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EDITORIAL VIEWPOINT

By **Brendan Gilligan**

On a recent Saturday, I had just started to read a story about the online retail giant Amazon when there was a knock at the door. Bizarrely, it was a courier from Amazon delivering an item for my partner. I took the item and returned to the story.

The story highlighted that customers often dispose of cardboard used by Amazon in ways that are harmful to the environment, like sending it to landfill or incinerating it instead of recycling it.

Now, sustainability experts are urging Amazon to take responsibility for approximately two million cardboard parcels delivered daily to UK homes. They suggest that Amazon introduce a collection service for used packaging and tighten regulations to prevent the use of oversized packaging. Reducing excess packaging could help decrease the carbon footprint of recycling cardboard.

Recycling cardboard is energy intensive and contributes to emissions and power demand. Currently, just over 70% of cardboard is recycled in the UK, meaning nearly a third ends up in landfill. This is especially concerning given that cardboard is the most common packaging waste material, including Amazon delivery boxes.

Later that day, when my partner came home, I was surprised to find that her order, a lipstick about three inches long, was delivered in A3 size cardboard packaging.

A3 cardboard packaging for a lipstick - really?

Bolton Council covers us. Later this month, our paper and cardboard recycling bin collection is being reduced from every two weeks to every four weeks in a bid, I presume, to cut costs *(even though our Council Tax continues to increase each year).*

Many people are worried that this change might lead residents to put oversized packaging in other people's bins or even fly-tip their rubbish to avoid overflowing bins not being collected.

This needs addressing by not just Bolton Council but all councils throughout the country, who need to support sustainability experts already engaging with the CEO and other stakeholders at Amazon UK to discuss taking immediate action before the situation gets out of hand.

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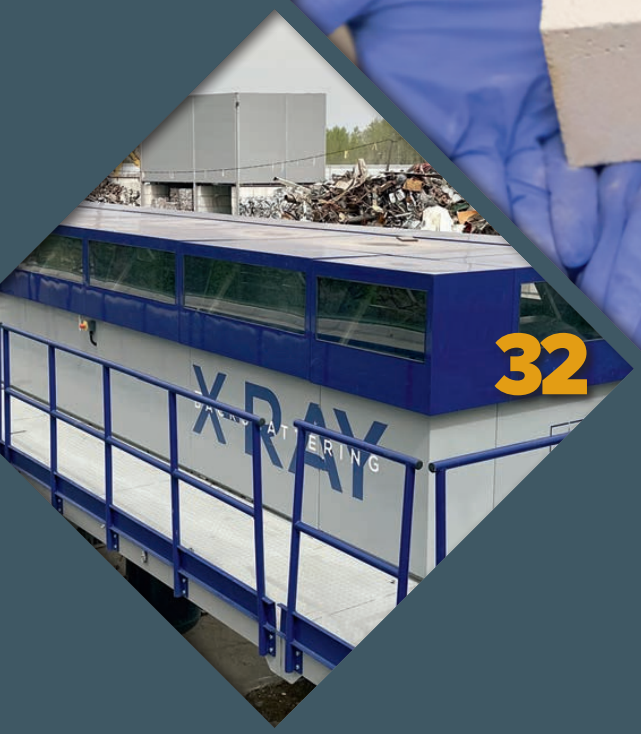

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New CIWM President calls for UK to 'Turn Off the Resources Tap'

The new President of the Chartered Institution of Wastes Management (CIWM), Tim Walker, has urged the sector to speed up its shift from being waste managers to becoming guardians of the raw materials crucial for the UK economy.

After his inauguration in Belfast, Mr Walker launched his Presidential Report titled ***Turning off the Tap: Why better design can increase resource resilience and reduce consumption.*** He explained that resource and waste managers witness the consequences of overconsumption, disposable design, and flawed service models every day through handling millions of tons of material. He indicated that a major issue is that the focus has shifted away from addressing our wasteful behaviour while we have become efficient at managing waste.

Mr Walker emphasised that items made from multiple materials harm the planet, particularly at the current scale. He stressed the need to address the role of design and development in creating 'stuff' and how the resources and waste sector, at the core of circularity, can aid in making better decisions to protect our precious resources effectively.

The report acknowledges that CIWM is well-positioned to facilitate this change and puts forth various recommendations aimed at speeding up the transition to a more circular economy, including:

- *Recognising CIWM as the trusted professional body for circularity*
- *Facilitating cross-industry best practices through supporting collaboration*
- *Identifying opportunities for regulation to curb the flow of resources*
- *Challenging the sector's role in increasing consumption*
- *Providing feedback to brands/retailers on problematic items to aid in the reduction of single-use items*
- *Collaborating with other trade organisations to promote the benefits of circularity.*

Tim Walker, a dedicated environmentalist, firmly believes in highlighting our connection to the natural world. He serves as the Chief Executive of arc21, a local authority partnership in Northern Ireland, and previously led waste management at Belfast City Council for two decades.

A member of the DEFRA Advisory Committee on Packaging (UK) Tim has been a CIWM Trustee for several years. He also holds a number of professional and academic qualifications, sits on the Board of Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful and is a Visiting Research Fellow with Queen's University Belfast looking at the Circular Economy.

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Ellen MacArthur Foundation urges action on textile circularity with enhanced EPR policies

A report *Pushing the Boundaries of EPR Policy for Textiles,* issued by the Ellen MacArthur Foundation on 17th June, emphasises the critical need for mandatory, fee-based Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) policies. It draws attention to the alarming fact that over 80% of textiles are either sent to landfill, incinerated or leaked into the environment due to the absence of a robust circular economy.

The foundation's findings reveal shockingly low textile collection rates, averaging 14% and peaking at 50%. Additionally, more than 80% of reusable clothing is exported post-collection, imposing a substantial waste management burden on importing countries, with just 16 countries accounting for most of these exports.

EPR demands that producers take responsibility beyond the point of consumer use. This would mean holding brands, retailers, and online marketplaces accountable for managing discarded textiles, both financially and organisationally.

The report recommends a significant expansion of separate collection infrastructure for textiles and emphasises the urgency of transitioning from traditional waste management to comprehensive circular economy approaches. This includes promoting business models such as rental and resale, designing products for disassembly and reuse, and minimising virgin resource use.

Valérie Boiten, Senior Policy Officer at the Ellen MacArthur Foundation, underscores the underutilisation of EPR policies and their potential to drive a global circular economy. She highlights the pressing need for substantial industry investment and government collaboration to tackle the global textile waste problem effectively.

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CIWM Past President recognised in King's Birthday Honours List

CIWM is delighted to announce that its Past President, and current Trustee and Fellow, Dr Adam Read MBE, has been recognised with a Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) in the King's Birthday Honours List 2024 for services to advancing the waste and resources agenda.

A leading figure in the sector, Adam has worked tirelessly to support the advancement of the resources and waste management sector, helping it to transition from its traditional roots to assume a vital position at the heart of the emerging circular economy and a fundamental role in the value chain supporting decarbonisation across multiple sectors and industries.

A member of CIWM for almost 30 years, his extensive voluntary work for the organisation has also included sitting on and chairing regional committees and membership of the Climate Emergency Strategic Expert Group.

Adam's enthusiasm and desire to position the sector at the forefront of the carbon reduction and climate change agenda has seen him mentor and support hundreds of CIWM members and young professionals entering our industry. He has also taken up numerous guest speaking opportunities at schools and universities, helping young people understand the need for more effective resource management and promoting the varied career opportunities that exist within this dynamic sector.

Adam spent seven years researching and publishing his PhD on waste management policy failure at Kingston University, which is where his love of teaching, training and mentoring first came to light.

Commenting on the news, CIWM's CEO, Sarah Poulter, said: "Adam's recognition is extremely well deserved, and I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate and personally thank him for his service to CIWM and the wider sector. Adam is a natural leader, a fact that was reflected in his efforts to ensure that CIWM and the waste and resources agenda was properly represented during COP26. His commitment to green skills and diversity, together with his passion for promoting the sector to employees of the future, is unparalleled, and we look forward to continuing to benefit from his experience and enthusiasm for many years to come."

Adam's distinguished professional career has seen him hold several senior roles at global strategic, environmental and engineering consultancies, including Ricardo, before joining SUEZ Recycling and Recovery UK in 2017, where he is Chief Sustainability & External Affairs Officer. A member of the company's senior management team, Adam is responsible for central government and stakeholder engagement and liaison, thought leadership, sustainability reporting and performance, and communications.

Dr Adam Read MBE said: "I'm honoured to have my work for CIWM and the sector recognised with an MBE and would like to thank CIWM for nominating me. I'm touched by their kind words and enormously grateful for the support they have given me over the years. As someone who is passionate about the work our sector does and who values giving back to support those pursuing a career in waste and resources, I'm very proud to have made an impact."

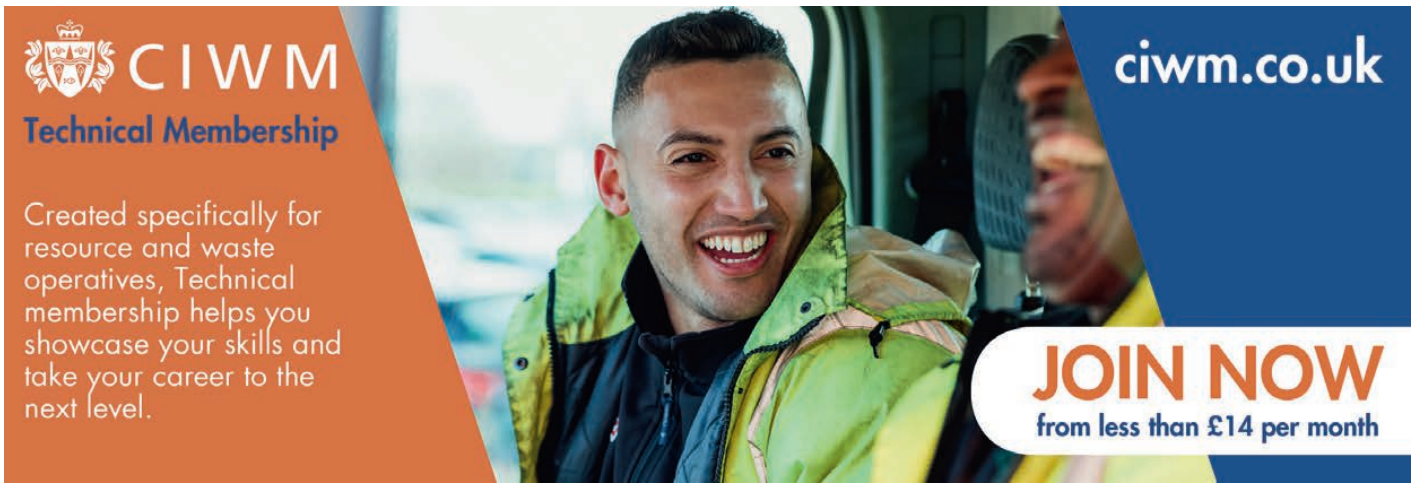
CIWM appoints new Junior Vice President

CIWM is happy to announce Vicki Hughes as the new Junior Vice President, succeeding David Greenfield, who is now Senior Vice President.

Vicki has over 35 years of experience in sales, marketing, and business development, with a focus on wood recycling and senior positions at Hadfield Wood Recyclers and Enva. She aims to enhance communication and support for CIWM members and to promote diverse career opportunities in the sector.

Her election was welcomed by CIWM CEO Sarah Poulter, who looks forward to supporting Vicki's journey to becoming CIWM President.

The role of Junior Vice President is the first step towards the CIWM Presidency, which involves a three-year process and support from the CIWM Trustees or the CIWM Centre Council.



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Ongoing scale of fraud highlighted by a £100 million landfill tax gap

Official estimates recently published of the landfill tax gap are evidence of the continuing scale of tax evasion blighting the recycling and waste treatment sector, according to the Environmental Services Association (ESA).

The landfill tax gap is 14.5% of the theoretical landfill tax liability, or £100 million in absolute terms, in the 2022 to 2023 tax year.

The landfill Tax gap has increased from 3.3% in 2005/6 to 14.5% in 2022/23, with estimates spiking to 29% in 2018/19. HMRC attributes this increase to the introduction of unauthorised waste sites into the scope of landfill tax legislation. Although the tax gap estimate has reduced from this temporary high tide mark, the ESA believes it remains unacceptably high at £100m annually.

Additionally, in its official figures, HMRC recognises that there is a "high" degree of uncertainty in the estimated scale of landfill tax evasion. Many stakeholders across the industry, including the ESA, view the real-world figure to be even higher - based on anecdotal evidence and the findings of the Environment Agency's most recent waste crime survey.

In this survey, waste industry respondents estimated that 1 in 4 organisations handling waste material misdescribes waste, and those that do are able to evade 35% of their landfill tax bill on average. If this perception reflects reality, it would equate to a landfill tax shortfall of £245 million.

Head of Regulation at the ESA, Sam Corp, said: "It appears to legitimate operators that perpetrators of landfill tax fraud are operating with impunity. Regulators must get a grip and tackle this issue once and for all with stronger and more effective enforcement and increased collaboration between revenue and environmental regulators.

A focus on tackling the landfill tax gap would help plug another gap in the country's finances and create a level playing field for operators in our sector. It would drive investment in new facilities and jobs to turn more waste into a valuable resource.

ESA strongly urges the new Government to focus on addressing the landfill tax gap as a top priority – alongside wider regulatory reforms to clamp down harder on criminals."

Wales second in the world for recycling rates

Wales has been ranked as the second-best country in the world for recycling, just behind Austria. Both countries are able to recycle 59% of their waste.

Northern Ireland is ranked ninth, England 11th, and Scotland 15th among the 48 countries included in the comparison.

First Minister Vaughan Gething expressed his delight and attributed this achievement to the efforts of households and workplaces across Wales.

In recent decades, the country has focused on improving recycling rates, setting statutory targets for local councils, and encouraging all homes to separate their food waste. Some councils have even moved to collect general waste at the kerbside only once a month, with Denbighshire being the latest to implement four-weekly collections for black bags in June.

The Welsh Government reports the average recycling rate in Wales at 66%, varying from 59% in Torfaen to 72% in Pembrokeshire and Swansea.

To create a global league table, researchers used reported recycling rates and other waste data from 48 countries, including the world's largest economies.

The report, by Eunomia Research and Consulting and Reloop, highlighted the significant improvement in Wales' recycling rates since it gained control over waste management. In 1997, the recycling rate was around 9%, but now some councils have reached 70%.

The Welsh Government aims for Wales to be recycling, reusing, or composting 70% of its waste by 2025 and to become a "zero waste nation" by 2050.

Guernsey disposable vape ban welcomed by recycling boss

Guernsey is planning to ban disposable vapes, which has been supported by the island's waste disposal authorities. The ban, approved by State members, aims to prevent the import, sale, and supply of disposable vapes.

Guernsey Waste's minimisation and sustainability officer, Douglas Button, explained that the ban is necessary because disposable vapes are difficult to recycle due to their design. Additionally, there have been incidents of exploding lithium-ion batteries, posing a safety risk at the waste centre at Longue Hougue. Once written, the proposed laws will be presented to deputies for approval.

The laws include the introduction of a licensing scheme for vape sellers and prohibiting vape sales to individuals under 18 years-old. Furthermore, the States have decided to make smoking in vehicles carrying children a criminal offence.

Button shared that Guernsey Waste has dealt with approximately 50,000 disposable vapes since 2023, and recycling them has been challenging due to their tamper-proof design. Improper disposal of vapes could lead to environmental harm and fire hazards.

He emphasised that a ban would have a positive impact on recycling, causing less harm to the environment and increased safety for waste station workers.

Veolia secures two victories at prestigious awards ceremony

Veolia has taken home two awards and a highly commended at the 2024 Awards for Excellence in Recycling and Waste Management for driving ecological transformation forward through innovative technologies and by championing communities.

Veolia has achieved two Awards for Excellence in the Local Authority Initiative and Team of the Year categories, with an honourable mention for the Civic Amenity Site of the Year award, showcasing their success in technological and people-focused advancements.

Westminster's Community Mobile Recycling Centre project was awarded the Best Local Authority Recycling Initiative award. Veolia Westminster won for their work to make recycling more accessible for residents living in urban areas without easy access to traditional Household Reuse and Recycling Centres. The project has been a resounding success, with over 70% of donated items being diverted from energy recovery and over £200,000 being generated in social value.

The social value achievements delivered by the education team in Merseyside & Halton saw them take home Team of the Year. The local team has made great strides in delivering educational programmes that meet the diverse needs of the community, notably introducing community sessions for deaf and hard-of-hearing residents at the Gillmoss Recycling Discovery Centre and working towards achieving the Autism Friendly Accreditation from the National Autistic Society. This team exemplifies Veolia's goal to make recycling easy and accessible for all the communities they work in.

In partnership with Bromley Council, Veolia was highly commended in the Civic Amenity Site of the Year category for improvements made to Waldo Road Reuse and Recycling Centre. A people-first approach to the refurbishment of the site has resulted in an impressive 63% reuse and recycling rate alongside resident satisfaction levels of 98% whilst maintaining a high level of safety. This highly successful project highlights Veolia's commitment to working in and for the community it serves.

Cory Reynolds, Corporate Affairs & Communications Director, Veolia, said: "We are delighted to have won two awards at this year's Awards for Excellence in Recycling and Waste Management. At Veolia, we strive for operational excellence, making a difference to both the communities we serve and the environments we work to protect. These values are reflected in our teams across the UK, which have been recognised in these diverse categories.

"We couldn't deliver these groundbreaking projects without the hard work and dedication of our workforce, as well as the customers with whom we work in partnership to deliver ecological transformation."

WRA Chair recognised in ENDS Power List 2024

WRA Chair Richard Coulson has been named one of the UK's top 100 most influential environmental professionals on the ENDS Power List 2024.

As Chair of the Wood Recyclers' Association (WRA) since 2021, Mr Coulson has tirelessly advocated for the waste wood sector and has been instrumental in raising the association's and the waste wood industry's profile.

During his time as WRA Chair, he has spearheaded the association's trailblazing MP engagement project, ensuring that the sector's voice is heard at the highest levels and helping to influence national policy. This work has included successfully lobbying for the inclusion of waste wood biomass in the 2023 Biomass Strategy and for higher wood packaging recycling targets and, more recently, delivering evidence to the Energy Security and Net Zero Select Committee. He has also helped lead the Association's work on carbon modelling to demonstrate the important role the sector can play in helping to reach net zero.

Mr Coulson has over 20 years of experience in the waste wood sector, having worked in procurement for both the panel board and biomass industries. He is currently Biomass Procurement Manager at RWE Supply & Trading and is also a member of the Chartered Institute of Purchasing.

Mr Coulson said: "This recognition is a wonderful endorsement of all the work we do at the WRA to support our members and promote our industry. This is a team effort, so I would like to thank all my wonderful colleagues at the WRA."

I'll tell you what's wrong with this country

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.

E: **lisa.gillespie@MelioraHR.co.uk**

BUSINESS CLINIC HR & RECRUITMENT

How many times have I heard that eh? Well, here is my tuppence worth.

I'm running an employment tribunal case at the moment, which epitomises what is wrong with this country despite 14 years of stable administration. By 'stable', I just mean the same party in power, not that I would describe it as stable in any way, given that the last government was too busy brawling to run things.

The Claimant (C) felt overworked and stressed during the height of the pandemic (weren't we all?). In this case, 90% of C's colleagues had been furloughed, while the Respondent (R) limped through having most of its business wiped out overnight. Following an incident where a colleague shouted at C, C went home, got signed off sick with stress and raised a complaint. R investigated and wrote to C, confirming the colleague was no longer with the business.

Nearly three years later, R is still wrangling with C in the employment tribunal because C claims the incident led to C becoming depressed and unable to work since.

