hampshire region."

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# Herefordshire Council awards its waste collection contract to FCC Environment

**Herefordshire Council is pleased to announce that FCC Environment has been awarded the recyclables and waste collection contract. This decision was reached after a thorough and robust procurement process.**

FCC Environment previously held the contract in Herefordshire under its previous parent company, Focsa. It was one of the business's first contracts in the UK, starting in July 2000. Since then, the contract has been competitively won, renewed in November 2009, and extended in November 2014.

This new contract not only represents continuity of service for residents but also includes a number of innovations, enhancements, and inherent flexibility to respond to anticipated changes over the term of the contract. Key to this will be the permanent deployment of two fully electric RCVs in the fleet, primarily to serve Hereford City Centre. This is a significant step towards the Council and FCC's net zero goals.

Steve Longdon, FCC Environment's Chief Executive Officer, said: "We are delighted to have the opportunity to continue working in partnership with Herefordshire Council, delivering this key service to residents whilst innovating to assist them on their path to net zero by 2030. We also look forward to giving back to the local communities that we serve."

The Contract commences 1st September for an initial term of eight years and can be extended by up to a further 12 years.

# Directorship for former apprentice Luke at waste management specialist TJ

**An apprentice who joined a waste management specialist in the South as a teenager 12 years ago has been promoted to director.**

Luke Haskell, who started as a marketing and sales assistant and was most recently General Manager, joins the Board as Commercial Director for TJ Waste & Recycling.

TJ Group, which is headquartered near Portsmouth and operates bulk haulage and muck-away TJ Transport, is a major independent player in a sector occupied by just over 1,000 companies in the UK.

Contributing to group turnover, TJ Waste & Recycling provides commercial waste management and workplace recycling services - as well as skip and specialist waste management for events such as Portsmouth's Victorious Festival - to the public and trade across the South and, from Bristol, the West.

John Gosling, TJ's Managing Director, said: "Luke's appointment to director is thoroughly deserved. TJ paid for Luke's NVQ in business administration when he began with us 12 years ago, and it was an investment that has repeatedly paid for itself.

"Luke, who came to us from college for vocational learning at the age of 19, has worked tirelessly for the company since then, fostering innovation and addressing legacy challenges which come with many well-established businesses.

"As a 'digital native', he is credited with helping TJ forge a strong local market presence and brand awareness through transforming our social media, logo, digital marketing and website functionality, along with making the online ordering service for customers as convenient and simple as possible.

Luke, who lives near Portsmouth and was Marketing Manager for nearly eight years before becoming General Manager in 2019, also studied to degree level whilst juggling full-time work.

Awarded by the University of Winchester, he is a Doctor of Business Administration in Organisational Leadership and, from the University of Portsmouth, Master of Business Administration in Strategic Leadership.

Luke said: "The 12-year journey from apprentice to director at TJ has been action-packed. What motivates me is seeing the company as an industry leader, one that others in the sector aspire to become, where best practice is the norm in every sphere of operation.

"I cannot tell you how delighted I am to have repaid TJ's belief in me from the start. This is an industry which can only grow as domestic and trade waste becomes an even more important and valuable recycling resource in the UK."

# Bill Dyson Skip Hire celebrates 30 years of sponsorship

**This year marks the 30th anniversary of Bill Dyson Skip Hire and Waste Management Ltd sponsoring Leeds Rhinos. The club would like to express their gratitude to Bill Dyson Skip Hire for their unwavering support over the course of 30 years.**

Bill Dyson Skip Hire provides skip hire services for both domestic and trade customers. They cover areas such as Leeds, Bradford, Wakefield, Harrogate, Huddersfield and Halifax and are known for their friendly, fast and reliable service. Skip the rest...hire the best!

Look out for Bill Dyson Skip Hire on Ronnie's shirt (mascot) and on the Sin Bin.

Bill Dyson Skip Hire Director Lisa Dyson said: "This year, Bill Dyson Skip Hire is celebrating its 30th birthday, and we have been proud to sponsor Leeds Rhinos throughout that time."

Rhinos Commercial Director Rob Oates commented: "30 years of sponsorship is quite incredible, and Lisa, Bill, Mark, and the whole Bill Dyson Skip Hire team are a big part of the Rhinos family. We want to thank them for their fantastic and continued support. Here's to the next 30 years!"

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# Skip hire firm embarks on eco drive following £800k green asset funding

**A Cumbria-based company that provides skip hire and waste management services plans to invest in a new solar panel system after securing almost £800,000 in green asset funding.**

JJC Hire has partnered with Lombard Asset Finance to acquire a 723kw solar panel system that will enable the company to generate its own electricity and reduce its carbon footprint.

JJC Hire has been in operation since 2010 and was founded by David Armer, who still leads the company today. The firm started with only five employees and two wagons but has grown to a team of 65 staff and 50 specialist vehicles. The company operates from its waste transfer station, where it is committed to implementing streamlined and modern waste management practices.

The funding for the new solar panel system was secured through a credit loan agreement between Lombard and RBS, JJC Hire's main banking partner.

The company has maintained its environmentally friendly values throughout its growth and currently recycles 97% of all waste collected. This translates to over 121,000 tonnes of waste recycled so far this year.

*L-R: Immi Patel (Senior Relationship Manager at RBS), David Armer (founder of JJC Hire) and Hussain Khattak (Senior Relationship Manager at Lombard)*

With Lombard's support, JJC Hire is poised to take the next step in its sustainability journey by investing in solar energy. The new solar panel system will enable the company to power its waste transfer station and further reduce its carbon footprint.

David Armer said: "We are so pleased to be able to say that we are taking the next steps towards carbon neutrality. I am so proud of the team around me and what we have managed to build here at JJC. I've been in waste management my whole life, and building this company from the ground up while never compromising on our environmental goals is a great feeling."

He added: "To aid our sustainability mission, we recently installed low-carbon-producing biomass boilers at our head office in Barrow-in-Furness to reduce our use of fossil fuels. Now, with these solar panels, we can truly see ourselves as industry leaders, not only in waste management but also in environmental awareness, and this is in huge parts thanks to the funding of Lombard."

Hussain Khattak, Senior Relationship Manager at Lombard, said: "At Lombard, we are committed to helping enterprises in their sustainability ventures, and JJC Hire continually leads by example when it comes to adopting responsible environmental habits."

# Belfast firm sees first electric skip lift vehicle in Northern Ireland

**Belfast-based waste and resource management firm RiverRidge recently announced the acquisition of Northern Ireland's first and only fully electric skip lift vehicle.**

This Renault Trucks E-tech D Wide 4x2 with Hyva skip loader equipment is part of the company's ambitious and pioneering efforts to transition its fleet to zero-carbon engines within the next 15 years, thereby reducing the carbon footprint of its transport services by an impressive 75%.

The vehicle will be used on various contracts, including a new service-level agreement with Harland & Wolff, an international shipbuilder and defence contractor.

Scott Argue, the waste management co-ordinator at Harland & Wolff, expressed his delight at the partnership with RiverRidge and the delivery of Northern Ireland's first and only fully electric skip lift vehicle.

He said the company is keen to work with businesses to explore ways to lower their carbon footprint and create more sustainable ways of working. The development of zero-carbon facilities will no doubt positively impact their sustainability goals. At a time when their yard is buzzing with activity, RiverRidge's technology is both beneficial and a significant step forward in sustainable technology.

Diamond Trucks is supplying the vehicle, which is Renault Trucks' first commercially available 18-tonne skip lift offering in Northern Ireland.

*Waste and resource management company, RiverRidge has taken delivery of Northern Ireland's first and only fully electric skip lift vehicle. Pictured L-R: are Matthew Keys, Diamond Trucks; Scott Argue, Harland & Wolff and Stephen Thompson, RiverRidge.*

***RiverRidge is featured as this month's Company Spotlight. See pages 36-38.***

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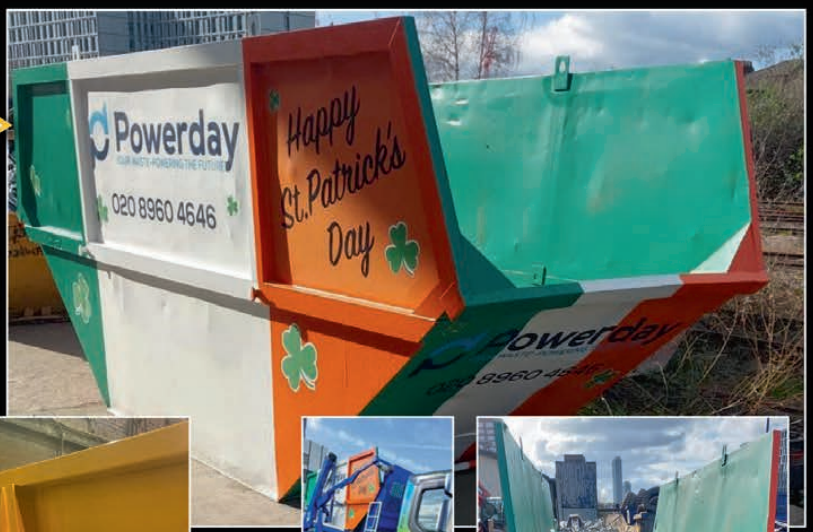

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# Doylenviro's DragonFly 40 packs a powerful punch

**Qualitech Environmental Services' attention to service and detail has made them the UK's number-one choice for industrial waste management. Qualitech specialises in comprehensive industrial cleaning services for facilities of all sizes across the UK. With a wide range of services, such as vacuum services to industrial tank cleaning and dewatering, Qualitech offers reliable and effective cleaning services and bespoke eco-friendly solutions.**

Qualitech contacted us to demonstrate our DragonFly 40 by Doylenviro at their headquarters in Haydock, Merseyside. They were looking for a compact and powerful mobile vacuum machine for cleaning and media transfer tasks in remote locations.

The Doylenviro DragonFly 40 is a robust and compact Vacuum Unit that boasts a suction processing rate of up to 55kW and is specifically designed for sites with restricted access and where noise levels and machine size are crucial. Additionally, the unit can be hydraulically raised for easy big bag filling or to empty into a skip. The DragonFly 40 is customisable and can be painted in your company's brand or classic Doyle Colours!"

*On one of Qualitech's newest investments. It's not our biggest vacuum system, but it packs a powerful punch.*

*"This unit has been cleaning up a Material Recovery Facility (MRF) using Doyle Machinery's Portavac, purchased by us to assist initially in the carbon industry, helping deliver vacuum/hopper and bagging services to sites with limited access for larger HGV vacuum units. This unit boasts a 1253cfm/90% vacuum driven by a Deutz 1.9 tdi engine fitted with spark-arrested exhaust and Chalwyn valve. This also enables us to use it safely in various petrol/chemical industry sites.*

*"The vacuum hopper with a vibration system has a 4-inch inlet and a capacity of 1m³ that elevates to operating height via the onboard hydraulic system. This gives excellent results when uplifting materials that require transferring into bags or drums. The unit also has a self-clean filter system that uplifts fine particles and powders."*

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## The ultimate cleaning solution

**Doylenviro S9D and 2m³ pre-separator skip**

The S9D and 2m³ pre-separator has high suction performance and can easily consume heavy materials.

The material matter is suctioned through the filter hose of the pre-separator, removing any dust or dirt from the material. The electromechanical filter cleaning system keeps the filter clean and ensures high-level performance. The remaining dust

# Cleaning up a MRF using Doyle Machinery's Portavac

**Scott Williams founded Prestige Professional in 2010. The family-run business is the South West's market leader in specialist cleaning, restoration, surface protection and maintenance services across all industrial and commercial sectors. Over the last decade, Prestige Professional has grown from strength to strength in the DOFF Steam cleaning niche market.**

The Screenpod PortaVac PV300E is a robust and reliable industrial vacuum unit which is portable, self-contained, and powered by an electric supply (32amp). The PV300E is a durable, high-performance, vacuum-driven extraction system with an integrated self-tipping bin. Made from the best quality steel to endure the harshest conditions, the Portavac can go anywhere. The Portavac can be positioned, opened, and emptied using a forklift. The compact and sensible design means it can be placed in what would otherwise be considered hard-to-reach places.

A strong vacuum and optimised design give the PV300E unrivalled performance at a low noise level. It is suitable for indoor and outdoor use and is supplied with an integrated Bag & HEPA filter solution as standard. The PV300E has the performance to vacuum up to 40mm of materials. An adaptable, low cost and reliable solution for any vacuum application.

The PV300E's applications encompass a wide range of industries, such as soil and aggregates, pharmaceuticals, cement, lime, gypsum, tiles, concrete and many more!

Williams said: "We used this powerful vacuum to help clean the following MRF site for a large Blue Chip company.

"The Portavac vacuum allowed us to safely clean all the combustible dust around the site, improving the working environment. The Portavac is very compact, powerful, and easy to use for high-level cleaning."

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and dirt are collected inside the S9D unit and can then be emptied using the bottom dust container door. An optional big bag filling can be placed at the bottom of the door to collect the dust/dirt.

Thanks to its performance, compact dimensions, and high vacuum level, the S9D is suitable for any industry.

**Motor: Hatz Diesel Engine - Power: 44kW**

**Doylenviro SVAC**

The SVAC vacuum unit is a big bag filling vacuum machine that can hold up to 600L of suctioned material. With high performance and low noise production, the suction unit is maintenance-free, making this versatile machine the perfect choice for use in construction and demolition sites. Equipped with forkliftable pockets and a telescopic chassis, this unit can be stationary or portable, depending on your requirements.

**Power: 17.3kW, 32amp**

**Doylenviro S22**

The S22 is a high-performance vacuum unit suitable for heavy industrial applications and recommended for pipeline network use. The vacuumed material can be easily emptied through a tilting discharge door placed on the bottom part of the bin. Equipped with roots pump (3 lobes) mounted on an independent support frame hosting pump and engine. Belt driven with adjustable belt tensioner.

**Power: 22kW, 32amp**

**Doylenviro F.100 Top**

The F.100 Top is a raised version of the F100 unit equipped with a side channel pump. The suction system is installed on a telescopic frame, which allows for commercial big bag unloading. For this reason, the F.100 Top can be equipped with different discharge valves depending on production needs.

This raised unit can collect both dust and solid materials and is suitable for continuous operation with the help of a main pocket filter with a big filtering surface. This vacuum cleaner can also be used for a fixed installation for discharge of the material in big-bag.

**Power: 15kW, 32amp**

# UKCM achieves respected safety accreditation

**Leading container repair and refurbishment company UK Container Maintenance (UKCM) has recently been awarded a highly esteemed accreditation from Alcumus SafeContractor, reaffirming its commitment to excellence in health and safety in the workplace.**

Alcumus SafeContractor is a leading third-party accreditation scheme recognising rigorous health and safety management standards amongst UK contractors.

Significantly, as part of the initiative, only companies that meet the high standard are included in a database, which is accessible to registered users only through a website. Client organisations that join the programme can access the database, enabling them to screen potential contractors before they arrive on-site.

Liz Wolstenholme, Finance and Operations Director of UKCM, comments: "Ensuring the health and safety of our main facility in Cheshire and our on-site operations at client premises is of the utmost importance. Our unwavering commitment as a firm is reiterated by our achievement of the revered Alcumus SafeContractor accreditation, which we have secured annually for several years now.

*Liz Wolstenholme, Finance and Operations Director of UKCM*

"Throughout the rigorous evaluation process, our health and safety procedures and our track record in safe practice are thoroughly examined, demonstrating our tireless dedication to maintaining the highest standards."

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# Beyond plans: Action-oriented emission management

**TRACEY WESTBURY** E: **tracey@westburyenv.co.uk**
**Director – Westbury Environmental Limited**

Tracey has worked in the waste industry for 34 years across all sectors. She now acts as a consultant supporting small - medium site operators providing advice and services in waste regulation including permitting, waste recovery, end of waste and environmental management systems.

**BUSINESS CLINIC** CONSULTANCY

**If you have any involvement with a waste facility, then you will be familiar with Emissions Management Plans, including dust, noise, odour, mud and litter and even fire prevention plans. Love them or hate them, they are an essential part of operating a site and complying with waste regulations. But let's be honest..... how useful are they really???**

Let's presume that you have an adequate bunch of emission management plans in your Environmental Management System (EMS) (I'm not even going to mention the poor quality of some that I see). What do you do with them? Keep them in the office in the hope that someone will read them. Do the odd toolbox talk on any requirements that are in them? How sure are you that you are implementing their requirements and have evidence to support that?

