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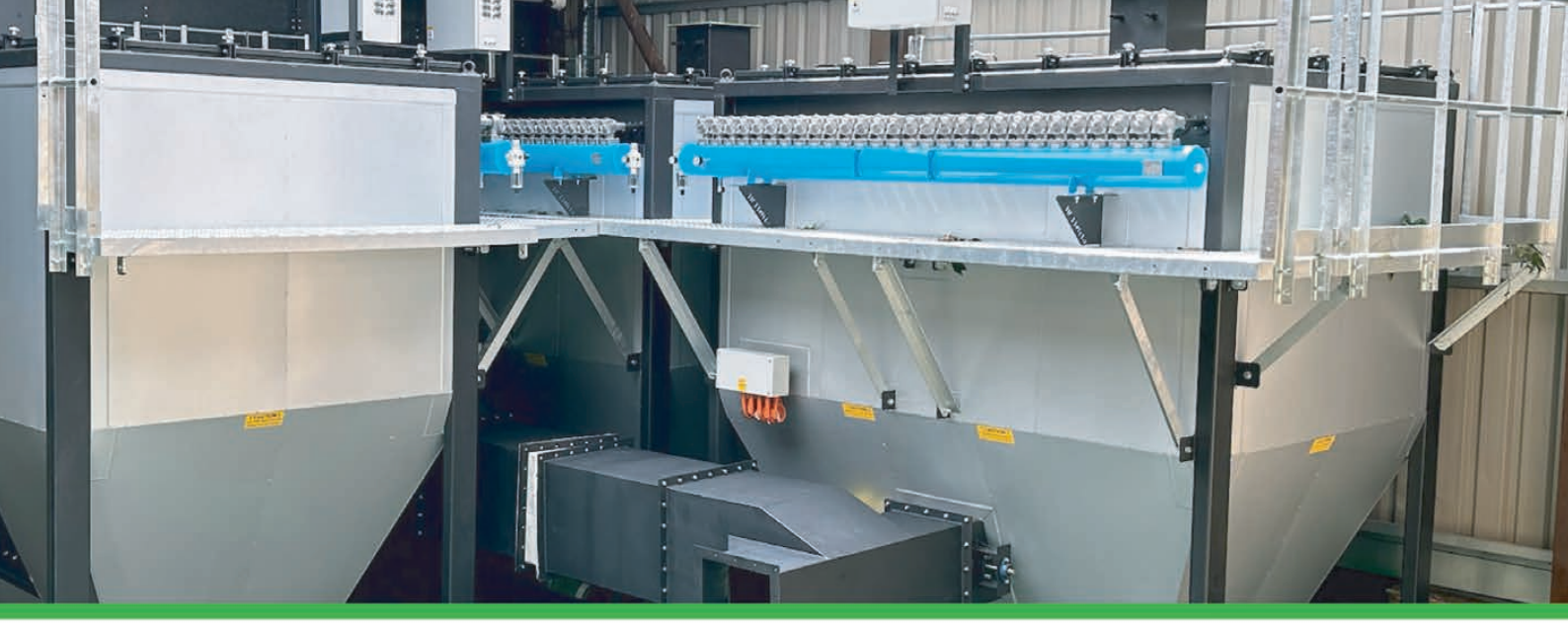

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EDITORIAL VIEWPOINT

By **Brendan Gilligan**

I recently encountered a striking quote from an online BBC news story that addressed the aftermath of yet another catastrophic fire at a metal recycling facility:

"An MP has called for a 'national conversation' on lithium battery fires after a large blaze at a waste recycling site."

This comment was surprising and frankly, a bit disheartening. It seems as if this MP (I won't mention his name) has been living under a rock, in a secluded cave, or perhaps even on Mars, completely disconnected from the pressing realities faced by our community.

Where has this MP been all this time? Clearly not engaged in the vital discussions happening within Parliament. Those of us working in the recycling industry are acutely aware of the dangers posed by lithium-ion batteries and have been diligently striving to manage these risks. Operators are committed to ensuring proper protocols are followed to protect our environment and communities.

Meanwhile, the residents raising concerns about the smoke, noxious odours, and environmental impact often overlook their own role in this issue. Many of them are the same individuals who fail to dispose of lithium-ion batteries responsibly, contributing to the very problems they are protesting against.

The harsh reality is that until the general public and manufacturers are held accountable for both the production and disposal of these hazardous materials, meaningful change will remain elusive.

It's a bittersweet reality that we must face if we want to address these risks in the future.

On a positive note, disposable vapes will be banned in the UK starting on 1st June, 2025. This ban aims to protect the health of children and young people, reduce environmental damage, and combat the throwaway culture. You can read the story and the reaction from the CIWM on page 6.

Lastly, for 2024, I want to wish all our readers, advertisers and columnists a Merry Christmas and best wishes for the New Year.

PaL Media

EDITORIAL/PRODUCTION:
Brendan Gilligan
E: **brendan.gilligan@pal-media.co.uk**

CONTRIBUTORS
- John Crawford
- Tulin Dzhengiz
- Tina Jackson
- Jessica Morgan-Smith
- Tracey Westbury
- Dr Stephen Wise
- Sandra Dick
- Lisa Gillespie
- Amy Jenkinson
- Marco Muia
- Dr Anna Willets

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

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Richard Weston from Hazell & Jefferies discusses with Sandra Dick how a simple request for driveway repairs laid the foundation for further expansion

The UK has made significant progress in packaging waste recycling, yet challenges remain, particularly for plastics and wood

UK packaging recycling rates show progress and challenges

The Government has released waste estimates for the UK to meet official guidelines.

The UK is improving recycling for packaging waste, but it faces challenges in hitting specific targets for different materials. The Producer Responsibility Obligations (Packaging Waste) Regulations are important for these efforts.

The latest figures for 2022 and 2023 reveal important trends in recycling performance across various materials, with mixed results.

In 2023, the UK produced 12.7 million tonnes of packaging waste, of which 64.8% was recycled. Paper and cardboard had the highest recycling rate, at 73.4%. Metal followed at 71.2%, and glass was at 67.8%. However, plastic recycling was only 52.5% of 2.2 million tonnes.

Plastic and wood recycling are still issues. Plastic recycling improved to 52.5% in 2023, up from 51.4% in 2022, and wood recycling increased to 44.4%. Both materials need better solutions. The "other materials" category, including cloth and cork, had zero recycling rates. Overall, the UK is progressing in recycling, but more work is needed, especially for plastic and wood.

The Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra) emphasises the need for innovation in recycling technology and for businesses to meet their recycling goals.

To stay on track, the UK must focus on increasing recycling rates for harder-to-recycle materials and ensure that all packaging waste has a viable recycling pathway.

WRAP publishes report to boost UK metal recycling

WRAP has released a report titled *Increasing UK Metal Recycling*, which explores policy options for boosting metal recycling in the UK.

The focus is on enhancing the circular economy for priority metals, specifically steel and aluminium, while addressing barriers to metal recirculation.

The report highlights the need for increased investment in cleaner technologies, notably Electric Arc Furnaces (EAFs) for steel production, which utilise more recycled materials and consume less energy. It also points out challenges in the aluminium industry, such as high contamination levels and difficulty separating aluminium alloys.

Policy recommendations include:-

- ***Carbon border adjustment mechanism:*** *This could incentivise investment by levelling the playing field for UK-based producers.*
- ***Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR):*** *This could raise funding for infrastructure transformation.*
- ***Digital Product Passports:*** *To improve traceability and recycling potential of materials.*
- ***Improved sorting technologies:*** *Innovations in sorting and separation can enhance aluminium recycling efficiency.*

WRAP stresses that a combination of interventions is necessary to enhance domestic recycling.

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A litter issue degrading our streets. A purple disposable vape has been discarded and left lying on a water drain cover

Disposable vapes to be banned from June 2025

The UK Government has announced a ban on the sale of disposable vapes starting in June of next year as part of efforts to establish a circular economy.

Initially proposed by the previous government in January, this measure aims to protect the environment and reduce the appeal of vaping to children. Similar bans are expected from Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland, but timelines are not yet confirmed.

The UK Vaping Industry Association has criticised the ban as potentially increasing illegal vape sales. Circular Economy Minister Mary Creagh emphasised that single-use vapes are wasteful and a blight on communities, stating that this ban is essential for reducing waste and promoting resource sustainability.

Research from Material Focus reveals that five million single-use vapes are discarded weekly, a four-fold increase from 2022, with annual recycling costs estimated at £200 million. Scott Butler, Executive Director, advocates for special regulations for vapes to ensure responsible disposal and compliance, as over 90% of producers currently fail to meet environmental standards.

Concerns about new products like "rechargeable disposables" that may evade regulation have also been raised. Butler noted that 150 million vapes could be discarded without proper action, wasting valuable materials and creating fire risks, as batteries are linked to numerous fires in waste management.

CIWM reaction

The Chartered Institution of Wastes Management (CIWM) applauds the UK Government and the Devolved Administrations and welcomes the timely and entirely sensible commitment to ban disposable vapes as soon as practicable.

Disposable vapes are a clear example of a poorly designed product manufactured and sold with only short-term profit in mind, marketed at children and adults alike, and with little evident social or environmental responsibility shown by producers, retailers or importers.

They strengthen the case for Extended Producer Responsibility to ensure the true cost of putting huge volumes of such products on the market is clearly placed on those who do so, not (as currently) on those who have to pay for and clean up the mess created afterwards.

These non-recyclable single-use products are simply wasteful and harmful to people and the planet. They create litter, degrading our streets and local environments and costing local authorities millions of pounds to clean up. They cause fires in waste streams, putting industry workers' health and safety at risk. Due to their very poor design, they waste valuable and critical raw materials such as lithium and copper.

As a society, we must quickly learn the lessons of poor product design and short-term thinking as we move towards a more circular economy and a world beyond waste.

Waste review needed as recycling rate drops

A council has been asked to completely review its waste disposal methods because household recycling rates are dropping in County Durham.

Green Party councillor Jonathan Elmer has called for this change. He noted that since 2015, the amount of waste incinerated by Durham County Council has also decreased, while more waste is being sent to landfill. The council claims it was the best in North East England for recycling household waste during the 2022/23 period.

Recently, the authority announced significant changes, including the introduction of new containers for storing food waste and updated rules for recycling glass, which will take effect by 2026.

At a council scrutiny meeting, Elmer responded to the latest figures, stating, "It's time for a complete root and branch review of our waste management strategy."

He emphasised the need to avoid reliance on incinerators, as these large facilities might lead to a decrease in recycling rates since there is a convenient place to dispose of waste through burning.

Elmer expressed concerns about being "locked into a direction that doesn't seem to be favoured at the moment," and he warned that this approach could negatively affect both future recycling rates and carbon emissions.

Mark Wilkes *(pictured)*, the Liberal Democrat cabinet member for climate change, assured that the council is committed to finding new and innovative ways to encourage residents to recycle items that would typically be thrown away. This includes several recently implemented schemes for recycling small electrical items, vapes, medical equipment, and coffee pods.

He stated: "Our waste strategy is and always will be based on the nationally agreed waste hierarchy, with re-use and repair being our top priority."

Council uses Facebook advert to catch rogue waste carriers

A Welsh council has utilised a fake Facebook advertisement to catch unlicensed waste carriers, often responsible for fly-tipping and waste-arson offences.

Operation Walt involved a joint effort by Neath Port Talbot Council's Waste Enforcement, Licensing and Trading Standards Officers and South Wales Police. The team set up a Facebook ad inviting licensed waste carriers to provide quotes for waste removal in the Lon Las area.

In addition to the advertisement, council officers proactively visited builders' merchants within the county borough to advise them of their legal responsibilities. They distributed advice leaflets and contact information for the merchants to share with their customers and any homeowners looking to complain about building work at their properties.