The evidence produced, including medical records, shows that C has never been referred to a consultant psychologist or other specialist throughout the whole period C has not worked. Despite this, C has been assessed by a third party acting on behalf of DWP as having 'limited capability for work' based on a form C filled in online during the pandemic (3 years ago). i.e., C has never been assessed or examined by a medical professional, and the 'limited capability for work' status has never been reassessed.

The only assessment has been a questionnaire C filled out with a local counselling service nearly three years ago, again, without any medical examination or medically qualified person reviewing C's answers.

I could barely believe my ears when C's representative, a family member, stated that the DWP assessment was evidence of a disability, and that's all C needed to rely on not to have to seek work. Throughout this time, C's family member has contacted C's GP and obtained successive fit notes on C's behalf, which C duly collects once a month.

I know plenty of people with physical and mental conditions, which would certainly qualify as disabilities, who go to work every day like the rest of us. Therefore, it really shocks me that some people like C can take advantage of the NHS, which is already underfunded and public funding, which is in such dire straits that many local authorities are on the brink of bankruptcy (if they aren't already there).

On the other end of the scale is Michelle Mone, who, during the pandemic, was allowed to stuff as much public money as she could into her bra and sail away in her yacht without any of the scrutiny we expect. We're now having to pay lawyers to get some of it back.

Grrrr! Somewhere in the middle of all this nonsense I'm dealing with is a GP who doesn't have enough time to get a grip of their patient gaming the system and wasting his time, a private company that was paid to assess people on behalf of the DWP, did a half-assed job and never followed up on that assessment. Then there's the employment tribunal, which is, again, publicly funded, wasting time on a claimant who is trying to demand a lifetime's earnings from R based on a pretend disability. By the way, C doesn't understand that a personal injury claim cannot be heard by the employment tribunal, so the hearing is R asking the tribunal to dismiss her disability claim. I do not doubt that good sense will prevail, but what a rigmarole!

Can't we do better than this?

It goes without saying that our new government has its work cut out sorting out all this chaos, and I will be watching them very carefully. One foot wrong, and I might stand as an independent...

LondonEnergy completes latest round of mentoring with Wiseup Networks

LondonEnergy has completed its second mentoring programme in partnership with Wiseup Networks – a Social Enterprise aiming to dismantle social barriers in place for young people.

The partnership, part of Wiseup Networks' Pathfinder programme, saw another 10 talented students from North London benefit from a series of mentoring sessions with members of the LondonEnergy team ahead of a week's work placement at its pioneering EcoPark in Edmonton.

Working with their mentors from LondonEnergy's energy, people, IT and waste operations departments gave the students an overview of the hugely diverse range of careers available in the waste and renewable energy sector. It also helped to break down perceived barriers to entering a professional workplace and provided insight into alternative paths post-school.

Donna Hanson, Head of HR for LondonEnergy, commented: "The whole LondonEnergy team is excited to continue our partnership with Wiseup, and it was a pleasure to support the next group of talented young people through their mentoring and work experience programme. This programme connects 16-18-year-olds in North London through inspiring workshops, mentorship, and seeing first-hand the world of work. Vitally, it also helps increase awareness of the career opportunities that lie within the ever-evolving waste and renewable energy sector."

During a pilot of the mentoring scheme last year, all the students were asked to rank their confidence levels before and after the programme. All participants experienced a significant improvement in their confidence following their time with LondonEnergy.

Unfortunately, due to certain circumstances, there will be no column for 'The Secret MD' this month. However, we hope it will be back in the August edition.

UK businesses take swipe at the credibility of carbon offsetting

Businesses in the UK have said they are worried about the trustworthy and clearness of carbon credit offsetting schemes. The findings come from the National Environmental Services Survey, which asked 1,498 professionals in the environmental services industry from April to May 2024.

The survey was run by the Chartered Institution of Wastes Management (CIWM), The Environmental Services Association (ESA), Groundwork and ESS Expo (Environmental Services and Solutions Expo).

The report shows that 80% of respondents were concerned about the integrity of carbon credit offsetting schemes. Although almost a third of those surveyed (33%) considered carbon offsetting a viable strategy for achieving net zero emissions, only 37% have actually employed it to reduce their businesses' environmental impact.

The survey also highlighted concerns about greenwashing, with 94% of respondents believing it is prevalent in the UK. Furthermore, in 2023, a quarter (25%) of respondents stated that greenwashing was the one thing they would change about the environmental sector.

When it comes to achieving net zero emissions, collaboration and partnerships are deemed essential, with 85% of respondents reporting that working together is crucial. Almost all respondents (99%) believe that innovation and technology will play a role in accelerating the pathway to net zero emissions, with 87% agreeing that it will play a significant part.

The primary areas of focus will be the expansion of the circular economy (20%), advancements in clean energy technologies (16%), public awareness and engagement in sustainability (15%), followed by strengthening policy and regulation and green infrastructure at 14% and 9%, respectively.

Lee Marshall, Director of Innovation and Technical Services at the Chartered Institution of Wastes Management (CIWM), stated: "It is always valuable to receive insights from those who work in the sector. The concerns about offsetting show that resources and waste professionals want to take meaningful steps to support climate mitigation. The UK has made good progress, but it is no surprise that people feel policies on net zero and circular economy are not strong enough.

"We need policies that will accelerate the transition to a more resource-resilient and circular economy capable of meeting future material demands and supporting the battle against climate change."

Charlotte Rule, Head of Climate and Energy Policy at The Environmental Services Association (ESA), commented: "From these alarming survey results, it is clear that significant work remains to be done across the business community to demonstrate credibility and build trust in efforts to reduce carbon emissions, mitigate climate change, and achieve net zero targets.

"Achieving net zero must be a collaborative exercise, which is what the ESA has sought to achieve through its net zero strategy - aligning organisations across our sector through a shared roadmap, speaking with a unified voice to the Government to achieve a supportive policy environment, and being mutually accountable to each other as a membership body."

Mura Technology signs supplier agreement with Hertfordshire firm

Mura Technology, a company that is constructing an advanced recycling facility using hydrothermal technology in Teesside, has recently finalised a feedstock supply agreement with Elite Recycling Solutions, located in Stanstead Abbotts, Hertfordshire.

As per the contract, Elite will be responsible for providing postconsumer plastic packaging to the Mura plant in Wilton, which is currently in its final commissioning phase and is anticipated to start operations soon.

Mura will use its Hydro-PRT process to transform incoming scrap into hydrocarbon products that can be used to produce new plastic.

This partnership with Elite follows an existing agreement between Mura Technology and Geminor, a Norwegian company that will serve as the primary feedstock supplier for the Teesside facility.

"We are thrilled to collaborate with another distinguished company in the waste management industry," stated Dr. Steve Mahon, CEO of Mura Technology.

"This cross-sector partnership allows us to convert post-use plastic into a valuable resource for creating fossil-replacement feedstocks, thus contributing to the production of new plastic products."

In addition, Chris Smits, the Managing Director at Elite Recycling Solutions, said: "Mura Technology's innovative Hydro-PRT process will enable us to collaborate closely with our clients to recycle previously unrecyclable plastics, minimise waste, boost recycling rates, and achieve cost savings, particularly as landfill and incineration taxes are expected to rise in the near future. All of these efforts are crucial in enhancing our clients' environmental and sustainability credentials."

Send your stories, press releases and feature ideas to ***editor@pal-media.co.uk***

UKCM strengthens its heavy steel offering

UK Container Maintenance, a leading specialist in container repair and refurbishment and part of the IEG EMEA group, is expanding its operations by adding a 1.5-acre storage facility. This strategic investment by UKCM's parent company, Impact Environmental Group (IEG), will significantly enhance the firm's capacity for refurbishing heavy steel containers.

The new facility will free up valuable space at UKCM's main location, allowing for the repair and refurbishment of FELs (front-end loaders), RELs (rear-end loaders), skips, roll-on roll-off (RORO) containers, recycling banks, and stillages. With this expansion, UKCM's factory output is expected to increase by almost 100%, enabling the refurbishment of over 100 heavy steel units per month.

The assets are refurbished at UKCM's 80,00sq ft factory in Winsford, Cheshire, which houses wash, shot blast, spray, fabrication and repair and modification booths, plus a comprehensive container testing facility. This move will allow customers to benefit from an enhanced refurbishment turnaround time, with the highly-skilled team targeting less than 14 days from receiving the container to despatching it back to the client once fully refurbished.

Ben Connett, Director at UKCM, comments: "This latest investment represents a notable development. In addition to improving our customer service offering, we are significantly enhancing our capability and capacity in the refurbishment of heavy steel containers, freeing up space at our main site to allow for these larger units. We have had positive feedback from customers who can see its immediate benefits."

To back up this infrastructure investment, UKCM has employed additional welders, continuing its commitment to supporting the local economy.

Pete Dickson, Commercial Director at IEG, adds: "UKCM is the UK market leader for 4-wheel metal container refurbishment and this planned expansion is necessary for us to offer our first-class refurbishment services to our customers for their heavy steel containers as well.

"We are very pleased to announce this landmark initiative, which reflects the group's environmental ethos. The move reaffirms IEG's commitment to investing in the future and sustainable waste management, thereby supporting the move towards a circular economy."

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KCM expands with new Sheffield site

Family-run waste management specialist KCM, based in Rotherham, is extending its environmentally friendly services into Sheffield.

The company has acquired a two-acre waste disposal site at Cricket Inn Road in Sheffield and, after a major upgrade programme, will offer its full range of services in the city. These services include skip hire, household waste and trade waste bin collection, aggregate and tipper hire, secure document disposal, legal disposal of waste electrical and electronic equipment, tipping and recycling, grab wagon hire and hazardous waste disposal.

KCM manages around 75,000 tonnes of waste annually, all sorted and graded by a team of 24 waste specialists at their Ginhouse Lane site in Rotherham.

KCM Managing Director Gareth Hickling said: "The fact that everything is hand sorted makes us pretty unique in the area. Our aim is to recycle to the highest specification, ensuring minimal material goes to landfill. Wood, metals, plastics, garden refuse and even asbestos and abrasives are sorted and processed. We have two biomass plants on-site and handle the disposal of asbestos and abrasives following industry guidelines.

"For homeowners and businesses, waste disposal doesn't have to be a hassle with our help. Our recycling policy and waste collection routes address vehicle pollution and landfill reduction. We stay up-to-date with new industry technologies and trends to remain at the forefront of the waste management sector."

The KCM family team at their new Sheffield site

The new depot at Cricket Inn Road was an abandoned and heavily polluted waste disposal site that has been cleared and refurbished by the KCM team in co-ordination with the Environment Agency and Sheffield Council, making it safe for staff and clients.

Gareth added: "We are a proud family business with roots in Rotherham and South Yorkshire. This expansion into Sheffield reflects our ambitions for the future.

"We are experts in total waste management and not just a skip hire business.

"This move will reduce our carbon footprint and create new jobs in Sheffield. It's important to us that the money KCM makes is reinvested back into South Yorkshire."

Sweeptech agree on a deal to acquire Leicester-based firm

Sweeptech, the UK's leading recycler of road sweeping and gully waste, has acquired Leicester-based Go Plant, a prominent player in the waste management industry.

This move solidifies Sweeptech's position as the sole national provider of road sweeping and waste management services, signifying a significant milestone in its continued expansion and commitment to environmental stewardship.

The acquisition will enhance Go Plant's existing customers' services, thanks to Sweeptech's innovative approach to waste management, patented road-sweeping receptor plant and established track record of excellence in compliance and environmental leadership.

Integrating Go Plant's operations into its own, Sweeptech now has a network of depots across the UK, including the North East, North West, Yorkshire, The Midlands, London, the South and South East. This ensures unmatched support for clients nationwide, aligning with Sweeptech's business strategy for national coverage and providing top-notch services to its Tier 1 customers.

Martin Smith, CEO of Sweeptech, said: "We are thrilled to announce the acquisition of Go Plant, which marks a significant milestone in our journey towards becoming a truly national waste management company. This strategic move not only enhances our ability to serve our customers with excellence but also underscores our unwavering commitment to environmental sustainability and regulatory compliance."

Bristol Zoo signs deal with waste management firm Grundon

The Bristol Zoological Society has chosen Grundon for a three-year contract to handle its waste and recycling needs. The conservation and education charity at Bristol Zoo Project near Cribbs Causeway views this partnership as crucial in anticipation of increasing visitor numbers.

Grundon's services will be deployed gradually, starting with over 60 bins for mixed recycling, compostable packaging, and other waste, along with larger 1,100-litre bins in the service yard.

Daniel Peacey, Grundon's regional sales manager, expressed his enthusiasm: "It's a fantastic opportunity to collaborate with such a prominent organisation in Bristol. The zoo holds significant importance for us, and we are committed to delivering our full range of services as they expand."

The zoo's head offices at Hollywood Mansion House will be equipped with two bins, and Grundon will provide confidential shredding services there.

Jonathan Timney, Director of Estates at Bristol Zoological Society, shared: "We are thrilled to work in partnership with Grundon to ensure that our recycling and waste management needs are effectively addressed throughout our organisation."

Grundon has been operating in Bristol since 2020 and has implemented various sustainability initiatives, including introducing a £300k electric collection vehicle onto the city's streets last summer.

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Castle Quarter appoints Anglian to handle all commercial waste

Anglian, a Norfolk-based waste recycling company, has been appointed by Castle Quarter to manage all commercial waste from the popular Norwich retail and leisure destination. This partnership is expected to increase recycling rates and promote local waste processing significantly.

Under the new contract, Anglian manages Castle Quarter's entire waste process. The company has already rolled out a comprehensive system of large bins and skips for various recyclable materials, including dry mixed recycling, glass, metal, card and paper and tube lights. The primary objective is to maximise waste collection for recycling purposes.

Anglian will sort and process all waste locally, completely eliminating the need for landfill disposal. Through its advanced reporting system, Anglian will provide Castle Quarter with monthly analysis, offering insights into the types of waste collected and identifying opportunities to enhance recycling efforts further.

Furthermore, Anglian has been instrumental in recycling Castle Quarter's food waste since September last year. The company has successfully diverted food waste from general waste streams by implementing dedicated food waste bins. The collected food waste is then utilised for anaerobic digestion, producing bio-energy (gas) to power local homes in Norfolk.

Jamie Parker, Key Account Manager at Anglian Waste Recycling, said: "We are delighted to have been awarded this contract to service Castle Quarter in its entirety, on the back of the great progress we have already made to find a more sustainable solution for their food waste. We have been working in partnership with the team at Castle Quarter to identify the needs of each business within the centre and ensure we provide the most suitable bins to maximise the amount of waste we can segregate, collect and recycle. We are pleased to be playing our part in helping Castle Quarter to bolster its environmental credentials."

Jamie Parker, Key Account Manager at Anglian, with Sarah Smith, Operations Manager at Castle Quarter, marking the start of the new waste management contract. *Photo credit: Anglian*

Castle Quarter is a member of Norwich BID, which partnered with Anglian Waste Recycling last year as part of its goal to achieve net zero by 2040.

Salford fun club secures donation

A fun club in Salford is preparing to take its young members on an exciting summer trip - thanks to the support of a local business.

Ladybirds Fun Club in Irlam has received a £500 boost from leading waste management specialist CSG, which has a facility in nearby Cadishead.

The funding comes through CSG's Community Chest initiative, which aims to support good causes near the business's 32 regional bases across the UK.

Linda Jones, a volunteer at Ladybirds, said: "We are extremely grateful to CSG for this generous support. We meet every week to offer the children fun activities throughout the year, easing the burden on working parents.

"We're planning a super summer trip, and any remaining funds will be put towards craft equipment for the children to use. The children are very excited."

Daryl Tunningley, Marketing Manager at CSG, said: "CSG celebrates 90 years in business this year. Being involved in the communities we operate in has always been important to us, and Community Chest allows us to support good causes like this one."

Sutton Council appoints Veolia to deliver waste services in 2025

The London Borough of Sutton has appointed Veolia to deliver waste and street cleansing services starting in April 2025. The new eight-year contract will see Veolia deliver these services.

The new contract focuses on providing Sutton residents with the highest levels of customer service. This will be supported by new and more energy-efficient vehicles, an improved street cleansing service with waste bags being collected from the street more quickly, as well as a new night cleansing team to clear fly-tips overnight.

To ensure Sutton's communities benefit directly from the partnership, Veolia has committed to funding more community projects and school orchards and increasing local recruitment, with a special focus on supporting young care leavers into employment.

A dedicated team will support residents in recycling more and reducing the amount of waste from their homes, helping to improve Sutton's local environment. The Council has invested in a newly refurbished depot dedicated solely to Sutton's new waste and street cleansing contract. This will further enhance the efficiency of the waste service for residents and meet environmental ambitions.

Sutton residents can still expect the same frequency of collections, including on bank holidays, and the bins currently being used will remain the same.

Commenting on the appointment, Pascal Hauret, Managing Director, Municipal at Veolia, said: "We are delighted to announce that we are the environmental partner of choice for the London Borough of Sutton. This new contract will target increased recycling, clean streets, decarbonisation, and social value initiatives to support the local community.

"Building on our experience, we will work closely with the Council to deliver on Sutton's priorities to make a difference locally and deliver a more sustainable future for everyone."

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How to make the perfect shredder investment

Whether buying a machine for the first time, upgrading incumbent technology, or expanding an existing materials processing facility, procuring an industrial shredder is a time-consuming and potentially complex process for many. Here, **GARY MOORE,** an experienced shredding specialist at UNTHA UK, offers some practical advice to help buyers make the best value decisions...

Evolving legislation, increasingly stringent supply chains, tougher environmental targets, green pressures, mounting costs, and the search for more efficient materials handling strategies are just some of the reasons why a growing number of firms are considering a shredder investment. This changing landscape presents new questions for organisations that want to make the perfect choice.

For many waste processors, shredding is nothing new. Such equipment has long been considered a valuable asset that can improve organisations' commitment to sustainability, operational efficiencies, and bottom line. However, given the tougher external environment, shredders must now achieve more than ever before, and investments must generate a greater return. Machinery that doesn't tick all the boxes is, therefore, being re-evaluated for its Return on Investment (ROI) potential.

At the same time, the market is witnessing a marked uplift in the number of waste producers thinking about shredding for the first time. These often self-proclaimed 'novice' buyers are acknowledging the role that in-house shredding could play. However, having never operated such machinery before, they are naturally faced with many questions when it comes to drawing up the correct shredder specification.

With a vast array of equipment in the marketplace, it can be difficult to determine which shredding technology will best satisfy a company's specific needs. However, 'knowledge is power', as the age-old saying goes. So, while detailed conversations and due diligence are always advised, here are 17 key considerations when starting out on the procurement journey:

1. Define your input material

Thinking about exactly what you want to shred may sound like an obvious starting point. But don't just describe the overall material stream. You may require a WEEE shredder, for example, but a diligent shredder supplier will want to know more about the composition of your materials. A key question to answer is, *what is the largest bulky item I need to shred?* This helps to define the cutting chamber size that will successfully 'accept' the material. Width, length and depth dimensions are required.

If your input material is likely to be interchangeable, that's no problem - many shredders are now designed for application flexibility.

2. Understand your output requirements

Before beginning your marketplace research, be clear on what the new shredder must be capable of. Start by considering the furthest point in the supply chain and work back from there. Whether you're producing a commodity and need to take 'end-user requirements' into account or you simply need to ensure the compliant size reduction and disposal of materials, the final output criteria will prove a key factor in your shredder purchase. This is your 'why'.

Think about particle size and the need - or not - for fraction homogeneity. Also, consider throughput requirements, as knowing the amount of material you wish to process will help determine the motor drive power (kW) required.

3. Consider ancillary equipment

How will input materials be fed into the shredder? This is an important consideration for operator safety, efficiencies, space requirements, and the need for any ancillary equipment. This conversation could be the difference between purchasing a stand-alone shredder or a more turnkey system.

Shredders can be fed manually or

with a grab, front-end loader, conveyors, forklift or bin-lift, to name just a few options. When it comes to output material, mechanical or pneumatic extraction is typically required, unless relying on gravity discharge into a suitable container.