While having these plans in place is undoubtedly essential, their true value lies in translating their requirements into definitive actions included in procedures. The mere existence of these plans is insufficient. Developing actionable procedures transforms these plans into practical realities, ensuring that necessary actions are consistently taken and can be supported by evidence (filling in forms associated with the procedures). Once this is achieved, then the management plan can sit on the shelf undisturbed until its review time.

Procedures leave little room for ambiguity by delineating specific tasks, timelines, and responsible parties. Operators and personnel understand their roles and responsibilities, fostering a culture of accountability that makes environmental compliance ingrained in day-to-day operations.

Typically, an EMS will contain a comprehensive list of procedures covering all the waste activities undertaken on a site. The obvious way to implement the requirements of, say, a Dust Management Plan would be to have a Dust Procedure, and of course, this would be a great place to start. However, let's take this a step further and incorporate information from the Dust Management Plan into your:

- *Waste Acceptance Procedure to ensure that excessively dusty wastes are not accepted.*
- *Waste Storage Procedure to ensure that stockpile heights are controlled, and stockpiles are dampened as necessary.*
- *Mud and Litter Procedure to ensure that surfaces are dampened to minimise dust emissions from vehicle movements.*
- *Incident and Complaint Procedure to ensure that incidents related to dust emissions are dealt with appropriately.*

In this way, rather than having one procedure to implement all the requirements of a management plan, the requirements are distributed throughout the EMS procedures. You would do this with every management plan that you have.

In conclusion, while emission management plans are indispensable components of EMS's, they are impossible to implement without translating their requirements into definitive actions in procedures. However, procedures can't cause the correct actions to be taken unless personnel are trained on them. So, your route to waste management nirvana is Risk Assessments; Management Plans; Procedures and Personnel Training.

*We are here to help if you have any concerns or issues with your EMS, Emission Management Plans, Procedures, or other regulatory aspects of managing your waste site. Do not hesitate to get in touch. Tel:* ***01952 879705****.*

***Please visit our website for further information: www.westburyenv.co.uk or drop us a line at info@westburyenv.co.uk***

GOT A QUESTION **ASK THE EXPERTS**

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*New Screenpod Diesel Hybrid Portavac Unit – fully portable for full flexibility to use wherever required around your premises, and can also be run on mains power supply when in fixed position with its in built hybrid technology. This image is working in a local cement plant for cleanup operations*

**Screenpod, based in Dungannon, Northern Ireland, will collaborate with 3R-Machinery, based in North Carolina, USA, to offer a wider range of recycling and waste management technology**

# Screenpod and 3R-Machinery partner to elevate product offerings

**Screenpod Design & Manufacturing, a leading provider of material processing solutions, and 3RMachinery, an innovative waste management equipment provider, have announced an exclusive partnership to increase the global Screenpod brand and distribution coverage in North America and to enhance the 3R-Machinery product offering.**

Under this partnership, 3R-Machinery will distribute the Screenpod range of density separation, dust control, and recycling machines, which will complement their current machinery lineup and enrich their green initiative.

Screenpod has been a pioneer in

*New Screenpod Diesel Hybrid Portavac Unit. This unit is working in a sawmill for cleanup*

producing unique and innovative products for the global recycling industry since 2013. They offer a comprehensive portfolio of products tailored to enhance the existing machine operations, including the dust cannon, PortaVac, and Airvac, which are meticulously crafted to elevate cleanliness, safety, and efficiency.

This partnership brings together two dedicated entities in the recycling industry, each known for its commitment to service, quality, innovation, and customer success. The strategic alliance aims to leverage the strengths of both companies, providing clients with state-of-the-art solutions for efficient waste handling, recycling, and material processing.

Allen Hyman, 3R–Machinery's Business Manager, said: "We are thrilled about this partnership and its potential to revolutionise waste management. By combining our expertise with Screenpod's cutting-edge solutions, we aim to set new industry standards, build new and lasting relationships, and contribute significantly to a more sustainable future."

**KEY HIGHLIGHTS**

**Comprehensive waste solutions:** This partnership will bring together the robust waste management equipment of 3R-Machinery and the advanced material separation technologies of Screenpod. This integration will offer clients a comprehensive suite of solutions that will simplify waste handling and reduction processes, enhance recycling efficiency, and reduce environmental impact.

**North American market access:** By joining forces, 3R-Machinery and Screenpod can now offer a wider range of products and services to meet the waste management needs of their clients in North America. This collaboration has enabled 3R-Machinery to expand its product assortment, while Screenpod has gained access to a larger market for its innovative solutions. The result is a win-win for both companies and their customers.

3R Machinery by SHRED-TECH

SCREENPOD DESIGN & MANUFACTURING

For further information visit
**www.screenpod.co.uk**

**Shared commitment to sustainability:** Both companies will collaborate to distribute eco-friendly solutions that reduce waste and promote a circular economy as part of their commitment to environmental stewardship.

Leon Connolly, Screenpod Sales Manager, added: "This collaboration is a testament to our shared vision of advancing material processing solutions globally. We are excited about the impact our joint efforts will have on the industry, promoting efficiency, innovation, and responsible waste management practices."

*Both companies are excited about this collaboration's potential and look forward to significant growth in the near future.*

# Don't leave anything to chance when it comes to fire safety

**HAYLEY GODDARD**
*CRWM MCIWM TechIOSH SHE Consultant at S.H.E. Advises, based in Ipswich, Suffolk*

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**As an industry, we often focus on the hardware and regulatory requirements for Fire Safety. But what happens when/if a fire does happen? What do we do if the prevention plan fails and the detection sounds the alarm? Do we know what we would do, who we would call, what our colleagues would do, and how we would protect people and the environment from the real harm caused by fire?**

There have been countless times that the fire alarm has sounded while I've been on a waste site, and people's reactions and behaviour have varied considerably.

One site had nearly a hundred contractors and had no idea who was on-site. There was no record or method for signing in/out! This was my first day on this site for project support, and I was talking to the plant manager about this exact point when the fire alarm started sounding. I also found out that there were no appointed fire marshals at this point. Great first day of hitting the ground running!

This could have easily gone horribly wrong, causing a lot of harm, especially as there was confined space work on this project. This client was lucky on this day as the cause of the alarm was found, everyone was accounted for (after at least 15 minutes!), and a straightforward signing-in/out process was implemented. However, this whole learning process cost the project a lot of money because everyone had to stop work for at least an hour. Something that could have cost the client more than money.

What I'm always on the watch for is how people are going to react during an emergency. Most need at least a few moments to process what they're seeing/hearing, especially if it's the first time they've seen a fire. Plus, I can always see very clearly if any drills have been completed by how people react. The more common reactions I've seen:-

- *Walking away from the closest fire exit to use the entrance they always use;*
- *Leaving fire doors propped open as they pass through;*
- *Running towards their loading shovels AND the fire;*
- *Going to their cars or for a smoke when they exit rather than the assembly point.*

**The key things I've learnt that can help with behaviour and reaction to fire:-**

*1. If you've got different contractors on site daily, change the fire alarm test to daily so everyone knows what it sounds like;*

*2. Make sure the induction is clear on how and where to evacuate with clear pictures or videos;*

*3. If there is a high turnover of different persons on site, increase the frequency of fire drills;*

*4. Understand that people will want to exit the way they entered the building, so challenge that behaviour on drills by putting people/signage in position to advise that it is blocked and need to find another exit;*

*5. Make sure the fire wardens sweep (walking through whilst collecting people) the car park and smoking areas last;*

*6. If your security requires everyone to wear RFID badges, use the system you have to allow for easier role calls;*

*7. Some persons may need to remain on-site, in a control room, for example. Ensure that there is a clear system of communication;*

*8. If you use two-way radios on-site, then the use of a code word for channels to stay clear or an emergency override channel is great;*

*9. Check on induction if the persons on-site have any physical support requirements or health impacts which could prevent them from evacuating or responding to the fire alarm;*

*10. If the fire alarm sounds longer than the agreed test time, always follow the site procedure.*

The risk of fire at waste facilities seems to be increasing. While we all try to find solutions, please look at the areas you have control over and support your teams in their ability to react.

*Hayley has varied experience across the waste and resource industry. She started in the family business, then ran and managed her own waste management business and worked in private and public waste operations before focussing on her passion for providing Health and Safety Support and Training. Hayley loves a chat, so give her a call if you think she could help in your business at* ***07949892034*** *or* ***hayley@sheadvises.co.uk***

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# Hot topic, quite literally!

**ADAM WILSON**
**Director – Severn Compliance Limited**
Adam is an experienced Environmental Specialist with a background in waste management regulation. He has worked in both the public and private sectors.
If you have any questions about this article e-mail him at:
**adam@severncompliance.co.uk**

GOT A QUESTION **ASK THE EXPERTS**

**BUSINESS CLINIC** CONSULTANCY

**Adam:** 'A friend has given me your number. The Environment Agency has told us we need a Fire Prevention Plan.'

**A common phone call over the past couple of years.**

I remember being an Environment Officer when Fire Prevention Plans were introduced.

The key elements of the guidance are:-

- *Minimise the likelihood of a fire happening;*
- *Aim for a fire to be extinguished within four hours;*
- *Minimise the spread of fire within the site and to neighbouring sites.*

The thought of how we were going to get operators to implement these. Also, the system did not seem very fair; new operators or those deemed risky had to implement Fire Prevention Plans (FPPs), while most operators weren't. This is still an issue today, years after their introduction, and despite permits being updated to include the FPP requirement, a large number of operators have not put one in place. This made me think, is this a bad regulation, or is it bad management by the operator?

A fire is often the most catastrophic incident a waste site can have if it takes hold and the associated firefighting runoff affects a watercourse. Not only will the aquatic environment be seriously damaged, but the site will also potentially be damaged beyond repair, meaning a business may close.

Let us put the weighty FPP guidance to one side and look at the basics. If you do not know the answer to these questions, then I would recommend you find out:-

- *What are the potential sources of ignition on your site, and how are you controlling them?*
- *How would you detect a fire?*
- *How much waste are you storing, and how much water would it take to extinguish it?*
- *Can you source this much water from a nearby fire hydrant or store it on-site?*
- *Can you store or manage the amount of water required to extinguish a fire?*
- *If it escaped, where would this water go, and what would the impact be?*
- *If you had a fire, who would it impact? Schools, homes, roads, rail, power lines....?*
- *How would the fire brigade access the site and manage the fire?*
- *What would happen to your business if there was a fire?*

These are straightforward and very high-level questions, but they are highly relevant to a waste site. All of which form key parts of a FPP.

**Remember, the Environment Agency can request an FPP when:-**

- *You are making a new permit application;*
- *You are varying an existing permit, and this could lead to an increased fire risk;*
- *There is a serious risk of a fire occurring, or we have serious concerns about the fire risk posed by your operation.*

My advice is not to put off implementing a FPP or updating your current FPP. When implemented correctly, they not only allow you to minimise the likelihood of a fire, aim for a fire to be extinguished within four hours, and minimise the spread of fire within the site and to neighbouring sites, but they also allow you to fully understand your operation and surrounding environment.

So, today's job is to find your FPP and assess its relevance to your current operation.

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# The need for early fire detection and targeted suppression in the waste and recycling sector

**KEITH PICTON**

*Director at Blazequel, the fire protection specialists*

**Lithium-ion batteries – the scale of the problem:**

Lithium-ion batteries causing fires in the waste stream is a well-worn topic. However, now and then, you stumble across a piece of data, which makes you sit up and blink. Here are two of the most shocking examples I've encountered recently:

1) A recent test by Fisacon, burning an e-scooter battery. ***"During the test, battery parts flew around at about 300 metres/second. For comparison: a 9mm bullet reaches around 360 metres/second. Anyone hit by a glowing battery cell can expect serious injuries."*** That's probably the most compelling reason I've heard why your site staff shouldn't be tackling these fires themselves.

2) A study by Material Focus in September 2023 concluded that 30 million vapes were consumed every month in the UK, of which 33% ended up in general waste. ***Taking those figures, that's approximately 9.9 million vapes improperly entering recycling facilities every month!***

This data doesn't cover the other batteries entering the waste stream, from greetings cards to EV batteries.

It is a small wonder then that the recycling industry has a 'fire problem'.

It's no wonder, too, that insurers are taking a hard look at their risks in the recycling sector. One insurer told me that they had seen a tenfold increase in fire losses at recycling facilities over five years.

Thus, the familiar question arises: What can we do about it?

**Layers of protection:**

Good fire safety consists of layers of protection. There is no single 'panacea' solution which covers all scenarios.

Site/plant design and layout, stockpile management and housekeeping all play as much of a role as your fire detection and suppression systems.

However, investment in proper fire protection systems is also key. Trained site operators can often play a key role in ensuring a successful outcome from a fire incident – but they should never be your primary firefighting 'asset'. There is a multitude of reasons for this, but here are two of the most pertinent:

*• Firstly, there is a safety concern. The hazards of approaching a battery pack that could explode, sending cells heading your way at 300m/s, are obvious. However, the more insidious risk is the highly toxic gases released during combustion, including hydrogen fluoride (HF) and phosphoryl fluoride. Nobody should expose themselves to these gases without proper protection.*

*• Secondly, a site operator-led response relies on the right people with the right training/equipment, at the right place, and at the right time. If those criteria don't always align, your fire response will be inevitably flawed.*

Different risk areas (tipping/storage, shredders, conveyors, bunkers, etc.) require different types of detection and suppression, which we can't cover in detail in this article. However, the tipping/storage area is one of the key risk areas common across most recycling plants.

### Fire protection for tipping & storage areas:

For these areas (generally characterised by a dynamic storage layout, high-roof buildings, natural ventilation, high humidity and dust), the best form of protection is almost invariably achieved by using water cannons.

- **Water cannons** (when used correctly) are targeted, precise and use limited water – minimising fire water runoff.
- **Heat-activated sprinklers** (which some insurers still advocate for) are slow to respond until a fire is established, losing the opportunity to suppress a small risk.
- **Zoned deluge systems** are only appropriate for areas with clearly defined storage bunkers and proper fire breaks. At that, they are only appropriate for smaller risk areas as otherwise the flow rate becomes unworkable.

Our Fire Rover system utilises advanced forms of early detection and targeted use of water cannons to detect and suppress a fire before it has a chance of becoming established. Unique to the Fire Rover system are the three simple commitments we can make to our clients:

### 1) Early detection – with zero false alarms:

Automatic water cannon systems utilise various forms of fire detection. Fire Rover uses three systems: thermal, video smoke detection and flame detection. Each detection method complements the strengths and weaknesses of the others.

Each detection method is also prone to false alarms. After all:

- *A hot exhaust could activate a thermal detector.*
- *A steamy pile of waste or a cloud of dust could activate a video smoke detector.*
- *Certain hot works conditions could activate a flame detector.*

Our unique approach utilises remote human verification of every single alarm that occurs on the system. Only confirmed and actionable events will ever be escalated to raise an alarm at your facility. This guarantees you a sensitive detection system with zero false alarms.

### 2) Targeted suppression:

There are many ways to activate, target and spray a water cannon. That's the easy part.

The hard part is doing so safely. What if a staff member is already trying to fight the fire? Or if an explosive incident results in multiple fires? Or if, in external conditions, a sidewind deflects the water spray?

Our unique approach is to target, activate and direct the cannon using our remote, highly trained human operator.

This brings three key benefits: an intelligent dynamic response to each incident, safety for your operators, and efficient use of fire fighting water rather than a programmed system's 'spray and pray' approach.

### 3) Fully maintained:

These complex fire-fighting systems require regular maintenance and full system uptime.

We take away the headache of maintaining your fire system. That's done for you. Any parts that fail? They're covered under our catch-all warranty for the lifetime of the system.

### Fire Rover's proven track record:

We have a proven track record of success with over 600 Fire Rover installations globally (mainly in recycling facilities). In 2023 alone, Fire Rover remote operators extinguished 183 fires at clients' facilities (with a 100% success rate).

### In conclusion:

Fires at recycling facilities are not going away any time soon. Even if we put batteries aside, there are plenty of other risks that end up in the recycling stream with improperly disposed gas canisters, solvents, or even just the mechanical risks associated with shredding.

Each area of your recycling process must be properly risk-assessed to find the correct fire protection solution. Generally, the correct fire protection solution for your facility will combine several systems for various risk areas.