On 16th October, those who responded to the advertisement but were not listed on the Natural Resources Wales/ Environment Agency waste carrier database were invited to collect the waste and scrap metal at a designated time.

Two waste carriers responded. One of them was stopped by the police at Sidings Terrace, Skewen, after collecting waste from Lon Las.

During the stop, the police informed the carrier about the need to update the DVLA regarding the new ownership of his vehicle.

When questioned about his lack of a current Waste Carrier Licence (WCL) as indicated on the NRW website, the carrier claimed he had just renewed it and suggested that "it may not have been updated."

He was reminded that further checks would be conducted and could result in a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) of £300 if it was determined that he had not renewed his licence.

Subsequent checks with NRW confirmed that he had not applied for a renewal, leading to a £300 FPN being issued.

The second carrier was found to be a disqualified driver. His vehicle was seized, and the case may go to court. Checks with NRW revealed that he was not licenced to carry waste and was also issued a £300 FPN.

Cllr Scott Jones, Neath Port Talbot Council's Cabinet Member for Streetscene, stated: "This multi-agency operation demonstrates the council and its partners'commitment to bringing to justice anyone who damages our communities by illegally dumping or burning waste."

EA launches waste charges consultation

The Environment Agency (EA) is inviting feedback from the waste, water and farming sectors on proposed charges for waste activities effective April 2025.

Key proposals include:

- *A waste levy which will enable the Environment Agency to increase waste enforcement activity by around 30%.*
- *New and updated hourly rates to ensure we can continue to recover the costs of regulatory activities.*
- *A waste fee for intervention to recover the cost of regulation where operators lack authorisation.*
- *Registration and compliance charges for waste exemptions. For farmers, we are proposing a reduced compliance charge for a set of 15 common on-farm waste exemptions.*

While England's waste management industry generates nearly £7 billion annually, illegal waste activities contribute over £1 billion in damages each year.

With the growing needs of the legitimate sector, these new service charges are necessary to maintain effective regulatory services and combat waste crime.

Steve Molyneux, Deputy Director of Waste and Resources Regulation at the EA, emphasised the importance of fairness and transparency. The proposed changes aim to enhance regulatory efforts and support legitimate businesses while reducing environmental harm.

The consultation period is open until midnight on 20th January 2025.

See also Marco Muia's column on page 56.

Waste permits to be conditional on tax compliance

The Government plans to tighten tax compliance rules for environmental permits in the waste sector to combat fraud.

By expanding 'conditionality' measures to areas like animal welfare and transport, HMRC aims to close a £2.2 billion hidden tax gap.

Under the new policy, businesses must pass a tax check before obtaining public sector licences. HMRC states this method is a "cost-effective and simple way to eliminate non-compliance."

Many businesses need government licences, and those earning taxable income must report it to HMRC. This initiative also aims to clarify tax obligations for those in the hidden economy.

A consultation is open for public feedback until the end of January.

A recent report indicated that 18.4% of expected landfill tax went unpaid in 2021-22, contributing to a hidden economy tax gap that makes up 5% of the overall tax gap. HMRC's goal is to prevent people from entering the hidden economy. Businesses must provide proof of tax compliance to receive permits.

Conditionality measures were first consulted on in 2016 and implemented in 2022 for private hire vehicles and scrap metal businesses in England and Wales, later extending to Scotland and Northern Ireland.

The new sectors targeted for conditionality are seen as vulnerable to exploitation by those evading taxes.

Last year, MPs reported that 70% of major organised crime groups involved in landfill tax fraud also committed money laundering, with 63% engaging in other criminal activities.

Labour MP Kevan Jones criticised HMRC for its lack of enforcement, while Defra announced an internal inquiry to assess its regulatory system.

Veolia wins the Healthcare Supplier of the Year award

Veolia, Europe's local decarbonising energy leader, has won the flagship Healthcare Supplier of the Year award from the Institute of Healthcare Engineering and Estate Management (IHEEM). The award recognises the diverse range of services the specialist energy teams can provide, helping hospitals reach their carbon reduction targets whilst delivering affordable, low-carbon energy efficiency upgrades as part of Veolia's Green Up strategic programme.

For over 50 years, Veolia has supported the NHS by delivering a wide range of on-site energy management and FM services. More recently, the company has managed a total investment of over £71 million for major carbon-reducing energy projects at five hospitals working through the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS). These upgrades will reduce annual carbon emissions by 11,865 tonnes CO_2e.

The schemes use an innovative 'whole building' methodology - a holistic approach based on how facilities and energy delivery systems interact while enhancing patient care. The upgrades are backed by using the latest developments in solar panels, air and ground source heat pumps, de-steaming, insulation, controls and LED lighting to ensure the systems are practical and provide long-term energy security.

Delivered on working hospital sites, the Veolia teams work closely with the hospitals' estate teams to ensure the upgrades are effectively planned and installed with minimal impact on patient care. Veolia guarantees delivery and service quality and supports the sites 24/7 through long-term (typically 15-year) service contracts.

Veolia's decarbonisation of healthcare includes the management of waste for over 100 hospitals to maximise recycling. These recycled materials represent a 60-70% carbon saving against using virgin resources. Through compliant treatment, Veolia also manages hazardous and non-recyclable waste streams that fall under the orange, yellow, red, blue and purple clinical waste categories. Developing new processes at Veolia's own facilities improves clinical waste hierarchy and lowers carbon emissions by 70% (from 213 kg/CO^2/tonne to 58kg/CO^2/tonne) against existing services.

John Abraham, Veolia's Chief Operating Officer for industrial, Water, and Energy in the UK, Ireland, and Nordics, said: "We're deeply committed to helping the NHS become the world's first health service to reach carbon net zero by 2045, building on over 50 years' worth of experience in advancing the sustainability of healthcare in the UK.

"Our thanks to IHEEM for their recognition. We are very proud that our dedication, and that of our teams, has gained this prestigious award. Thanks also to the many partner NHS trusts we are working with to develop these new decarbonised solutions."

"To make a real difference and limit the damaging effects of climate change needs innovation, and this latest Award shows what we can do for the vital healthcare sector as part of our Green Up strategic programme."

IHEEM is the UK's largest professional body dedicated to research, education and the professional development of healthcare engineers and facilities managers. It delivers resources to help its members stay up-to-date on changing regulations and the latest innovations.

Government launches 'major crackdown' on NHS waste

The Government has announced a 'major crackdown' on waste within the NHS through a new strategy called the *Design for Life Roadmap.*

This plan features 30 actions aimed at reducing single-use medical devices and reliance on imported products. To support this initiative, the Government will collaborate with companies to promote sustainable product production and provide training for NHS staff.

The Queen's Nursing Institute (QNI) has expressed support, noting that many nurses are already leading efforts to minimise the NHS's carbon footprint, including advocating for reusable inhalers.

The Department of Health and Social Care highlights that disposable medical devices contribute significantly to the 156,000 tonnes of clinical waste generated annually by the NHS. The roadmap aims to cut this waste while maximising reuse and recycling, potentially creating thousands of UK jobs and achieving savings for the NHS.

The Government also plans to revise procurement rules to encourage the use of reusable products and develop a training framework focused on sustainability in healthcare.

Health and Social Care Secretary Wes Streeting emphasised the need to eliminate waste in the NHS, stating: "Every year, millions of expensive medical devices are discarded after just one use."

Dr Crystal Oldman, QNI Chief Executive, praised the approach, pointing out that nurses are already driving initiatives to reduce disposable inhaler prescriptions in favour of reusable ones. She noted that such efforts not only benefit the environment but also save costs for the NHS.

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Restrict packaging usage for uncut fruit and vegetables, urges WRAP

WRAP (the Waste and Resources Action Programme) is urging the UK government to limit plastic packaging for uncut fresh fruit and vegetables sold in stores.

This change aims to help people buy only what they need, which can reduce food waste, cut down on single-use packaging, and lower carbon emissions.

Currently, about 70% of edible food waste in the UK comes from homes, and fresh fruits and vegetables account for the most waste.

Each year, around 70,000 tonnes of single-use plastic are used to package these fresh items. To address this issue, WRAP is working with industry partners through the *Pathway to Selling More Uncut Fresh Fruit and Vegetables Loose* programme. This voluntary initiative aims to increase the sale of loose produce. By 2030, they hope to have half of the sales of uncut fruit and vegetables sold loose.

However, WRAP and its partners from the UK Plastics Pact and Courtauld 2030

have found challenges in shifting to mostly loose products. Therefore, they believe policy changes are needed to ensure a fair market.

WRAP, a sustainability charity, and Policy Connect have investigated possible policy measures to help the industry move faster towards this goal. They recommend that the UK Government consider implementing these policies step-by-step.

This could start with banning plastic packaging for 21 specific products identified in WRAP's research, with some exceptions and special considerations.

Scottish waste industry unites under 'Resourcing Scotland'

The Scottish waste management industry has launched a new partnership called *Resourcing Scotland*. This partnership aims to develop a waste strategy for Scotland and improve the waste management system.

Resourcing Scotland will bring together various waste management groups and all 32 local authorities in the country. Key participants include the Chartered Institution for Wastes Management (CIWM) Scotland, the Association for Renewable Energy and Clean Technology (REA), the Resource Management Association Scotland (RMAS), the Scottish Environmental Services Association (SESA) and the Local Authority Waste Managers Network.

Last month, the partnership held its first conference at the Assembly Rooms in Edinburgh. The event focused on important issues in the sector, such as landfill capacity, recycling policies, and carbon reduction.

After the conference, *Resourcing Scotland* plans to create a White Paper to present to the Scottish Government in early 2025.

Laura Tainsh, chair of the Scotland Centre Council of the CIWM and conference chair, stated: "Resourcing Scotland brings together key operators across Scotland's waste and resource management sector to address the significant challenges the sector faces.

"As the Scottish Government develops its Residual Waste Plan for the next two decades, it is vital for the sector to express its views clearly and collectively to support this long-term strategy."

Andrew Murdoch, chair of RMAS and Managing Director of the waste management company J & M Murdoch & Son, added: "As a leader in the waste management industry, I'm pleased to be involved with this new partnership. *Resourcing Scotland* plays a crucial role in representing the industry's views and ensuring that government objectives are developed alongside local authorities and private waste management operators."

Veolia reacts to Autumn Budget

Gavin Graveson,
Veolia UK & Ireland CEO

We welcome the Budget that signals growth, and the green economy remains firmly on the Government's agenda.

For the recycling and waste sector, the Government's decarbonisation programme pledges important funding for CCUS and green hydrogen but misses the mark of incentivising the fastest way to decarbonise waste, which is removing plastics from the waste stream.

We were disappointed that the Plastic Packaging Tax (PPT) was only increased in line with CPI and that the Treasury did not set more ambitious targets to increase recycled content. The PPT must be increased in line with the rises seen across the landfill tax rate and in preparation for the Emissions Trading Scheme, which will move more plastics from waste to resource.

Increasing the Plastic Packaging Tax to £500 per tonne and 50% recycled content over the next few years will help stimulate a stagnated plastic recycling market, attract new investment and jobs, and significantly lower emissions from waste treatment.

A mass balance approach will support emerging technology across the chemical recycling sector and make progress toward recycling lower-grade plastics in a circular economy, but further action is required to ensure there is an end market for the recycled content.

Tackling hidden economies is also a welcome step. We urge Defra to swiftly reform waste carrier licences and take decisive action against waste crime, which blights our industry and the environment.

The chancellor has addressed a number of policy areas that are vital for the UK's transition to a greener economy, but further progress could and should be made in the coming months to accelerate this transition.

ERM highlights CCS potential in the UK's EfW sector

ERM, the world's largest sustainability consultancy, has published a report on the potential for Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) in the UK's Energy-from-Waste (EfW) sector. This report examines how CCS can help meet the UK's net zero goals.