Depending on the complexity of the product and the sophistication of the output requirements, additional upstream and downstream equipment may also be required.

If you are uncertain about the right design for your shredding solution, ask. This exploratory discussion will ensure optimal performance, accurate budgeting, and adequate space planning.

4. Do you have sufficient power?

What power is required to run the machine, and do you have enough supply? This is often overlooked, so add this to the list of questions for discussion when you begin your dialogue with potential suppliers.

5. Define timescales

It is important not to rush a shredder procurement process, but sometimes, timescales dictate the schedule that must be adhered to. Define the ideal date for commissioning - inclusive of acceptance testing and operator training - and work back from there. With careful planning - and by working with a supplier who has stock machine availability - it is possible to accelerate the process, if necessary, without cutting corners.

6. Understand the procurement options

Decide on a budget, and if you need to protect cash flow, consider leasing the shredder or spreading the cost with a hire purchase agreement. A range of flexible finance packages now exist - with the ability to wrap service agreements into a fixed monthly fee - to ensure your investment is as affordable and manageable as possible.

Also, don't simply consider the initial shredder cost when thinking about the numbers. Ongoing operational efficiencies, energy consumption, uptime, ease of maintenance, and the longevity of parts will all affect long-term cost efficiencies and your profitability.

If in doubt, ask potential shredder providers to help build a business case for the machine. This will clarify the decision-making process and provide evidence of the likely payback period. Potential revenue yield from the output material should also be taken into account.

7. Be clear on the project 'driver'

While most organisations have to prioritise an investment that stacks up financially, some businesses are now evaluating shredders for more altruistic reasons. Designing a solution that prevents surplus materials from ever becoming waste or boosts the circularity of an organisation's business model is also important for many firms.

Be open and honest with shortlisted suppliers about what you want to achieve as an organisation. There is little point investing in a shredder to tick an environmental box, for example, if the technology is diesel-hungry - especially when cleaner, greener, electric-driven solutions are available. It is now even possible to power heavy-duty shredders using solar energy!

8. Agree on the internal decision-making process

At the earliest feasible stage, be clear on who will be involved in the procurement process, especially regarding the final buying decision. Consult the right people at the right time so as not to delay the outcome or undo hard work.

9. Find potential shredder suppliers

Carry out online research, attend relevant trade conferences, and/or look for suppliers frequently highlighted in journals and magazines that you trust. Also, think about who you know in the industry - other equipment suppliers, peers, and industry bodies could all prove helpful sources of information.

Utilise websites and other printed materials that are already available, but don't be afraid to pick up the phone or email with questions about your needs. A reputable provider should respond within 24 working hours to move the conversation forward.

10. Don't be afraid of detail

Ask detailed and specific questions relevant to your business model and your materials handling scenario to understand the shredder's true performance capabilities and the supplier's ability to meet your needs.

For example, confidential waste shredders benefit from being slow-running, as they can shred classified material to an agreed specification without destroying the fibre and consequent recyclability of the commodity. It would be best to have peace of mind that you'll achieve DIN compliance without fail.

If shredding food waste and packaging, on the other hand, look for purposefully designed sealing systems that will protect the machine's gearbox and bearings from this potentially aggressive material. And if your goal is the production of alternative fuel, output precision matters, as does the whole-life running cost of the machine - both will affect the future profitability of an RDF or SRF manufacturing plant.

Whatever your shredding scenario, ensure the advice you seek is tailored to you and your business.

>> Continued on page 22

11. Increase resistance to foreign objects

Where possible/relevant, ensure the shredder has foreign object protection. The contents of waste streams can never be fully guaranteed however rigorous any pre-sorting processes. In-built protection mechanisms can auto-stop a machine if a foreign object is detected, preventing shredder damage, minimising downtime, ensuring the longevity of parts, and upholding end product quality.

12. Seek safety as standard

Operator safety is non-negotiable regarding industrial shredding, so look for design features that ensure safe and ergonomic working conditions. From low noise levels and the ability to conduct routine maintenance tasks in an upright position to slow speeds that minimise dust and touchscreen control panels that fault find from a distance, safety should be integral to how the shredder has been engineered.

13. Prioritise preventative maintenance

Even if you have an on-site engineering team, look for a provider offering ongoing consultancy, servicing, and maintenance expertise. The support of the people who have designed, manufactured, and supplied the machine will be hugely beneficial as you strive to work ever-smarter. And remember, prevention is cheaper than cure, so try to adopt a proactive service schedule rather than reacting when something goes wrong.

The ease, speed, and cost of maintenance are also incredibly important, as these will greatly impact your future profitability. This applies especially to high-throughput applications such as waste processing for alternate fuel production. Simple maintenance procedures and small savings in cutter change time ensure maximum uptime and shift efficiency, significantly improving your revenue-generating potential. Over a 12-month period alone, the savings could amount to hundreds of thousands of pounds.

14. Empower your team

Ensure that comprehensive training will be provided, no matter how easy the shredder is to use or whether remote diagnostics are offered. It is important that your operatives understand how to use the shredder safely while optimising ongoing operational efficiencies.

15. Ask for references

After shortlisting your preferred shredders, ask to speak to other customers or visit sites where the technology is already installed - nothing beats seeing a shredder in action outside a test environment. Watch how the equipment performs in a 'real-life' scenario and ask questions of the plant owner and operatives. You can even assess factors such as noise levels, which you may not have initially considered important. This is an incredibly valuable part of the research process and shows utmost transparency on the supplier's part. Certain suppliers may even offer a trial period, allowing you to truly 'test' the machine with your own materials.

Also, consider whether the partner has ISO certifications or similar quality and safety assurance standards. This will provide peace of mind from the outset.

16. Is your customer experience being prioritised?

Most shredder investments represent sizeable decisions, especially given the current economic backdrop. So, look beyond what the equipment is capable of. Where possible, consider the shredding supplier as a 'partner'and evaluate the business on its heritage and experience, commitment to continued aftercare and support, and desire to work with you long into the future.

From access to expertise when you have a quick question to the provision of ongoing optimisation advice, it is usually the people who will help really maximise your ROI potential - not the product.

17. Plan for the future

Sometimes, planning for the next three to six months, let alone the next five years, is hard enough. However, no organisation can afford to stand still, especially in an industry that is ever-changing. It is, therefore, important that the shredder is flexible without being over-specified. It will need to adapt alongside your business if your throughput or fraction size requirements change, for instance. Otherwise, if the technology needs to be replaced when your business evolves, the investment could end up being very costly indeed.

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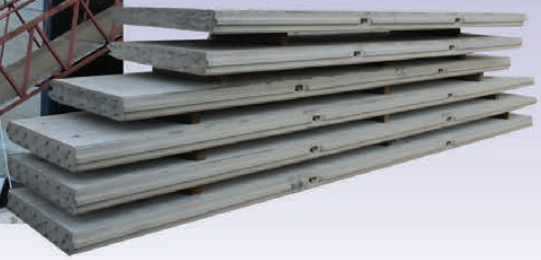

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‘Hire’ to stay: Gaetan celebrates 45 years at TG Lynes

A plant hire specialist is celebrating an incredible 45 years of service at TG Lynes.

Margaret Thatcher was just 11 days into her premiership on 15th May 1979, when 18 year-old Gaetan Rene started working at what was then known as Lynes Plant Hire in King’s Cross, London.

Four-and-a-half decades on, and Gaetan, now 63, is Plant Hire Supervisor at the leading heating, plumbing and air movement materials supplier - and still loving his work.

Gaetan said: “When I left school, I was set on working in a garage and did a car mechanics course. I couldn’t find an opening though, so I ended up at the Job Centre and was put in touch with Colin Lynes, who owned Lynes Plant Hire.

“I was offered £45 per week to start immediately and bit his hand off! Plant hire was a booming industry at the time and growing at pace.

“I certainly didn’t expect to still be at the business 45 years later, but it has been an excellent company to work for and a huge part of my life.”

Gaetan started in the repair department, specialising in diesel-powered machines.

The father-of-four said he has grown up with many of his fellow long-serving colleagues at TG Lynes.

“It’s always felt like a family,” he said. “In the beginning, King’s Cross was buzzing, and we often went out together in the pubs and restaurants. Even on the weekends, we were regularly around each other’s houses.

“When I was married in 1982, Colin Lynes attended our wedding.

“Quite a few of us have been with the business for many years. People like Joe Kane (Sales Director) has been part of my life for more than 20 years.”

Gaetan said the industry has changed considerably since 1979, but he is pleased to see TG Lynes’ renewed emphasis on its plant hire offering.

He said: “There have been many transitions and ups and downs over the years. The business is much bigger and more structured now, but you have to accept change, and I’ve always valued my work.

“People come and go, and I’ve always enjoyed training the new people joining the team.

“Over the last couple of years, there has been considerable growth and investment in plant hire at TG Lynes, and that’s been great to see.”

MD Andrew Ingram, left, with Gaetan Rene

Andrew Ingram, Managing Director at TG Lynes, said: “Gaetan has been an important part of the team for such a long period. He brings a vast wealth of knowledge and experience to the plant hire team, as well as his brilliant personality. We’re fortunate to have him in the business.

“We have a number of colleagues who have been with us for more than 20 years - and that is a testament to the value we put on our people and how we treat them.”

TG Lynes has invested more than £150,000 in its plant hire offering over the last two years, primarily on new equipment, boosting the number of products available to 350 and improving reliability.

MDS announces new M518R compact recycling trommel

MDS®, a leading manufacturer of specialist screening equipment, is proud to announce the launch of its new M518R Compact Recycling Trommel. With a suite of new features and benefits designed to elevate performance and efficiency, the M518R excels in screening a variety of materials, including compost, biomass, green waste, municipal waste and more.

The M518R is well-suited for small to medium-sized operations and contractors, particularly those with limited space and a need for easy transportation. The machine features a 180-degree radial fines conveyor and offers efficient material handling, providing a radial stockpile capacity of up to 650m^3. Its compact dimensions and efficient folding mechanism of the radial conveyor ensure straightforward transportation, fitting neatly onto a standard 26-foot-long trailer. Additionally, notable improvements in service access compared to the previous generation set a high standard for accessibility and maintenance ease. These features solidify the M518R as a highly efficient option within its class.

One of the M518R’s many standout features is its remote-controlled conveyor swivel, which enables operators to adjust positioning effortlessly during operation. This functionality minimises downtime and enhances productivity, reflecting a commitment to providing solutions that emphasise operational efficiency and user convenience.

“At MDS, we are continuously striving to innovate and produce machines that give our customers the edge they need to be successful in their own operations,” said Steven Keenan, Engineering Manager at MDS. “Our new M518R machine is a good example of this and provides a versatile screening solution that can adapt to diverse operational requirements while bringing efficiency and value to recycling operations worldwide.”

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Hopkinson Waste shreds the competition with new shredder from Agg-Pro

Hopkinson Waste Management Ltd is a leading waste management and skip hire provider servicing Derbyshire, South Yorkshire and Nottinghamshire. They also provide commercial tipping and supply aggregates that are processed in-house.

Hopkinson approached Agg-Pro's recycling experts to provide a solution for a Materials Recycling Facility Waste Sorting System capable of handling C&D and skip waste. This included a primary shredder, which allowed raw materials to be shredded before entering the Waste Sorting System.

In the first stages of the project, Hopkinson was considering volume reduction across all waste streams, including wood waste, arb waste, light metals, UPVC and more.

Agg-Pro successfully demonstrated the new McCloskey Environmental ES-250 Twin Shaft Shredder on-site, which performed beyond their expectations.

Over time, this project evolved as Hopkinson's primary focus switched to investing in their infrastructure.

Recycling expert Dean Ashton stayed in communication with Hopkinson, especially when Natalie Hirst was promoted to the role of Managing Director.

Agg-Pro and Natalie discussed the project's new requirements, highlighting the need for a cost-effective solution for shredding residual and third-party waste for RDF contracts.

Hopkinson had trialled competitors' machines with mixed results and invited Agg-Pro to demonstrate the McCloskey Environmental ESS-300 Shredder.

The ESS-300 is a tracked primary shredder capable of effectively and reliably shredding a wide range and type of materials. The interaction between the rotating knives on the single, hydraulically driven shaft ensures the input material is constantly moving to prevent bridging and maximising efficiency. The replaceable mesh setup allows the machine to perform to several different specifications of output material with varying piece sizes.

The demonstration showed that the ESS-300 was the right machine for them, consistently producing the right specification fraction size.

This would allow Hopkinson to achieve the strongest return through its high performance, making their project viable.

Natalie and the operational team on site were delighted with both the ESS-300 and with Agg-Pro, placing the order for a new unit and retaining the demonstration machine to support their investment until the new shredder arrived.

On the recommendation of Dean Ashton, Agg-Pro's recycling expert, Hopkinson also opted for a Fireward dual-agent Fire Suppression System, which mitigates the risk of fire during operation.

By ordering new, Hopkinson has taken advantage of the full two-year or 3000-hour warranty that comes with the McCloskey Environmental ESS-300.

If you would like to speak to one of Agg-Pro's recycling experts, contact **sales@agg-pro.com** or call us on **01827 280 139**

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Shred more, earn more with the new EDGE VS750i primary waste shredder

EDGE Innovate, a leading manufacturer of industrial machinery, revealed its latest innovation in industrial waste management at last month's Hillhead show. Engineered to set new standards in efficiency and versatility, the VS750i TM Primary waste shredder is designed to handle a broad range of materials and to meet the diverse needs of modern waste processing facilities.

A revolution in shredding technology

The EDGE VS750i represents a significant leap forward in the waste management industry. The powerful VS750i is engineered to easily process bulky, industrial, and various other materials, reducing them to manageable piece sizes. This capability significantly lowers the volume of shredded material, cuts transportation costs and allows for greater extraction of commodities. With its ability to be positioned near collection points in plants and landfills, the VS750i offers unparalleled convenience and operational efficiency.

The EDGE VS750i excels in environments where incoming materials vary greatly in size, composition, and shredding difficulty. It features robust dual 2.5m (8'2") long rotors made from solid steel and equipped with aggressive, Hardox manufactured rotating knives that run asynchronously in both directions. This design ensures constant material movement, preventing bridging and maximising processing efficiency.

Kevin Kelly, Product Development Manager - EDGE Innovate, stated: "The VS750i is equipped with our advanced intelligent operating system, which includes tramp metal protection. This system safeguards the shredder from contaminants, preventing asset damage and allowing it to process a wide array of materials swiftly and safely, including municipal solid waste, industrial, commercial, and bulky waste. Its multiple chamber configurations enable customisation to meet specific product sizing with huge production capacity requirements."

Built for tough applications

The VS750i is constructed to withstand the toughest applications. It can shred a wide range of materials, such as household waste, construction debris, and compacted waste bales, making it ideal for recycling plants, refuse-derived fuel (RDF) production, incinerators, and large hazardous waste plants. The shredder's 563 kW (755 HP) Caterpillar engine, open cutting table, hydraulic hopper extensions, automatic tipping hopper, and "One Point" service area for easy maintenance underscore its robust and user-friendly design.

Delivering consistently high throughput - up to 150 tons per hour depending on the input type, knife configuration, and loading procedure - the VS750i ensures maximum uptime and smooth operation. EDGE Innovate's intelligent load management system further enhances its performance, making it a reliable choice for keeping production lines moving efficiently.

Combining the EDGE Innovates Intelligent Load Management System and the VS Status Alert ensures the efficient loading of the shredder, leading to consistent high throughputs with minimal downtime. EDGE's "track and shred" functionality complements this combination, allowing the VS750i to be repositioned without the need to stop shredding.

The VS750i is also available as a static electric unit, offering significantly reduced operating costs, less servicing, and no refuelling time. Ideal for markets with environmental, legislative, or noise constraints, the VS750i Static Electric matches the production capacity of its diesel/hydraulic counterpart. Its reduced maintenance needs and higher uptime ensure unbeatable dependability, with operators able to customise the unit to meet specific application requirements or retrofit it into an existing waste processing plant.

Tom Connolly, Global Sales Manager, said: "EDGE Innovate continues its tradition of producing robust, high-performance equipment with the launch of the VS750i. This latest product is the ultimate high-capacity twin-shaft primary shredder for diverse and demanding waste processing. The VS750i reaffirms EDGE's commitment to leading the recycling industry with advanced processing solutions that meet the evolving demands of waste management."

***The VS750i:** This latest product is the ultimate high-capacity twin-shaft primary shredder for diverse and demanding waste processing*

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When it comes to sorting aluminium alloys, SGM Magnetics sets the quality benchmark

The Italian corporation SGM Magnetics, one of the leaders in X-ray sorting technologies for metal recyclers, including X-ray Transmission and X-ray Fluorescence, is launching its latest proprietary X-ray technology, XRF-BS. This technology combines X-ray Fluorescence with X-ray Back scattering and is presented as an alternative to LIBS (Laser Induced Breakdown Spectroscopy) for the sorting of aluminium alloys.

X-ray Back scattering is an underlying phenomenon to Fluorescence and is usually considered a rumour in the XRF spectrographic sorting analysis. Instead of being represented by a few high-intensity peaks of specific energies, it is characterised by a continuous distribution of low-intensity photons, the distribution profiles of which are characteristic of the presence of the various metals.

XRF-BS can identify metal concentrations down to 0.2%, which makes it a performing solution for sorting the different aluminium alloys and a competitive alternative to LIBS. **The main benefits of XRF-BS vs LIBS are:-**

Reading penetration

Unlike X-ray transmission, which performs a readthrough analysis, both XRF-BS and LIBS perform a "surface" analysis. This means that the accuracy of the LIBS and XRF-BS readings is impacted by the surface condition (dirt, painting, oxidation,...) of the material to be analysed. "Reading" accuracy depends on the thickness of the "coating" and on the penetration of the reading.

XRF-BS "penetration" is typically around 100-200 microns. In comparison, LIBS penetration is usually around 10 to 20 microns, depending on the energy level used for the laser source and the type of laser lens.

The typical thickness of paint on aluminium profiles is over 40 microns, which is less than the penetration of XRF-BS and more than LIBS.

Continuous vs discontinuous reading

XRF-BS performs a continuous reading while LIBS reading is discontinuous, making it a "sampling" analysis.

LIBS is definitely good enough for tailings of aluminium sheets at stamping plants. In this case, the surface of the material is always clean, and every piece is homogeneous in composition, meaning that a shallow surface sampling analysis provides an accurate analysis of the whole piece. Last but not least, in such an application, you know in advance the limited possible types of aluminium the technology is processing, which helps the sorting.

The situation is different for aluminium scrap, and the deeper and continuous analysis of the XRF-BS is a plus.

Reading distance

Reading distance is a sensitive element for both XRF-BS and LIBS, but it is easier to control in the case of XRF-BS.

With XRF-BS, the reading must take place within a certain distance from the surface of the piece, but this is no problem as the reading is continuous and material is analysed from underneath while in free fall. With LIBS, there is the additional constraint of staying within the focal length of the laser, which is typically around 20mm. This is not a lot when considering possible long and misshaped aluminium profiles. The focal length can be increased, which goes against the energy and penetration depth.

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Patent Pending 102022000005489

- Deeper analysis results in better performance in case of critical material surfaces (paint, dirt, etc.).
- Higher accuracy due to continuous analysis vs LIBS discontinuous spot micro analysis.
- Continuous analysis makes sorting independent from the shape of pieces.

WATCH THE VIDEO

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CDE unveils a new generation of filter press

CDE, a leader in the design and engineering of sand and aggregate wet processing solutions for the waste recycling and natural minerals processing sectors, unveiled its new ProPress high-performance filter press at Hillhead last month, adding to its state-of-the-art water management and recycling systems.

Developed to meet the evolving needs of the construction and demolition (C&D) waste recycling, quarrying, and mining sectors, the ProPress integrates the latest technological advancements to deliver exceptional operational efficiency and maximum water recovery.