***Author Profile:*** *Keith has worked with fire safety solutions for recycling facilities and industrial hazards for over ten years. He's happiest when he learns about a client's unique fire safety challenges and then finds reliable and effective solutions to mitigate the risks while collaborating with the client, insurer, and other stakeholders.*

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IT'S TIME TO FOCUS ON PEOPLE

Site Zone

# Plant to pedestrian risk management in waste and recycling

**After five years of decline, the latest figures from HSE showed an increase in fatalities in the waste and recycling sector. And the third highest cause of fatalities in all sectors is being struck by a moving vehicle.**

As a long-term safety partner to the waste sector, we've seen the benefits of focusing on behaviour change to reduce risk.

This is proven by our biggest proximity warning system deployment across 74 sites with FCC Environment. Their sites have had zero plant pedestrian incidents in the last ten years.

**But what makes your sector - waste, environment, and recycling – unique, and how have we worked with 197 waste/recycling sites to help manage your plant pedestrian collision risks?**

## Diverse working environments

Sites are busy with lots of movement and potential for plant-pedestrian interaction.

But every site is diverse with different layouts, terrains, light levels, obstructions, vehicle movements, and challenges. For example, an In-Vessel Composting site has very low visibility, so cameras do not work in this environment.

This is why we always start with a site survey to understand your operations, the vehicles you use, your existing safe systems of work, and what your biggest site concerns are. This enables us to find the best configuration of our proximity warning system to match your requirements.

## Pedestrians and vehicles working closely together

The very nature of the environment means that people and plant are working near each other.

You will have vehicles moving waste around the yard, material handlers sorting waste, loading shovels tipping waste, and staff picking and clearing on-site all at the same time.

*Containers, pallet stacks, and rubbish stacks all create obstructions that reduce driver visibility*

Data from a tag-based proximity warning system can help you identify who is getting too close, too often, to vehicles so that you can address this and monitor behavioural change.

Sam Boshier, Marketing Manager of SiteZone Safety, helps customers interpret and use their data, comments: *"Recently, I was running through data with a customer, and we identified a tag that stood out from the rest with a high number of zone breaches. This tag belonged to the cleaner, and they could address the issue directly to explain the hazard and retrain their employee to change the behaviour."*

## Obstructions

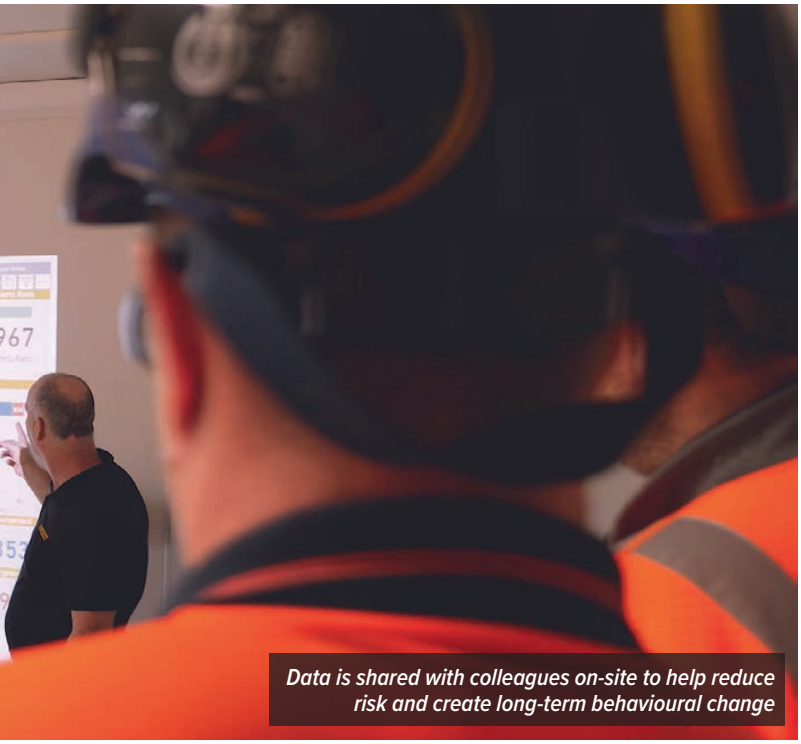
These are everywhere, from containers and skips to piles of packed materials, pallets, lorries, loads in a bucket, building access points, and walls. They all hinder a driver's view, and they may not see someone walking out from behind.

The beauty of a proximity warning system over vision-based systems such as cameras or AI is that the tag is detected around the corner/stack, so the operator and pedestrian are forewarned of the risk.

## Segregated walkways and picking lines

Third on the hierarchy of controls is isolate people from the hazard. That's why you have segregated walkways around your site.

But what if a machine drives past the walkway? Any detection system will pick the person up, even though they are safer behind the barrier.



*Data is shared with colleagues on-site to help reduce risk and create long-term behavioural change*

What we can do is isolate these areas and 'mask' them as safe zones. This means the vehicle's system won't detect tag wearers on the other side of the barrier, only giving the operator real zone breaches, increasing the integrity of the system.

**There are no secrets in waste**

Thankfully, the waste, environment and recycling sectors are very good at sharing best practices. We often hear, 'there are no secrets in waste.' And ideas, challenges, and best practices can be easily shared through shared associations such as WISH (Waste Industry Safety and Health), CIWM (Chartered Institute of Waste Management), and ESA (Environment Services Association).

At a recent webinar, we discussed standardising plant exclusion zones. Only 30% of attendees adopted a 5m standard exclusion zone. What are your site rules on exclusion zones around plants? Do you have them documented and communicated to staff?

**Near miss reporting**

This isn't just relevant to the waste and recycling sector but to every industry.

In 2021/22, 1,555 non-fatal worker injuries were reported, 89 (6%) of which were due to being struck by a moving vehicle (HSE). Given the size of these vehicles, it's not likely to be a minor injury.

It's believed that only around half of non-fatal accidents are reported. However, by reporting near misses, we can learn and help prevent future major accidents. We must ensure that our colleagues understand what a near miss is and create a culture where they're not afraid to report.

We recently talked to a council that introduced an easier way to report near misses and saw a big increase in the number received thanks to the change. Being informed means you can do something about it.

Data from our system gives you near-miss reports. Every unacknowledged zone breach could be a potential near miss. You can use this data to prevent future incidents and create long-lasting behavioural change.

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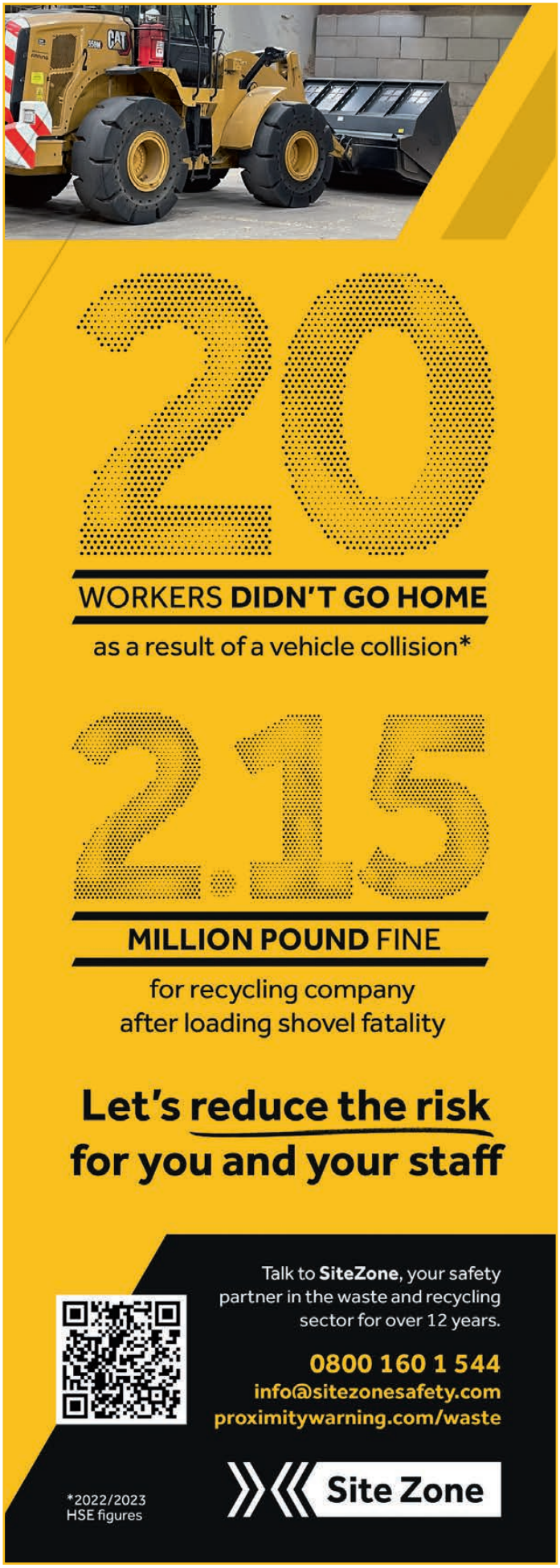

*Waste and resource management company RiverRidge has published its inaugural ESG report. Pictured (L-R) are Brett Ross, CEO of RiverRidge; Dr Lisa McIlvenna, Deputy Managing Director of Business in the Community (BITC) Northern Ireland; and Lauren Doherty, Interim Director of Commercial and Brand Development, NI Hospice*

# Driving the sector forward in Northern Ireland with innovative solutions

During a conversation with **SANDRA DICK**, Brett Ross, CEO at RiverRidge, reflected on the company's 13-year journey so far. RiverRidge has undertaken the challenge of implementing ambitious plans using cutting-edge technologies to revolutionise the waste management industry. Despite its growth, the company remains loyal to its roots, understanding the significance of being involved and making a positive impact on society

**Just 13 years ago, a small skip hire company in Northern Ireland was working its familiar route: back and forwards between its customers and operating its landfill operation.**

It was providing a vital service, but Northern Ireland was trailing behind when it came to diverting local authority waste from landfills, and concern was mounting.

Some investment had been made in the region's infrastructure to help modernise the sector, but not enough. EU penalties were hanging over member states that failed to achieve landfill diversion rates, and Northern Ireland needed to turbo-boost its approach to waste management.

Flip the calendar forward to now, and that small skip hire firm of around two dozen people has morphed into RiverRidge.

The region's leading integrated waste and resource management company, it now provides work for nearly 300, has an annual turnover of £65.9m and has contracts with seven of Northern Ireland's 11 local authorities and 5,500 commercial clients.

It covers 95% of the region's postcodes from its five locations. Last year, it managed more than 408,000 tonnes of waste: 362,000 tonnes were diverted from landfill, 2,785 tonnes were recycled, and more than 93,000 tonnes were recovered as 'green' energy.

RiverRidge has also positioned itself at the heart of the fight for a better environment. In December 2021, Chief Executive Officer Brett Ross signed Business in the Community (BITC)'s 'Climate Action Pledge' to reduce its overall carbon footprint by 50% by 2030. That's just one of a string of ambitious commitments.

Its 2022 'Rethinking Our Future' strategy set out targets spanning sustainability, employee well-being, community, investment, environmental pledges and the firm's governance.

It includes transitioning at least 75% of its fleet to renewable fuels by 2035, cutting the carbon cost of its collection

*RiverRidge signed the Business in the Community (BITC) Climate Action Pledge to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) by 50% by 2030 and limit global temperatures to 1.5C. Pictured is RiverRidge CEO Brett Ross with BITC NI's Managing Director Kieran Harding*

services by 90% by 2040, and converting its sites to a minimum of 70% renewable power within six years.

RiverRidge has already taken action: it has installed 15.5kw of photovoltaic panels at one of its landfill sites, and the 1300W of green power it produces fuels its leachate pumps, lighting, and gas harvesting system.

Beehives are now on disused landfills, and biodiversity reed beds and more than 1,000 trees have been planted.

In recent weeks, it received Northern Ireland's first and only fully electric skip lift vehicle, a Renault Trucks E-tech D Wide 4x2 with Hyva skip loader equipment.

All a world away from Coleraine Skip Hire, the skip firm taken over by an investor consortium behind RiverRidge less than 15 years ago.

RiverRidge has been reflecting since the publication of its Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) report in January 2024. The report reviews the company's actions over the past year and reveals its bold aims and targets.

That 40-page report is crucial to focusing minds on the tasks at hand, says RiverRidge CEO Brett Ross.

"There are two really important things when it comes to the treatment of waste," he begins.

"The first is cost. The next is that we must make decisions based on carbon, too.

"It is as important as pounds and pence.

"Part of our new governance regime is that we are letting everyone know where things are, what our position is, and where we want to go across the whole company.

"It leads to people acknowledging there are budgets to work within."

Some targets are ambitious, but that's the point, he adds.

"There's a possibility that we will fail on some. But the ambition is there.

"Getting as close to net zero as possible within a specific time is very challenging. Not only do we need to bring shareholders along and have them back us, but we also need customers to move in the same direction.

"And we need technology to move with us as well," he continues. "Vehicles are one of the biggest drains on the carbon budget."

The arrival of the new fully electric skip lift vehicle reflects RiverRidge's commitment to growing and implementing innovative technologies.

"Just as we're asking our customers to support us, we are supporting Renault on their journey," Brett adds. "We will give them as much data and feedback as possible in the hope that technology will improve over time and we will have a vehicle that can travel longer distances."

Everything takes time, however, and while the business has ambitions, it is at the mercy of technology and infrastructure.

And RiverRidge does not traditionally opt for the slow lane.

"When we bought the business in 2011, 95% of waste was going to landfill," recalls Brett. "The first phase was to try to increase the level of recycling and get the metals and the low-hanging fruit out.

"We achieved that within six months."

Eight acquisitions followed in quick succession, which, he adds, "gave us more critical mass."

A key moment came with the firm's shift into the RDF market, channelling waste that previously headed to landfill into a £107 million Energy from Waste Facility, which they developed alongside aerospace operator Bombardier's Wing facility (now Spirit AeroSystems) in Belfast's Harbour Estate.

The facility became operational in 2018, which, he adds, "was a coming of age for our company."

"A lot of people didn't believe we could deliver a £100m project. But we got the

*Continued on page 38*

*RiverRidge recently took delivery of Northern Ireland's first and only fully electric skip lift vehicle*

*CGI of the £50m anaerobic digestion project, which aims to significantly impact Northern Ireland's biomethane target*

investment and technology, which means we don't have to export waste.

"It's one thing to burn waste," he continues, "but it's not the future or the most efficient way to deal with energy in waste."

So, the business is pouring considerable R&D efforts into biomethane, believing it can play a key role in decarbonising Northern Ireland's energy networks and as an alternative fuel for vehicles.

One element is exploring how to maximise the extraction of methane from waste. Another is a £50m anaerobic digestion facility that will eventually generate 145,000MWth of biogas each year for injection into the grid.

"The gas infrastructure needs a lot of work to ensure balancing across the whole network," adds Brett.

"But in the short term, the idea is to use the methane for vehicle fuel and electricity, eventually moving to a point where the Northern Ireland gas network catches up, injecting into the gas network and decarbonising it.

"Taking household residual waste and converting it to electricity that they themselves are using is the sort of circular economy concept that resonates with householders. It's something tangible that is happening with their waste."

Europe has surged ahead in developing its biomethane infrastructure. In Northern Ireland, political limbo for nearly two years without a devolved government hasn't helped.

Yet Brett, originally from Zimbabwe, where political upheaval is a way of life, believes there is much to be optimistic about.

*Northern Ireland's only large-scale waste-to-energy facility, Full Circle Generation*

"Northern Ireland does have some challenges. But the people here are pragmatic and practical.

"There's a strong desire to do things properly, an incredibly strong work ethic and a tremendous sense of innovation.

"This is the engineering heartland of the UK. We can never ignore that; we see that in the people working for us and our customer base.

"Not having a government for 24 months had an impact on us, but the mood music from the politicians now is 'let's get going and catch up with what we've lost'. And we're hoping they will."

It's been a remarkable 13 years. But while RiverRidge has grown, it remains loyal to its roots: since 2011, it has given more than £500,000 in cash and in-kind donations to charities, organisations and community groups.

"There's no point in us becoming a successful company in monetary terms if the whole community around us is struggling," Brett adds.

"We are trying to do this and raise everyone up, not just us.

"With a small region like Northern Ireland, you are naturally embroiled in community.

"When something happens to one person, it happens to all of us."

*RiverRidge has bases in Belfast, Coleraine, Derry/Londonderry, Portadown and Mallusk. Find out more at* ***www.riverridge.co.uk***

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*2007 LEGRAS tri axle walking floor trailer*

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# EU lawmakers strike deal on new sustainable packaging rules

**On 4th March, the Parliament and Council of the European Union reached a provisional agreement on new rules to reduce, reuse and recycle packaging.**

The new measures aim to make packaging used in the EU safer and more sustainable. The agreement requires all packaging to be recyclable, minimises the presence of harmful substances, reduces unnecessary packaging, boosts the use of recycled content, and improves collection and recycling.