Viridor commissioned the report, which finds that CCS could help achieve 27% of the UK Government's target for greenhouse gas removals by 2035.

The analysis also shows that using CCS with EfW could lead to a carbon-neutral electricity grid, supporting the UK's aim to decarbonise the grid by 2035.

In the past 20 years, UK local authorities have increasingly used EfW facilities to reduce waste going to landfill. EfW helps avoid environmental problems from landfills, produces electricity, and allows recovery of valuable metals from waste.

CCS is currently the only way to cut Scope 1 emissions from EfW. Six EfW facilities in the UK have announced plans to use CCS, as they are located near CO^2 storage sites.

The Government is negotiating with two facilities, Protos ERF and Viridor Runcorn, to receive funding for CCS projects and aims for them to be operational by 2027. These facilities are connected to the HyNet Cluster in Merseyside, a key industrial area.

Implementing CCS could attract £19 billion in investment by 2050 and create over 14,000 green jobs.

Centre of energy expertise Regen welcomes EMR

World leader in sustainable materials, EMR, is taking another significant step towards creating an at-scale circular economy for decommissioned wind turbines by joining the influential industry body Regen.

After more than a decade of policymakers overseeing a de facto ban on the onshore wind in England, the industry now faces the opportunity of rapid growth and the challenge of reaching ambitious capacity targets by 2030.

With over 200 members, Regen aims to improve the energy sector by providing technical support, industry research, and policy insights. EMR is the first sustainable materials company to join, contributing to efforts for a circular renewable energy sector.

EMR recently opened its Wind Turbine Processing Centre in Glasgow to find new ways to reuse decommissioned renewable assets, including hard-to-recycle wind turbine blades.

The UK Government has set a target of 30 GW of onshore wind power by the end of the decade. To achieve this, the industry must address connectivity, planning, and supply chain issues and improve existing wind farms with advanced technology.

EMR is committed to reaching net-zero emissions by 2040 and is working on various sustainabileity projects. Birmingham's new battery recycling facility will reuse end-of-life electric vehicle (EV) batteries for energy storage.

Regen also manages the Electricity Storage Network (ESN), which supports electricity storage and creates collaboration opportunities for EMR and its members. Furthermore, EMR has established a supply chain for reusable steel to help reduce emissions in the wind turbine industry. They are investing in electrified cranes, material handlers, and energy-efficient shredders to support their decarbonisation efforts.

Hannah Stanley, Stakeholder Manager at Regen, said: "We're pleased to welcome EMR to the Regen network. Their expertise in sustainable materials management comes at a crucial time as we establish circular solutions for decommissioned wind turbines and other renewable assets."

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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**

Sadly, we have more protection at work, than on the streets

In the world of HR and employment law, the big story for the last few weeks has been the introduction of a new statutory duty under The Worker Protection (Amendment of Equality Act 2010) Act 2023 (the new Act), which came into force on 26th October, 2024. This introduces a new duty for employers to take reasonable steps to prevent sexual harassment of employees during their employment.

Protection from sexual harassment has been around for decades and was last updated when the Equality Act 2010 was implemented. However, the new Act now imposes a mandatory legal duty on employers to proactively prevent sexual harassment of employees while they are at work by taking reasonable preventative actions.

Allegations of a breach of this new duty can only be considered by a tribunal where an employee's claim for sexual harassment has been upheld. Therefore, it gives more teeth to a well-founded claim and a higher burden on an employer to show that it did everything possible to prevent the behaviour.

When an employee wins a sexual harassment claim at an employment tribunal and the employer is found to have neglected their duty to take reasonable preventative steps, the tribunal may increase the compensation awarded by up to 25%, which is significant, given there is no cap on such awards. These types of claims can put employers out of business, and I have seen it happen.

So that's a big deal for employers. However, in terms of protecting people from harassment, I have recently experienced a complete failure on the part of the police to deal with the harassment I experienced. This leads me to wonder, are we safer at work?

I was walking my dog at lunchtime, in daylight. It took a while to comprehend, but I was being followed. A few experimental changes of direction, stops and starts confirmed to me that I was being followed. I don't actually know when it started, however, from the time I realised I was in trouble until the police arrived, nearly 45 minutes had elapsed.

During that time, I walked quickly, changed direction, crossed roads, questioned my sanity, and did everything I could to assure myself that I wasn't imagining the situation. Once you have done all that, it becomes an escalating fear. Every time I saw a member of the public, they went indoors or hopped in their vehicle and drove off before I could reach them. All the time, this guy was at my heel trying to talk to me. Ignoring me, asking that he leave me alone. My dog loves people. I didn't know if she would protect me, but if she did, am I at fault? So I just walked quickly, trying to find someone to help.

The man walked less than two feet behind me, hands stuffed in his pockets. Did he have a knife, a rope? I didn't want to find out.

Eventually, I reached a local shop where I approached a worker and said: 'I'm being followed'. He immediately told the guy to leave. Despite this, the perpetrator just carried on hanging around, staring at me and the guy from the shop, totally nonplussed, even though I had also called the police by this time. He did not care. The guy in the shop stayed with me the whole time. But he was afraid, too. It was all so weird.

When they arrived, the police had to determine if a crime had been committed before engaging with the perpetrator, who was nonchalantly waiting for the police to go so he could follow me home.

The only times in my life that I have called the police have been when I felt in personal danger when my house got burgled with me in it, and when I was stalked. On both occasions, the perpetrators were convicted. Police data should show that I only ever contact the police if I am genuinely in fear and a crime has been committed. However, I was 'pre-qualified' to determine if I was a victim of a crime before they dispatched a patrol car. This guy was frightening me to the extent that I was afraid to go home.

He pretended to be mute, then gave the police two false names, so they detained him and said they would be in touch. After eight hours, I called for an update and was told they had let him out; he had 'a mental health issue' and no further action. No statement would be taken from me.

According to the police, following someone is not a crime. It should be. Every attack or murder of a lone female on the streets starts with the victim being followed.

Given the new duty on employers, isn't time the police's statutory duty to deal with harassment reviewed and updated to ensure they deal with harassment in a manner that reflects the victim's experience rather than the perpetrator's purported mental health issue? Surely, any mental health issue is a sentencing matter and not a reason to let a dangerous man out on the streets...

Why greater waste innovation is the answer to tackling UK's dirty waste secret

The pressing need for sustainable waste management solutions is more apparent than ever

DR STEPHEN WISE
Chief Strategic Development Officer at Advetec

An article published by *BBC News* in October highlighted how Energy-from-Waste plants (EfW) that burn rubbish to generate electricity are no longer viable or environmentally responsible. The article reveals that the BBC examined five years of data from across the country and found that burning waste produces the same amount of greenhouse gases for each unit of energy as coal power, which was abandoned by the UK earlier this year.

The piece highlighted the growing issue of waste incineration in the UK, with emissions from burning rubbish overtaking coal as the dirtiest form of power generation. While it's understandable that incineration was once seen as a quick fix to divert waste from landfill, the reality is that the carbon footprint and pollution generated by burning rubbish are significant.

Legislative pressures and impending cost increases are further exacerbating the issue. As announced in the 2024 spring budget, landfill disposal costs will increase from April 2025. The current tax of £103.70 will rise by over 20% to £126.15. That's a significant cost jump, especially when gate fees are added on top.

Even if they manage to navigate that challenge, waste management companies still have to consider the forthcoming inclusion of EfW in the ETS. This could increase gate fees by £40 per tonne. In this instance, if a handler sends 10,000 tonnes to EfW each year, costs increase by a staggering £400k per year.

Waste handlers are under increasing pressure to seek innovative and sustainable solutions to minimise EfW and landfill dependency, enhance recycling efforts, and reduce environmental impact, all while trying to stabilise operating costs.

The time to innovate is now, but what is the alternative?

Waste handlers who balance cost efficiency with customer satisfaction and embrace a forward-thinking approach will be ready for legislative change and the rising cost of traditional offtake methods.

Innovation is key here, especially technologies that open up other cost-effective offtake routes without requiring significant capex or passing costs to customers.

Biotechnology, as advocated by Advetec, for example, can reduce the greenhouse gas emissions associated with unrecyclable, contaminated waste. By using blends of bacteria - or biostimulants - to digest the organic matter left on waste, this science can stabilise, reduce, and repurpose unrecyclable waste that would otherwise be sent to landfills or incinerated.

From a cost point of view, biotechnology can reduce landfill tax liability and save the average waste handler up to £30 per tonne or a massive £300,000 per year[1]. Importantly, it also offers a lucrative new revenue channel by tapping into a cost-effective offtake market that's better for the environment.

Rapid adoption means timely benefits

Investing in innovative waste management technologies offers many benefits, each delivering a solid return.

The case for innovation gains greater impetus every day. In Scotland, for instance, new reports point to the potential for a significant deficit in EfW capacity ahead of the biodegradable municipal waste landfill ban coming into force on 1st January 2026. Waste handlers can no longer rely on traditional routes - not only is the cost increasing, but their capacity is also diminishing.

After reviewing the BBC's findings, Professor Keith Bell, who sits on the UK Climate Change Committee, said: "If the current government is serious about clean power by 2030, then we cannot allow ourselves to be locked into just burning waste."

Waste handlers need alternative disposal routes, such as SRF offtake, immediately. EfW and landfills are causing irreparable damage to our planet, and as the countdown to legislative change progresses, there is an opportunity to get ahead. This opportunity requires the early adoption of groundbreaking biotechnology, so don't wait - innovate.

For more information, visit **www.advetec.com**

[1]Based on sending 10,000 tonnes of unrecyclable waste to EfW each year.

Turkey's plan to recycle more has made life hard for its informal waste pickers

TULIN DZHENGIZ
Lecturer in Sustainability, Manchester Metropolitan University

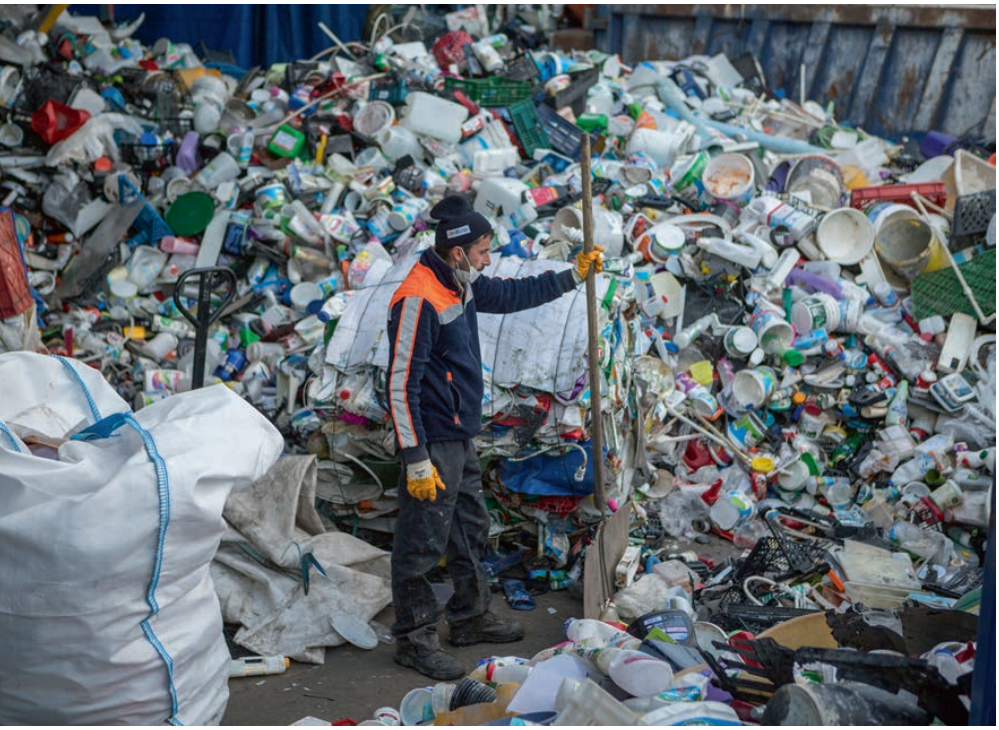
A waste picker towing his cart through a street in Antalya, Turkey

Turkey's 500,000 informal waste pickers carry out around 80% of the country's recycling. These workers, who are also known as *çekçekçi,* are essential for separating waste in a country where this is rarely done at the source.