CDE's ProPress, which features patent-pending technology, benefits from a flexible design and variable throughput that can be scaled to fit the processing volume of any operation.

Unlike traditional filter presses, the system is dual feed, meaning sludge is fed from both sides of the ProPress for improved efficiency and faster cycle times. Optimised sludge feed pressure also allows for faster dewatering to increase overall throughput. This is further supported by an overhead beam design that ensures reliability by reducing stress on the unit and improving its durability.

The ProPress features plates that are 25% larger (2.5m x 2m). Greater chamber volume and overall fewer plates serve to provide maximum capacity on a smaller footprint and improve mechanical cycle times.

Integrated plate-shaking technology makes safe and efficient maintenance possible, addressing filter cake build-up within chambers to help reduce the need for manual intervention. An access walkway provides a clear and unobstructed means to carry out maintenance safely and efficiently, and flush-mounted drip trays reduce material entrapment and lock in place to provide a secure maintenance platform for operators.

The smart design is supported by an innovative, multifunctional robot, which serves as the main workhorse for the ProPress, controlling plate opening, plate shaking, cloth washing, plate winch, and the maintenance platform.

The CDE ProPress is available in a range of different sizes to suit all markets and applications. Available globally, the ProPress is also largely pre-assembled to expedite commissioning, allowing operators to get up and running quickly to help achieve a fast return on investment.

As materials are washed and graded, the water from that process accumulates silt and other residues to form a sludge. A challenging material to process, that sludge is pumped under high pressure into the CDE ProPress, which consists of a sequence of plates, the composition of which forms a series of chambers.

As sludge is pumped under high pressure through the press, solid materials build within the chambers to form a filter cake, which is dewatered to maximise water recycling and recover a by-product with multiple applications.

With the CDE ProPress, owners and operators can recycle up to 95% of process water for immediate reuse in their wash plant while simultaneously cutting waste disposal fees by recovering a filter cake product that can be used for pipe bedding and landfill capping. This eliminates the need for settling ponds, which typically require extensive maintenance, consume labour resources, and incur significant costs.

CDE's Business Development Director, Darren Eastwood, said: "Tackling the most challenging of materials is our expertise. We've poured over 30 years of engineering excellence into the development of the ProPress. We've listened to and worked alongside our customers around the globe to design a solution that is adaptable to their needs, be they in the waste recycling or natural minerals processing sectors.

"Those needs were clear: sustainable water management was key to minimise fresh water dependency and maximise water recycling, all while improving processing capacity, reducing operating costs, and minimising maintenance downtime. The ProPress is our response to all this and more and is already delivering for our customers. By the end of the year, the ProPress will be found on eight plants across three regions, processing around 1000tph of material."

Kiverco launches new KS520 model with first installation at NWH Group

Northern Ireland-based Kiverco, renowned globally for designing and manufacturing robust recycling plants, proudly announces the launch of its latest model, the KS520. The first of this new model has been installed in Newcastle for NWH Group.

Building on the success of the KS514 model, Kiverco developed the KS520 in direct response to customer feedback. The new model features a larger screen, providing greater operational capacity and increased efficiency. This enhancement will enable NWH Group to divert more waste from landfill and recover more valuable materials, boosting their profitability.

The new plant underscores Kiverco's commitment to innovation and sustainability. It incorporates modular technology, which allows The NWH Group to adapt to varying waste materials and market demands.

The NWH Group, one of the UK's leading recycling and waste management businesses, operates 10 sites across Scotland and North East England. Kiverco prides itself on working with innovative waste management companies that want to deliver the best recycling solutions in the industry. This family-owned business shares many values with Kiverco, particularly a dedication to environmental sustainability.

Before this recent investment, NWH Group had been operating a used Kiverco plant. Impressed with its strength and purity levels, NWH decided to invest in a new Kiverco KS520 plant, an all-in-one recycling solution that keeps operations in one place for better efficiency.

The Group's decision to partner with Kiverco demonstrates its unwavering commitment to reshaping the recycling sector, particularly in Northern England.

Marcus McAlinden, Sales Manager at Kiverco, stated: "We are delighted to collaborate with NWH Group on this project. Their commitment to driving positive change in the industry aligns perfectly with Kiverco's mission to deliver innovative and sustainable recycling solutions. Our plants are the world's toughest and built to last - a critical factor in today's world. NWH Group's initial experience with a used Kiverco plant gave them the confidence to use Kiverco for their new project."

Craig Williams from NWH Group added: "Kiverco's modular plant design offers us the flexibility to adapt to our plant configuration in line with changing business operations. This ensures we can remain responsive to market demands while maintaining high purity and throughput levels."

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Standing out from the competition

Tesab 700ie jaw crusher

Introducing the impressive Tesab 700ie jaw crusher, as presented by Agg-Pro's Sales Manager, **JOHN MCARDLE**

Can you tell us a bit about Tesab Engineering?

Tesab Engineering, known for its three decades of experience in aggregate crushing solutions, has introduced a revolutionary electric crushing option with the 700ie Fully-Electric Jaw Crusher.

Their expertise in manufacturing robust crushers is widely recognised. Over time, Tesab Engineering has expanded its offerings to include screeners and Trackstack bulk-handling systems, providing customers with a complete solution for diverse applications.

The Tesab 700ie fits seamlessly into this line-up, guaranteeing customers a comprehensive solution for their crushing requirements.

Can you introduce us to the 700ie?

Expanding upon the established 700i model, the 700ie electric jaw crusher is set to change the crushing machinery industry.

It improves fuel efficiency and cost-effectiveness while preserving the high throughput capacity of its diesel-powered version, achieving an output of over 350 tonnes per hour.

What are the key features of the 700ie?

The 700ie features a large hopper and feeder system with a 2-degree decline to improve the flow of material, an 1100mm x 700mm crushing chamber, and a CAT C7.1 300Hp engine.

Furthermore, the 700ie comes with a 1,200mm discharge conveyor featuring soft-start protection for smooth material handling and optimal efficiency. It also includes an auto-unblock reverse jaw that allows for swift and safe clearance of material in case of blockages, minimising production downtime.

Other key features include:

- *Reverse crusher operation;*
- *Custom panel enclosure equipped with integrated air conditioning;*
- *User-friendly 10-inch display control panel;*
- *Mobile app and remote access ensure that operators have precise control over the crusher's functions, making it easier to manage and optimise the crushing process.*

What makes the 700ie stand out from competitors' machines?

In a time where escalating fuel and energy expenses are becoming a primary concern, crusher proprietors and operators are giving greater importance to fuel usage and long-term operational expenditures.

Innovative machines like the Tesab 700ie are becoming more popular as they provide a solution to decrease these expenses while maintaining high productivity and efficiency. The 700ie produces the same output as its diesel equivalent, using less than 20 litres of fuel per hour, or it can operate from an industrial mains supply, reducing both fuel usage and emissions.

It is up to 33% more fuel-efficient compared to traditional crushers, cutting operating costs by up to 70%. The crusher can be powered by mains electricity, reflecting the industry's increasing emphasis on sustainability and energy efficiency.

The 700ie's remarkable fuel efficiency is supported by an efficient all-electric power system and a three-year warranty on the main electric components. With a capacity of 350tph in various applications such as quarrying and recycling, customers have reported fuel savings of 10 litres per hour using the onboard generator, making it an appealing option for those aiming to optimise their operational costs.

Tesab machines are "Engineered for Power. Built to Last."
If you want to introduce the 700ie's dual-power crushing capabilities to your operation, contact us today at **sales@agg-pro.com** or call **01827 280 139**

AGG-PRO

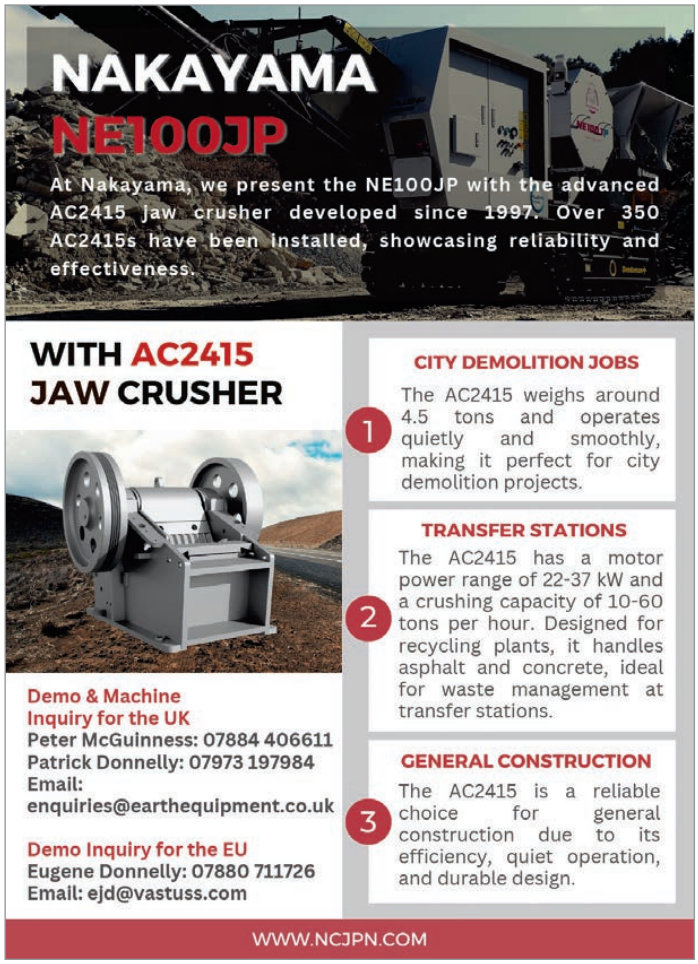
Komatsu unveils trio of electric mini excavators

Three new electric-powered mini excavators, a PC20E, PC26E, and PC33E, have gone on sale in Ireland following their debut at Intermat 2024.

Said by Komatsu distributor in Ireland, McHale Plant Sales, to offer 'zero emissions operation without compromising on performance', all three models offer a range of features that include use indoors and in other emissions-sensitive areas thanks to their exhaust-free, battery power operation.

According to their sales director, Denis McGrath: "Other benefits that their high torque and instant power delivery make possible are a powerful performance and reduced noise pollution on the job site."

Equipped with high-capacity batteries, a single charge provides sufficient runtime for a working day. Because electric motors require less maintenance than a diesel version, lower operating costs for customers are an additional benefit. An onboard charger is available for PC20E and PC26E models. With new cab specifications, models have an operating weight designed to meet European requirements for trailer transportability.



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

Permit me to explain.....

I was recently asked a question about the regulation of mobile crushing plant. The operator was understandably confused by the different permit and I consider that he may not be alone, so permit me to explain....

Depending on the materials being crushed and where the crusher is used will impact on the type of permit(s) required.

Options are:

- A **site-based environmental permit** from the EA, NRW or SEPA, which is typically required for fixed installations with stationary waste processing activities.
- A **deployment under a mobile plant permit** from the EA, NRW or SEPA, which allows operators to move and use their machinery across various sites on a temporary basis.
- A **Part B mobile plant permit** from the Local Authority, which covers specific operations, including mobile plants, under a different regulatory framework.

So, how do you determine which is right for you? Let's look at an example. Operator X has a site-based permit and crushes waste in his mobile crushing plant. He also has a Part B Mobile Plant Permit from the Local Authority for that particular crusher. When he is not using the crusher, he hires it out to other operators; some of these operators have site-based permits, and others don't. Who is the regulator in these scenarios?

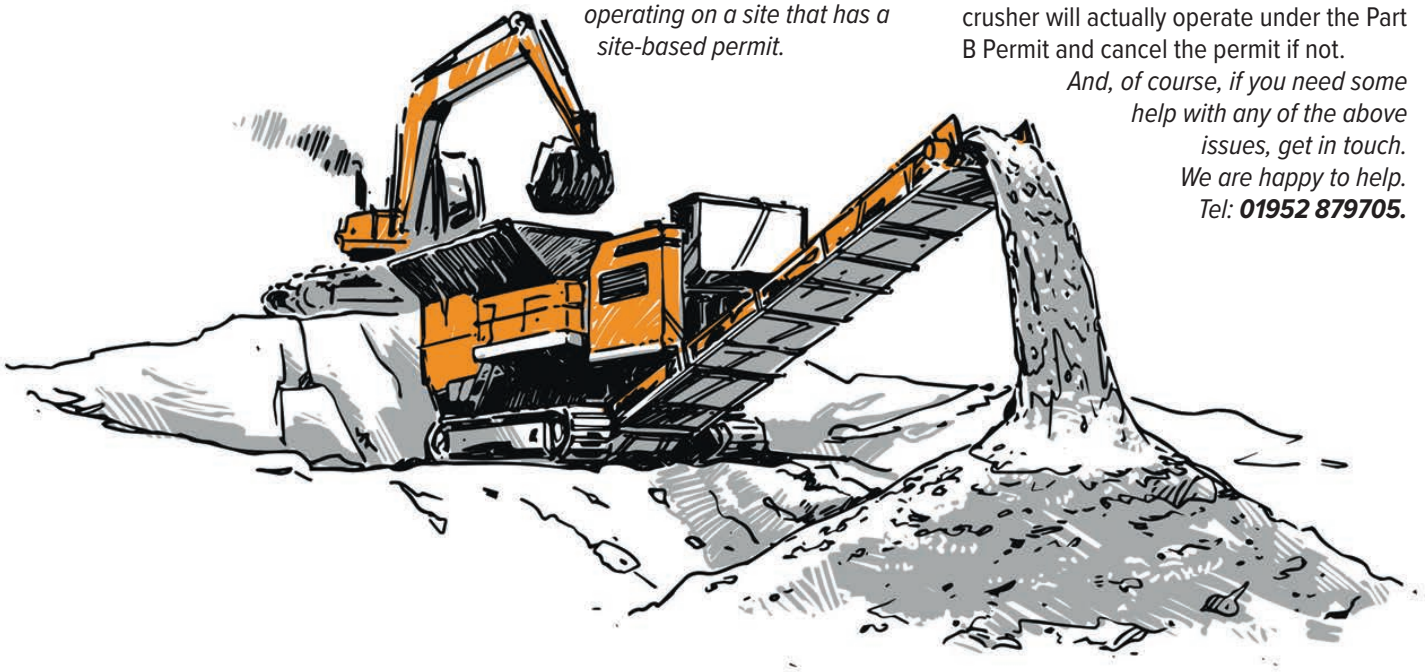
This was the subject of a court case back in 2017 when an operator was being prosecuted by both the Local Authority and the EA for the same issue. A case of dual regulation! The court commented in the judgement on the 'tortuous' complexity of the regulations back then (nothing has changed since). However, the ruling did provide clarification on the fact there can only be **one** environmental regulator in terms of the operation of the crusher in any one instance.

So the regulator will be:

- *The EA, NRW, or SEPA when operating on a site that has a site-based permit.*
- *The crusher will be operating under the site-based permit when it is on the permitted site, even if it has a Part B Mobile Plant Permit.*
- *The EA, NRW or SEPA when operating on a site with a deployment notice issued under a mobile plant permit, even if it has a Part B Mobile Plant Permit.*
- *The Local Authority, when operating on a site without a site-based permit, the crusher will be operating under that Part B Mobile Plan Permit.*

So, returning to Operator X, he would **not** need a Part B Mobile Plant Permit from the Local Authority if he did **not** hire out his crusher. I wonder how many operators with mobile crushing plant operate them solely on permitted sites but also have a Part B permit from their Local Authority. If you think I am talking about you - then stop giving your hard-earned money to the Local Authority unnecessarily. Determine if you ever have a situation where your crusher will actually operate under the Part B Permit and cancel the permit if not.

And, of course, if you need some help with any of the above issues, get in touch. We are happy to help. Tel: ***01952 879705.***



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2020 Doosan DL280-5
Loading Shovel,
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2020 Doosan DL250-5
Loading Shovel

2021 Doosan DL250-5
Loading Shovel,
Toe-Tip Bucket

2018 Caterpilar 930M
High Lift Loading Shovel,
Toe-Tip Bucket

2022 Bobcat TL43.80HF
Agri Telehandler,
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2020 Bobcat TL43.80HF
Waste Expert
Telehandler

2016 & 2018 JCB
Loadall 541-70
Telehandler
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2019 JCB Teletruk 35D
4x4 Wastemaster
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2017 Jungheinrich
DFG 430S
Forklift, Container Spec.,
Triple Mast

2016 Jungheinrich
DFG 430S
Forklift,
Double Mast

2020 Still RC42-50
Forklift Truck

Mecalac TA9
Straight Tip
Dumper

2017 & 2018 Atlas 350MH
Blue Scrap Handler
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2020 Atlas 270MH
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Generator for Magnet

2021 Liebherr LH40
Material Handler
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2017 Sany SY215C
Material Handler

2021 & 2022 XCMG
XG1012AC
8m Scissor Lift
Choice of 2

2020 Genie S85 XC
Access Platform

2019 Sany SY135C
Tracked Excavator

2017 JCB Hydradig 110W
Wheeled Excavator,
c/w selector grab

2019 Doosan DX85
Tracked Excavator

2022 Bobcat E88
Tracked Excavator
New & Unused

2018 Bobcat E17Z
Mini Digger

2022 Bobcat E10E
Electric Micro Digger
New & Unused
Electric

2021 Promove CP1510
Rotating Pulveriser
Ex Demo

2023 Promove SC3200
Rotating Scrap Shear
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2023 Promove SC2200
Rotating Scrap Shear
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2018 Mecalac MBR71
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2021 Caterpillar 33kVa
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Green cement production is scaling up - and it could cut the carbon footprint of construction

JAMIE GOGGINS

Professor of Civil Engineering, College of Science and Engineering, University of Galway

A new first-ot-its-kind green cement plant in Redding, California, has 70% lower emissions than conventional cement production. *Credit: Fortera*

Aside from water, concrete is the most used material in the world, with about 14 billion cubic metres being used every year. Of that, 40% is used to build places for people to live.

If you were to pour that amount of concrete to make a paving slab ten centimetres thick, it would cover all of England and about half of Wales. In the US, the same amount would cover the state of New York.

But concrete production releases carbon dioxide (CO^2), one of the greenhouse gases that drives climate change. About 90% of emissions associated with concrete come from the production of Portland cement - this fine grey powder, the part that binds concrete ingredients together, resembles stone from the Isle of Portland, Dorset. Portland cement accounts for 7%-8% of the world's direct CO^2 emissions.

Production of a more sustainable and cost-effective low-carbon cement, often nicknamed "green" cement, is scaling up. A new plant next to an existing cement plant in Redding, California, will produce about 15,000 tonnes of low-carbon cement every year. This could be used to make about 50,000 cubic metres of concrete, which is less than 0.0004% of the world's concrete production.

At Redding, materials technology company Fortera turns CO^2 captured during conventional cement production into ready-to-use green cement, a form of calcium carbonate. According to Fortera, this could reduce cement's carbon emissions by 70% tonne-for-tonne.

A concrete issue

People have used concrete for over 2,000 years, blending gravel, sand, cement, water and sometimes synthetic chemicals. It creates everything from paths and bridges to buildings and pipes.

Currently, the EU uses more than two tonnes of concrete per person per year - 325kg of cement. That's equivalent to the amount of food the average European eats in five months.

Cement production is an energy-intensive process, and greenhouse gas emissions are difficult to reduce. When limestone is heated in a kiln, often fuelled by coal, nearly half that limestone is lost as CO^2 emissions.

This happens because limestone (calcium carbonate) breaks down in heat to form clinker, a mix of calcium oxide and CO^2. For every tonne of ordinary Portland cement made, 0.6-0.9 tonnes of CO^2 are released into the atmosphere.

Many industries rely on this material. The main challenge facing the cement industry is reducing CO^2 emissions while meeting global demand.

So, in addition to developing new technologies, low-carbon cement production must be established globally to meet the infrastructural needs of economically developing nations.

Low-carbon alternatives

Other ways to reduce concrete's carbon footprint include partially replacing Portland cement with fly ash (a by-product from burning coal in power plants) or slag (a by-product from steel production).