The agreement sets packaging reduction targets, which include a 5% reduction by 2030, a 10% reduction by 2035, and a 15% reduction by 2040. The EU countries are required to reduce the amount of plastic packaging waste, in particular.

The agreement also bans certain single-use plastic packaging formats from 1st January 2030, such as packaging for unprocessed fresh fruit and vegetables, food and drink packaging filled and consumed in cafés and restaurants, individual portions (such as condiments, sauces, creamer and sugar), miniature packaging for toiletry products, and shrink-wrap for suitcases in airports.

The agreement also bans very lightweight plastic carrier bags (below 15 microns) unless required for hygiene reasons or provided as primary packaging for loose food to help prevent food wastage.

To prevent adverse health effects, the agreement also introduces a ban on the use of "forever chemicals" (per- and polyfluorinated alkyl substances or PFASs) in food contact packaging. The Parliament and Council also agreed to set a specific target for reusable packaging for alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks (except e.g. milk, wine, aromatised wine and spirits) by 2030 (at least 10%).

Member states may grant a five-year derogation from these requirements under certain conditions. Final distributors of drinks and takeaway food in the food service sector would be obliged to offer consumers the option of bringing their own containers. They would also be required to endeavour to offer 10% of products in reusable packaging by 2030.

Member states also require restaurants, canteens, bars, cafés and catering services to serve tap water (where available, for free or for a low service fee) in a reusable or refillable format.

The agreement also includes minimum recycled content targets for any plastic part of packaging, minimum recycling targets by weight of packaging waste generated, and increased recyclability requirements. The agreement states that 90% of single-use plastic and metal beverage containers (up to three litres) should be collected separately by 2029 through deposit-return systems.

Rapporteur Frédérique Ries (Renew, BE) said the EU is setting targets to reduce packaging consumption, regardless of the material used for the first time in an environmental law. The deal fosters innovation and includes exemptions for micro-enterprises. Before the agreement enters into force, it must be formally approved by the Parliament and Council.

In 2018, packaging generated a turnover of EUR 355 billion in the EU. Packaging waste is an ever-increasing source of waste, with the EU total increasing from 66 million tonnes in 2009 to 84 million tonnes in 2021. Each European generated 188.7 kg of packaging waste in 2021, which is expected to increase to 209 kg in 2030 without additional measures.

# Campaigners urge UK to follow EU plastic sachet ban

**Environmental campaign group A Plastic Planet has urged the UK to follow the European Union (EU) in banning single-use plastic sachets.**

On 4th March, the EU announced its decision to ban sauce sachets by 2030 as part of a new green packaging law ***(see story above)***. This move comes after years of campaigning by A Plastic Planet to eradicate the sachets.

In 2020, a coalition comprising more than 50 UK business leaders, politicians, and campaigners successfully demanded the inclusion of plastic sachets in European and UK legislation. This positioned them alongside other single-use items such as plastic straws and cotton buds.

Later that year, an Early Day Motion in the UK parliament, supported by 26 cross-party politicians, pushed for a ban on all non-food plastic sachets.

*Seven hundred million single-use plastic sachets are used in the UK annually, leading to severe environmental damage*

A government consultation prompted by the campaign revealed overwhelming support for a ban on single-use sachets in the UK. Only 5% of respondents were opposed to such measures.

However, the sachets were absent from the single-use plastic ban introduced in October 2023, with the country also lagging behind in banning wet wipes.

A Plastic Planet's *Re-use, Refill, Replace Revolution* strategy was launched in 2023. It outlines a ten-year roadmap to phase out single-use plastic items, including a proposal to ban sachets by the end of 2025, ahead of the EU's timeline.

A Plastic Planet co-founder, Sian Sutherland, commented: "A year's worth of sachets measures 72 million kilometres – the equivalent of 189 trips between the Earth and the moon. Virtually all plastic sachets are destined to pollute our precious natural habitats, where they'll break down into microplastics, enter our food chains and leach toxic, endocrine-disrupting chemicals into our soils and waters."

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# Leadec expands sustainable services with Green Hub in UK

**Leadec is a global service provider specialising in factories and their entire life cycle. They are continuously trying to strengthen their Green Factory Solutions, including the new Green Hub in Coventry. It is a one-stop shop for all aspects of the circular economy and extends the existing network for sustainable solutions.**
**The aim is to scale the expertise in zero waste services and help customers move towards more sustainable factories.**

Leadec offers a green service portfolio known as Green Factory Solutions, which focuses on two main aspects - decarbonisation and circular economy. These specialised solutions help manufacturers comply with stricter legislation, including the EU Green Deal. Leadec's expertise, solutions, and sustainable on-site services are available to customers at more than 350 sites worldwide.

Last year, Leadec UK managed more than 50,000 tonnes of all types of waste, including recyclables, hazardous waste, sludges, and general waste, from client premises and processes. The company creates efficient, flexible and cost-effective reuse, repurpose, recycle, or disposal processes.

Leadec offers digital waste tracking, optimises disposal routes, and saves time and money. It enables the customer to implement measures for cost reduction and resource efficiency in production and accelerate the reduction of undefined residual waste. The ultimate goal is to reduce $CO^2$ emissions.

Markus Glaser-Gallion, CEO of Leadec, said: "The industry's demand for sustainable solutions is very high. To drive the development and implementation of these sustainable services, we have started our Green Hubs, which focus on different areas of sustainability. We are delighted to launch the new Sustainability, Environmental and Waste Services Green Hub in the UK. It joins the seven existing Green Hubs in Germany and complements our international network of experts."

# Ashton Gate nets sustainability goals with Veolia

**Ashton Gate, home to Bristol City Football Club and Bristol Bears Rugby Union Club, has recently appointed Veolia as its new recycling and waste contractor. The one-year contract requires Veolia to manage all waste stream collections for Ashton Gate Stadium, Robins High-Performance Centre, and Bristol Bears High-Performance Centre.**

Veolia's expertise in serving several key sporting venues will enable it to provide a proactive and reliable service seven days a week. The company aims to ensure that zero waste goes to landfill treatment. Veolia's Bristol service centre is close to the stadium and both high-performance centres, minimising the operation's carbon footprint. This will help Ashton Gate and the Bristol Sport Group achieve the sustainability goals Project Whitebeam set.

Project Whitebeam is a collaborative effort across the sporting group to identify, measure, and mitigate the environmental impact of sports. This closely aligns with Veolia's goal of ecological transformation, which places sustainability at the forefront of the company's processes, solutions, and mindset.

Apart from overseeing the general waste stream and the recycling of plastic, cardboard, food, and glass, Veolia's online Customer Hub will enable Ashton Gate to review, report, and optimise the stadium's environmental performance with usage data per individual game.

Commenting on the partnership, Adam Wylie, Veolia's Managing Director for Commercial, said: "By partnering with Ashton Gate, we will be able to help them significantly impact their recycling rates and further progress their sustainability.

"Bristol Sport and Ashton Gate have ambitious goals, which align with Veolia's purpose of ecological transformation. We are looking forward to implementing some of our initiatives and innovations in this partnership."

Supporters are encouraged to respect the community and use bins on matchdays. Ashton Gate's proximity to the Avon Gorge, historic harbour and local parkland makes it a special and unique stadium. As children play near here, supporters are encouraged to bring litter to the stadium and dispose of it upon arrival at the Fan Village and concourse.

# A testimony for the services offered by Kadant PAAL

**Thalia Waste Management MRF facility was using a PAAL channel baler when it decided to upgrade its equipment. Since it was satisfied with the previous PAAL equipment's performance, throughput and customer care, it made sense to work with Kadant PAAL again.**

With a clear information dialogue of requirements and solutions between Kadant PAAL and Thalia Waste Management, the specifications were approached with strict guidelines to ensure optimal performance, effective performance, and cost efficiency.

PAAL's Konti range of balers is ideal for any MRF facility. It is designed to bale different materials, providing maximum throughput and density. The corresponding settings have already been saved in the recipe, allowing the materials being processed to be changed at the touch of a button.

Despite restrictive space, our installation team worked with Thalia Waste Management engineers and operators to understand the site complexities and make the solution work.

Francesca Hawes, MRF Operations Manager at Thalia Waste Management, gave us the following feedback regarding our PAAL baler and its capabilities and the working relationship Kadant PAAL has with them to make the MRF work to its best potential.

"Given their expertise and prior demonstrated service capabilities, Kadant PAAL was a clear choice to work with on the new baler installation project. From initial scoping to final installation, Kadant PAAL provided clear information, practical support, and bespoke engineering solutions to deliver a successful outcome.

"Kadant PAAL's experienced team approached the project with professionalism and commitment and worked alongside our engineers and baler operators to understand the complex challenges specific to the site.

"The new baler, PAAL's Konti V-275 (J Series), has delivered beyond expectations, helping us to increase plastic bale densities by up to 70%, reduce downtime associated with baler stoppages, and maximise storage space for baled product. The design of the baler and its additional features have helped our teams to continue working safely and carry out planned preventive maintenance with ease. At the same time, the ongoing support package for servicing and aftercare provides assurances that the baler will continue to operate reliably for years to come. We look forward to working alongside Kadant PAAL on future projects."

PAAL continually evolves its technologies and advances to meet the recycling industry's progressive needs. This translates into efficient and effective operations for which we provide our baling equipment.

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# Veolia launches UK first gas canister recycling scheme

**Veolia has introduced the first UK process lines for the safe treatment of nitrous oxide canisters. These innovative systems are designed to treat and recycle used canisters while preventing the greenhouse gas impact caused by the discharge of the gas, which has nearly 300 times the warming power of carbon dioxide.**

The technological breakthrough was developed at Veolia's Empire facility in Birmingham. The new process captures the gas from N2O canisters. It separates the nitrogen and oxygen components, allowing the gases to be safely vented in proportion to relative volumes already in the atmosphere. The empty canisters are then recycled.

Nitrous oxide is commonly used in kitchens to produce foams and whipped cream and as an inert gas to fill packets of crisps or snack foods in the wider food industry. However, using this gas contributes to damaging greenhouse gas emissions that stay in the atmosphere for an average of 114 years. These emissions cause nitrogen oxides to deplete the stratospheric ozone layer, exposing the Earth to more solar radiation and increasing climate change. Nitrous oxide emissions are accelerating, and the global rise in emissions from 2020 to 2021 was higher than the average annual growth rate over the past decade.

*Gas canisters have been an increasing problem for waste management companies in the UK*

Disposing of used cylinders in general waste poses a risk of explosion during waste processing. Although nitrous oxide is not considered flammable, it can act as an oxidiser and cause a fire to burn hotter, faster, and more intensely. Littering of used cartridges and cylinders has become an issue, incurring clean-up costs and harming the natural environment. It is important to note that cartridges and cylinders are made of steel and can be recycled.

Nicola Henshaw, Director of Hazardous Waste at Veolia UK, said: "The new treatment process for commercial nitrous oxide canisters represents a real step forward in how the industry can stop the discharge of this potent greenhouse gas, which destroys the ozone layer.

"By safely treating the gas and breaking it down into its atmospheric elements, we can limit the environmental impact and return metals for recycling. This is another example of how Veolia is delivering real ecological transformation for the future of the planet."

# Work starts on new multi-million pound Waste Transfer Station

**On 26th February, a groundbreaking event marked the beginning of construction on a new state-of-the-art Waste Transfer Station (WTS) behind the Ware Recycling Centre in Hertfordshire.**

The new facility is expected to be completed by January 2026 and represents a multi-million-pound investment in effectively managing waste generated by an increasing population.

The WTS will receive kerbside waste and recycling materials from the surrounding areas, some of which currently have to be transported across the county to a facility near Watford. The delivery of the new WTS will result in reduced lorry traffic on our roads and greater resilience in waste operations. Additionally, the bulky waste shredding facility inside the building will contribute to the council's goal of sending zero waste to landfill by 2030.

The new WTS will be powered by electricity generated by landfill gas from the former neighbouring landfill site. The facility will also feature solar panels fitted to the roof of the main building and modern noise and odour controls, ensuring minimal impact on the surrounding areas.

The leader of the Council, Richard Roberts, who attended the event, said: "This is a critical infrastructure project for the county that reflects our vision for a cleaner, greener, healthier Hertfordshire.

"The new station will allow bulky wastes, such as furniture, unsuitable for reuse or recycling, to be shredded, reducing the number of lorry miles and, in turn, carbon emissions. The design of the new building allows us to meet the needs of modern-day waste management more sustainably."

# Charity walk with a focus on recycling scrap metal

**Craig Walsh is an employee of Charles Muddle Ltd, a professional scrap metal merchant based in West Sussex. He is gearing up to walk 106 miles next month to raise funds for Mind, a mental health charity.**

Last year, Craig suffered from mental health problems, but with the help of Mind, he was able to rebuild his life. Now, he wants to give back to the organisation that helped him get back on his feet and now holds a special place in his heart.

The unique aspect of this charity walk is that he will collect scrap metal along the way. He will not collect large items, only objects that people have thrown away or dropped on the street, such as aluminium cans, bits of copper pipe, steel, etc. The scrap metal will be sold, and the money raised will be donated to Mind.

He welcomes anyone to join him for as much or as little as theyd like. The walk will start on Friday, 24th May and end on Sunday, 26th May. Join Craig on his mission to help raise funds for Mind.

*If you would like to donate, please scan the QR code to access Craig's JustGiving page.*

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## DR ANNA WILLETTS

Anna is an environmental criminal lawyer, specialising in defence work in the waste and recycling industry. She is dual-qualified, having completed a PhD in geochemistry and worked as an environmental consultant for five years before qualifying as a lawyer.

Anna represents waste and recycling businesses and directors who are prosecuted by the regulators for environmental and waste offences.

BUSINESS CLINIC LEGAL

# The Office for Environmental Protection (OEP)

**The OEP was created in 2021, post-Brexit, under the Environment Act 2021. Its role is to protect and improve the environment by holding government and other public authorities to account.**

Since its inception, it has not focused on the waste industry in particular, and it appears to have focused more on biodiversity and habitats. That seems to be changing now, though, with its interest in the Environment Agency. Part of its role is often described as 'regulating the regulator'. Whilst this may not be quite accurate, as it is not a regulator, it now seems to be focusing some effort on reviewing the work and role of the Environment Agency.

The OEP has recently issued a survey aimed at better understanding the effectiveness of the Environment Agency's Regulatory Compliance and Inspection Framework in the waste and resources sector in England. The survey seeks views to be fed back to Parliament and includes issues such as subsistence fees, inspector consistency and the impact of Environment Agency inspections on businesses. This appears to be very timely in light of the Suez Judicial Review judgement, which I wrote about last month, as most of these subjects formed part of that case.

Industry is encouraged to respond to the OEP to provide commentary and experience to better shape regulation for the future.

The survey will likely have closed by the time this is published, but the results may make for interesting reading in a future article.

*Anna is 'Immediate Past President' of the Chartered Institution of Wastes Management and Co-Convenor of UKELA's Waste Working Party.*
*E: **anna.willetts@gunnercooke.com***

GOT A QUESTION **ASK THE EXPERTS**

*(L-R) Willshee's family members at their Materials Recycling Facility in Swadlincote, South Derbyshire – Maria Willshee, Dean Willshee, Jenna Willshee and Craig Willshee*

# Wilshee's celebrates 40 years of trading

**Willshee's Waste & Recycling, based in Burton, is celebrating its 40th anniversary. The company has achieved £35 million in turnover and continues to grow at a rate of 20% year-on-year for the 10th consecutive year.**

Keith and Maria Willshee started the company on 12th March, 1984 with just one vehicle and 10 skips. Today, the company handles 300,000 tonnes of waste per year, has a fleet of over 50 vehicles, and employs 150 staff. The company's impressive customer base includes a range of national retailers and manufacturers, such as Hobbycraft, Creative Foods, McDonald's, and TopHat.

The second generation of Willshees, comprising Managing Director Dean, Group Engineering Manager Craig, and Director Jenna, now runs the business alongside the senior management team.

The company has achieved several significant milestones, including commissioning a £10 million state-of-the-art materials recycling facility in Swadlincote, which was officially opened in 2021. The London Stock Exchange listed it as one of the top 1000 companies to inspire Britain, and global private bank J.P. Morgan recognised it as a top 200 UK women-powered business and named it the 2023 Business of the Year at the Staffordshire Chambers of Commerce business awards.