But their lives are precarious. Most are unregistered, lack social security, and have no access to basic services such as healthcare. Now, they are affected by efforts to formalise Turkey's waste management system.

Many of the workers are migrants. However, large-scale immigration over recent years, particularly from conflict zones such as Afghanistan and Syria, has contributed to a rise in nationalistic sentiment throughout the country.

This has seen immigrants - and particularly waste pickers - portrayed in a negative fashion. The media has, for instance, labelled waste pickers 'şehir eşkıyası' (urban bandits). Many people have argued that Turkey's informal waste-picking practices should end.



A waste picker towing his cart through a street in Antalya, Turkey

Yavuz Eroğlu, the president of a non-profit organisation called PAGÇEV that promotes plastic recycling in Turkey, recently said that the country's "real problem" is its informal waste collection system. In Eroğlu's view, informal waste picking impedes the effective scaling of recycling initiatives and prevents Turkey from improving its position in the global recycling market.

Recycling facilities in Turkey require a steady and substantial supply of raw waste materials to function efficiently. However, according to the Turkish Statistics Institution, a mere 12% of the country's municipal waste was recovered in 2018 - and it is not clear how much of this was actually recycled. This is not nearly enough to keep recycling companies afloat.

So, in an effort to improve Turkey's domestic waste management, the Turkish government launched an initiative in 2022 to regulate and formalise waste collection. The legislation requires that local authorities work exclusively with licensed recyclers and registered pickers to sort through and sell waste.

Subsequently, resistance movements have emerged within the *çekçekçi*

community that advocates for the rights and recognition of informal waste pickers in Turkey. These movements have either reinforced the importance of existing waste picker collectives or led to the creation of new non-profit organisations and co-operatives.

In Istanbul, for example, the *Şişli* municipality launched an environmental waste collectors co-operative in 2023 in an attempt to formally integrate informal waste pickers into the municipal waste management system.

This has involved registering waste pickers, issuing official identification cards, and providing them with access to designated waste collection zones. Similar models have also emerged in different parts of the country. However, many of Turkey's waste pickers remain locked out of the new formal system.

The framing of informality as the problem is not new nor limited to representatives of Turkey's plastic recycling industry. In August 2021, the governor of Istanbul's office ordered a crackdown on informal waste collection activities.

Police raided nearly 100 waste collection depots and seized 650 collection carts. More than 200 people were detained in the raids, including 145 Afghan migrants who were sent to a deportation centre.

The governor's office justified the action by citing environmental and public health concerns, as well as the unregulated nature of employment in informal waste picking. In a statement, the office argued that unauthorised waste collection leads to unfair profits and announced that inspections would continue.

Waste workers responded by criticising the governor's claims and expressed frustration over being labelled as benefiting from unfair profits while living in precarious conditions without social security or a stable income.

Importing more waste

In fieldwork carried out between March and April 2024, I spoke with representatives of waste collectors, junk shop owners and waste traders in Istanbul.

Some reported that there had been a decline in waste-picking rates since the crackdown of 2021. Waste collectors and their representatives expressed concerns that this decline could further reduce domestic recycling rates and increase the reliance of recycling facilities on imported waste.

Turkey is already one of the largest importers of waste from Europe. In 2022, for example, Turkey accounted for 39% of Europe's waste exports, which included around 400,000 tonnes of plastic.

This waste has serious consequences for the environment and human health. A Greenpeace report published in 2022 found that toxins released from Turkey's plastic waste end up in the fruit and vegetables produced in the Çukurova Valley, one of the most fertile valleys in the world.

A continued decline in domestic waste collection in Turkey would create a vicious cycle. The value of Turkey's own waste will decrease, further impoverishing informal waste pickers, while the country's reliance on imported waste will grow to sustain its recycling infrastructure.

The future of informal waste picking in Turkey remains uncertain. However, as the country continues to formalise its waste management system, the challenges facing the sector's informal workers must not be ignored.

This article first appeared at www.theconversation.com

Sharp Skips strikes gold with FORS accreditation

Sharp Skips is a waste management company based in Essex that has been operating for over 40 years. The company has found that getting FORS (Fleet Operator Recognition Scheme) accreditation has opened doors to more high-profile business opportunities.

From its location in Rainham, Sharp Skips runs a fleet of nearly 40 vehicles, including skips, roll-on roll-offs, grabber loaders, and tippers. Since starting the FORS programme in 2013, the company has enjoyed many benefits. Ryan Jones, the Head of Sales at Sharp Skips, said: "FORS accreditation has helped us win new business, lower costs, and improve safety in our sector. Being FORS Gold shows potential clients that we understand environmental and safety standards."

Ryan added: "Some contractors won't work with operators below FORS Silver status. Being FORS Gold has allowed us to work with many high-profile clients. In a crowded market, our top FORS status gives us a big advantage over our competitors."

On the operational side, Sharp Skips has improved fuel efficiency across its fleet through FORS driver training initiatives. "Our drivers now meet their targets consistently, which boosts customer loyalty," Ryan explained. Safety has also improved; all vehicles are equipped with cameras to enhance driver awareness and reduce risks.

Sustainability is crucial for businesses, and FORS' focus on greener practices has greatly helped Sharp Skips. Ryan shared: "Since becoming FORS accredited, we've made great progress. In 2022, we reached an 88% recycling rate, preventing 76.56 cubic yards of waste from going to landfill. Our CO^2 emissions have dropped due to the technology in our modern vehicles, and our closed-loop recycling system has reduced our environmental impact."

Sharp Skips believes in providing exceptional service to customers and the community. While the FORS Gold requirement encourages accredited operators to adopt sustainable practices, Sharp Skips goes beyond this.

Ryan said: "Recently, our team members completed a sponsored bike ride to Ypres, a 140-mile journey to benefit Homeless Veterans UK. We raised over £5,000 for the charity, which helps veterans find work. We also organise charity events for Francis Hope Hospice and work with local schools to provide workshops on waste management and recycling, raising awareness and encouraging sustainability among young people."

He concluded: "Joining FORS can change how you operate and how others see your business. It's an investment in your company's future, helping you meet today's standards and preparing you for future challenges. I encourage every operator who is serious about growth and integrity to join the scheme."

Hopkinson Waste strengthens its empire by acquiring Sheaf Skips

Hopkinson Waste Management Ltd is excited to announce the acquisition of Sheaf Skips, a well-established waste management company based in Sheffield. This strategic move represents a significant step in our commitment to expanding our services and providing greater convenience and value to our customers.

Natalie Hirst, Managing Director of Hopkinson Waste Management, said: "We are delighted to welcome Sheaf Skips to the Hopkinson family. This acquisition strengthens our presence in the Sheffield area and enhances our ability to offer our customers a wider range of waste management solutions.

"Integrating Sheaf Skips into our operations will enable us to provide improved skip hire and waste management services throughout Sheffield and the surrounding areas. Our combined expertise and resources will ensure continued efficiency and reliability, reinforcing our position as a leading waste management provider.

"Hopkinson Waste Management is dedicated to maintaining the high standards of service that Sheaf Skips' customers have come to expect. We are also committed to bringing our focus on sustainability and innovation to the Sheffield region.

"We look forward to a bright future as we grow together and continue to deliver exceptional waste management services to our expanding customer base. The company remains committed to environmental responsibility and supporting local communities as we expand our operations."

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As we look back upon the past year, we would like to acknowledge those who have helped us shape our business.

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Waste management firm teams up with charity to recycle bikes

Budget Waste Management has partnered with Cyclists Fighting Cancer (CFC) to create a local donation hub for unwanted bicycles. This new partnership helps Budget recover used bikes, giving them a second life while supporting children and young people with cancer across the UK.

Budget Waste Management has a strong track record of helping the community. The company supports various organisations, such as Campden Home Nursing, which offers end-of-life care and works with Wallace House, the Royal British Legion, and Cardiac Risk in the Young (CRY). Through projects like skip wraps and donating skip hire for charities, Budget has made a difference in local lives.

This project with CFC offers a fresh way for Budget to contribute to charity, aligning with its goal of promoting sustainability. Instead of throwing away old bikes, this initiative ensures they benefit CFC's charity bike shops.

Eleanor Parker from Budget Waste Management said: "Working with communities is central to our mission. This partnership lets us improve our environmental efforts by keeping bikes out of landfill and helping those in need. We are proud to support a charity that impacts young people facing challenges."

Budget Waste Management launch their partnership with Cyclists Fighting Cancer. (L-R) Eleanor Parker, Tom Cox and Paulo Pereira

CFC has been helping children and young people in the UK who are going through cancer treatment for 18 years. The charity empowers them through cycling, providing specialised bikes and equipment to help over 9,000 children build strength, confidence, and independence. Its three bike shops in Stratford-upon-Avon, Cheltenham, and Manchester sell pre-loved bikes and gear, raising funds to buy new equipment and support cancer survivors.

A representative from CFC, explained: "Donations are essential for our charity bike shop. Without them, we couldn't raise the funds necessary to assist children with cancer. Support from companies like Budget, which provides bikes to sell, is crucial for CFC's success. We're thankful for anyone who donates to the shop. Recycling bikes not only helps the environment but also benefits everyone involved."

Responsible disposal of bikes can have a big impact. Every donated bike means less landfill waste and more opportunities for young cancer patients. The environmental benefits are significant: reusing and recycling materials reduces resource extraction and waste disposal emissions. Budget's partnership with CFC shows how donating a bike can support charity work. It helps children recover and promotes a circular economy.

In the future, Budget Waste Management plans to set up free bike drop-off points to make it easier for residents to donate their old bikes. These locations will help community members recycle and support CFC's mission.

If you want to learn more about this initiative or make a donation, please get in touch with the team at ***team@budgetwaste.co.uk***

CCE marks 30 years with major milestones

Established in 1994, Container Components Europe (CCE), part of the Impact Environmental Group (IEG) and home of the famous Duraflex lid, has surpassed several trading milestones as it celebrates 30 years in business.

Over the last three decades, CCE has developed, manufactured and supplied **more than six million** standard and bespoke container lid solutions for the global waste and recycling markets, supporting over **736** clients to date.

Significantly, in 2006, CCE launched its award-winning Recycling Scheme, which has seen the business recycle more than **half a million** container lids to date. Since establishing the pioneering environmental initiative, CCE, together with its customers who have signed up for the groundbreaking programme, has recycled a highly impressive 502,195 container lids, taking in the old parts and remanufacturing them as new. The lids go on an impressive journey before emerging as newly constructed and fully recycled lids.

Ken Richmond, CCE's Operations Director, who has been with the business since it was established, commented: "Everyone at CCE is extremely proud of what we have achieved over the last 30 years. The brand name DuraFlex is synonymous with quality and innovation, and the reputation we have built up for producing durable lids at competitive prices and on reliable delivery schedules has brought us a prominent position in the waste industry.

"We are excited for what's to come in the future as we continue to move forward as part of the wider Impact Environmental Group - a global waste industry category leader which plays an important role in the pursuit of a circular economy."

CCE occupies a purpose-built 44,000 sqft facility in Chesterfield, from which it services the whole of the UK, Continental Europe, and beyond. DuraFlex™ lids can now be found globally.

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Harsh supplies skiploader to Wrights of Crockey

Harsh has delivered its first skiploader to Wrights of Crockey, a plant hire company based in Yorkshire.