However, the sources of these materials will be reduced as other industries decarbonise. Over time, less iron ore will be used to produce steel as more steel is made from recycling existing steel, so there'll be less available slag.

Current strategies for decarbonising cement and concrete rely heavily on carbon capture and storage technology to capture unavoidable process emissions from cement plants.

So low-carbon cement production doesn't have to involve replacing every cement production plant. Low-carbon cement facilities can be retrofitted to capture CO^2 emissions from conventional cement manufacturing. Plants can also use that captured CO^2 within the cement they produce or as a product for the food and chemical industries.

In Norway, Heidelberg Materials is building an industrial-scale carbon capture and storage plant at a cement facility that could capture and store an estimated 400,000 tonnes of CO^2 per year - that's half the existing plant's emissions.

Fortera is the only company directly capturing carbon emissions from cement production to make a pure, low-carbon cement binder like this. *Credit: Fortera*

However, this technology has a high investment cost for cement producers. Captured CO^2 can be stored underground, but this requires specific geological characteristics not guaranteed at cement production sites.

The EU's emissions trading system regulates greenhouse gas emissions in the cement sector. It was established to make polluters pay for their emissions, reduce emissions and generate revenues to finance the green transition.

According to the International Energy Agency, this legislation has not significantly reduced carbon emissions in the cement sector over the past decade, mainly due to free emissions allowances granted to cement manufacturers.

Despite sustained healthy profits in the cement industry, there hasn't been enough investment in the widespread uptake of cleaner technologies and the sustainable use of materials. More significant financial incentives could help, such as companies having to pay for emissions associated with the production of cement.

As a design engineer, I appreciate that material choice and good design play a major role in the sustainability credentials of construction. Before low-carbon cement technology becomes more widespread, engineers, designers and builders can use construction materials more efficiently and choose products with lower embodied carbon - carbon emissions released during the life cycle of building materials, from extraction to disposal.

This approach could save 20% in embodied emissions associated with new building design.

Some governments could move towards only permitting the use of low-carbon cement. In Ireland, the Climate Action Plan 2024 requires that low-carbon construction methods and cement be specified for government-procured or government-supported construction projects.

Could all cement in the future be low-carbon or "green"? How "low-carbon" is defined will play an essential part in translating this into practice in the industry.

Retrofitting technology to large-scale existing cement production plants will prove that producing low-carbon cement efficiently at scale is technically possible. With the right incentives in place by governments and the construction sector, almost all cement produced worldwide could be low-carbon.

This article first appeared at www.theconversation.com

MINORE™ introduces innovative mineral solutions to protect valuable resources

MINORE™ is a specialist in sustainable mineral solutions that has expanded its portfolio with a range of innovations aimed at helping organisations safeguard valuable resources, promote biodiversity, and support green construction.

Operating in the rapidly growing sustainable material management sector, MINORE™ focuses on three main areas: mining existing mineral deposits using sustainable techniques for use in cement, brick and green landscapes; repurposing discarded minerals into new product formulations; and developing customised biodiversity solutions.

Established in 2012, MINORE™ has its origins in a family business involved in mining and quarrying dating back to the 1950s. The company utilises this unique environment to produce tailor-made mineral and soil formulations in an old, disused Victorian brickworks and ash pit in West Yorkshire. Its processes involve using existing mineral deposits, carefully selected discarded materials from waste, construction, and demolition projects, and collaborating with product formulators. Ultimately, MINORE™ aims to restore its brownfield site to natural habitat and open space while contributing to biodiversity net gain projects.

Biodiversity solutions

Over recent years, MINORE™ has undertaken extensive research and development into manufacturing and blending minerals for various applications. Its bespoke solutions are designed to improve soil preservation, water management solutions, carbon capture, and support biodiversity projects for regenerative agriculture, horticulture, and green construction sectors, amongst others. MINORE's approach is guided by new strategies and legislation around preserving the natural environment and resources, including Biodiversity Net Gain Regulations introduced this year.

Additionally, it offers opportunities for local developers to purchase biodiversity net gain habitat units within the Wakefield and South Elmsall area as part of its brownfield restoration project. This will transform an area identified under the Biodiversity Metric as poor condition medium distinctiveness to good condition, turning an old landfill site into an ecosystem where wildflowers and insects will thrive.

Mineral repurposing

MINORE™ mine, recycle and manufacture sustainable mineral solutions for green construction products, industrial and consumer markets. Its extensive portfolio includes recycled soils, stony cohesive fill material, pipe bedding and primary clay and ash products.

Speciality minerals

Versatile clay minerals have been tested and shown to enhance performance for a wide range of industrial uses, including adhesives, resins, cosmetics and mixed recycled plastic composites. Product formulations manufactured by MINORE™ also have benefits as an antibiotic-free animal feed mycotoxin binder, low carbon cement supplement and in agrochemicals and suspension fertilisers.

In loving memory of Jeremy Freeth, a highly esteemed figure in the industry

SANDRA DICK chats with Rosie Freeth, who shares insights on her father's career and discusses the future of the business as it carries on his legacy.

At Wiltshire-based Thamesdown Recycling, 2024 was to be an important year of reflection, celebration and evolution. Founded 40 years ago by Jeremy Freeth, the business had reached a pivotal point.

He had set up solo at just 21, collecting glass with a single lorry. Using his blend of hard work, smart business sense, a 'seize the moment' mentality and genial nature, he'd built a successful business with friends across the sector.

The 40th anniversary year was to be a time to look back on successes and look towards the next generation: his two daughters, Rosie and Georgie, were now firmly established in the business, and Jeremy was planning to step back.

Succession plans and preparations were underway for Thamesdown to transition to a limited company. Jeremy, 61, was looking forward to time to enjoy his beloved rugby and his vegetable patch.

Tragically, it was not to be.

Although devastated by their father's unexpected death in April, Jeremy's daughters have risen to the challenge of running the business and dealing with the legal complexities that come with such a sudden loss.

Alongside the day-to-day tasks of just keeping going, there has been a flood of kind calls and messages of sympathy that have comforted them by knowing how well-respected their father was.

His death, the result of a stroke, has been felt far beyond the Wiltshire firm's boundaries.

"He was always very focused on the business, and he was very much part of the industry," reflects Rosie, who, with sister Georgie, find themselves running the business much sooner than they ever thought and without the guiding support of their dad in the background.

"Dad was involved with the Independent Waste Paper Processors Association and Recycling Association. He knew a lot of people right across the sector and got on well with everyone.

"Many people tell us that they regarded him as a real gentleman.

"He was very witty and caring. Always up for a laugh, a bit of a practical joker.

"There was never a dull moment when he was around."

He was also one of the modern recycling sector's pioneers, with a built-in knack for spotting an opportunity and the 'why not?' spirit to knock on doors that most would not even bother to try.

He was 16 and straight out of school when he started working for his father, Richard Freeth, at the waste paper business he'd set up on what had been his great-great-grandfather's dairy farm.

Jeremy Freeth

After five years, Jeremy spotted an opportunity to launch his own business, Thamesdown Glass. He first set up bottle banks around Swindon and then collected glass from clubs, pubs and councils across Wiltshire, Oxfordshire, Somerset and Gloucestershire.

"He wanted to do his own thing, and he was a one-man band," says Rosie. "But he also was keen to expand."

Soon, one business's misfortune caught his eye – and set him on a new course.

"He heard of a massive recall for Perrier water," she continues. "Dad picked up one of the bottles from one of the glass boxes he'd collected. There was a telephone number printed on the side for Perrier.

"He called it up and said: 'Is there anything I can do to help with the destruction of the bottles?'."

The early 1990s recall made headline news around the world: abnormal traces of benzine had been found in batches of the French mineral water, leading to the recall of 70 million bottles.

Given the magnitude of the crisis and the uproar surrounding Perrier at the time, it's a miracle anyone answered the phone.

"Dad later said he never thought he'd get the job. He had quite a thick Wiltshire accent, and they probably thought: 'Who the hell is this bloke phoning us up wanting

Jeremy Freeth pictured with daughters, Rosie Freeth and Georgie Reeves

destruction work?," says Rosie.

"But he ended up getting the Perrier job.

"There were 17 lorries a day coming in, and I remember dad saying: 'What have I done? How will I ever be able to do this?

"We put out adverts in papers to get people in to help.

"It was a case of, 'Can you throw bottles in a bay? Right then, you're hired!

"The business literally boomed from there."

Starting with mineral water, the business soon expanded to handle all manner of liquid and semi-liquid waste products and their packing: from alcohol and soft drinks to yoghurts and jams, sent for destruction for anything from having the wrong label to contamination.

"We built a destruction line," adds Rosie. "Once the products have been crushed, the packaging is separated, and the fluids are stored in tanks and then forwarded to anaerobic digestion plants to produce energy from the waste."

The packing, meanwhile, is recovered and baled, ready to be transported onwards for recycling.

Demand soon arrived from around the UK for the firm's destruction services, and Jeremy was not content to sit back.

With the business name changed to Thamesdown Recycling, he developed the other thread of the business: collecting mixed recyclable materials, including cans, paper, plastic bottles, film grades and Tetra Pak.

In 2012, a new relationship was forged with Ubico, the local authority-owned firm involving Cotswold District Council and others, that saw their kerbside dry mixed recyclables handled by Thamesdown Recycling.

It worked so well that the contract was re-awarded in 2019, with Thamesdown processing materials from kerbside collections, including glass, plastic, tins, paper, card, small electrical items, textiles and food waste.

Another long relationship is with Novelis Recycling, which specialises in aluminium and recycling drink cans.

While the destruction side of the business remains a significant feature at the site, destruction work now spans drinks manufacturers, logistics companies, warehouses, food manufacturers and government agencies.

Rosie joined the business nine years ago, studying business management at an agricultural college and working in other companies.

Supporting good causes

Sister Georgie has been at Thamesdown for 12 years after first completing her photography studies and then exploring other sectors.

Rosie recalls both having their first taste of the business at the weighbridge, where dad sent them to learn the basics of what came and went through the doors.

"Dad used to say: 'I don't want you to finish university and come straight here to work, experience the world, and if you want to go on a different path and not be involved, then that is fine'," says Rosie.

Both realised their hearts lay with the family firm: Georgie focuses on accounts and software, and Rosie focuses on developing customer relations and sales.

They were all discussing the business's new chapter as a limited company, with them as directors and him enjoying precious time off when tragedy struck.

More than 300 people attended Jeremy's funeral, another source of comfort for his family.

Meanwhile, the sisters are pledging to continue his work.

When things settle, there'll be new kit to invest in and a plan for an array of solar panels so the business can generate its own energy.

And Thamesdown will continue to support his favourite good causes, including Prospect Hospice and the cancer charity Macmillan.

"You hear of family businesses being taken over by huge corporate companies, and dad didn't want that to happen; he didn't want to lose our values as a family-run business," adds Rosie.

"We have a lot of people who have worked here for years, and their sons have joined the business too.

"It has the real family feel in the whole yard, and dad wanted it to be like that."

Although a sad time, it's also been one of enormous pride in Jeremy's achievements and the impact he made on the sector.

"It has been brilliant having a strong team around us at this time," adds Rosie.

"We just want to make him proud."

Used machines: Exploring new avenues in pipe production

They are encountered more often than you might think and are essential in many branches of industry: tubes. How today's production has been optimised, which areas of application pipes are used in and how used machines can be a sensible investment for more sustainable production.

Regardless of the size, quality is always at the forefront of pipe production

The history of pipe production is closely linked to the Industrial Revolution and the rise of steam engines. These machines revolutionised production in many areas but placed new demands on material durability and manufacturing techniques. A fundamental problem was the unreliability of the pipes commonly used at the time, which were manufactured from pressed sheet metal with seams welded together. Under the high pressure of the steam flowing through them, these seams tended to burst, jeopardising the pipes and the entire machine.

The Mannesmann brothers brought about a decisive turning point with their innovation in the 1880s: They developed a process for manufacturing seamless tubes. Their approach consisted of heating steel rods and then pressing and turning them through a combination of Rollers and a mandrel, creating a hole in the centre and thus forming a seamless tube. For pipes with a larger circumference, the pilger cutting process was developed. The surface treatment on the inside and outside provided the necessary smoothness and quality.

These innovative methods revolutionised pipe production. They not only improved the safety and performance of the pipes themselves but also the machines and systems in which they were used. Thus, The Mannesmann brothers laid the foundation for modern pipe production, which is based on principles that they played a decisive role in shaping.

With Used machinery, companies can upgrade their own production sustainably and on a low budget. *Credit: Surplex*

Pipes in use

Pipes have become an integral part of our modern infrastructure. They are used in numerous areas essential for everyday life and industry. The versatility and adaptability of pipes allow them to be used in a wide variety of contexts:

Water supply and wastewater disposal: They form the backbone of the urban infrastructure by supplying drinking water and safely discharging wastewater.

Energy supply: In the gas and oil industry, pipes are used to transport fuels over long distances, from extraction sites to consumers.

Construction: They contribute to the stability of buildings and are used for

aesthetic design as well as for Heating Apparatus and cooling systems.

Industrial applications: In the automotive and mechanical engineering industries, tubes are essential for conducting liquids and gases and as structural components.

Technology: They are used in electronics for specialised applications such as cooling components.

Renewable energies: Pipes are used in geothermal and biogas plants to utilise natural resources efficiently.

The versatility and adaptability of pipes allow them to fulfil critical functions in almost every aspect of daily life and industry, from basic infrastructure to advanced technological applications.

Future-orientated investment:
Used machinery in pipe production

The future of pipe production holds many challenges, including increasing demands for efficiency, sustainability and integrating advanced technologies. In this dynamic environment, purchasing used machinery for pipe production offers a strategic opportunity to meet these challenges. Used machinery is not only cost-efficient but also allows companies to flexibly adapt and expand their production capacities without investing in expensive new equipment. Used machinery can also help to conserve resources and improve the sustainability of production processes by utilising existing resources more effectively. This pragmatic approach allows companies to adapt quickly to changing market conditions and, at the same time, make a contribution to environmentally conscious behaviour.

The industrial auction house specialises in the trade of used machinery. Visit ***www.surplex.com/en*** *to check out upcoming auctions.*

The next government should prioritise waste policies

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

I was going to cover environmental policy promises in the various manifestos, but given the bookies predicting a Labour majority at odds of 1/40 and the overall lack of waste-related policy, I thought that I would have a look at the five main parties and come up with some alternatives of my own for discussion. This is a hard task when each party picks a completely different subject within the waste sphere.

The Conservatives are continuing with their policy of blocking new waste-to-energy plants despite the continuing export of waste to other countries for the same purpose. Why not be self-sufficient and generate energy rather than giving it to someone else to do the same? They also propose an increase in fines for fly-tipping rather than a wholesale change in the regulatory approach, which is what is needed. If you fly-tip and get caught, you lose your vehicle!

The Lib Dems want to end the export of plastic waste by 2030, which would support an increase in processing capacity in the UK, but is that achievable in just over five years when it takes so long to get planning consent and permits for new sites? Should the government take a percentage of Packaging Recycling Note (PRN) revenue and use it to speed up the permitting process? Taking some revenue from Packaging Export Recovery Notes (PeRNs) wouldn't be a bad idea to provide an incentive to recycle domestically.

Labour is committed to reducing waste by moving to a circular economy, which doesn't give me much to go on. Still, it effectively promotes the waste hierarchy (Prevention first, then reuse, recycling and recovery with disposal last). They do want to increase wind and solar power generation, which I would part fund with landfill tax revenue and increase the amount of landfill tax that can be put towards community projects.

The Greens want manufacturers to offer 10-year warranties on white goods to encourage repair and reuse and introduce a "comprehensive right to repair" to eliminate built-in obsolescence, which would reduce waste. Would a deposit return scheme for recovery work, i.e., getting a small return when sending white goods for repair rather than scrapping them? By the time they are in a householder's skip, they are beyond reuse.

Reform - not much mention of waste in their manifesto. They want to fast-track new housing on brownfield sites, which makes them late to the table as brownfield sites have been favoured in policy for some time. Building houses near waste sites and other "bad neighbour" land uses is often a recipe for disaster (especially when applying for a new permit or a variation). I would prefer to ring-fence key industrial land for continued industrial development and bring back the exemption for landfill tax on heavily contaminated industrial sites.

The views above are my own, as always. One thing we can agree on is that no one from the aforementioned parties can agree on environmental and waste policy. So, whoever gets in, let's hope they put waste and recycling in a prominent position, given their importance to society and the economy.

*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***

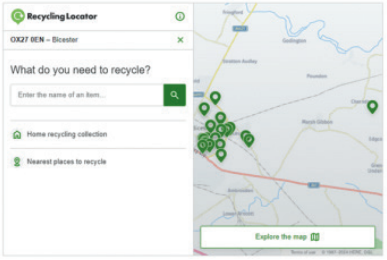
GOT A QUESTION **ASK THE EXPERTS**

Introducing the improved Recycling Locator by WRAP

The Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) has introduced a new Recycling Locator, a web application that can be added to the websites of local authorities and WRAP's voluntary agreement partners. This tool allows users to easily find information on where to recycle specific waste materials in their area.

Initially launched in 2015, the upgraded Recycling Locator now has a more user-friendly design and improved functionality, making it easier for people to find the information they need. The new widget is optimised for all screen sizes, ensuring accessibility for a wide range of users.

Key improvements include a clearer presentation of what can be recycled at home based on a user's postcode, behaviour change nudges, links to additional resources, and hints and tips sections. The tool also provides opportunities for promoting campaigns, such as Recycle Week.



WRAP has been working to enhance the Recycling Locator's structure, fix data issues, and implement processes to maintain data quality. The charity has soft-launched the tool on its **RecycleNow.com** website and will begin transitioning current users to the new version this month.

Craig Stephens, Senior Campaign Manager at Recycle Now, said: "The Recycling Locator is a highly popular resource that thousands of people use every month. We are thrilled to update the design, improve its functionalities, and relaunch it in time for summer. Now, wherever you are in the UK, you have the latest recycling information at your fingertips."

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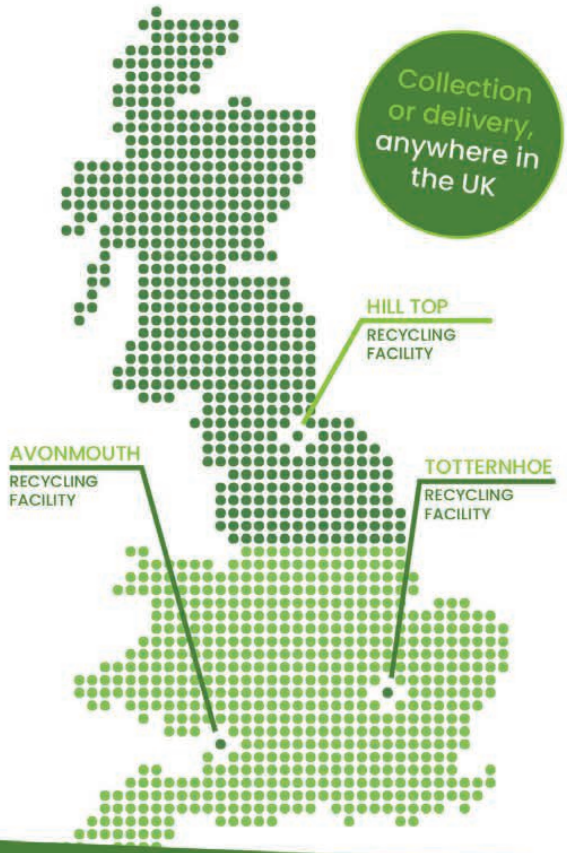

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Making recycling products for over 25 years

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 5 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

Election manifestos - do any of them care about waste?

I was delighted to be invited to participate in a panel session at the letsrecycle conference in London in early June. The session, which included a very knowledgeable panel, discussed (of course) this month's general election and our thoughts on what the new government should focus on.