Dean Willshee said: "We are incredibly proud of what we have achieved as a business and family. My parents did not know back in 1984 that the sector would become so significant, but we are all very glad that they took the plunge and launched the company. The environmental agenda has helped us, but we all believe that everyone involved in the business has helped us grasp the opportunities put in front of us, be innovative, and work really hard!

"Now, we want to continue with our 20% year-on-year growth trajectory. While we are ambitious to grow organically, we are also looking to gain increased market share. The recent launch of our national brokering service will play a key part in this as we expand our offer across the UK.

"Opportunities are also coming from stricter legislation, which means more organisations need a professional service with compliant, transparent auditing. Then there is also the rise in demand for refuse-derived fuel and solid-recovered fuel as an alternative to fossil fuels -and our Swadlincote site has a huge capacity for this."

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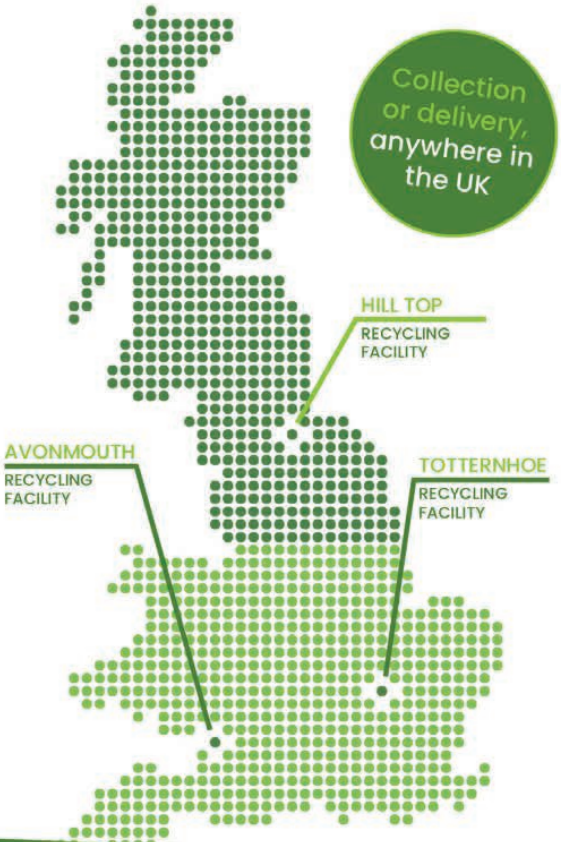


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# Biffa warns of continued low recycling rates for disposable takeaway cups

**Did you know the UK annually throws away up to 1370 tonnes of recyclable paper fibre? This means valuable resources that could otherwise be recycled and reused are being wasted. The latest research conducted by Biffa highlights this issue and emphasises the need for increased awareness and action towards responsible waste management.**

**It is estimated that between 2.5 and 5 billion disposable takeaway cups are used annually in the UK. With only one in 400 being recycled, that potentially means up to a staggering 4.98 billion takeaway cups are not being recycled, and the raw materials wasted each year.**

This is a recycling rate of just 0.25% for takeaway cups, compared to 70.6% for general paper and cardboard, which demonstrates the scale of the single-use takeaway cups challenge. They represent a 'perfect storm' of barriers to recycling.

First, takeaway cups are difficult to recycle. They are traditionally made of paper with a plastic coating, which needs to be separated before the paper can be recycled. It cannot be collected and processed with standard paper.

Second, because they are made from paper, people think cups are widely recycled along with mixed recycling, which means the coffee cup is one of the most commonly wishcycled items. However, a specialist system is needed to collect and process takeaway cups.

Third, they are expensive to recycle. This is because they are bulky structures surrounding empty space, meaning a small number of takeaway cups takes up a lot of room, and less material is transported per collection compared to, say, piles of old newspapers. Compared with these widely recycled paper products, collecting and transporting takeaway cups is more expensive and creates more carbon emissions unless there is a specialist collection system in place.

Finally, they are prone to contamination. Drinks are served with lids, stirrers and sleeves, often not separated when disposed of. Also, people tend to use takeaway cups as a place to pack in all their other rubbish, creating 'mini bins'. Contamination means that cups cannot be recycled and will be incinerated to generate energy or even disposed of in landfill.

*Biffa expert Waste Strategy & Packaging Manager Roger Wright explores common myths associated with disposable cups and recycling.*

**Myth 1: All takeaway cups are the same**

Unfortunately, not. There are significant differences when it comes to engineering and developing the cups. Cups holding hot liquid must be made from strong virgin fibre to ensure structural integrity. Additionally, because there is an exposed seam inside the cup touching the liquid, the cups material must be of the highest quality to guarantee the drink remains free of any contaminants.

Various single-use cups – like those designed for beer, soft drinks, and takeaway soups or porridge – come with assorted designs, coatings, specifications, and labels. This lack of consistency makes it harder to know how individual cups should be processed, so many people hope for the best and wishcycle in with other mixed recycling methods.

With designers constantly innovating, the market is flooded with cups made from different materials – not to mention the assortment of lid types that accompany them, which has further complicated the recyclability of disposable cups.

**Myth 2: Takeaway cups are valuable to recyclers**

Without a specialist system in place,

cups are problematic for recyclers. The cup's weight-to-volume ratio makes it an inefficient item to manage, limiting its total recoverable value. Typically, hot cups weigh 275gsm on average, with many being 'double-walled' or 'sleeved' for safety purposes, adding an outer layer of approximately 225gsm. Conversely, cold cups average a weight of 300gsm.

Ultimately, the cups' highest value is only achieved through crushing or stacking them. Without these measures, collecting and processing the cups becomes impractical due to the insufficient value in the total volume. Despite using costly virgin solid bleached sulphate (SBS-based fibre), their design introduces challenges for efficient recycling.

**Myth 3: Takeaway cups are simple to recycle**

We wish that were the case. With almost as many different types of coating used to seal them as there are big-brand takeaway chains, it's virtually impossible to tell them apart in most recycling systems if they don't arrive at the recyclers properly segregated. Without additional manual pickers or dedicated digital technology, it isn't easy to distinguish one type of cup from another and separate at scale. This means it is harder to guarantee the quality of the recycled material.

The key to recycling more is using consistent materials throughout the cups. That said, as the volume of recycled cups increases and the quality improves, more paper mills may become willing to accept different grades of recycled material. The key is for everyone to start recycling more.

**Myth 4: Contaminated cups can still be recycled**

This is the biggest myth of all. When it comes to cup recycling, cups with lids and sleeves attached are contaminated and cannot be recycled. A widespread phenomenon of people using their empty cups as 'mini-bins' is causing a lot of paper resources to be wasted. Consumers often treat these cups as small rubbish bins, disposing of items such as tea bags, banana peels, apple cores, crisp packets, and used tissues in them. Although the intention is to compact waste and avoid littering, this habit is contaminating recycling and causing valuable resources to be lost.

**What can be done?**

In the long term, many companies are exploring ways to introduce more reuse within takeaway drinks services and increase the consistency of materials used to make takeaway cups. In the immediate term, businesses, consumers and waste management companies must work together to recycle as much as possible.

There's a huge opportunity to protect hundreds of tonnes of high-quality paper and unlock a valuable commodity. Biffa has launched a national takeback scheme, providing a specialist system where collections and processing are cost - and carbon-efficient, providing value to everyone involved.

Through Biffa's coffee cup takeback system, 100% of a polyethylene-lined cup can now be recycled. High-quality paper fibre is used to make new packaging, and the polyethylene lining is separated and processed into pellets. These pellets are transformed into useful products, such as agricultural shrink wrap and garden furniture.

Achieving over a 70% recycling rate like other paper might be ambitious due to the collections' unique challenges and specialist nature. However, vast improvement is possible, and we're already seeing progress with sustainability-focused businesses signing up for Biffa's takeaway cup takeback service.

# MBA Polymers install quick clean Drawer Magnet from Bunting

**MBA Polymers has installed a new quick manual-clean magnet insert from Bunting Magnetics into one of its existing Drawer Filter Magnets at its Worksop plastics recycling operation in the Bassetlaw District in Nottinghamshire. The new insert significantly reduces the time needed to clean captured ferrous metal off the high-strength tube magnets while also proving easier and safer for operators.**

MBA Polymers UK's facility is the world's largest and most advanced plastics recycling production unit. It focuses on recovering waste plastics and rubber from "shredder residue" that would otherwise go to landfill. These materials are the by-products from the large shredding and metal recovery process of end-of-life automobiles, appliances, and other large metal-bearing goods and equipment traditionally recycled for their high metal content.

Seven years ago, MBA Polymers installed four Bunting Drawer Filter Magnets. A Drawer Filter Magnet has two rows of high-strength rare earth neodymium tube magnets mounted within a sealed outer housing. In operation, shredded plastic (less than 6mm) falls via gravity into the top of the housing and over the tube magnets.

Magnetically-susceptible particles are attracted and held to the tube magnets, allowing metal-free material through to the next stage of the process.

Removing this metal is critical for successful recycling, cleansing the plastic and also preventing damage to process equipment later in the plant.

Periodically, depending on the level of metal contamination, the tube magnets are removed from the housing and cleaned. Captured metal removed from the surface of the tube magnets is discarded. However, the high strength of the tube magnets makes removal of the metal contamination difficult and time-consuming.

Bunting, one of the world's leading designers and manufacturers of magnetic separators, eddy current separators, metal detectors and electrostatic separators, has developed a new insert to address this problem.

The new quick clean magnet insert fits into existing Drawer Filter Magnet housings without needing modification. With the new design, operators withdraw the complete drawer insert. Once clear, they pull the tube magnets through the front Perspex cover. Any metal contamination is drawn to the front of the plate, which is fitted with strong plastic washers that block the metal from moving outside the housing. As the tube magnets are withdrawn entirely, the captured metal is no longer held magnetically and falls under gravity into a separate waste collection area.

With the new insert, cleaning the tube magnet grid can take as little as 40 seconds, significantly shorter than previously. Also, operators do not have to physically remove the entrapped metal from the surface of the tube magnets using either their fingers or another implement, making the new insert safer.

*New quick manual clean Drawer Filter Magnet insert*

*Ferrous metal captured in a standard Drawer Filter Magnet*

*Cleaning the new Drawer Filter Magnet insert*

Guy Hughes, MBA Polymers' Extrusion Manager, explained the benefits. "With the new magnet system, we can ensure that contamination is removed pre-screen, allowing an even higher-quality product to be delivered to customers."

# Enva receives permit for Scottish fridge recycling facility

**Enva has successfully completed the Pollution Prevention Control (PPC) permitting process with SEPA for its new Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) recycling facility in Perthshire, Scotland.**

Once it becomes operational later this summer, the Enva plant will be the only refrigerator recycling facility in Scotland. It will provide enough domestic recycling capacity for all the country's waste fridges and recycle over 10,000 tonnes of small domestic appliances every year.

Commenting on this significant milestone, Enva's Director, Barry Phillips, said: "I'd like to thank SEPA for all their help and support in this process. This is Enva's fourth fully licensed fridge recycling facility, providing our customers with genuine resilience and economies of scale."

Enva's £10m investment in the Perthshire facility will ensure it attains the highest possible recycling standards, including a commitment to attain the independently audited WEEELABEX standard. Enva is currently installing the latest degassing, shredding, and recycling technologies at the site, which will see over 98% of the fridges' components recovered and recycled. In doing so, it will play an important role in supporting the development of a more circular Scottish economy.

# Field trip showcases cutting-edge wood recycling practices

**On 6th March, the Wood Recyclers' Association (WRA) arranged an educational visit to Timberpak Leeds for around 35 members, including wood recyclers, end-users, and machinery and service suppliers. The tour was led by Mark Hayton, Head of Wood Purchasing and Director of Timberpak, a longstanding WRA board member. The newly refurbished Leeds site was the location for this field trip, which offered an inside look at the modern practices of wood recycling.**

The visit provided an interactive experience for the visitors to witness the wood recycling business's operational workflow. The state-of-the-art facilities and innovative processes were demonstrated to the visitors, providing them with a deep understanding of the complexities involved in sustainable wood recycling.

The journey began with a tour through the pedestrian-free area of the site, allowing participants to explore the premises and learn about the company's robust safety protocols. The group was guided through a one-way system for access and egress. They observed the paperless ticketing system for efficient management of weigh tickets and gained a firsthand view of the enormous legioblocks, crucial for wood storage and fire safety measures within the facility.

Key highlights of the tour included a detailed explanation of the vehicular entrance, where Mark explained the careful material validation processes and the bore hole's significant role in supplying water to manage dust suppression.

The tour also provided a firsthand experience of the new HAAS 2500e electric shredder and the cutting-edge screening system, showcasing the company's commitment to environmentally friendly operations. Mark explained to the visitors the benefits of being powered by electricity. Firstly, the plant is much quieter with the electric-powered machinery than the older diesel-powered machinery while also using the company's 365kw rooftop solar panels. Secondly, the electromagnet is four times more efficient at removing metal than a standard permanent magnet normally found on wood shredders.

Throughout the visit, Mark shared information about the site infrastructure, dust management technology, daily truck operations, and production management strategies.

The event concluded with refreshments, allowing participants to discuss further and ask detailed questions.

Julia Turner, Executive Director of the WRA, said: "Our members were delighted to have the opportunity to look around Timberpak's modern wood recycling facility and hear about the company's dedication to safety and sustainability. A big thank you to Mark and everyone at Timberpak for organising such an interesting and educational day."

Timberpak and the WRA's joint efforts in organising this insightful field trip underscore their continued commitment to promoting best practices in wood recycling and fostering meaningful connections within the industry.

*Pictured (L-R) John Irwin, MD; Keith Buchanan, DUP, Founding Director, Aidan McKiver, Linda Dillon, Sinn Fein; Patsy McGlone, SDLP; Anne McKiver, Director; Eimear Carney, Sinn Fein; Francie Molloy, Sinn Fein; David Honeyford, Alliance*

# Kiverco hosts special event celebrating 30 years of innovation

**Kiverco, a company based in Dungannon, Northern Ireland, is known across the globe for designing and manufacturing the world's toughest recycling plants. The company recently celebrated its 30th anniversary with a special event at its headquarters.**

Founders Aidan and Anne McKiver welcomed guests, including customers, local government representatives, business leaders, and stakeholders from the manufacturing, waste management and education sectors.

Kiverco has been a leader in recycling solutions for over 30 years and has adapted to the changing needs of the waste processing industry worldwide. The company is committed to excellence, innovation, and sustainability and has earned a reputation for delivering cutting-edge recycling plants renowned for their durability, efficiency, and performance.

The event, held on Friday, 15th March, served as a perfect platform to reflect on Kiverco's remarkable journey and celebrate its numerous achievements. In 2023, the company reached its highest-ever turnover and installed its largest and most complex recycling plant to date. The company also completed an impressive new factory extension in the same year, doubling its manufacturing capacity.

Kiverco has certainly come a long way since its humble beginnings. Today, it plays a vital role in providing employment and business for local suppliers in mid-Ulster.

Attendees at the event had the opportunity to tour the newly extended facilities, view some of Kiverco's machinery firsthand, network with industry peers, and gain valuable insights into Kiverco's success journey and the latest advancements in recycling technology.

Visitors also had the opportunity to enjoy a special presentation from Mark Shayler, one of the UK's most charismatic keynote speakers. He provided an entertaining insight into the world's sustainability journey by juxtaposing it with music throughout the decades.

Aidan and Anne McKiver, Co-founders of Kiverco, expressed their gratitude, stating: "We are incredibly proud to celebrate 30 years of innovation at Kiverco. This milestone is a testament to our team's hard work, dedication, and vision, as well as the unwavering support of our valued customers, partners and neighbours."

The event concluded with a panel discussion from some of the leaders in waste management. Debbie Nesbitt represented the Chartered Institute of Waste Management Northern Ireland office, Marc Angell represented Biffa Waste, one of the UK's leading waste management companies, and Technical Sales Manager Gareth Hawthorne joined the panel on behalf of Kiverco.

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# Lifting the lid on sustainability... CCE's monumental milestone

**Container Components Europe (CCE), part of the Impact Environmental Group (IEG), celebrates the phenomenal success of its award-winning Recycling Scheme by sharing its landmark news that the business has recycled over half a million lids to date.**

Since establishing its pioneering environmental initiative in 2006, CCE and its customers who have signed up for the groundbreaking programme have recycled a highly impressive **502,195 container lids**, taking in the old parts and remanufacturing them as new.