Alan Wright, Managing Director, highlighted the exceptional specifications and sturdy design of the Harsh skiploader, noting its impressive durability. He emphasised that their business is dedicated to offering customers a reliable and hassle-free service, which drives their careful selection of trucks.

The company prioritises vehicles that are cost-effective, efficient, and practical to own. It also prioritises safety and ease of operation for drivers. The Harsh skip unit aligns perfectly with these criteria.

This skiploader is mounted on an 18-tonne Iveco Eurocargo chassis, being the first Iveco in Wright's fleet and the inaugural model with an automatic gearbox. The advanced features of the Harsh unit include a fully handheld remote control, making it particularly suitable for urban collections and deliveries in narrow streets and confined spaces.

Wright's high-spec HS14 skiploader also includes thoughtful features such as an outside storage rack, a fold-away nearside access ladder, rear-facing LED lighting over the deck, extra LED reversing lights, and a fast-action cantilever sheeting system.

Image credit: Harsh/ Wrights of Crockey

Constructed from robust Hardox and Domex steel, the Harsh HS14 is designed to excel with an 18-tonne GVW (Gross Vehicle Weight), offering a 14-tonne lift capacity and enabling independent operation of both the lifting arms and retractable stability feet. This combination of functionality and durability makes it an excellent addition to Wrights of Crockey's fleet.

Electric JCB boom for waste management company

A leading clearance and waste management company has bought the first JCB A45E electric articulated boom in the UK.

Clearabee, based in Birmingham, received this new machine for use at their waste management site. Supplied by dealer Watling JCB, the A45E joins an existing JCB machine in Clearabee's fleet.

The boom is used for cleaning and maintenance on-site, while the other JCB machine is responsible for loading and unloading articulated lorries, as well as loading a variety of waste materials, including loose materials, cardboard, and steel into shredders.

Clearabee Site Manager Martin Grice stated: "I've successfully used JCB at previous companies, so it's my number one go-to brand. For me, they're exceptional. The quality of the machines is second to none. When it comes to JCB, you can't fault them - they do everything right."

He added: "We didn't want anything too large this time, but we still needed the power suitable for the size of the building. We specifically wanted a 15-metre working platform, and the fact that it's electric stood out for us as we're moving away from diesel, which aligns with our sustainability goals. All our shredders on-site are electric, too."

Grice mentioned that the A45E can lift 240 kg in the basket, which is more than enough for two men, and it fits conveniently between the conveyor belts. He praised the excellent battery life and manoeuvrability, noting: "Our operators and contractors have found it simple and straightforward to use, and they didn't expect it to have as much power as it does. It has saved us a lot of money on hiring equipment and reduced diesel costs."

The A45E articulated boom is one of the latest additions to the JCB E-TECH range of battery-powered equipment, providing zero emissions without compromising performance. Its maximum platform height is 13.84 metres, with a forward reach of up to 7.47 metres, offering an up-and-over clearance of 7.48 metres.

The lift capacity is 300 kg, and the machine features secondary guarding, puncture-proof tyres, slew lock, emergency override, and JCB LiveLink real-time remote monitoring as standard.

Clearabee is the UK's largest on-demand clearance company. It operates two permitted Materials Recycling Facilities (MRFs) and provides waste management services, including 'man and van' clearances, skip hire and skip bags, to homes and businesses.

Veolia driver awarded Employee of the Quarter for life-saving CPR

Former nurse and driver Matko Spondreht and colleague Scott Franklin were recognised as Veolia's Employees of the Quarter after becoming local heroes with their quick thinking and sharp awareness that led them to save the life of one of their colleagues.

On Monday, 2nd September, the Veolia St Albans refuse crew was out on their routine round when loader Daniel Gardiner complained to the driver of feeling unwell. The driver, Matko Spondreht, quickly and safely pulled to the side of the road. When Daniel became unresponsive, Matko, who had trained as a nurse prior to working for Veolia, took immediate control of the situation and put his medical training into action.

He instructed Scott, the other colleague in the vehicle, to call 999 while Matko checked Daniel for breathing and a pulse. Upon finding neither, Matko laid Daniel out on the vehicle's seats and started performing life-saving CPR. After some time and sustained efforts from Matko, Daniel regained consciousness and started breathing again. After taking some time off to recover, thankfully, Daniel has made a full recovery and returned to work with a phased approach, performing light duties for the time being.

Daniel Gardiner, Veolia loader, thanked his colleagues: "I will forever be extremely grateful, and there are not enough words to thank Matko for the responsive work that saved my life and kept me alive".

Matko Spondreht, Veolia driver, said: "Our primary focus is serving the community and looking after the area and people around us. I never once thought that would be one of the crew too! I am really glad Daniel is back at work, doing what he loves, and we are incredibly grateful for the support we have received from St Albans."

Awarding Matko and Scott with their Employee of the Quarter Award, Mark Southgate, Operations Manager at Veolia St Albans Municipal, said: "We're incredibly proud of our people who do a brilliant job for the local community week in and week out and our Employee of the Quarter award gives us a chance to recognise their everyday greatness."

"Matko's heroics made this an easy decision and we are extremely grateful for the work of him and his team, going above and beyond for each other and the community."

Councillor Paul De Kort, Leader of St Albans City and District Council, said: "I was delighted to meet Matko in person and thank him for saving his colleague Dan's life. He is a true community hero.

"We are all grateful for what he did. It was nice to meet Dan as well and see that he has fully recovered and is back working for our recycling and waste contractor."

Pictured (L-R) Scott Franklin, Matko Spondreht, Councillor Paul De Kort and Daniel Gardiner

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Looking for extra technical knowledge and support in your career?

CIWM (the Chartered Institution of Wastes Management) is the leading professional membership organisation for individuals in the waste and resource sector. We focus on creating more for our members' professional lives and offer a range of membership grades to reflect the huge variety of roles and careers that make up such a diverse industry sector.

Technical membership is created specifically for operational staff, allowing them to showcase skills and demonstrate commitment to professional development. It also recognises the newly emerging skills that our sector needs to thrive as we transition to meet government net zero and zero waste targets.

As a Technical member, CIWM provides a wealth of benefits designed to support you at every stage of your career. Whether you're just starting out or looking to deepen your expertise in the sector, membership provides valuable resources and opportunities tailored to enhance your professional journey.

One of the key benefits is the ability to use **dedicated post-nominals** (TechMCIWM), which demonstrate your commitment to professional standards and recognition in the industry. These will equip you with the right amount of credibility to showcase your expertise in your professional network.

Having a CIWM Membership grants you exclusive access to a wide range of knowledge and support. For example, **CIWM's Knowledge Centre** provides you with a vast library of reliable information including technical documents, research papers, and educational materials. Additionally, **technical advice and support** are available from experts within the institution. Whether you need guidance, wish to ask questions or want helpful tips, solutions and advice from others, you will have access to the **CIWM Connect**, our 24/7 member-only online community.

Being part of the membership means you also get access to experienced mentors who can advise on professional development, career transitions, and industry challenges, offering invaluable support to help you reach your full potential.

Networking is another significant benefit. As a member, you'll have access to a wide range of **networking opportunities**, including events, webinars, and online communities where you can connect with like-minded professionals, exchange ideas, and build lasting connections. You will also receive **exclusive savings on events and training** through your membership.

Finally, as a member, you'll receive a quarterly subscription to our award-winning ***Circular Magazine*** which offers valuable knowledge and perspectives from thought leaders within the industry. In addition, you'll receive a **weekly member newsletter** filled with the latest industry news and insights. This regular communication ensures you stay informed about current trends, emerging practices, and important regulatory changes within the waste and resource sector, keeping you one step ahead in your field.

Joining CIWM as a Technical member provides a comprehensive range of benefits that not only enhance your access to knowledge and skills but also elevate your professional standing in the industry.

To find out more information about technical membership visit **ciwm.co.uk/ciwm/membership/technical_membership** or alternatively, to discuss the best option of membership for you, contact our dedicated team at **01604 620426** or **membership@ciwm.co.uk**

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How asbestos exposure continues to be a dire health risk – 25 years after it was banned

JUSTIN STEBBING
Professor of Biomedical Sciences, Anglia Ruskin University

Although asbestos has been banned from use in the UK since 1999, the hazardous material continues to pose a serious danger to the population.

Low levels of asbestos are naturally present in the air, water and soil, which usually doesn't cause people to become ill. However, regular exposure to asbestos - in the workplace, for example - is a real health risk.

Asbestos exposure can have an insidious effect on health. It can take decades for symptoms to become noticeable, but once diagnosed, most patients die within two years.

According to the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), Britain's national regulator for workplace health and safety, more than 5,000 people die from asbestos-related diseases each year, making asbestos the leading cause of work-related deaths in the UK.

Perilous but popular

Asbestos is a group of dangerous but naturally occurring fibrous minerals widely used for decades for its heat-resistant and insulating properties. The primary types of asbestos include the most commonly used chrysotile (white asbestos), amosite (brown asbestos) and crocidolite (blue asbestos).

These fibres are highly durable and resistant to heat, electricity, and chemical damage, which made asbestos a popular material in various industries, particularly in construction and manufacturing throughout the 20th century.

Worryingly, despite the known dangers of asbestos, it remains a common material in many UK school buildings. According to a 2019 Department for Education survey, more than 80% of state schools in England and around 60% of schools in Scotland and Wales still have asbestos "present on their estate".

Asbestos is considered safe as long as it is undisturbed. However, if damaged or shed fibres are present, the material becomes highly dangerous to those exposed to it.

An (un)healthy education

When asbestos fibres become airborne and are inhaled, they can cause significant damage to lung cells and other organs.

The main health issues linked to asbestos exposure include lung cancer, mesothelioma, and asbestosis, a chronic lung disease that leads to lung tissue scarring and severe breathing difficulties.

Mesothelioma is a rare but aggressive cancer affecting the lining of the lungs - and sometimes the abdomen or heart. Sadly, as my research has shown, it's extremely difficult to treat patients with this condition.

ESA publishes bonded asbestos guidance in bid to end poor practice

By Stephen Freeland, Policy Advisor, Environmental Services Association (ESA)

Around 180,000 tonnes of bonded (cement) asbestos is disposed of each year in the UK. The journey of asbestos waste, from site of production through to collection, transport and final disposal should be carried out safely to help prevent accidental exposure to this material during its handling and transit.

Waste producers clearly play a key role, with on-site waste management decisions and practices impacting on how bonded asbestos is presented for onward collection and transport to disposal point. Unfortunately, landfill operators note instances of hauliers arriving on site with asbestos waste presented for disposal in varying conditions, including loose and unwrapped within open containers. This, of course, has implications for all those in the asbestos management chain, not least compliance, risk and insurance.

ESA and our Members are committed to driving the highest standards across the industry - protecting the environment, our workforce, and the public. We have therefore taken this opportunity

This article first appeared at www.theconversation.com

HSE statistics show that 111 teachers died from mesothelioma between the years of 2011-20. In 2021, 23 teachers died from the cancer. A 2021 report by the Joint Union Asbestos Committee (JUAC), a group that was set up to protect workers and students from the risk of asbestos, states estimates that *"1,000 teachers and support staff and 9,000 former pupils died from mesothelioma between 1980 and 2017 due to asbestos exposure in schools"*.

Deadly decay

State school buildings constructed in the UK between the 1950s and 1999 will likely have been built using asbestos-containing materials. Despite the guidance that asbestos is safe if not disturbed, there are concerns that the dilapidated state of many of the UK's state school buildings is causing teachers and children to be at risk of asbestos exposure.

In October 2024, the CEO of the Mesothelioma UK charity, Liz Darlison, told the *MailOnline* that:

The ongoing presence of asbestos in our deteriorating school buildings is like a bomb that is slowly exploding. It's an unbelievable tragedy and a national disgrace that we are not doing more to protect people, especially children.