There was a general feeling that waste is quite low on most MPs' agendas (apart from that time we had Rory Stewart, who was almost as interested as we all are about waste but didn't last long). This is odd as it's a big link to climate change, which most governments (apart from the US Republicans) seem to love talking about as it's an election winner.

However, trying to be hopeful and think that *'Things Can Only Get Better,'* our views were that the next government ought not to immediately deal with new issues but first focus on existing issues.

Maybe start with the *Waste and Resources Strategy.* Does anyone remember 2018, when this first came out? And oh, look, we're now in 2024.....

I think there is nothing wrong with powering ahead with new ideas and setting ambitious targets and aims for the waste industry - you should always aim high and think forward. Still, I agree there are existing issues that need to be focused on.

Glacially slow permitting timescales, which I just don't understand, are holding up waste and resources businesses and the economy. Barriers to end of waste and the Circular Economy have been bubbling for a few years, and in my view, the government could and should make more headway.

These are existing problems that we in the industry keep highlighting to the Government at any opportunity (CIWM and I wrote a letter to Rishi when I was President expressing our concerns about EPR, but strangely, we didn't seem to get a reply. I imagine it just got lost in the post). So, being a glass half full here's hoping Kier, sorry, whichever Prime Minister we have next will put waste and resources at the top of their agenda.

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**

Record number of cans recycled in UK during 2023

The UK set a new record in 2023 by recycling 10.7 billion cans, equivalent to the distance to the moon and back if laid end to end.

Alupro, the Aluminium Packaging Recycling Organisation, and Every Can Counts, Alupro's not-for-profit communications programme aimed at driving drink can recycling, revealed these impressive statistics after analysing Environment Agency data.

They found that over 162,000 tonnes of aluminium packaging were recycled in 2023 through various recycling methods, marking a 13% increase from the previous year and a 4% rise from the 2021 record. Specifically, 81% of aluminium drink cans were recycled in 2023.

Every Can Counts also collected and recycled over 64,000 drink cans at events and festivals across the country last summer and plans to continue this initiative to achieve a 100% recycling rate for drink cans in the UK.

Chris Latham-Warde, Programme Manager for Every Can Counts, emphasised the positive impact of individual efforts in the recycling process. He highlighted that responsible disposal of empty drink cans by the public inspires progress and improves recycling rates, both at home and on the go.

Latham-Warde also underlined the recyclability of aluminium without any loss of quality, with a brand-new can available for sale in just 60 days after recycling.

Every Can Counts is a collaborative effort among drink can manufacturers, fillers, and the wider recycling industry. It aims to achieve a 100% recycling rate for drink cans and offers free recycling support to businesses and organisations throughout the UK.

Strategic Partnership for Chain & Conveyor and Hoverdale

Chain & Conveyor Limited, specialists in conveyor chains and sprockets, has partnered with Hoverdale UK Limited, a global provider of conveyor system equipment and on-site plant engineering services, to combine engineering team capabilities and global stock holding capacity.

The collaboration will allow both organisations to supply combined site engineering teams to facilitate the installation and servicing of all customer assets. This further complements the Chain & Conveyor vast stock holding of parts and ancillary components, which will now be increased to all Hoverdale locations nationally and internationally.

Neil Stott, Managing Director of Chain and Conveyor Limited, said: "We are pleased to have entered into this new partnership. We have a wealth of practical and technical experience in the use and application of Conveyor chains and ancillary equipment in many industries. Supported by a large stock of special and standard imperial and metric chains, the additional site service and support of Hoverdale is good news for our customers."

Matthew Beverley, Chairman of Hoverdale UK Limited, said: "We are delighted to be entering into this partnership. We have been providing services to the Bulk Handling industry for over 50 years, and many of our customers need chain conveyors. Being able to work together in this capacity to meet all of their needs is great news for our customers and employees alike, and we look forward to nurturing a fruitful and mutually beneficial partnership."

www.chainandconveyor.com
T: ***01565 830 747***
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Six-figure investment into new tech to fuel sustainable journey

Derbyshire-based Johnsons Aggregates, a leading supplier of aggregates, has recently made a significant investment to further its carbon reduction efforts.

With support from BGF, the company has committed £750,000 to install state-of-the-art PV panels at its two main processing sites. This new technology is anticipated to yield around 700 kWh of energy annually, resulting in more than 200 tons of carbon emissions savings each year and enabling periods of energy self-sufficiency.

Johnsons Aggregates specialises in recycling incinerator bottom ash (IBA), a process that reduces waste sent to landfill. By extracting metals from the IBA and converting the remaining material into high-quality aggregate for the construction industry, the company significantly extends the lifespan of valuable resources.

Lewis Johnson, CEO of Johnsons Aggregates and Recycling, emphasised the company's commitment to sustainability, stating: "The waste sector faces significant challenges in reducing carbon emissions. We are proud to lead the way with these substantial investments, which are vital to our ambitious ESG strategy. It's imperative for the industry to embrace substantial innovation and improvement as we strive towards achieving net zero carbon emissions."

This forward-looking investment underscores Johnsons Aggregates' dedication to sustainability and emphasises the pivotal role of innovation in reaching environmental objectives.

Biffa to acquire Renewi's UK municipal business

Biffa has successfully finalised the acquisition of Renewi's municipal business in the UK. This strategic move includes procuring five long-term residual waste treatment contracts for local government customers in England and Scotland.

In 2022, these contracts effectively managed 930,000 tonnes of UK household waste, significantly reducing waste sent to landfill while recovering valuable energy and raw materials.

This acquisition will see approximately 550 dedicated Renewi staff transferring to Biffa.

The contracts cover services for Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham Waste Partnership, Cumbria County Council, Wakefield Council, East London Waste Authority, and Argyll and Bute Council.

Michael Topham, the Chief Executive Officer of Biffa, expressed his confidence in the acquisition, stating: "Our combined expertise will position us well for the future as we seek to help local governments deliver their net zero targets."

MBA Polymers to recycle ELV car bumpers

MBA Polymers UK, a leading plastic recycling company, has launched a specialised processing line for recycling car bumpers from end-of-life vehicles (ELVs). This development will advance the company's efforts to establish a fully circular economy for car bumpers in the UK.

The new facility is also expected to assist car manufacturers in meeting proposed amendments to the ELV directive in both the EU and the UK, which suggests that at least 25% of plastics in a car must be made from post-consumer plastics.

Located in Wimblington, near Cambridge, the dedicated line will receive supplies from MBA Polymers' increasing number of collection sites and access feedstock from the UK's leading ELV recycler, EMR. This will ensure a consistent and high-quality supply of recycled resins for producing high-impact polypropylene and filled polypropylene.

The innovative technology and reliable performance of MBA Polymers UK's recycled plastics have led some of the largest automotive manufacturers to adopt the firm's sustainable materials in their new vehicles. Through the expansion of car bumper recycling, MBA Polymers UK aims to significantly reduce the more than 900,000 tonnes of plastic from cars that currently end up in landfill or are incinerated in the UK and EU each year.

In contrast, the sustainable materials provided by MBA Polymers UK result in carbon savings of between 75% and 86%, making them the first recycled plastics to carry the Carbon Trust's Low CO^2 label.

Paul Mayhew, General Manager at MBA Polymers UK, remarked: "As the automotive industry confronts the challenge of meeting recycling targets mandated by the upcoming revision to the EU's ELV Directive, sourcing truly sustainable recycled plastics is becoming increasingly crucial.

"The opening of this new dedicated line at our facility in Wimblington will enable MBA Polymers UK to recycle even greater volumes of plastics, utilising our advanced separation and processing techniques to deliver high-quality polymers back to manufacturers."

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Popular cafe champions sustainability with innovative food waste partnership

Grace Tea Room is a cherished local café in Ellesmere Port, Cheshire, known for its delightful homemade treats and strong dedication to sustainability. The cafe is celebrating its continued partnership with Keenan Recycling, the UK's largest food waste collection company.

Owned and operated by the environmentally conscious duo of Lizzie and Cat, Grace Tea Room prioritises local sourcing and caters to all dietary needs. It was the first Ellesmere Port business to achieve Plastic Free Champion status, a testament to its dedication to minimising its environmental footprint.

"Partnering with Keenan Recycling felt like a natural fit," says Lizzie, co-owner of Grace Tea Room. "Sustainability is incredibly important to us, and Keenan's innovative circular economy model for food waste recycling perfectly aligns with our goals."

While minimising food waste is a top priority at Grace Tea Room, tea bags, coffee grounds, eggshells, and bread crusts are an inevitable byproduct of their thriving afternoon tea service. Keenan Recycling's food waste collection services ensure these scraps are diverted from landfills and transformed into valuable resources.

"Knowing that our waste is recycled and potentially even used to power businesses like ours is fantastic," Lizzie adds. "It allows us to complete the circle and contribute to a greener future for our community."

Grace Tea Room highlights Keenan Recycling's exceptional customer service as another key benefit. "The team is always responsive and helpful," says Lizzie. "We've never had any issues, and any inquiries have been dealt with promptly."

Grace Tea Room's successful partnership with Keenan Recycling inspires other cafes and restaurants looking to minimise their environmental impact. With Keenan's reliable food waste collection services, small businesses can ensure their scraps are responsibly recycled and contribute to a greener future, one delicious bite at a time.

Sainsbury's to reduce plastic waste by almost 700 tonnes with new packaging

Sainsbury's has taken a positive step towards sustainability by announcing a significant reduction in plastic packaging. The supermarket is switching from plastic to pulp cardboard packaging for its own-brand chicken and fish line, potentially saving 694 tonnes of plastic annually.

This move, a 'UK retailer first', will result in a 70% reduction in plastic use. The pulp cardboard trays are made from sugarcane pulp and are lined with polyethylene film, making them easily recyclable at home and at Sainsbury's front-of-store flexible plastics recycling points.

This initiative aligns with Sainsbury's Plan for Better goals and demonstrates the company's commitment to reducing plastic usage.

Additionally, Sainsbury's has unveiled a new 'Good to Know' logo, designed to help customers identify more sustainable products, including those with reduced plastic packaging.

The logo will be prominently featured on the latest packaging for salmon products, providing customers with clear information about the retailer's sustainability efforts.

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20 YEARS EXPERIENCE

SUEZ teams up with surf charity to launch novel wetsuit recycling scheme

The Wave Project, a surf therapy charity established in 2010, has joined forces with waste management company SUEZ to introduce an ambitious initiative to recycle discarded wetsuits in Cornwall.

Supported by the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Good Growth Programme, this pioneering project aims to address the vast amount of non-recyclable neoprene waste, totalling an estimated 380 tonnes annually. Over half of this waste originates in Cornwall, turning the county into a 'wetsuit graveyard'.

In order to support the Wetsuit Reuse Scheme, the project has secured £116,000 from the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Good Growth Programme, a £137 million local investment fund managed by Cornwall Council and funded by the UK Government's UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

As part of the scheme, dedicated wetsuit recycling bins have been positioned at Cornwall Council household waste recycling centres managed by SUEZ. The collected suits are then transported to a new repair workshop in Newquay, where a skilled team will clean and, if necessary, mend the wetsuits for resale at the charity's high street store. These reused items are priced between £20 and £60, significantly lower than the average cost of £420 for a new wetsuit. Any wetsuits beyond repair will be upcycled into new products such as bags, pillows, and mats. The Wave Project is able to collect approximately 200 wetsuits per month from the HWRCs.

It's important to note that clothing and textiles contribute to an estimated 10% of global greenhouse gas emissions. This initiative strives to establish a circular economy model for neoprene products, thereby reducing the volume of non-recyclable waste and the potential harm to marine ecosystems. Following a successful pilot phase, The Wave Project and SUEZ aim to scale the project nationally.

The profits generated from this initiative will be channelled into supporting The Wave Project's programmes, including the world's first surf therapy course funded by a government health service. Surf therapy, recognised as an evidence-based intervention by the NHS, local authorities, and psychiatric services, has become an established form of therapeutic support for mental and physical health, serving over 10,000 young people through The Wave Project's surf therapy courses.

Ramon Van de Velde, Chief Executive Officer at The Wave Project, emphasised the positive impacts of this initiative: "The pre-loved wetsuit scheme not only raises vital funds to enable the charity to help more children but also facilitates accessibility to the sea for those who cannot afford wetsuits, while importantly addressing the issue of neoprene waste. This truly is a win-win-win.

"We express our gratitude to the Government's Good Growth Fund and SUEZ for providing the funding to kick-start this project. If the Cornwall pilot proves successful, we hope to roll it out nationwide."

WRA meets former EAC member to highlight importance of waste wood biomass

Former Environmental Audit Committee (EAC) member Sir Christopher Chope learned about the important contribution that waste wood biomass makes to UK energy security and the economy during a recent visit to Eco Sustainable Solutions in Christchurch, Dorset.

Sir Christopher was shown around the 32-acre Eco Park at Parley during a visit organised by the Wood Recyclers' Association (WRA).

At Parley, Eco processes 65,000 tonnes of waste wood a year into BioFuel, some of which powers its in-house Biomass Combined Heat and Power (CHP) plant, which provides renewable heat and electricity for the site.

The company also processes a number of other organic waste streams at the site and operates a variety of sustainable projects, including a solar farm.

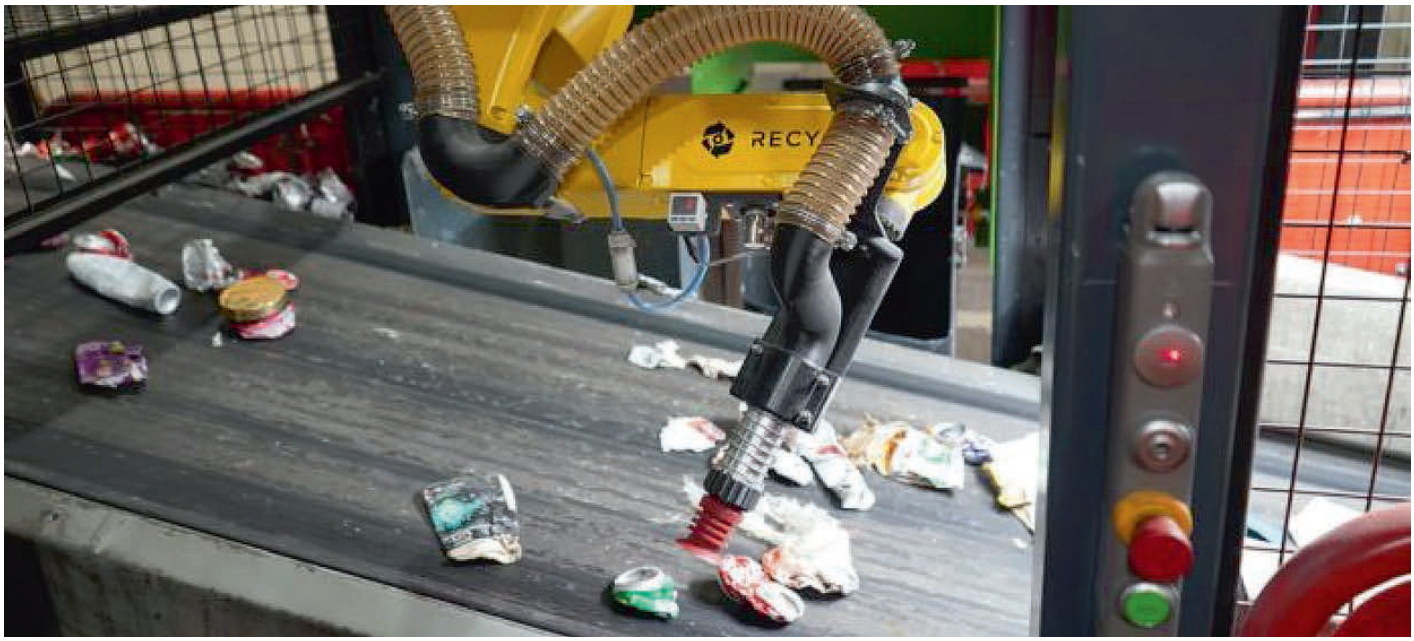
During the visit, WRA Deputy Chair Andy Hill explained the unique benefits that waste wood biomass delivers in relation to the circular economy, industrial decarbonisation and energy security - providing 3.3TWh of reliable baseload power from our own domestic resource, waste wood.

He also highlighted the contributions the wider waste wood sector makes to the economy. The panel board industry alone provides 7,000 local jobs and contributes £700m to the UK economy.

However, Andy warned that waste wood biomass plants are at risk of closure because of the impending expiration of the ROCs regime and that more certainty was needed from the next government over future support for the sector. He also highlighted ongoing challenges for the industry around getting permitting and planning in place.

Sir Christopher Chope said: "I was delighted to visit Eco Sustainable Solutions and to see how the company turns waste wood into renewable heat and electricity. The scale of the operation is impressive and is a great example of how Christchurch is leading the way in recycling and the circular economy."

"It was also interesting to hear about the important contribution the wider waste wood biomass sector is making to energy security and the economy."



Veolia uses AI driven robotic at Southwark facility

Veolia has introduced a cutting-edge robotic arm at its Southwark Integrated Waste Management Facility (IWMF) to enhance operations and improve recycling efficiency.

Teaming up with Recycleye, an AI robotics company focused on innovative waste and materials management, Veolia has deployed a state-of-the-art Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology-driven robotic arm that matches the accuracy of the human eye. This robot is employed at the Veolia Southwark IWMF to separate paper, card, mixed plastics, and beverage cartons (which often contain some aluminium layers) from the aluminium line, leaving only pure aluminium items for effective recycling.

As part of its new strategic plan, GreenUP, Veolia will utilise this data to make informed decisions for maximising facility efficiency and monitoring seasonal changes in waste composition, thus accelerating ecological transformation through AI and new innovations.

The robotic solution comprises a camera, a 6-axis robotic arm, a pneumatics system, and a compute box. The robot utilises compressed air and a silicon gripper to 'pick' items, then rotates to face the correct sorting bin location before releasing the item into the bin. This advanced technology streamlines the aluminium picking process and eliminates contamination from the final recyclate. The robot can pick between 35 and 50 items per minute, enabling frontline staff to improve the quality and quantity of recovered materials at the facility. As items move along the belt, they are scanned and recorded. This data is uploaded to the cloud and can be viewed through user-friendly dashboards.

Tim Duret, Director of Sustainable Technology at Veolia, commented on the robotic arm, stating: "As the UK prepares for the implementation of stronger legislation such as the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) and Simpler Recycling, Veolia sees this as a once-in-a-generation opportunity to integrate new technologies into our UK infrastructure to optimise our recycling processes further. The data provided by the robot will give us a better understanding of common materials found in the wrong waste streams and how to prevent this, ensuring that our recycling efforts are as effective as possible."

Aluminium is essential in many industries, including the green technology sector, and is widely used in products crucial for sustainability, such as wind turbines and electric vehicles. Enhancing the capture of aluminium will facilitate more effective recycling to meet the growing global demand for the metal. This project is supported by The Alliance for Beverage Cartons and the Environment (ACE), which represents the top manufacturers of food and drink cartons in the UK and Europe.

BUSINESS CLINIC CONSULTANCY

The world of permitting

JESSICA MORGAN-SMITH
Partner at MPG, based in Bingley, Bradford and Skipton, North Yorkshire

If your business treats, stores, or disposes of waste, you might need an environmental permit. As you're reading *Skip & Waste* magazine, then it's likely your business does one of those things!

The type of permit you need depends on the operations you propose to carry out, the types of waste you would be storing, handling, treating or disposing and the location of the operations. Permits can be granted for operations at a specified site or for the use of mobile plant that can be used at many sites. However, not all operations require a permit.

There are four different regulatory options when dealing with waste:

Regulatory Position Statement (RPS)
A RPS is for cases where the Environment Agency (EA) is not currently enforcing the need for a permit for some activities they regulate. The operator must comply with the conditions of the RPS, meet the description of it and not cause harm to the environment or human health. RPS's have an expiry date and are sometimes withdrawn at short notice. An example of a recent RPS is for 'Storing and handling waste glass containing other wastes' (RPS 292).