The lids go on an impressive journey before emerging as newly constructed and fully recycled lids. Once collected from CCE's clients' premises, the items are shredded, and a UV package is added before the palletisation of the extruded plastic. The pellets are then ground into powder before the recycled powder is charged into the mould. With an average weight of 6.4kg per lid, CCE has returned an astonishing 3,214,050 kg into powder.

Ken Richmond, CCE's Operations Director, commented: "As a leading global manufacturer of plastic container lids, parts and services for the waste industry, as with our parent company IEG, we pride ourselves on supporting the move towards a circular economy and our ongoing commitment to achieving a more sustainable world.

"Many of our clients have become incredibly invested in the initiative, and I feel sure that they will be as encouraged as we are when they reflect on the enormous difference we have made through our crucial partnership. We are now looking forward to building on this further so that we can continue to make a significant difference."

# MAG calls for household waste to be used to produce SAF

**Manchester Airports Group (MAG), the largest airport operator in the UK, has released a report explaining how household waste that is currently burned to generate electricity could be used to create Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF).**

The study conducted by MAG shows that manufacturing SAF from household waste has the potential to reduce the UK's carbon footprint significantly. In the UK, about 8.5 million tonnes of domestic waste that cannot be recycled or reused is burned to generate electricity. In comparison, another 7.3 million tonnes are sent to incinerators without recovering any energy.

The research carried out by ICF, which was commissioned by MAG, showed that using bin bag waste to create SAF would result in a reduction in carbon emissions that is at least five times greater than that achieved by incinerating the same waste to generate electricity. SAF made from waste emits 89% less carbon than burning conventional jet fuel. This means that using waste to create SAF results in a much bigger reduction in carbon emissions than incinerating it to make electricity, especially since nearly 50% of all UK electricity already comes from renewable sources.

Ken O'Toole, CEO of MAG, which runs Manchester, London Stansted and East Midlands airports, said: "It is proven that SAF has the capability to power the planes of the future and will be instrumental in decarbonising air travel in the coming years.

"The benefits of turning household waste into SAF are clear - it's better for the environment, reducing emissions by at least five times more than using it to make electricity. It can also create tens of thousands of new jobs and be a significant driver in helping UK aviation reach its target of net zero by 2050."

Defra has confirmed that local authorities can prioritise fuel production over energy-from-waste and incineration. However, the current disposal contracts limit the amount of MSW provided to new SAF plants. The Sustainable Aviation (SA) industry coalition has identified that up to 14 SAF plants could be constructed across the UK. The UK Government has committed to building five such plants by 2025.

*DS Smith's cardboard reprocessing mill at Kemsley in Kent*

# DS Smith invests £48m into Kemsley Paper Mill

**In a significant move towards improving efficiency and sustainability, DS Smith, an international packaging company headquartered in London, has announced a £48 million investment into upgrading the fibre preparation line at the Kemsley Paper Mill in Kent. This investment is a part of the company's organic investment programme, aimed at enhancing the mill's production capabilities while simultaneously reducing costs.**

The Kemsley Mill, recognised as the largest mill for recycled papers in the UK and the second largest in Europe, is set to undergo this substantial upgrade to its fibre preparation line. The initiative is designed to supply recycled fibre to PM3, DS Smith's paper machine at the mill capable of producing a variety of corrugated case materials.

Included in the upgrade is the installation of an advanced drum pulping and screening system. This system aims to efficiently separate contaminants such as plastics, barriers, and coatings from fibre, thereby enhancing the recycling process.

The upgrade aligns with DS Smith's renewed Now & Next sustainability strategy by significantly reducing the mill's environmental footprint. It is expected to reduce emissions by more than 6000 tonnes of $CO^2$ annually, contributing towards the company's goal of decreasing their Scope 1, 2, and 3 GHG emissions by 46% compared to 2019, by the year 2030.

Furthermore, the upgrade will lead to a substantial reduction in production waste by 39,000 tonnes annually, aiding DS Smith's 2030 target of sending zero waste to landfill. The initiative will also cut the mill's freshwater use by more than 50,000$m^3$ a year, equivalent to 20 Olympic-sized swimming pools.

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John trained at Saltcoats Burgh in the late 60s. After a decade he moved to PD Beatwaste Ltd/ Wimpey Waste Management Ltd. He then joined the Civil Engineering Dept at Strathclyde University before posts at Renfrew, Hamilton, Inverness and East Ayrshire Councils.

A Fellow of CIWM, he served on their Scottish Centre Council from 1988-2009. He is a Fellow of the Royal Environmental Health Institute of Scotland and was their President between 1991-92.

**JOHN CRAWFORD**

# Bean-counting - is it really the best way to manage?

**I've always been a bit wary of advocating using performance statistics as a primary management tool. I fully accept these have a role to play, but far too often, people see compliance with the targets as a priority rather than playing a supporting role. The reports in January that EA staff had allegedly been told to stay away from poorly performing waste sites confirmed my views by aiming *'to ensure that 97% of regulated waste sites are compliant with their permits as part of their corporate targets'*.**

When waste regulation was in the hands of the Scottish District Councils (1975-96), we always accepted that the poorer-operated sites would need more of our resources than the others (although our private sector colleagues working for national firms would always say they were easier targets than the fly-by-nights!)

However, we never really considered securing compliance with the legislation in light of what the EA now appears to follow. If it took several visits a month (including nights and weekends) to sort out a problematical operator, we simply did it and then enjoyed the moment when we'd managed to nail them. And, of course, with 53 Councils, we were better placed to know our patch and what was happening on it. The fact that many of our regulatory staff had immediate access to colleagues who operated our own sites (or had practical experience themselves on these) meant they were better placed to understand the problems and disregard the red herring excuses sometimes put forward for non-compliance.

The arrangement wasn't flawless, however, as some private sector operators alleged that some Councils were accepting lower standards on their own waste treatment/disposal sites than they were demanding of them (a view I'd had difficulty defending in one or two cases). Still, I felt that could be positively addressed when the Hazardous Waste Unit was set up in the old Scottish Office.

I used this argument when the Royal Environmental Health Institute of Scotland took the view that setting up SEPA (the Scottish equivalent of the EA) would mean a loss of local expertise, but it went ahead anyway.

Many former District Council staff transferred to SEPA in 1996, but quite a few have now retired and been replaced by people with no practical waste management experience. I recall meeting an inspector on a council landfill one day in the middle of a gale. He was unhappy at the amount of windblown litter on our boundary fence and pointed out we were in breach of a Site Licence Condition. I was tempted to say: *'If you had any clue, getting the loads tipped and covered on a day like this is quite an achievement,'* but I simply promised we'd get on to it ASAP!

Personally speaking, a more realistic target for the EA would be to identify all the unregulated waste sites and scope timetables for sorting these out.

# Molson Coors adds support to recycling programme

**Every Can Counts has announced its latest partnership with Molson Coors Beverage Company, a programme designed to encourage people to recycle their empty drink cans.**

The collaboration will see Molson Coors, which produces brands such as Coors, Carling and Madrí Excepcional, collaborate with the not-for-profit programme, drink can manufacturers, and the wider recycling industry to raise awareness of the importance of recycling drink cans at events and festivals.

Molson Coors has also become the first brewer to sign up to Every Can Counts as an annual UK funding partner to support the programme's mission to increase recycling rates.

In 2021, the brewer removed all single-use plastic from its multipacks and switched to recyclable cardboard wraps and sleeves. In the 1950s, the Coors brand pioneered the two-piece recyclable aluminium beer can, replacing the original throwaway steel cans.

Kate Macnamara, corporate affairs director at Molson Coors, said: "Every Can Counts does brilliant work to encourage more recycling through positive messaging and engaging consumer initiatives, and we are proud to be a funding partner. We're looking forward to working with Every Can Counts to support more eye-catching and innovative activations at festivals and events across the UK."

Chris Latham-Warde, programme manager for Every Can Counts, added, "It's fantastic to kick off 2024 with a new partnership, especially one with a company as well known and globally recognised as Molson Coors. It's great to see industry giants lead the way in encouraging their customers to recycle their drink cans at events and festivals, and we're looking forward to working with them to help raise awareness and inspire recycling across the nation."

# Boots initiates tablet packaging recycling scheme

**Boots has launched a new recycling pilot scheme in over 100 of its stores across London and South East England.**

The scheme allows shoppers to dispose of their used blister packs, commonly used for medicine and vitamins, in specially assigned bins at participating Boots stores.

This initiative extends the existing Recycle at Boots programme, which rewards customers for returning empty health and beauty product containers. Boots Advantage Card holders will receive 150 points once they recycle 15 empty blister packs and spend at least £10 in-store.

The company plans to expand this initiative to more locations nationwide within the next year.

Natalie Gourlay, Head of Environmental Social Governance at Boots, said: "At Boots, we want to make it easy for our customers to make sustainable choices for a healthy planet - from the products they buy to how they dispose of the packaging once they have used them.

Image: Boots

"Customers can now simply drop off their empty blister packs at Boots with the assurance that the materials will be given a second life and get rewarded for it too, just like they can when they drop off other hard-to-recycle empties through Recycle at Boots.

"We will incorporate what we learned from this initial pilot as we look to roll the scheme out more widely within the next year."

Boots' blister pack recycling initiative has been created in partnership with technology partner Metrisk and recycling partner MYGroup.

Steve Carrie, Group Director at MYGroup, said: "Thanks to our longstanding partnership with Boots, we already have the relationships, expertise and reach in place to recover such a widespread waste item at scale as the scheme rolls out."

Post-disposal, the used packaging is shipped to MYGroup for separation through a specialised machine. The metal foil is recycled, and the plastic is reprocessed where possible or transformed into a material named MYBoardTM, which is used for construction and furniture production.

Customers can learn more about Boots' efforts to reduce its environmental impact through the 'Bootprint' campaign on their official website.

# M&S rolls out 100% recyclable paper fibre cups to all its cafes

**Retailer Marks & Spencer (M&S) has announced that starting this month, it will introduce fully recyclable paper fibre takeaway cups in all its UK cafes.**

The initiative was first introduced in October 2023, making M&S the first high-street coffee retailer to offer a completely recyclable cup in both household and on-the-go recycling systems.

Having previously conducted trials in 20 stores, the initiative will now expand to over 300 M&S locations, which includes its cafes, vended coffee points, and branded Marketplaces within its Foodhalls.

This move aligns with the retailer's commitment to reducing plastic packaging.

Last year, M&S announced that it had achieved its 'Plan A' target of eliminating 75 million units of plastic by 2023-24. The full rollout of the paper-fibre takeaway coffee cups is expected to eliminate an additional 20 million units of plastic packaging annually from its food business.

Image: M&S

Furthermore, to promote the most sustainable option, the retailer offers a 50p discount to customers who use their own reusable cups.

M&S Food hospitality director Alicia Thompson said: "Our goal is to offer customers the most sustainable cup of coffee on the high street. We want to offer them a takeaway coffee they can feel good about drinking because it comes in fully recyclable cups, uses delicious 100% Fairtrade [Foundation] coffee beans, and is made with RSPCA [Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals] Assured fresh milk.

"Our customers care strongly about reducing plastic, and they've supported our move to paper fibre cups. With no impact to the taste or temperature of their hot drink – and now 100% recyclable – this is one of the ways we're supporting our customers to make small changes in their everyday lives, which have a big impact on the environment."

# Aldi launches UK's first supermarket own-brand paper wine bottles

**Aldi has teamed up with Frugalpac to launch the UK's first supermarket own-brand wines packaged in paper bottles.**

The new bottles are now available in stores throughout the country and are fully recyclable. They are made from 94% recycled paperboard and lined with a food-grade pouch to contain the wine. The Cambalala South African Shiraz and Cambalala South African Sauvignon Blanc come in lightweight paper bottles that are five times lighter than a standard glass bottle.

By replacing glass bottles with paper, Aldi has achieved a carbon footprint reduction that is equivalent to driving around the planet 5.8 times. This is excellent news for eco-conscious wine lovers who want to positively impact the environment this spring.

Julie Ashfield, Managing Director of buying at Aldi UK, said: "Shoppers are looking for ways to become more sustainable in their everyday lives. We are proud to be the first supermarket to launch a paper bottle, helping to drive sustainable change."

# Tax rates increase as part of the Spring Budget

**MARCO MUIA, BSc (Hons) MSc MCIWM,**
**Managing Director at Oaktree Environmental Limited.**

Marco specialises in all aspects of waste planning, environmental regulation and training, including CIWM/WAMITAB COTC/OCC assessment.

**BUSINESS CLINIC** ENVIRONMENTAL

**Landfill tax**
Another budget has come and gone with little fanfare. Landfill tax only merited a passing mention, but the changes made will have a significant impact, with the main landfill tax rate rising by more than 21% from £103.70 to £126.15 per tonne (the lower rate rising to £4.05 per tonne from £3.30).

The increase is supposed to "better reflect actual RPI and ensure the tax continues to incentivise investment in more sustainable waste management infrastructure." For me, unless prices increase significantly within the industry, rogue operators will still be incentivised to cut corners to avoid the higher rate of landfill tax. Widening the gulf between landfill costs versus RDF/SRF incineration does little for investment in more sustainable infrastructure within the industry. More money from the tax needs to be used to help fund the infrastructure, including R&D, and as I have always stated, the tax money needs to be used to fund the regulators and reduce permit application costs.

The new tax rates apply only to England and Northern Ireland, with the rates in Wales and Scotland expected to rise similarly, given that they have closely followed the rest of the UK in the past.

**Aggregate levy**
The tax rates for aggregates, the "levy," will increase marginally from £2.03 to £2.08 per tonne in 2025, so the change will not significantly impact the industry.

**Plastic Packaging Tax (PPT)** has only been with us since April 2022 and applies to manufactured or imported plastic packaging components with less than 30% recycled plastic. The rates will rise from £210.82 per tonne to £217.85 per tonne from this month (April).

The increase will incentivise using 30% or more recycled plastic in packaging. Still, there are technical hurdles for many processes, and the lack of a sliding scale does little to alleviate this. The volatility of PRNs (Packaging Recovery Notes) also influences the pricing of the recycled plastic flake or pellet for manufacturing and significant quantities are still exported for manufacturing outside the UK.

For our industry to progress and evolve, I would like to see the environmental taxes collected by HMRC used to fund R&D and promote recycling and the waste hierarchy. The landfill tax did drive an increase in recycling, but it does appear that collecting environmental taxes has become a regular source of treasury income, so the rates will always increase regardless of the impact.

These opinions are my own. If you have anything to add to the debate, please get in touch and let us know what you think.

*Contact Marco on **01606 558833** - follow him on Twitter **@wastechat**. If you have any questions about this article e-mail him at **marco@oaktree-environmental.co.uk***

GOT A QUESTION **ASK THE EXPERTS**

# Recycled-plastic manufacturer expands capacity

**Smile Plastics, a manufacturer of recycled-content building products and plastic panels located near Swansea, Wales, has increased its capacity to process up to 3,000 metric tons of mixed plastic scrap yearly.**

Previously, the company converted around 500 metric tons of plastic scrap into new products, equivalent to approximately 62.5 million PET bottles.

The company has moved to a new, larger factory near Swansea, which has increased its production capacity by six-fold. Smile Plastics can now divert more than 3,000 metric tons annually, converting almost 40 metric tons of 100% recycled material every week.

Founded in the 1990s, Smile Plastics uses proprietary technology to convert mixed plastic scrap into plastic panels for architects, designers, and brands worldwide.

The company uses a range of plastic scraps, from yoghurt pots to fridge-freezer components, to create architectural surfaces for various applications, such as countertops, shower panels, furniture, and signage.

According to Adam Fairweather, the Director at Smile Plastics: "If we as a company can highlight the desirability of recycling plastic not only in practice but also in the aesthetics and performance of the results we can deliver, we can nudge the dial closer to solving the problem of plastic, and permanently change the way we think about waste."

The new factory consumes plastic scrap from more than 60 businesses in Swansea and beyond. It partners with community groups and regional organisations to source raw materials and tackle specific waste streams.

Smile Plastics is considering expanding its business beyond the UK and establishing a decentralised network of factories in Europe and globally. This approach meets the international customer base's desire for localised manufacture and supports a sustainable future by minimising the carbon impact from shipping and harnessing localised waste streams at a global scale.

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## 2016 MAN TGS 35.400 HOOK LOADER

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## 2024 SCANIA P420 HOOKL OADER

420bhp, Auto, 5350mm WB, Day Cab, Scania XT Package, Air Con, Cab Sunvisor, Reversing Camera, Work Lights, Boughton Gear 8/32 7.0C with Kwikcova Sheeting System.