Crumbling school buildings could disturb asbestos fibres, causing them to be released and then inhaled by teachers and students. Asbestos fibres are invisible - they can't be seen, smelled or felt in the air or on clothes, so it's impossible to know if you've been exposed to it - until it's too late.

It seems that the only way to finally eradicate the health risks of asbestos is to remove it from public buildings. Strict regulation enforcement, public education, safe removal programmes, and support for those who've been exposed to asbestos will be essential in ensuring that asbestos-related health risks are finally eradicated.

to produce guidance setting out the minimum standards that ESA Members expect of hauliers and producers when packaging and presenting loads of bonded asbestos to disposal sites.

Crucially, the guidance aims to bring about an end to the practice whereby loads of broken bonded asbestos arrive for disposal at landfill sites unwrapped in open containers. This is an entirely unacceptable means for the transport and disposal of asbestos waste, which places landfill staff and the wider community at risk.

In an update to a previous version, the guidance provides some additional clarity on the circumstances in which loads should be consigned under full ADR regulations or where the SP168 exemption could legitimately apply. The guidance explains how the asbestos should be packaged and presented under each option and assists disposal site managers in making the necessary actions and decisions depending on how loads of this material are presented at the site.

Uptake and implementation of the guidance will be monitored, and we hope that this will help bring about the necessary step-change in managing and handling this waste stream - to secure more consistent compliance across the entire management chain. Additionally, ESA will seek to engage organisations across the waste management chain that our members tend to have less influence over, namely waste producers and hauliers, to help raise awareness of the approach taken in the guidance.

To view and download this guidance document, scan the QR code.

YOUR TRUSTED PARTNER IN WASTE

Comprehensive solutions from Contract Plant

In a world that is increasingly aware of waste management and responsible disposal, having the right tools at your disposal makes all the difference. Contract Plant stands out in the UK market as a beacon of support for the waste and material handling industries, dedicated to providing innovative solutions and cutting-edge equipment tailored to meet the diverse needs of its clients.

Understanding the industry needs

The waste-handling industry is not just about moving materials from one point to another - it's about efficiency, reliability, and sustainability. As businesses strive to reduce footfalls while maximising their output, an adept partner can mean the difference between profit and loss. Recognising this gap, Contract Plant's mission is to deliver comprehensive rental solutions designed with industry-specific challenges in mind.

An impressive fleet at your service

At the heart of Contract Plant's offering is an expansive fleet, which is arguably the largest in the UK when it comes to waste material handlers, waste-master forklifts, and waste-ready counterbalance solutions. This diverse range of machinery guarantees that businesses can find the right equipment to boost their operational capacity and efficiency regardless of size.

Whether you're looking for a short-term hire to bridge a maintenance gap in your existing equipment or a long-term bespoke solution crafted to your specific needs, we've got you covered. We take pride in our meticulous selection process, ensuring our clients get the right machinery to keep their businesses running smoothly and seamlessly.

More than just equipment

The role of Contract Plant extends beyond simply being a rental provider.

Continued on page 28 >>

CONTRACT PLANT

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MATERIAL HANDLERS

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NATIONWIDE SUPPLY

We offer a partnership that prioritises your operational success. Our responsive Service and Parts department is at the forefront of this mission. Available at a moment's notice, we ensure that our clients aren't left in a lurch, enabling us to assist businesses across Great Britain whenever and wherever needed.

Our After Sales team, composed of seasoned professionals, works diligently to minimise your downtime. This wealth of experience means our clients can rely on us for prompt service, ensuring their operations continue without significant interruption. In a sector where every minute matters, this commitment to service excellence is what sets us apart.

Forklift solutions tailored for you

In line with our comprehensive approach, our range of JAC and CESAB forklifts caters to various needs, whether through purchase, contract hire, or short-term rentals. We also prioritise sustainability by offering various second-hand options for those looking to invest wisely while minimising costs.

Our national supply reach means we can meet the demands of clients across the UK. No matter where your business is located, Contract Plant has your forklift needs covered.

Material handling made easy

One of the key aspects of waste management is the efficient handling of materials. With ranges from 16 to 25 tons for general waste and up to 40 tons for metal scrap handling, we bring an extensive line-up of material handlers, including industry leaders such as Sennebogen, Atlas, Fuchs, and Liebherr.

Additionally, our Waste-Master telehandlers, available in both standard and raised cab configurations, are offered for short- and long-term rentals. This variety ensures that clients can always find the right type and capacity of machinery for their specific tasks.

Attachment back-up like no other

Contract Plant's commitment to your needs extends to attachments, an often-overlooked aspect of waste management. Our inventory includes 5-tine orange peel grabs, selector grabs, magnets and dedicated shears, available for rental. This versatility means that businesses won't face downtime when equipment malfunctions or requires repair.

Furthermore, we provide an optional fitting service and can deliver anywhere in the UK, meaning businesses have less to manage on their own - another factor that underscores our role as a true partner.

Conclusion

In the fast-paced world of waste management and material handling, having a trusted partner like Contract Plant can elevate your operations, boost efficiency, and ultimately drive success. Our extensive fleet, dedicated service, and impressive variety of equipment and attachments ensure that we can meet any challenge head-on.

As the industry evolves, Contract Plant remains committed to supporting businesses across the UK with innovative solutions that keep them ahead of the curve. Partnering with us means investing in your operations' future - that's one decision every business can confidently make.

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Choose Contract Plant: Your trusted partner rental in waste.

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Providing Cornwall with soil and waste management expertise

There's more to Cornwall than beautiful beaches and Cornish pasties. Cornwall Council's ambitious £10.6 billion investment plan in construction projects in the next 10 years promises a boom in development opportunities for contractors and consultants alike - so keep your eyes peeled, as we certainly will.

Unsurprisingly, this brings challenges around waste management and handling construction soils and contaminated materials. Navigating the world of construction soils and contaminated land is **NOT** easy and requires qualified and experienced specialists with technical competency and a strong rooting in compliance.

It is one of the main reasons why our business (UK Remediation Ltd) set up a base in Cornwall so that we can provide our remediation and waste management expertise to such an area of natural importance, supporting circular economy and boosting jobs and economic growth in the region.

Delivering small to large scale remediation projects

Cornwall's historic mining industry has left behind very elevated heavy metal contamination, leading to planning conditions requiring remediation on any new development. Our recent work at Hallenbeagle (Scorrier) required an extensive reprofiling and remediation scheme to prepare the 3ha site for the construction of a waste recycling and packaging facility. Our team reviewed the remediation strategy for the site and implemented changes to enable the majority of existing site soils to remain on site under an engineered cover system - *removing the requirement to landfill metal impacted soils and reduce the import of fill materials.*

On a smaller scale, we have undertaken several residential projects where the landscape and gardens of existing sites had to be remediated to remove the human health risks associated with elevated heavy metals in the surface soils. All works came with a verification / completion report that was then used to discharge planning conditions on those developments.

Treating hazardous and non-hazardous soils off-site

Our Cornwall Soil Hub, situated at Wheal Jane Science Park in Truro, is the only hazardous soil treatment facility in Cornwall offering sustainable, landfill tax-free soil treatment solutions. By locally managing hazardous soils - those containing asbestos, heavy metals and hydrocarbons - *we minimise the need for long-distance disposal out of the county, decreasing CO^2 emissions, and supporting regional restoration initiatives, including the Wheal Jane Clemows Valley Tailings Dam.*

A key part of our specialist work is also making sure we are up to scratch and beyond with the Environment Agency's legislation. Prior to any material movements, our team ensures that any construction soils in the area get properly sampled, tested and classified in line with WM3 regulations. Furthermore, when we sample our soils, we consider not just the expected contaminants but also statistical analyses that let us confirm with very high certainty that soils contain the expected contaminants. We use those same tests and analyses after treatment to prove that the soils are clean as a whistle!

All our soil movements are digitally tracked using industry-leading soil tracking software that allows us to easily manage all the loads that come in and out of our facility and provide clients with real-time access into earthworks movements.

All in all, UK Remediation are well-placed in the heart of Cornwall to actively give back to the land and the economy - not only to meet legislation but to be part of that leading driving force that defines Cornwall and has made it what it is today - an area of outstanding natural beauty, a resource-rich contributor to the UK economy, and most importantly, a fantastic place to live and work.

For any soil remediation and waste management enquiries, please get in touch with us at ***wastesolutions@ukremediation.co.uk*** *or call* ***0117 924 4990****.*

UK Remediation Ltd

The cost-saving benefits of reliable storage bay solutions

A well-designed, dependable storage bay is more than just a place to keep materials - it's a strategic asset that can significantly reduce costs, minimise waste throughout the handling and transportation process, and be part of your Fire Prevention Plan when built from A1 Fire-Resistant concrete blocks. **OWEN BATHAM, Sales and Marketing Director at Elite Precast,** believes that by effectively protecting materials from water exposure, these storage bay solutions offer numerous advantages such as:

Photos courtesy of RSG Structures

Preventing water damage and weight gain

Water seepage is a silent culprit that can substantially increase the weight of exposed materials. This added weight not only compromises the integrity of the materials but also leads to inflated transport costs, especially when shipping charges are calculated based on weight.

Enhancing handling efficiency

Waterlogged materials are often heavier and more challenging to manage. This increased difficulty in handling can in:

- *Extended processing times;*
- *Increase additional labour hours;*
- *Increased risk of workplace injuries;*
- *Raise potential damage to handling equipment;*
- *Increase transport costs.*

Keeping materials dry and shielded from the elements is crucial for maintaining their quality. Proper storage helps prevent:

- *Degradation of material properties;*
- *Mold and mildew growth;*
- *Corrosion or rust formation.*

Enhanced operational efficiency

Keeping materials together and dry means you know where materials are kept, and dry materials are easier to work with, leading to smoother operations and potentially faster processing times.

Lower energy costs

Dry materials often require less energy to process or transport, potentially reducing energy consumption.

Increasing safety

Properly stored materials are less likely to become unstable or hazardous due to water damage, enhancing workplace safety and by installing an A1 fire-rated storage bay system, a business can protect their infrastructure and materials that:

- *Reduces the spread of fire;*
- *Pays no contribution towards a fire;*
- *Compliant with standards;*
- *Can be used as part of your FPP (Fire Prevention Plan).*

Reducing overall costs

By investing in reliable storage bay solutions, businesses can realise significant cost savings through:

- *Lower transportation expenses;*
- *Reduced labour costs;*
- *Minimised material waste;*
- *Decreased need for material replacements;*
- *Improved operational efficiency.*

Compliance with regulations

Proper storage can help businesses meet environmental and safety standard regulations related to material handling and storage.

Owen concludes that implementing dependable storage bays, such as those built with interlocking concrete blocks is a proactive approach to protecting your materials and bottom line. The initial investment in quality storage solutions pays dividends by preserving material integrity, streamlining operations and ultimately reducing overall costs.

Elite Precast works with a number of specialist companies that can design and fit roof structures to ensure maximum space use and a dry solution. For more information on the Duo™ and Legato® concrete blocks, which have been successfully used to build storage bays for many years, visit www.eliteprecast.co.uk/interlocking-blocks/ or speak to Owen or Jess at 01952 588 885.