Exemptions
Exemptions are intended for low-risk, small-scale operations that are exempt from requiring a permit but still require registration with the EA. They are limited to specific waste types, tonnages and conditions. Following a consultation in 2018, exemptions are going through a period of reform, and these changes (including the removal of some exemptions, such as the T9 - recovery of scrap metal) should come into effect in 2025.

Standard Rules Permit
'Standard Rules' are, as you might predict, permits with a set of prescriptive rules that, if your site and operations can meet these rules, you are eligible to apply for one of these permits. SR permits are restricted regarding locations, EWC codes that can be accepted, tonnages, etc. If you vary a Standard Rules permit, i.e. increase tonnages where you no longer meet the rules, the resulting permit will be bespoke as you no longer meet the rules.

Bespoke Permit
A Bespoke Permit is applied when your operations don't meet the Standard Rules and require a varied permit covering all operations. The benefit of a Bespoke Permit is that it can cover a wide range of operations and activities, EWC codes, tonnages and locations that aren't suited to a Standard Rules permit. However, they are typically more time-consuming and costly to obtain.

When venturing into the world of permitting, it's important to properly consider future proofing by applying for the right permit. By its own admission, the EA's permitting system continues to be incredibly slow and arduous following COVID-19, so the key to permitting is to apply for what you need!

Jessica has a wide experience of planning, permitting, operations, compliance, management systems and enforcement support.
If you have any queries about planning, permitting or compliance, please contact ***jessica@mpgyorks.co.uk*** *or* ***07936359662****.*

MPG GOT A QUESTION **ASK THE EXPERTS**

Decathlon tackles music festival waste by offering full refunds for returned tents

The retailer's 'No Tent Left Behind' initiative aims to combat the concerning trend of festival-goers and campers discarding their tents after a single use. Despite efforts by campsites and festival organisers, a staggering 250,000 tents find their way to UK landfills each year post-summer, equating to about 10kg of tent waste per festival-goer.

Decathlon's programme, available to UK customers, covers trade-ins for ten of the most popular tent models. Participants have until 13th September to return eligible tents to Decathlon stores and receive a gift card for the original purchase price, irrespective of wear and tear.

The returned tents will undergo refurbishment, cleaning, and resale through Decathlon's 'Second Life' platform. Launched last year for own-brand bicycles and expanded to include camping gear and fitness equipment like golf clubs, tennis rackets, and paddleboards, the platform has shown promising results.

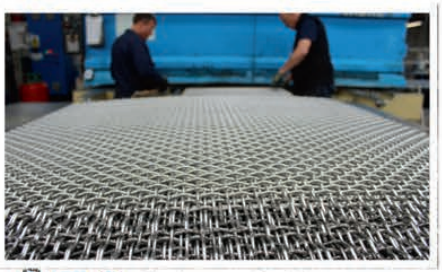
Decathlon UK's sustainability leader Chris Allen emphasised: "We're relaunching the 'No Tent Left Behind' campaign with the most significant Tent Pledge following last year's success. All tents returned in 2023 were refurbished and resold through Decathlon's 'Second Life' scheme.

"We strive to make an even greater impact and inspire our customers to adopt sustainable habits as they enjoy themselves. Our commitment to reducing environmental impact continues, and we hope our customers will join us in this endeavour."

Decathlon's environmental sustainability strategy prioritises scaling up circular business models, improving product repairability and durability, enhancing traceability, and reducing emissions in accordance with science-based targets.

By 2026, the company aims to expand its buy-back programme to encompass over 100 products and facilitate the repurchase of 800,000 items.

Inside Graepels: The machinery and products powering innovation



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Machinery & Investment

In the fast-paced and rugged world of quarrying and waste management, the need for reliable, high-quality screening media is paramount.
Graepels continue to invest in their tooling, machinery and team to ensure that they are delivering the best quality products to reduce down time but also the life cycle of their products.

"Our focus is customer centric, we always welcome feedback from our customers and want to work with them. From research and development to enhancing efficiency thus reducing downtime, our goal is achieving operational excellence."
Fred Graepel - MD at Graepels

Plant and machinery equipment form the backbone of industrial operations across various sectors.

Understanding their functions, importance, and maintenance needs helps in optimising productivity and ensuring long-term operational success.
Working with Original Equipment Manufacturers, Fitters, Quarry Managers and Buyers over the past 65 years means Graepels are more than a supplier of high-quality parts; they are a partner in progress for the quarrying and waste management industries. Their approach to customer service and support fosters long-term partnerships built on trust and mutual success.

Replacement Parts

"Screening Media at Graepels, buy direct from the people who make it."

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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

With respect....

Some year ago, I read a Ghurkha soldier's book that said although their Senior Officers were always British, that didn't mean the latter were entitled to their undying respect. I mentioned this to a mate who'd served under the Colours, and he confirmed it wasn't exclusive to the Ghurkhas: *'We were taught to salute the rank: respect for the individual had to be earned,'* he said.

On reflection, that philosophy holds good for civilian life. I worked with one or two senior people (regrettably mostly in the public sector) whose staff had a low opinion of them. I tried to distance myself from their criticism (always behind the back of the individual concerned) even if I shared their views.

I'd had the benefit of working my way up through the ranks and knew what impressed the workforce, so when I started getting more senior appointments, I always tried to make it clear to them that I had a good grasp of the problems they faced on a daily basis. Having an HGV Licence was a great ice-breaker as I'd usually ask to test drive an RCV, inviting the Transport Manager or the Shop Steward to choose one for me (either way, it was always an old banger) and accompany me on the trip. It always worked and set the boundaries for our future working relationship.

And while we sometimes had 'difficult' customers in the private sector who complained (often needlessly) about some trivial service issue, I'd always make sure our driver was aware that I supported him. It was different in the public sector, where the attitude of *'my taxes pay your and your driver's wages'* was more easily rebuffed.

When I went to Inverness, I was very fortunate to have a Depute with many years of experience (more than I had at the time) in the business. I was once out with one of our Foremen on a landfill visit, and he asked me how we were getting on? I said I was lucky to have somebody of that calibre backing me up, and he then said: *'When Mr W came here 20 years ago, we had an Incinerator, and the drivers were on a tonnage bonus carting the bottom ash to the landfill. If we drove our trucks onto the weighbridge at speed and then slammed on the brakes, it would bounce and could add up to an extra half tonne to the reading. I'd just loaded up one day when Mr W appeared and jumped into the cab. He said he'd been studying his textbooks, and the plant was producing far more ash than was expected. It immediately dawned on me that he knew what we were up to, and we all stopped it immediately. Your predecessor would have sacked us, but Mr W had our respect from then on.'*

When I started training, there was an (American) concept that *'if you can manage one discipline, you can manage any'*. I'm not so sure.

Mersey community receives £165,000 for recycling initiatives

The Liverpool City Region has granted £165,000 to 16 community groups through the Zero Waste Community Fund for the 2024/25 cycle. This initiative, supported by the Mersey Recycling and Waste Authority (MRWA) and Veolia, aims to enhance the area's waste reduction, reuse, and recycling efforts.

The funding, which groups had to apply for competitively, will strengthen various local projects focused on waste prevention and recycling. These initiatives range from educational waste workshops in schools and a repair café to cooking classes designed to reduce food waste. Other projects include upcycling clothes and textiles, a toy lending library for children, furniture restoration, and community programs on food cultivation and composting.

Lesley Worswick, Chief Executive of the MRWA, emphasised the fund's role in fostering environmental stewardship and promoting sustainable resource use.

"The Community Fund helps groups to become environmental stewards, creating a healthier place for everyone. Thankfully, our society increasingly recognises the value of resources - they're not just disposable items. The impressive ideas this year from local organisations are truly inspiring, and with 56 applications, the selection process was tough. Many past projects funded by the Community Fund have lasting benefits. They leave a positive legacy and continue to influence participants' habits through ongoing activities."

Each project proposal was required to address the recycling or reuse of at least one of five key household waste materials: food, furniture, electrical items, plastics, or textiles. Recent regional waste analysis indicates that these materials hold significant potential for reuse and recycling, suggesting a shift towards more sustainable waste management practices.

Highlighting the impact of these initiatives, Suzanne Mitchell from the British Dietetic Association (BDA), which has participated in similar projects, shared: "The opportunity to support a local community was a compelling idea. We hope we've inspired households to think about new ways to save money by reducing the amount of food they throw away and growing their own produce."

The funded groups have until March 2025 to implement their projects, promising a greener future for the Liverpool City Region.

TOMRA

TOMRA Recycling Sorting designs and manufactures sensor-based sorting technologies for the global recycling and waste management industry to transform resource recovery and create value in waste.

CASE STUDY

TOMRA's cutting-edge technology enables Sackers to achieve 99% recovery of non-ferrous metal

Sackers, a scrap metal recycling specialist based in Suffolk, has recently invested in a state-of-the-art sensor-based metals sorting solution from TOMRA for their metal recycling site in Great Blakenham, near Ipswich. The site is one of two owned and operated by the company.

This new solution allows Sackers to recover and recycle over 99% of mixed non-ferrous metals from the site's complex infeed material stream of automotive shredder residue (ASR).

The TOMRA FINDER™ unit, currently processing 3.5tph, has been integrated at the end of the site's metal shredding operation, enabling Sackers to achieve exceptional recovery levels for non-ferrous metals for onward sale. The recovered non-ferrous metals are then further processed in Sackers' downstream post-shredder residue plant.

TOMRA's FINDER™ uses patented technologies to detect metal objects with extreme precision, resulting in high yields and purity levels. Its advanced electromagnetic sensors and built-in machine intelligence allow it to detect metals instantly, regardless of material complexity or particle size. With its high belt speeds of up to 3m/s and reduced air consumption, the FINDER™ delivers excellent results in a variety of metals and waste sorting tasks.

David Dodds, Chief Commercial Officer at Sackers, comments: "As part of our ongoing commitment to sustainable waste recovery, we are always looking to improve our processes and reduce waste. Using the FINDER™ unit enables us to recover as much valuable resource as possible and recycle higher volumes of material in a much more efficient and effective manner. We have created an additional, valuable waste stream as the 99% recovered material is further processed into mono metals."

Alex Hall, Engineering Manager at Sackers, adds: "Trials were conducted using our material at TOMRA's Mülheim-Kärlich test centre in Germany to identify the best solution for our site and sorting tasks. We were also able to visit the test facility and find out more about the features and capabilities of the FINDER™. We have been very impressed with the technology and the results we are achieving."

Terry Keyworth, TOMRA's Segment Manager Metal North/East Europe, concludes: "FINDER™ has been at the forefront of the metals recycling industry for many years, but the latest generation unit incorporates even more advanced technologies to detect metal objects with ultra-precision, delivering exceptionally high yield and recovery levels for greater saleability of the recovered end fractions. We are delighted that Sackers is reaping the benefits of this great piece of equipment."

A young engineer's journey at Xwatch Safety Solutions

Welcome to our Q&A session with **Max Harris**, a 24 year-old Design Engineer at Xwatch Safety Solutions, part of Hexagon. Max began his journey with Xwatch in 2020 while studying at the University of Portsmouth and quickly advanced from manufacturing assemblies to the design team. Join us as we explore Max's career path, challenges, and insights into the world of design engineering.

Max Harris

Could you start by telling us a little about yourself and what led you to your current role as a Design Engineer at Xwatch Safety Solutions, part of Hexagon?

I joined the Xwatch team in mid-2020, starting in manufacturing assemblies while attending the University of Portsmouth.

During a placement year, I worked in the aerospace sector, gaining extensive mechanical design experience. This led to my return to Xwatch as part of the design team. My final year at university was spent juggling academic commitments with professional duties at Xwatch, resulting in my promotion to Graduate Design Engineer upon graduating.

Reflecting on your journey from a Graduate Design Engineer to a Design Engineer, what have been the key experiences and milestones in your career development at Xwatch?

My career path has progressed from Assistant Engineer to Graduate Design Engineer and now to Design Engineer. Xwatch has expanded considerably in recent years, and I have embraced greater responsibilities, including managing component failures and developing new mechanical designs. The guidance and support from my colleagues have been instrumental in this growth.

Can you share details about a particularly challenging project you've worked on at Xwatch? What were the obstacles, and how did you manage to overcome them?

One significant challenge has been managing the logging of component failures and communicating these details to suppliers and manufacturers. This role has improved my technical communication skills and taught me how to manage failures in our system design analysis.

How have your past roles or academic experiences shaped your approach to design engineering?

My background is predominantly in mechanical design engineering, although I have also developed a keen interest in electronics and software. My academic and professional experiences have taught me how to approach new designs and effectively use the necessary tools daily.

Looking forward, what are your professional goals, and how do you plan to achieve them within Xwatch or the broader engineering field?

My goals include further skill development, expanding my professional network, and aiding the continued growth of Xwatch. I am keen to work collaboratively with various teams across Hexagon, engage in new projects, attend industry exhibitions, and keep abreast of the latest technologies and their applications.

Based on your experiences, what advice would you offer to recent graduates aspiring to enter the field of design engineering?

Make the most out of every moment you have at University. Many students attending university during COVID, myself included, were disadvantaged by the closure of most lab facilities.

During this time, we were given access to many of the University's software, including Creo and MATLAB. I spent much of my free time working through some small projects using the available tools, which helped me understand much about myself and what drives me.

And one other thing, gain experience where you can in a professional company. Whether it be an internship, a part-time role, or whatever you can get your hands on. Experience in applying your knowledge to solve a real-world solution is invaluable.

Hexagon recently acquired Xwatch Safety Solutions. How do you think this change will impact your role, and what new opportunities do you anticipate being part of such a large global company?

I am always excited by big changes because they bring new challenges. Joining forces with Hexagon AB, a multi-billion dollar multinational company, opens vast opportunities for us at Xwatch.

This collaboration allows us to develop newer, more effective solutions for a much broader market. Additionally, it increases our capacity to engage with other professionals within the Geosystems group.

Our partnership also facilitates collaboration with other companies, integrating their technologies into our safety equipment. I am eager to contribute to these collaborative efforts and assist wherever possible to drive our shared success forward.

Can you share a fun fact about yourself that most people might not know?

I love playing music! I have been in a few bands, playing covers and originals, most recently in an Alt-Rock band called Skinny Knowledge.

Thank you for taking the time to chat with us Max. We wish you all the best in your new career. For further information about Xwatch Safety Solutions, please visit ***www.xwatch.co.uk***

Carbon focus drives energy reduction for NWH

The NWH Group, a leading family-owned national waste management and recycling business, has announced a 63.7% year-on-year reduction in energy consumption in its latest carbon report.

Vehicle fuel usage is a major contributor to the company's carbon footprint, accounting for 98% of its emissions. NWH has already taken significant steps to address this issue. One key step has been transitioning its car fleet to electric vehicles, which has resulted in a 63% reduction in the carbon footprint for car usage.

Addressing the use of diesel in the HGV fleet poses challenges due to various barriers, including the cost and effectiveness of alternatives. Despite this, NWH has made significant progress by trialling an electric skip vehicle and currently has an electric artic vehicle in its fleet. Additionally, the company is researching alternative fuels and remains focused on further efforts in this area.

During the detailed analysis, NWH identified that 14% of its emissions were being generated by artic vehicles, so the business embarked on the next phase of its sustainability journey by initiating the transition of its HGVs to alternative fuels. The acquisition of a Volvo artic lorry, announced in February 2024, marks the first step in this transformative process and reinforces the company's unwavering dedication to reducing its environmental impact.

Nicola Williams, Director at NWH Group

In addition to vehicle usage, further steps have been taken to reduce energy consumption at site level, and the business reports an impressive 92% reduction in on-site fuel (gas and kerosine) usage by transitioning to alternative sources.

Alison Wood, the Climate Springboard Programme Manager at The University of Edinburgh's Climate Change Institute, said: "NWH has worked really hard to tackle its emissions. I'm impressed by its early actions, making changes where feasible. The business is now up for the difficult challenge that Scotland faces tackling the decarbonisation of HGVs."

Nicola Williams, Director at NWH Group, said: "We're wholly committed to achieving our carbon-neutral goals and have a clear strategy and plan in place to do so. This means we are constantly reviewing new technologies and looking at ways to deliver operational efficiencies in our business processes, such as minimising unnecessary travel and looking for ways to reduce fuel consumption even further."

Vinyl makeover for Sandwell's new waste and recycling fleet

Creative Vehicle Wrapping Ltd (CVW), a specialist in refuse vehicles based in Cannock, Staffordshire, has provided a vinyl wrap makeover to Sandwell Borough Council's new waste and recycling collections fleet.

The 22 vehicles, consisting of twin-pack and standard 26t RCVs, will replace existing vehicles as part of Serco's innovative 25-year contract to manage household food and garden waste collections, recycling and street cleansing services in the borough.

Tony Marston, Senior Contract Manager, said: "With our new fleet, I was keen to move away from the traditional method of advertising service information. My objective was to find a way to promote key messages in an impactful and fresh approach to drive behavioural change, and vehicle wraps perfectly fit the brief."

The entire fleet was wrapped at CVW's extensive premises. Each vehicle features one of three eye-catching designs with messages encouraging residents to recycle, highlighting the provision of green waste and small electrical *(pictured)* collections.

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Fiveways Group secures extended contract with Broxbourne Council

Fiveways Group, a leading provider of municipal and commercial vehicle hire solutions, is delighted to share the news of securing a new contract with Broxbourne Council. This significant contract, a source of pride for Fiveways since 2017, will kick off on 1st November 2024 and run for the next five years, with the potential for a two-year extension. The award of this contract underscores the trust and confidence that Broxbourne Council has in Fiveways' services.

Fiveways will supply Broxbourne Council with ten state-of-the-art refuse collection vehicles as part of the new contract. The fleet will include the latest Dennis Eagle models, renowned for their durability and efficiency, fitted with Terberg split lifts and trade lifts. These advanced vehicles are designed to optimise waste collection and management, enhancing the overall service provided to the community.

In its commitment to staying at the forefront of safety and innovation, Fiveways is exploring the integration of the latest General Safety Regulations (GSR) equipment and its proprietary Digital Display Screens in these new vehicles. These enhancements aim to further ensure the safety of both the operators and the public while providing real-time information to enhance operational efficiency.

The new fleet will be maintained at Fiveways' state-of-the-art workshop facility in Basildon, Essex. This site is equipped with the latest tools and technology to conduct comprehensive service inspections, MOTs, and tacho calibrations. Our dedicated team of experienced technicians ensures that all vehicles are maintained to the highest standards, guaranteeing their reliability and performance.

Emma Cheesman, Head of Development at Fiveways, stated: "We are delighted to have been awarded the contract by Broxbourne Council. This opportunity allows us to continue building upon our already excellent working relationship, ensuring we deliver value for money and service excellence."

Fleetclear Connect is 'game-changer' for Preston City Council

Preston City Council has upgraded its new refuse collection fleet with the latest safety and tracking technology from fleet solution partner Fleetclear.

The installation of blind spot monitoring and tracking technology is a crucial step to ensure the safety of the public, vulnerable road users, and crews in Preston, especially when vehicles are performing reverse manoeuvres.

The new fleet is equipped with safety technology from Fleetclear, including Cyclear, a safety solution for cyclists and vulnerable road users, and the RX Lite camera system for 360° vehicle surveillance.

The council has also adopted Fleetclear Connect, a web-based fleet management solution that connects vehicle safety technology and software, tracking, telematics, driver behaviour, and compliance monitoring. This is a simplified solution to manage vehicles and drivers.

Matthew Sharp, Systems & Administration Manager - Neighbourhood Services, explains why Preston City Council has been a long-standing Fleetclear customer: "We've been using Fleetclear for over eight years now and have always been impressed by their products, customer service, and after-sales support.

"The new cloud-based system is a game-changer and so easy to use."