## 2018 VOLVO FL SKIP | HYVA

18t, 8 Speed Manual Gearbox, Day Cab, 2 Seats in Cab, Reversing Camera, Air Con, Vision Window in Door, Beacons, Cab Sunvisor, Hyva Gear with Easy Sheet Sytem, Skip Stays, Rear Light Guards.

## 2019 DAF LF 290 SKIP | BOUGHTON

290bhp, 18t, Day Cab, Manual, Air Con, Beacon Bar, 3 Seats in Cab, Rear Window in Cab, Fitted with HYVA NG2012 XL Chain Lift Skip Gear with Easy Sheet. FORS Gold.

## 2016 MAN TGS 400 HOOK LOADER

400bhp, 32t, Day Cab, Auto, 8x4 Double Drive, Beacons, Double Hub Reduction, Rear Window in Cab, Harsh Hook Gear, Easy Sheeting System.

## 2015 MAN TGM 18.250 SKIP / HYVA

250bhp, 18t, 4x2, Day Cab, Manual, 3600mm Wheelbase, Rear Window in Cab, Beacons, Beacons, Hyva Skiploader Gear with Easy Sheeting System, Strobe Lights, Camera System - FORS Gold Kit.

## 2017 DAF LF 260 SKIP | HYVA

260bhp, 18t, 4x2, Day Cab, Manual, Beacon Bar, 2 Seats in Cab, Rear Window in Cab, Chrome Mirror Covers, Strobes, Rear Light Guards, Hyva Gear with Autosheet.

## 2024 DAF LF 290 SKIP | BOUGHTON

290bhp, 18t, Day Cab, Automatic, Air Con, Beacons, 3 Seats in Cab, Rear Light Guards, Fitted with Boughton Power Reach 18 Skiploader with Sheeting System. Radio Remote Operation.

## 2020 MAN TGM 18.250 SKIP | MULTILIFT

250bhp, 18t, 4x2, Day Cab, Manual, 3900mm Wheelbase, Rear Window in Cab, Beacons, Beacons, Multilift Futura Skiploader Gear with Easy Sheeting System.

## 2024 DAF LF 290 SKIP / MULTILIFT

290bhp, 18t, Day Cab, Automatic, Air Con, Beacons, 3 Seats in Cab, Rear Window, Rear Light Guards, Fitted with Multilift FTR12 Futura Skiploader with Skiptop Sheeting System. Radio Remote Operation.

## 2018 DAF LF 290 SKIP | HYVA

290bhp, 18t, Day Cab, Manual, Air Con, Beacon Bar, 3 Seats in Cab, Rear Window in Cab, Reversing Camera, Rear Light Guards, Fitted with HYVA Skip Gear with Easy Sheet.

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# NWH Group leads the charge with its first fully electric Volvo lorry

**The NWH Group, a family-owned waste management business that serves Scotland and northeast England from ten locations, has introduced its very first fully electric articulated HGV, which was purchased from Volvo. This is a significant milestone in the company's mission to reduce its carbon footprint and environmental impact and pave the way towards a more sustainable future.**

The NWH Group strongly emphasises sustainability in all of its operations. By switching to alternative sources, the company has already achieved an impressive 91% reduction in on-site fuel consumption. Additionally, it has lowered the carbon footprint of its fleet by 63% through adopting electric vehicles.

Building on this achievement, NWH has begun the next stage of its sustainability journey by transitioning its HGVs to fully electric alternatives. The acquisition of the Volvo articulated lorry is the first step in this transformative process.

Nicola Williams, Director at the NWH Group, said: "At the NWH Group, sustainability is not just a goal; it's a fundamental value that drives every aspect of our operations. With the launch of our first fully electric artic vehicle from Volvo, we are reaffirming our commitment to sustainable practices and taking concrete steps towards achieving our vision of a net zero future."

The Volvo artic lorry represents the epitome of cutting-edge technology and innovation in the transportation industry. With zero emissions and enhanced energy efficiency, it offers a viable and eco-friendly alternative to traditional diesel-powered vehicles.

# Wheely-Safe solution offers Timberpak the full package

**Timberpak, a recycling and reprocessing business, is fitting Wheely-Safe technology across its fleet of trucks and trailers to improve the efficiency and safety of its operations.**

Following a successful trial, the business is equipping its vehicles with the in-motion wheel loss detection system, which combines brake and hub temperature monitoring with an intelligent tyre pressure monitoring system (TPMS).

Gordon Argo, Timberpak's Transport and Operations Manager, said: "We had it running on one vehicle to begin with and were very impressed. This is the only technology I've come across that offers the complete package to alert you to any issues with the wheel nuts, the tyre pressures and the temperature in the hub. It's very easy to use too."

Timberpak's busy fleet of tractor units, trailers, and hookloader rigids often works on rough terrain. They collect wood and return it to their processing sites to recycle it into chipboard for sister company EGGER UK.

"It's a line of work susceptible to tyre punctures and damage," adds Argo. "A key selling point for us, though, was the wheel loss element of the technology. Not so long ago, we had an issue where one of our wheels had been over-torqued by a technician and we came very close to losing that wheel, which as a transport operator is something you never want to experience.

"Having this protection across the fleet now gives us huge peace of mind and adds the benefits of fuel efficiency and cost-savings by keeping the tyres running at optimal pressures."

Timberpak currently has the system working on 12 vehicles and will continue rolling it out across the remainder of its 23-strong fleet as trucks and trailers are replaced.

# Centrad cameras help reduce insurance premiums for Excalon

**The installation of specialist Centrad CCTV forward and internal cameras on its vehicles is reaping dividends for leading infrastructure contractor Excalon Ltd.**

**Lower insurance premiums and clear video evidence in the event of a collision are among the benefits to the Salford-based company.**

**With a growing population and the move away from petrol and diesel cars, Excalon specialises in providing services to the UK's utilities industry, including growing the infrastructure to power the country's electricity usage.**

**Mindful of the daily risks on the road and keen to take extra steps to protect its business and drivers in the event of a claim, Excalon invested in Centrad cameras, complete with tracking and remote access for each of its vehicles.**

**The company has been a customer of Centrad's for five years. It needed a system that would give a fast and accurate picture to determine who is at fault in the event of an RTA, in addition to a full suite of telematics reporting.**

**Geoff Cross, Managing Director of Centrad, said: "With several vehicles on the roads every day, Excalon has already had the misfortune of experiencing occasions over the years where their drivers have been blamed for collisions that were not their fault.**

**"We are delighted that our systems have already provided much-needed protection for Excalon and its drivers and helped the company fend off more costly insurance premiums. We are confident our systems will continue to prove their worth to the Excalon workforce in the years to come."**

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*According to a textile sorter and processor based in the East Midlands, approximately 40% of sorted garments were unfit for reuse and needed a recycling solution*

# Sustainability expert explains how your discarded clothes are recycled


## SAJIDA GORDON

*Researcher for the Clothing Sustainability Research Group and Lecturer at Nottingham Trent University*


**Have you ever pondered the fate of those bags of old clothes you carefully deposit into the charity bin at the end of the street or within the bustle of a supermarket parking lot? It's easy to imagine that those garments magically transform into fresh, wearable fashion, but the reality is much more complicated in the UK.**

The truth behind clothing donation and recycling is a journey fraught with complexities often not visible to the public eye. Textile waste – the clothing that we all buy, use and dispose of – is a significant environmental problem that often goes unnoticed.

Globally, 88% of our clothing still ends up in landfill. The mountains of textile waste will get higher as garment production rises at an alarming rate. In 2000, global manufacturers churned out 50 million tonnes of textiles, according to the European Parliament. By 2020, this figure had more than doubled to 109 million tonnes, and global textile production is predicted to grow to 145 million tonnes by 2030.

While writing my chapter for the book Recycling and Lifetime Management in the Textile and Fashion Sector, I researched the policies and technological

*Growth in fast fashion feeds into the mountain of textile waste that is hard to recycle*

advancements that facilitate the process of textile recycling.

Used or unwanted clothing is collected from various sources, including donation centres, textile recycling bins, charity stores, or directly from consumers. Once collected, the textiles undergo sorting at UK facilities based on the type of material, colour and condition. Garments that are deemed reusable – those that aren't stained, soiled or torn – are shipped to countries in Africa and Asia.

However, market sellers in these countries that receive these used garments often complain that the clothing is unfit for resale and ends up in a landfill.

A textile sorter and processor based in the East Midlands told me that approximately 40% of sorted garments were unsuitable for reuse and needed a recycling solution.

Fibre-to-fibre recycling is different from reuse. Reuse means that a garment is fit for a second life and can be donated to charity or resold on websites such as Vinted. Fibre-to-fibre recycling is the process of breaking down the material of the garments so that it returns to its original state as a fibre, which may resemble pieces of fluff. That's either done mechanically or chemically.

Mechanical recycling involves chopping up old clothes into tiny pieces – a bit like shredding paper. Materials are sometimes moistened with water to enhance the tearing process. The fibres are then separated using a process called "carding", which involves using a machine to comb out and straighten the fibres, ready to be used to make new products.

Mechanically recycled fibres are mixed with virgin fibres to transform the fibres into textile yarn. Because these new fibres are longer, they add strength to the yarn when spun.

Chemical recycling involves breaking down fragments of old clothes into smaller parts. These are then cleaned and purified using filters and separators. Chemicals break down polymers, remove dyes, and dissolve other additives. Once clean, the broken-down yarn can be spun to make new yarn, like making cotton from scratch. This recycled yarn can be woven into fabric using industrial weaving machines.

**Transforming textiles**

Mechanical recycling produces short lengths of fibre and results in poor quality yarn. Relying on raw virgin fibre to add size and strength can be costly.

Chemical recycling of polyesters, made from plastic, can create harmful tiny particles of microplastics in the air and waterways. Volatile organic compounds – chemicals in gaseous form – can be inhaled and cause health problems, such as damaged liver, kidneys and central nervous system, and cancers affecting the lungs and blood. The process also emits carbon dioxide and methane, both greenhouse gases contributing to global warming.

Expanding these recycling methods is expensive and potentially damaging to the environment. Systematic change begins when influential fashion brands reduce overproduction and waste by streamlining their production processes and designing products that are easy to recycle as part of a more circular economy.

While green chemistry and circular design solutions could make recycling textile waste more efficient, effective and safer for humans and the planet, the excess waste still needs to be addressed. As shoppers, we can all make a difference by being mindful of our purchasing habits, appreciating the clothing we already own and repairing items instead of discarding them.

*This article first appeared at www.theconversation.com*

# ESS Expo partners with Ground work to address green jobs skills shortage

**Environmental Services & Solutions Expo (ESS), the premier event for the environmental services industry, has announced a new partnership with Groundwork, a national charity that combats poverty and environmental issues.**

Their collaboration will address the skills shortage in green jobs and encourage young people to pursue careers that protect the planet.

Ali McQueen, Head of Marketing at ESS Expo, said: "We're delighted to announce this timely collaboration with Groundwork. With its dedication to creating greener communities and our network across the environmental industry, we feel strongly that together, we can make tangible progress on the urgent issue of the green skills gap and help tackle other important challenges in our combined sectors."

Throughout the year, ESS and Groundwork will organise events and outreach initiatives to highlight the need for skills development in sectors like waste and recycling, water, renewable energy, and environmental consulting.

Groundwork will have an active presence at ESS Expo 2024, which will be held from 11th-12th September this year at the NEC Birmingham. There, they will hold speaking sessions on nurturing green talent and overcoming employment barriers.

Graham Duxbury, Groundwork's UK Chief Executive, said: "It's great to see this new partnership with ESS Expo to help encourage and support young people to see the benefits of pursuing a career in the green skills sector. It's vital that green infrastructure and low carbon jobs are both accessible and exciting prospects for us to future-proof the workforce of tomorrow and build a more sustainable future for all."

As part of this year's event, Groundwork

experts will headline its *ESS 2040: Green Skills* webinar on Friday, 26th April, from 11:00am to 12:30pm, which will focus on sustainability education and readying the next generation of green workers. The charity will also host an informational stand at the ESS Expo dedicated to training programmes, apprenticeships, and entry-level openings.

*More details about the ESS-Groundwork partnership will be released in the coming months. Keep checking the website* ***www.groundwork.org.uk/***

# Skip Chick

## Alana-Louise Firbank

This month's **Skip Chick** is a tribute to empowered women who are independent

**Hi! Please introduce yourself to our lovely readers.** I'm Alana-Lousie Firbank, AKA ALF, and I'm 24. I work at Nevis Resources Limited as a Logistics Administrator.

**How long have you worked there, and what do you do?** I have been working at Nevis for six years. My daily tasks include arranging collections and deliveries for suppliers and customers.

**It sounds like you have a lot going on! What do you enjoy about working at Nevis?** My favourite aspect of working at Nevis is spending time with the girls. We're all just as mad as each other and our office is always buzzing with excitement, as we all share a similar sense of humour and energy.

**Is there anything you dislike?** The fact that everyone calls the office and asks to speak to Alan. Last time I checked, I was a female, lol.

**We won't make that mistake, Alan(a.) Tell us about an unforgettable day at work.** I'll never forget the day I accidentally dropped my Spaghetti Carbonara on the floor while returning from the kitchen. I was eagerly looking forward to enjoying it, but unfortunately, the carpet and walls got a taste of it instead.

**Haha. There's nothing wrong with some designer wallpaper, especially from Italy. So, apart from being clumsy with your food, how do you spend your spare time outside of work?** I enjoy going to the gym, going on as many holidays as possible and

spending time with my friends and family. I'm not as wild as I used to be.

**I'm sure your wild side comes out when you are on holiday. Well, I hope so; you're only 24!! What's the craziest thing you've ever done?** I've done a lot of crazy things, but not much I could share with you. If I were to give you a suitable answer, I'd have to say either the time I did a head spin on the table on a night out or going away to Dublin on my own.

**Dublin's bar prices certainly make your head spin these days! What about when love is in the air? Who would be your ideal date?** I don't need a man. I'm an independent woman, but I wouldn't say no if Chris Brown came calling.

***(The 48-year-old editor goes searching for him on Google, haha).* What song sums you up?** *Miss Independent,* by Ne-Yo.

**Can you share with us a fascinating fact about yourself...** I was pretty flexible back when I used to dance. I could actually get both of my legs behind my head! Though I'm not sure if I'd be able to do it again now, it's been quite some time and I'm a bit rusty.

**Independent and flexible, I'm impressed. Sum yourself up in a few words.** Confident, run and independent.

**You deserve a break. Where would you love to go?** I recently decided to start travelling alone, so I'd like to see different places all around the world.

**Good on you Alana-Lousie. I hope you get to visit some amazing places. You might even bump into Chris Brown. Speaking of famous people, have you met anyone?** When I was younger, I used to do a lot of pantomimes with my dance school, so we met a few familiar faces. One time, we were backing dancers for Chico from the X Factor.

**I remember him, haha. Finally, hit us with your best joke please?** Why should we keep the earth clean? Because it's not Uranus.

**Haha. Thanks Alana-Lousie, for being a superb Skip Chick this month, I'll let you get back to the girls in the office.**

*Nevis Resources Ltd is based in Bishop Auckland, County Durham. Find out more at www.nevis-resources.co.uk*

## Do you fancy being included in *Skip & Waste* magazine in 2024?

We are looking for people who work in the waste and recycling industries to feature on our Skip Chick and Skip Hunk pages. Please email **editor@pal-media.co.uk** if you are interested.

Our process is straightforward. We provide you with a set of questions; all you have to do is send us your answers and a photo. We will take care of the rest before we go to print.

**The ANNUAL winners of the Chick and Hunk awards will collect a £100 Love2shop gift voucher EACH.**

# Skip Hunk

## Darren Griffiths

This month's **Skip Hunk** is a family man and an avid Swansea FC fan

**Howdy. Tell us a bit about yourself.**
I'm Darren Griffiths, 43, and I work as a Business Development Director at Atlantic Recycling. I've only been here for just over a month.

**A newbie then. What do you like so far?**
The family feeling the company gives. I've been well looked after so far.

**Is there anything you don't like so far?**
The smell, LOL.

**I'm afraid to say that's not going to improve. Have you so far had a day at work you'll never forget?**
I had a tough day working on a skip lorry while it was raining. It was a challenging job, and I got completely soaked.

**I cannot control the British weather, but don't worry, Darren, Summer will be here soon. What do you like to do outside of work?**
I am fortunate to have four lovely children, three girls and a boy, and a loving wife named Sam, who puts up with me. I am also a dedicated Swansea City football fan and regularly attend their home matches.