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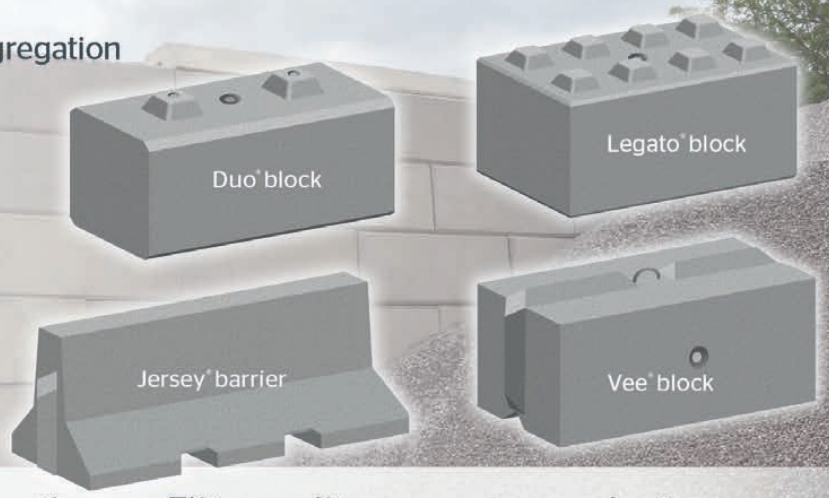
- Silage clamps
- Earth retention
- Traffic calming
- Security/property protection
- Scrap and steel recycling
- Security barriers



For more information on Elite quality concrete products phone 01952 588 885 or browse www.eliteprecast.co.uk

MJ Teale invests into fibo Intercon concrete, mortar and screed collections

MJ Teale Recycled Sand & Aggregates, established in 1971, provides quality recycled aggregates in Blackpool, Wyre, and the Fylde Coast. With over 50 years of experience, the company ensures superior service and compliance with WRAP protocols and Highway Works Specifications. They process non-hazardous soils and hard materials, including concrete and tarmac. Their facility also includes Blackpool Skip Hire for waste management and recycling, reflecting a commitment to the circular economy.

Recently, the Kingscourt site introduced the UK and Ireland's 10th fibo Collect concrete, mortar and screed drive-thru machine, which opened to the public on 1st November after a successful soft launch.

Directors Josh and Jake Teale are focused on growth through innovation and sustainability. They ordered the fibo Collect system from fibo Intercon in August 2024 and achieved a live launch just three months later.

Alex Atkinson, fibo Intercon UK Partner, recently took the opportunity to catch up with Director Josh Teale to explore his initial thinking around the investment decision along with his aspirations for the future.

Alex Atkinson: Why did the fibo Collect concept appeal to MJ TEALE?

Josh Teale: Well, we're a very forward-thinking waste management company with sustainability at the heart of what we do. As a business, we're focused on producing high-quality sand & gravels as a bi-produce of waste excavations that would otherwise be sent to a landfill. There are a lot of companies that are focused on making environmentally friendly decisions at the moment, but it's something we've been dedicated to for 40 years. The core of both our businesses is recycling, so we like to set the bar when we can.

The decision to invest in the fibo Collect system is based on our passion for a circular economy. We are always looking for alternate ways to be resourceful with these materials. The concept has opened up opportunities for us to push

A new click-and-collect concept for concrete, mortar and screed collections is gaining significant momentum across the UK. fibo Collect was the first to enter the market making its UK debut in February 2023.

The system comprises an automated batching plant equipped with self-cleaning technology, a washout recycling tank and a hydraulic conveyor, all merged with cloud-based software, enabling users to easily order varying amounts of concrete, mortar, or screed with a simple push of a button and offering flexibility with orders starting from as little as 0.2m³ but with the ability to stretch to 15 - 20m³ per hour if needed. It's like a giant coffee machine, but instead of an americano or a latte, the user can order from a delicious selection of quality concrete, mortar and screed recipes.

For more information, scan the QR code

Henrik B Jeppesen (fibo Intercon CEO) and Josh Teale (MJ Teale Director)

our recycled products further up the value chain whilst creating a quality, greener and more efficient ready mixed concrete, mortar and screed service for our local market.

We've built the capacity to process excavation materials from sites across the North West that would otherwise end up in landfill. Now, we're not only converting these materials into stone but also advancing them further up the supply chain to produce concrete. This allows us to take materials from one construction site and deliver sustainable products back to the same location, actively supporting a circular economy.

Alex: Who will be the main users of the 'drive-thru' service?

Josh: The new service is perfect for landscapers, groundworkers and utility contractors in the local area, who have all shown a lot of interest already. There will be a lot of existing customers, but we've also been attracting companies we haven't dealt with before to the facility.

The fibo Collect automated RFID tags for us have also given us an inroad to support local council workers and larger contractors, some of which have been to try out the machine already. It offers them a more flexible and convenient service.

The pan mixer on the machine has an automated cleaning and washout facility, which fits well with your current ethos. It has also given us a chance to break into the mortar market, where we can gain bricklayer customers from the housebuilding sector.

Alex: What were your initial thoughts about the factory visit to fibo Intercon?

Josh: We have been extremely impressed with the attention to detail in all parts of the manufacturing process. But what has surprised us more is the productive work ethic and positive culture that's been generated at the factory.

I have been to many factory visits over the years but have been blown away by the innovation that's evident here in Denmark. The team has clearly dedicated a huge amount to looking at how they can innovate in the drive-through concrete space and is quickly becoming a driving force in sustainability.

Alex: Has the machine been meeting your expectations?

Josh: We've been relieved to see the high quality of our F1200 machine, which we value very highly as plant maintenance and longevity are at the top of our agenda when it comes to investments into new kit. Beyond the machine, we were able to build a very positive relationship with fibo Collect UK Ltd, who have been able to support us operationally throughout the process and develop the marketing side of the product launch.

Pre-launch, we had the opportunity to serve our first customers as they collected a variety of materials and shared enthusiastic feedback. The launch day was great, and I'm really pleased with how our customers have responded.

Josh experiencing the terminal for the first time

Historic links golf club promotes sustainability by using recycled sand

Seaton Carew Golf Club is using recycled sand across its site as part of an ongoing commitment to sustainable course management.

It has partnered with Teesside recycling experts Scott Bros, which uses its £6m 'urban quarry' to create high-quality sand from unwanted construction and excavation waste.

Designed to preserve the natural resources of the links course, which includes a swathe of protected coastal dunes, the club is using recycled sand as top dressing on tee boxes, fairways, approaches and as part of extensive construction works.

The ability to top dress more regularly improves drainage, turf health and surface firmness, while the use of recycled materials enables the club to carry out the work within tight budget constraints.

The 22-hole course, the 10th oldest in England, has been played by such golfing greats as Sir Nick Faldo and Justin Rose and is renowned for being kept in immaculate condition. This summer, it hosted the English Amateur Championship, a highlight of its 150th anniversary year.

Scott Bros continues to experience rising demand for the sustainably produced builder's and sharp sand and five grades of aggregate from its wash plant in South Bank, Middlesbrough. The plant can process up to 300 tonnes of construction waste an hour.

Alex Shaw, Club Manager of Seaton Carew Golf Club, said: "We are committed to being responsible custodians of this unique and sensitive links environment. By choosing to use recycled sand, we are not only maintaining the integrity of our course but ensuring we do so in a way that reserves finite natural resources. This initiative reflects our broader commitment to sustainability and to protect this exceptional landscape for future generations."

Peter Scott, a director of Scott Bros and current captain of Teesside Golf Club in Thornaby, added: "Our recycled sand is not only a practical solution for course maintenance but plays a vital role in reducing the need for quarrying finite natural resources. It's a win-win for both the club and the environment."

Kiverco completes third major recycling facility for Westminster Waste

Kiverco, based in Dungannon, Northern Ireland, is pleased to announce the successful installation of a new recycling plant for Westminster Waste, a leading waste management company in London. This facility is one of the largest of its kind in South East England and is designed to process three distinct waste streams: Construction & Demolition (C&D) Waste, Commercial & Industrial (C&I) Waste, and wood. This multi-million-pound investment marks a significant milestone for both companies and reinforces their strong partnership.

This is the third time that Westminster Waste has chosen Kiverco as its preferred supplier, reflecting their trust and confidence in Kiverco's expertise, innovation, and quality of service. The collaboration between the two companies began in 2017 when Kiverco assisted in upgrading Westminster's existing plant. Impressed by the durability and reliability of Kiverco's machinery and their exceptional aftercare service, Westminster Waste turned to Kiverco for its business relocation plans.

Westminster Waste visited several key recycling facilities throughout the UK, where they witnessed the efficiency and effectiveness of Kiverco's waste separation machinery. The company aims to divert 100% of its waste from landfill while improving throughput and the quality of its recycled materials. To achieve this, Westminster aims to enhance the efficiency of the waste separation process through automation, thereby reducing its reliance on manual labour.

Kiverco's technical team invested time from the outset of the project to fully understand Westminster's objectives. Working extensively with Westminster Waste and third-party technology partners, Kiverco has developed a solution that will deliver outstanding results for Westminster's very busy site in the heart of London.

The Kiverco plant is designed to manage the high bulk density synonymous with construction and demolition waste - a challenge widely acknowledged in the waste management sector. With a processing capacity of up to 60 tonnes per hour and incorporating some of the best automation technology available, the plant showcases exactly what is possible when two companies strive for excellence and sets the standard for the future of C&D separation in the future.

Dominic Moule, Managing Director, stated: "This is a huge investment for Westminster Waste, so it was important to work with a highly reputable company who knows what they are doing to deliver our newest facility. Kiverco has greatly supported us over many years, and we are delighted that they have once again designed and delivered an excellent solution to support our company's future growth."

Speaking about the project, Sales Manager JP Devlin said: "We are incredibly proud to have partnered with Westminster Waste on this exciting project. The successful delivery of a more automated plant for Westminster Waste demonstrates Kiverco's commitment to providing innovative solutions and our dedication to meeting and exceeding our clients' expectations.

"We build recycling plant that's built to last and keeps your business running: all day, every day. We are confident that this plant will play a pivotal role in helping Westminster Waste achieve high levels of purity to meet their sustainability goals, diverting more waste from landfill than ever before.

"The Kiverco team extends its gratitude to Westminster Waste for their trust and partnership in this endeavour, and we look forward to continuing to support their waste management initiatives in the years to come."

To view a YouTube video of the new plant in action, please scan the QR code below

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To lower carbon footprint, Total Aggregates launches ReCO^2 at recent open day

Total Aggregates is proud to introduce its new reduced carbon aggregate, ReCO$^{2®}$. With over 20 years of experience, the company has developed hybrid aggregates that can significantly lower the carbon footprint of construction projects. ReCO$^{2®}$ is an innovative product that provides both performance and environmental advantages.

According to the *Mineral Products Association*, 250 million tonnes of aggregates are used in Great Britain each year. However, only 30% of these are recycled or secondary aggregates, which still add to carbon emissions. To reach net zero in construction, the industry needs products that absorb more CO^2 than they produce during production.

ReCO$^{2®}$ combines O.C.O Technology's Manufactured Limestone (M-LS) with high-purity carboniferous limestone (C-LS) to make unbound aggregates that actively reduce carbon emissions.

Total Aggregates has partnered with O.C.O Technology, which specialises in Accelerated Carbonation Technology (ACT) for carbon capture. ACT is an effective process that captures carbon dioxide as stable minerals. The process needs very little energy, as it uses the natural reactivity of waste materials. Many waste materials react with carbon dioxide in the presence of water. By controlling the conditions, we can speed up this natural reaction, allowing it to happen in minutes instead of years, which leads to the creation of calcium carbonate (manufactured limestone).

Director of Total Aggregates Richard Hextall says: "ReCO$^{2®}$ offers a truly sustainable aggregate without sacrificing quality. We believe all environmental claims should be verified, which is why ReCO$^{2®}$ has an Environmental Product Declaration (EPD).

"Using uniform materials and a digitally controlled blending system, the properties of ReCO2® stay consistent, unlike other recycled aggregates. Our blending plant is unique in the UK and the first globally to blend aggregates to Type 1 MOT specifications."