LondonEnergy fully electric truck delivers 92% CO^2 saving

LondonEnergy, a company that provides waste management services to seven North London boroughs, recently received a delivery of a Volvo fully electric bulker. This is a big step forward in the company's plans to reduce its impact on the environment by moving away from fossil fuels.

The electric Volvo FM truck offers a strong environmental advantage, reducing CO^2 emissions by 92% compared to its diesel counterpart over its full lifecycle. This includes its production, use, and end-of-life considerations. The Volvo HGVs are also the first in the world to be made with fossil-free steel and use batteries manufactured at a plant powered by 100% renewable energy.

Katie Blowes, Waste Operations Manager at LondonEnergy, said: "This advanced vehicle will significantly reduce our carbon footprint and provide valuable data to help us make better choices when adding to our fleet as we aim for net zero emissions."

The Volvo FM Electric tractor, powered by five 90kWh lithium-ion batteries totalling 450kWh, will transport material from the company's waste transfer station in Islington to its flagship EcoPark recycling and energy recovery facility in Edmonton. This route, through a densely populated area with high air pollution levels, means that the electric vehicle's emissions and noise savings will directly benefit the local community.

In addition to the electric bulker, LondonEnergy also operates several other electric vehicles, including cars and vans. Data from the Volvo FM Electric truck will be used to guide future vehicle purchases and support the transition to more sustainable, carbon-neutral forms of transport.

Tyre Boss back on track with new warehouse after fire

After a tumultuous start to 2024, Tyre Boss Ltd - OTR and tyre specialists are working hard to get back on their feet by investing in a new warehouse. In January 2024, a fire of epic proportions started in a nearby warehouse and spread to neighbouring businesses. The fire caused the giant site to collapse within seven minutes and completely destroyed the business premises of five businesses.

After the initial shock and sadness that followed, Tyre Boss' owners, Vick and Wayne Collins, have been working hard to get the business back on track and rebuild their workshop. They have now moved to their new, larger warehouse, still based in Bridgend, with the aim of strengthening Tyre Boss' support in the UK while supporting major growth plans in the future.

The new site will stock a wide range of tyres sold by Tyre Boss, including cushion solid tyres, OTR tyres and construction tyres. It will also contain a new large 300-ton press, a workshop for maintenance and servicing wheels and rims, and a brand-new office. Vick Collins, co-owner of Tyre Boss, believes the new site will allow us to increase stock holding capacity, enhance their after-sales support and help them further personalise the service they offer to customers in the OTR and recycling industry.

A personalised service is particularly important when procuring cushion solid tyres. The right tyre and compound need to be selected for the right application. Tyre Boss has the expertise to find the right solution for you, whether you need tyres for loading shovels, telehandlers, skid steers, or material handlers.

Tyre Boss is also exceptional in supplying pneumatic tyres from OTR to your skip and tipper truck tyres. We pride ourselves on our great quality tyres and service at a fantastic price.

Making the most of cutting-edge telematics to enhance fleet and driver management

Fleet technology is rapidly evolving to create significant opportunities for the waste management and recycling sector. Driven by advances in connectivity, automation and data analytics, it is helping organisations tackle some of the key challenges of operating heavy vehicles, especially in the urban environment.

"The pace of change within the technology marketplace, particularly around fleet and video telematics, is faster than it ever has been," suggests Steve Thomas, Managing Director of Inseego UK. "There are huge benefits available to waste management and recycling operators who are willing to embrace the latest innovations that will help them reduce costs, increase productivity, and manage compliance."

ADVANCED APPLICATIONS

As tracking and camera technology has become embedded in operations, waste management companies are increasingly looking for new ways to use telematics, in addition to the proven safety, insurance, efficiency, and productivity benefits.

According to Sam Footer, Partnership Director at SureCam: "Side and rear cameras, for example, can now be used to prove that a skip is loaded correctly, or a waste collection has taken place. When combined with a door sensor, the technology can also detect and record unauthorised access to a vehicle or validate that drivers are following safety procedures such as three points of contact. Having immediate access to proof of work or compliance footage provides an effective means of challenging or resolving complaints and any associated claims."

Skip and equipment theft, loss, and underutilisation cost the UK waste management sector billions of pounds every year. Inseego's Thomas says: "Some companies are already taking advantage of battery-powered tracking units for certain types of skips, and we are now seeing exciting developments in smart tags, which will provide more affordable and convenient solutions for both skips and equipment in the future."

Steve Thomas Managing Director of Inseego UK

Sam Footer Partnership Director at SureCam

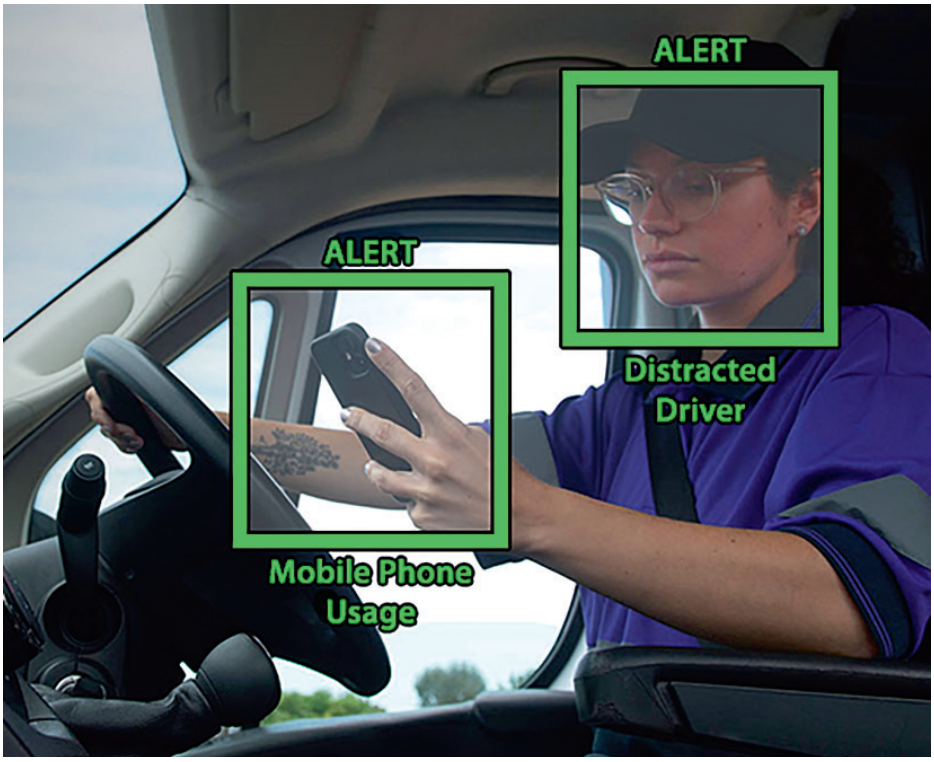
Vernon Bonser - UK Sales Director of Queclink Wireless Solutions

We are also seeing video-enabled telematics integrated with complementary products and systems in the marketplace to target greater value and return on investment. Combining complementary solutions makes it increasingly possible to streamline fleet management - saving time and money - while mitigating the impact of risk and targeting operational efficiencies.

"The seamless sharing of footage and data makes it possible to gain more from telematics than ever before. One example is the combination of lone worker protection technology with video telematics, providing drivers with a quick and easy way to request assistance. This has the potential to mitigate risk both in and outside the vehicle, offering high levels of safety and peace of mind to both mobile teams and their employers," adds SureCam's Footer.

DATA ANALYSIS AND INSIGHT

While telematics is now a key component of effective fleet management, it also represents a potential headache in terms of the amount of data it provides. The latest technology innovation, increasingly using AI-powered tools and processes, can transform how critical data is analysed, enabling the telematics system to understand where issues exist and help



Speed Band Report

inseego

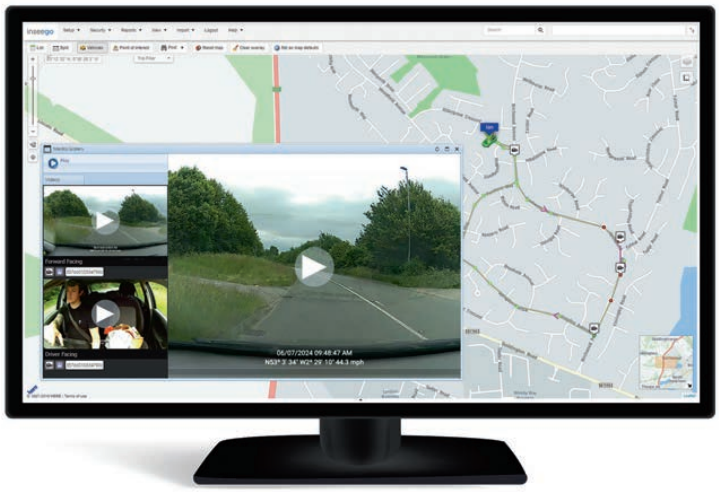
	20 mph Band			30 mph Band			40 mph Band			50 mph Band			60 mph Band			70 mph Band		
	CAT 1	CAT 2	CAT 3	CAT 1	CAT 2	CAT 3	CAT 1	CAT 2	CAT 3	CAT 1	CAT 2	CAT 3	CAT 1	CAT 2	CAT 3	CAT 1	CAT 2	CAT 3
Speed Range	23-30	31-40	41+	34-40	41-50	51+	44-50	51-60	61+	55-60	61-70	71+	66-70	71-80	81+	77-85	86-90	91+
Points	1	5	25	1	5	25	1	5	25	1	5	25	1	5	25	1	5	25

Data shown in Incidents

Driver	First Name	Last Name	REG Number															
1	First 1	Last 1	XX71 ABC	62	37	15	252	46	19	67	28	5	49	17	12	27	28	0	275	40	0
2	First 2	Last 2	YY71 DEF	9	1	0	30	3	1	18	4	0	8	1	0	2	2	0	201	0	0
3	First 3	Last 3	ZZ71 GHI	4	1	0	40	0	1	4	1	0	8	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	First 4	Last 4	XX71 JKL	2	3	0	51	4	1	19	7	0	49	13	0	7	0	0	5	0	0
5	First 5	Last 5	YY71 MNO	3	0	0	8	1	1	5	3	0	7	4	0	1	0	0	3	0	0

organisations take appropriate steps to resolve these exceptions.

Vernon Bonser, UK Sales Director of Queclink Wireless Solutions, believes that AI will allow waste management and recycling fleets to analyse huge amounts of data quickly and effortlessly to gain operational insight and trends: "The challenge for fleet and video telematics has always been how to best compile, review and then act on visible trends, which is where the risk reduction and return on investment sits."



AI-powered analysis can increasingly be used to interrogate a wide range of data and video sources such as behaviour, incidents, near misses, fuel usage, speed limits, location and weather conditions. By creating a holistic view of vehicle and driver performance that would be impossible to achieve manually, it's possible to pinpoint precisely what requires attention. "Someone speeding, in the rain, outside a school is clearly a higher risk than someone marginally over the speed limit in dry conditions on a motorway, but most current systems would not differentiate, making it harder to prioritise intervention," explains Inseego's Thomas.

In recent years, vehicle cameras have become increasingly popular. Still, because they typically upload video clips based on g-force events, they can generate false positive events triggered by harsh driving, potholes and speed humps. For a fleet of 50 commercial vehicles, if each generates four clips per day, the fleet manager would have 1,000 videos to watch weekly, which is simply not workable.

"The time needed to simply examine daily driver behaviour events for a medium or large sized fleet is significant and would be impossible for a single person or even a small department to achieve efficiently," says Queclink's Bonser. "When you add video into the equation, imagine how much more resource is required to review the gathered vehicle and driver footage."

With post-event machine vision, telematics software can view the video clips and flag those needing attention. This means a fleet can quickly focus on collisions or incidents involving a vulnerable road user (pedestrian, motorcyclist or cyclist). AI technology of this kind has already been shown to reduce the number of videos needing review by as much as 99%, leaving just a handful that can be checked in a matter of minutes.

AUTOMATED COMMUNICATION AND ENGAGEMENT

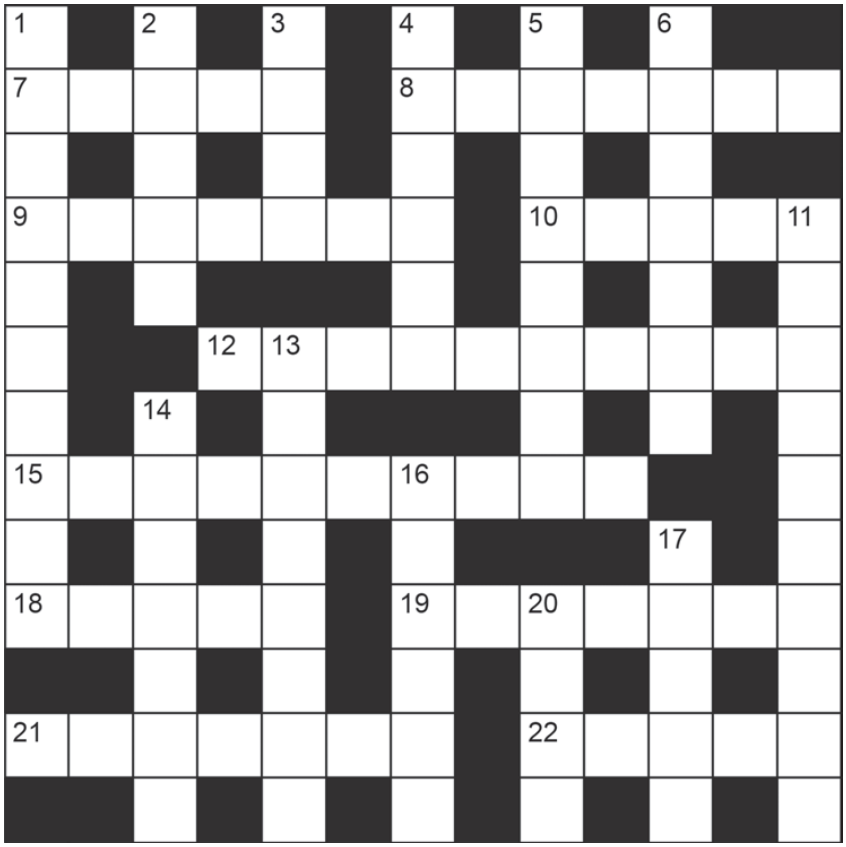
Telematics is achieving ever-greater levels of automation and engagement with drivers. There are already active examples around driver behaviour monitoring and education, but moving forward, systems will possess a far greater ability to communicate with the drivers directly, massively reducing the management burden.

Thomas believes that we will start seeing telematics handle many aspects of fleet management, including training, compliance, vehicle usage, and working hours, to take on much of the hard work. "Many driver, vehicle and fleet processes will soon move from human intervention to automatic system management, leaving the fleet manager to deal with the 2-3% that truly requires their attention. For the rest, they will be able to oversee using reporting dashboards that intelligently measure ongoing performance."

There is also a growing number of intelligent dashcams that can capture footage and engage directly with drivers regarding distraction and fatigue; detect nearby vulnerable road users; and understand fleet risk like never before. "Organisations can now identify risk-generating events behind the wheel and automatically prompt drivers to change their behaviour with real-time voice instructions. Event alerts with video are then sent back to base to ensure coaching and training are focused and relevant to their drivers," says SureCam's Footer.

Queclink's Bonser goes on to explain that the continued advancements in edge-based computing and AI algorithms will lead to enhanced decision-making capabilities and the provision of highly accurate real-time insight. "With improved object detection, better understanding of driving scenarios, and sophisticated behaviour analysis, driver communication and management will take a massive step forward. This could even include a way of predicting a person's actions based on age, direction, speed and distraction, enabling far quicker and more accurate risk alerts than existing technology."

SKIP & WASTE MAGAZINE CROSSWORD No.18



Across

7. Somebody to show you, me and a girl to our places (5)
8. Gets to parts of the river (7)
9. Overburden reporters with work (7)
10. Upright build (5)
12. I am to get the post not without some burden (10)
15. It's unlikely that a mischievous child can be dressed (10)
18. Handy part under which there is domination (5)
19. Halt: ice broken; a moral problem (7)
21. Waiter wed star (7)
22. Precious stones are measured in article in vehicle (5)

Down

1. Not in order, having apparently sold all the meat (3,2,5)
2. French fries in the casino? (5)
3. Yet at last regret being faithful (4)
4. Forces to do a wall painting (6)
5. This stuff makes a companion rail twisted (8)
6. I re-echo the salutation (7)
11. The possibility of holding a number with skill (10)
13. Ray of light shows doctor at ship's widest point (8)
14. Made tree look smart? (7)
16. In the morning concludes recompense will emerge (6)
17. 20 aggrieved about 100 (5)
20. Joint for wine (4)

SKIP & WASTE MAGAZINE SUDOKU No.18

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

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

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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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www.vision-techniques.com
T: 01254 679 717

Waste Logics Software Limited
www.wastelogics.com
T: 0330 120 0721

CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS
(from page 66)

Across: 7 Usher; 8 Reaches; 9 Oppress; 10 Erect; 12 Imposition; 15 Improbable; 18 Thumb; 19 Ethical; 21 Steward; 22 Carat.

Down: 1 Out of joint; 2 Chips; 3 True; 4 Fresco; 5 Material; 6 Cheerio; 11 Tenability; 13 Moonbeam; 14 Spruced; 16 Amends; 17 Score; 20 Hock.

SUDOKU SOLUTION
(from page 66)

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

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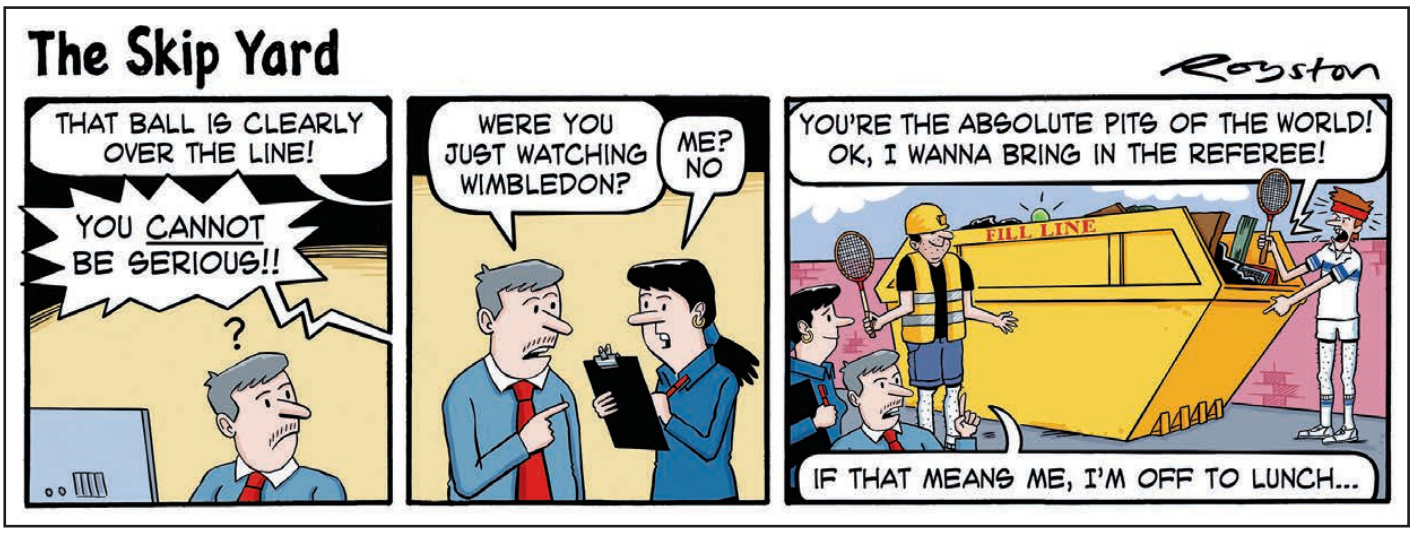

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