**Up 'The Swans'. What's your idea of a romantic night out, and who with?**
A log cabin in the woods, a log fire burning with a hot tub, watching the sunset go down with Michelle Keegan.

**I take it then that your wife won't be reading this. It was going so well, too. Never mind. Let's give you superhero powers (you might need them, especially if Sam is reading this). What would you like?**
I'd like to be the Hulk and smash my way through everything.

**Let's hear your theme tune.**
*Everybody Wants to Rule the World,* by Tears for Fears (as I want to rule the world of waste).

**I like what you did there. We'll look out for a future cover version. Let's hear a fascinating fact about yourself...**
I completed the Three Peaks Challenge in 24 hours for the NSPCC.

**I salute you, Darren. That's a brilliant achievement and for a good cause, too. Sum yourself up in a few words.**
Always smiling and happy.

**Where can we send you for a holiday of a lifetime?**
Australia. I've never been and would love to go and explore.

**Who would you invite (dead or alive) for a takeaway before jetting off Down Under?** I would pick Winston Churchill because I am curious to learn more about him. I visited Churchill's secret bunker under Whitehall in London and watched the movie Darkest Hour, in which Gary Oldman portrayed Churchill's character remarkably.

**Speaking of the famous, have you had the chance to meet any notable individuals in your life?**
The whole of the Swansea City Football team.

**Wow! You scored a big goal there, Darren. Imagine if your number came up on the Lottery. How would you spend your winnings?**
I would buy a property abroad with a massive swimming pool and enjoy every minute with my wife and children. I would also buy a helicopter.

**I noticed you didn't mention buying a stake in Swansea City FC. That's a wise choice! Finally, make us laugh. Can we have a joke, please?**
Did you hear about the cheese factory that exploded in France? There was nothing left but de Brie.

**It's a bit 'cheesy' that one, but we'll let you off, Darren, for being a fantastic Skip Hunk this month.**

*Atlantic Recycling Ltd is based in Cardiff. Find out more at www.atlanticrecycling.co.uk*

# PUP IDOL

## WILLOW

POOCH OF THE MONTH

Meet **WILLOW,** a four-year-old Cockapoo who loves food and can sniff it out anywhere. She has a habit of stealing food from your plate if you're not careful. Willow loves exploring the great outdoors and is always ready for a walk in the woods or on the beach. When she's not exploring, she's happiest cuddling with her favourite humans or soaking up the sun. However, Willow has a fear of black wheelie bins, and she needs encouragement to walk by them.

**Transwaste Recycling & Aggregates Ltd, Melton, North Ferriby, East Riding of Yorkshire**

## COCA

**COCA** is a living legend - a recently rescued Pocket Bully who has found his forever home and is loving his new life. He spends his days at our Bunny Lane Recycling Centre, enjoying the fresh air and playing with the site cats! He is a real people dog who loves nothing better than a good cuddle and relaxing with a back scratch. He is certainly making up for lost time when it comes to food and treats - he never says **NO** to them, haha. We haven't found anything that he dislikes yet, as he always seems happy with his tail wagging and eager to get in the machines on-site.

**Waltet Materials Ltd, Southampton, Hampshire**

**POOCH OF THE MONTH**
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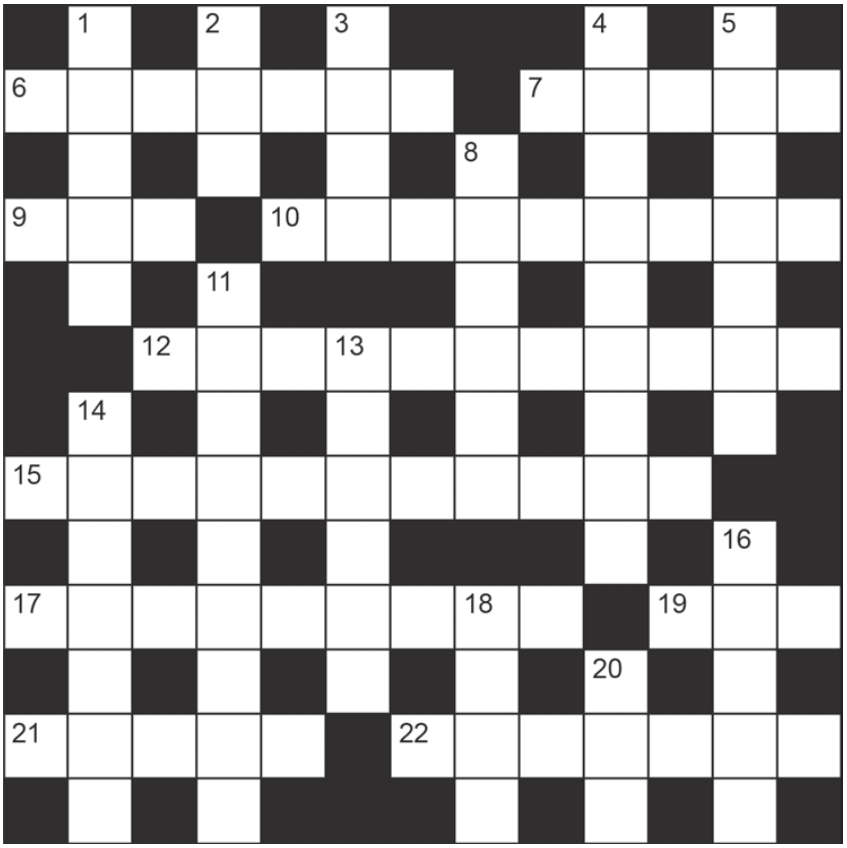

**Across**

6. Grant of rights to map-maker? (7)
7. The message of a poem or a long novel (5)
9. Would a drink make less boring? (3)
10. By which a fairy measures the circumference? (9)
12. All or none? (3,1,3,2,2)
15. It's so funny it sends one to sleep! (8,3)
17. Habitual application of 100 in summing up (9)
19. Throw a missile because easily startled? (3)
21. Where memory is lost of a terrible thereafter (5)
22. Fence in part gets abuse (7)

**Down**

1. Magnetic personality brings hurt to many (5)
2. Cook little fish (3)
3. Only a stretch of water (4)
4. She's in charge since to be in debt is up to him (9)
5. Unusual morsel often eaten by the Welsh (7)
8. Rebellion is obviously no downward path (6)
11. Presumably it's no aid to aiming a short-barrelled gun (4,5)
13. Fly by way of internal airlines to England initially (6)
14. They show things in a wicked light (7)
16. Quiet individual was brilliant (5)
18. The shape of eggs - 50 of them (4)
20. Knowing how to go by air (3)

## SKIP & WASTE MAGAZINE SUDOKU No.15

| | | | | | | | | |
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| | | | | | 4 | 2 | | |
| 7 | 5 | | 6 | 2 | | | 4 | |
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| | | 8 | | 6 | | | 3 | |
| | 9 | | | 4 | 6 | | 2 | 1 |
| | | 5 | 7 | | | | | |
| 1 | 6 | | 3 | | | | | |

**Rules:** Insert a number from 1 to 9 into each cell so that no number repeats in any row, column, or bold region.

*For crossword & sudoku solutions, see* ***page 70.***


## LOOKING AHEAD - FUTURE FEATURES

SKIP&WASTE
THE VOICE OF THE WASTE & RECYCLING INDUSTRIES

**MAY 2024: ISSUE 220**
Crushers, screeners, haulage & aggregates.

**JUNE 2024: ISSUE 221**
Industry vehicles: Skip hookloaders, RCV, electric etc.
Hillhead preview

**JULY 2024: ISSUE 222**
Plant, machinery & equipment

**AUGUST 2024: ISSUE 223**
Compactors & balers. RWM preview

**SEPTEMBER 2024: ISSUE 224**
Sorting & separation

**OCTOBER 2024: ISSUE 225**
Energy from Waste (EfW) - renewable energy sources / Shredders

**NOVEMBER 2024: ISSUE 226**
Materials recovery facilities (MRFs) / Construction, demolition and excavation waste

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## CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS
**(from page 67)**

**Across:** 6 Charter; 7 Moral; 9 Dry; 10 Perimeter; 12 Not a bit of it; 15 Laughing gas; 17 Addiction; 19 Shy; 21 Lethe; 22 Railing.

**Down:** 1 Charm; 2 Fry; 3 Mere; 4 Forewoman; 5 Rarebit; 8 Rising; 11 Long sight; 13 Aviate; 14 Candles; 16 Shone; 18 Oval; 20 Fly.

## SUDOKU SOLUTION
**(from page 67)**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | 2 | 1 | 9 | 8 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 5 |
| 8 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 7 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 9 |
| 7 | 5 | 9 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 8 |
| 6 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 5 | 2 |
| 5 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 6 |
| 9 | 7 | 8 | 2 | 6 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 4 |
| 3 | 9 | 7 | 8 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 2 | 1 |
| 2 | 8 | 5 | 7 | 1 | 9 | 4 | 6 | 3 |
| 1 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 9 | 8 | 7 |

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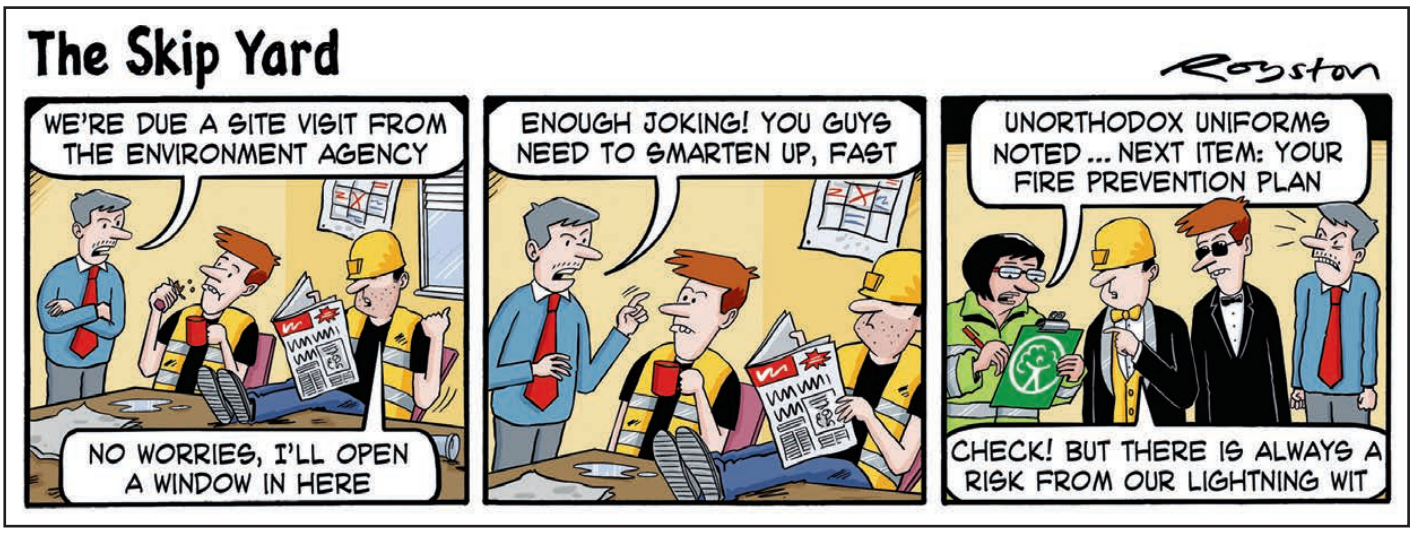

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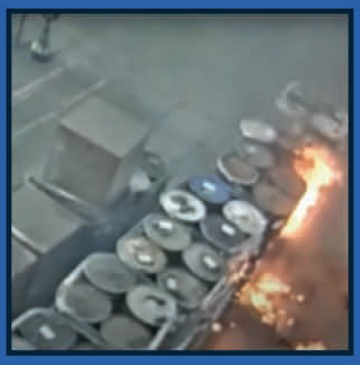

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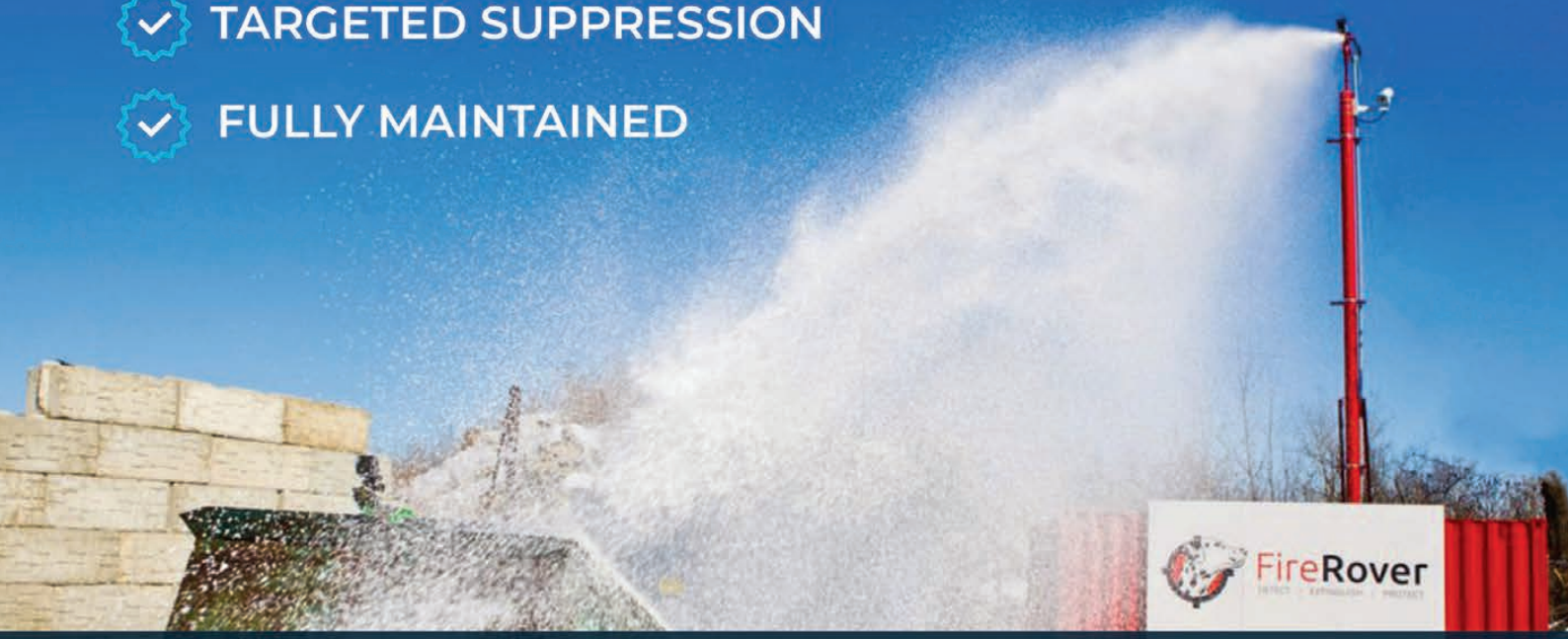


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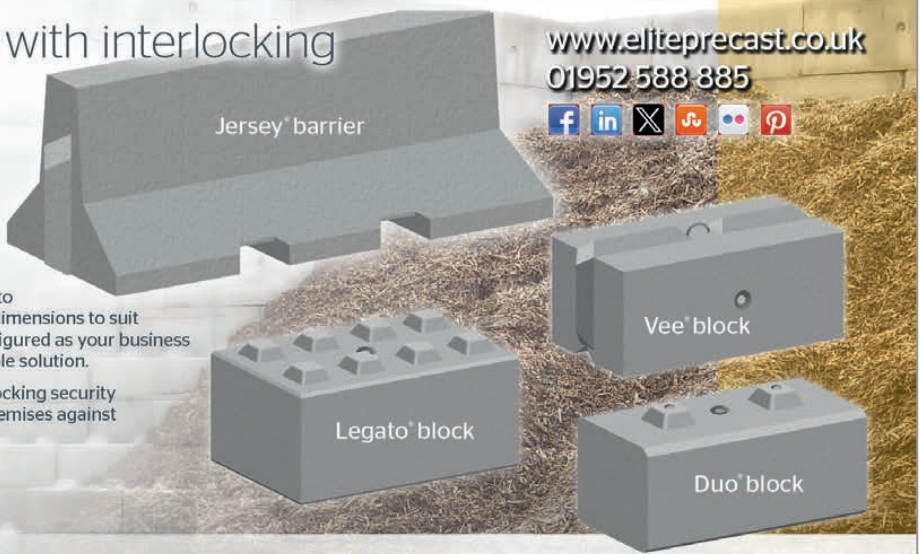


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