To promote the launch, Total Aggregates held a recent Open Day at the Boston Sidings site, where visitors learned more about ReCO$^{2®}$ and observed the production process. The site has a modern Terracon blending plant designed to mix large amounts of materials efficiently. The material is fully combined to avoid pockets of M-LS or C-LS. The thoroughly mixed material then moves onto a conveyor, ready to produce ReCO$^{2®}$ Type 1 MOT Subbase.

Richard noted that the Open Day was a success: "We welcomed over 70 people and offered group tours of 10. This allowed visitors to see the products and blending process closely. With support from O.C.O Technology, Terracon, and our Total Aggregates team, attendees learned everything they wanted about ReCO$^{2®}$. We received great feedback about the product and the Open Day and hope to host similar events in the future."

"The launch of ReCO$_2$® is exciting, not just for our business, but for the industry as we work toward a more sustainable future," concluded Richard.

HaulTech helps Aggreg8 to double its output

Aggreg8, a fast-growing aggregates business, says HaulTech's specialist bulk haulage software has helped it rapidly scale up.

Founded in 2021, Aggreg8 focuses on reclaiming aggregates from heavy waste at its Barnston, Essex facility, promoting circular economy practices in construction. Initially using spreadsheets, the company struggled to scale with increasing demand.

"We started with spreadsheets but quickly realised we needed a dedicated system," said office manager Lauren Fryett.

"HaulTech's TMS allowed us to double our output with our current resources. We're set to open a second facility in Cambridge soon."

HaulTech's award-winning Bulk Haulage Transport Software streamlines operations, reducing administrative tasks by up to 80% and cutting operational costs. Aggreg8 manages 80 to 100 loads per day using their own trucks and a network of trusted subcontractors.

"HaulTech helps us co-ordinate our vehicles and subcontractors from one system," Lauren explained. The software allows users to record jobs, set pricing, send instructions to drivers, and automatically generate invoices. "All our drivers use the HaulTech app for job details and proof of delivery."

Aggreg8 reviewed other TMS providers before choosing HaulTech for its simplicity in managing job booking, planning, routing, proof of delivery and invoicing. Most of the office team is trained on the system, benefiting from on-site training and responsive support.

HaulTech's transport management systems, designed to improve hauliers' efficiencies, are trusted by over 1,500 users in the UK and Ireland.

For Further Information call:
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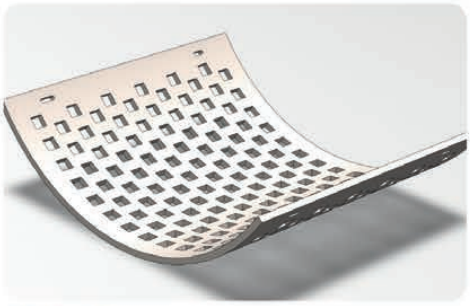
Inside Graepels: The trommel screens powering machinery

Graepels manufacture Perforated, Rubber and Woven Mesh rotary screens which are bolted or welded into a drum for the Quarrying and Recycling Industries.



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Key Factors in Trommel Screen Performance

Bulk Density: Essential for selecting the right trommel screen, bulk density indicates the material's weight per cubic metre, influencing both performance and power requirements.

Granulometry: The size distribution of processed grains or particles impacts the screen design.

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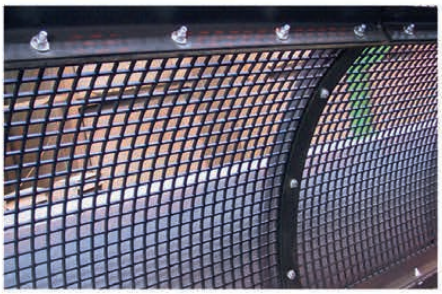
Moisture Content: High moisture content can lead to material blockages, affecting throughput.

Granule Weight: Knowing the maximum weight per particle is crucial for choosing a screen thickness that balances durability with optimal performance.



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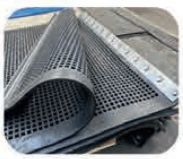

Graepels Trommel Screen Options

Perforated Screens: Available in mild or stainless steel, with hole sizes from 2mm to 150mm and shapes including round, square, and slotted. Plates can reach sizes of 4m x 2m for larger screens.

Woven Wire Screens: With apertures from 2.5mm to 120mm, these screens handle fine to coarse materials. The high open area of woven mesh insures good material flow and flexibility.

Rubber Screens: Ideal for high volume use, these screens supplied up to 35mm thick offer diverse perforation shapes and are bolted to steel plates for quick replacement and reduced downtime. Rubber's impact resistance ensures quieter, durable operation.

Inmalo Eagle 3 SH250R and SH800R used for large demolition

Inmalo is delighted to have supplied HWM Group with the Eagle 3 SH250R Shear, a key attachment, for their steel demolition and waste recycling projects over the past two years. This partnership has enabled HWM Group to take on some of the most demanding demolition tasks with efficiency and confidence.

The MBI Eagle 3 range, renowned for its power and productivity, has made a significant impact on the demolition and recycling market over the last two years, setting new standards. Inmalo has been the exclusive UK dealer for Mantovanibenne (MBI) for nearly 25 years, reflecting the strong relationship and trust in the brand's reliability and innovation.

Charles Polak, Managing Director of Inmalo, said: *"We supply high quality, reliable equipment that consistently outperforms other brands. MBI's ongoing product development continues to raise standards in demolition attachments, offering reliability supported by our responsive after-sales service."*

HWM Group takes on major Southampton project

HWM Group was recently awarded the contract to demolish the former Leisure World site at Southampton Docks. The site, originally constructed for Pirelli Cables, later served as a storage facility before being redeveloped into a multiplex cinema, restaurant, leisure and nightclub complex in the 1990s. Working alongside their client, ABP Port of Southampton, HWM Group was tasked with dismantling the large steel structure over the summer.

Adam Blake, Director at HWM Group, noted: *"The Eagle 3 SH250R handled the heavy steel of the outer structure with ease, but as the project progressed, we brought in the more powerful SH800R for larger primary steelwork and used the SH250R for processing."*

With approximately 1,200 tons of metal to be removed, the SH250R and SH800R were crucial in the demolition, processing and reduction of waste material. As the project intensified, HWM Group decided to use the Eagle 3 SH800R 9,000kg Shear on a Hitachi ZX490 (50t) excavator. The SH800R, attached to a dedicated machine, was vital in tackling the very large and more challenging structural components.

Additionally, Inmalo's portable Motofog MF20D dust suppression system was used on-site to help manage dust and minimise disruption.

Charles Polak added: *"It's always rewarding to see how effectively our attachments and dust suppression systems perform on large-scale projects. Having the right equipment is key to meeting deadlines and staying on budget. Our kit delivers the results our customers need with confidence."*

You can view a video and time-lapse of this demolition project by scanning the QR code in the image below.

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CCC Waste doubles recycled sand and aggregates production with CDE plant

Established in Liverpool in 1986, CCC Waste has become one of the largest recycling and waste management operators in the North-West of England. Committed to environmental best practice, the haulage and excavation firm recently partnered with wet processing experts CDE to commission a cutting-edge waste recycling plant to help it achieve its ultimate goal of zero waste to landfill.

In the Liverpool area, construction & demolition (C&D) waste is in abundance, and CCC Waste, an established market leader in total waste management solutions, was processing over 15,000 tonnes of recycled materials every week.

With such waste volumes readily available, the company, operating from its 35-acre site in Kirkby, recognised that a modern technological solution was needed in order to close the loop on construction waste.

"We wanted to reduce the volume of material being sent to landfill, provide effective circular economy solutions for our customers, and increase our production volumes," explained CCC Waste director Sean Munro.

"We process a large variety of waste, from C&D waste to that generated by households, including plastics, card, and so much more. Many of these streams contain recyclable materials. In particular, recycled aggregates are a large part of our business and an area where we see great potential for further development in pursuit of our zero waste ambitions."

Waste to landfill

Operating a dry crushing and screening plant, the company faced challenges when processing damp materials during the wet months of the year, which resulted in more frequent downtime and lower product yield as a proportion of the hard-to-process material would be sent to landfill – an undesirable outcome for a company steadfast in its commitment to advancing the circular economy.

"When we were dry processing we couldn't extract any sand; it was all mixed up with soils and we couldn't get any of the sand out. Anything –50mm down was going to landfill," Munro said.

CDE business development manager Mike Bibby said a full technical solution was required to support CCC Waste to gain momentum in its mission to achieve 100% landfill diversion.

"It was evident that many downstream challenges around product quality, specification, and waste to landfill volumes, to name a few, were stemming from inefficiencies in the dry crushing and screening process."

A wet processing solution, he said, would "maximise the recovery of washed recycled materials, which can be marketed at a premium, while eliminating associated disposal charges and delivering significantly for the business, both environmentally and commercially."

CDE and CCC in sync

Working in close partnership, CDE and CCC Waste set out on a journey to define a solution aligned with the needs of the business, which included visits to reference sites throughout the UK, such as Malcolm Group, William Thompson & Son, and Sheehan Group, where CDE plant equipment is in operation.

"We had been looking to invest in washing equipment for quite some time, and we explored several different options, but it was important that we find the right partner - one whose values aligned with ours," Munro said.

"We visited several CDE sites in England and Scotland, and those visits were hugely valuable to us. The plants were operating with great efficiency. We came away with ideas about how we could maximise the footprint of our own site, too. They helped us see the synergies between our two businesses."

A full technical solution

Guiding CCC Waste as it took its first steps into the wet processing of materials, CDE proposed a solution comprising its R4500 primary scalping unit, which is ideally suited to handle the challenging and variable nature of the company's incoming C&D waste streams from across a broad range of industries.

A flexible and responsive plant that can cope with a wide variety of feed material, the solution features CDE's AggMax™ scrubbing and classification system, which allows for the effective removal of organic material and other contaminants prevalent within CCC Waste's feedstock, and the EvoWash™ sand washing system, complete with patented Infinity™ dewatering screen, which offers unrivalled control of silt cut points to guarantee high-value, in-spec sands that are ready for the market straight from the belt.

The inclusion of CDE's AquaCycle™ thickener for primary stage water management and a Filter Press ensures CCC Waste is able to recycle up to 95% of the process water for immediate recirculation and reuse while producing a filter cake by-product with a range of applications to help achieve complete landfill diversion of incoming C&D waste.

'The plant has exceeded our expectations'

Commissioned late last year, the new CDE plant has doubled sand and aggregate output for CCC Waste. Every week, Sean and his team are now producing up to 30,000 tonnes of washed recycled construction materials.

"The plant has exceeded our expectations and doubled the size of our aggregates business. Our customers are very happy with the material we're producing, which is being supplied to many large developments in the area. In particular, our 10-20mm aggregate has proven extremely popular," Munro said.

The plant is currently processing up to 200 tonnes per hour and producing nine graded products, including sand and aggregates ranging from 0-2mm up to +80mm oversized, as well as a filter cake.

"We were sending so much to landfill. The CDE plant has completely transformed our business, so much so that we're even collaborating on a project to develop a concept brick from the filter cake by-product that requires no heat to cure and is low energy. The idea is scalable, sustainable, and aligns with our long-term environmental vision. It means we're diverting 100% of our construction, demolition and excavation waste from landfill," Munro commented.

Reflecting on the success of the partnership, CDE's Mike Bibby added, "Landfill diversion was the name of the game, but this project goes much deeper. Every aspect of the solution designed and engineered by the CDE team circles back to Sean and his team's overarching vision. Material is being recovered on a large scale, and operationally, that process is more sustainable than ever before. Overall carbon footprint at CCC Waste is down, thanks to the transition from diesel to our all-electric drive."

Providing local customer support, CDE's CustomCare team will continue working with CCC Waste to ensure the business achieves and maintains optimum efficiency throughout the lifetime of the plant.

"The level of aftercare support CDE has committed to delivering was important to us. It reassures us and cements the partnership. We're both driving change in the waste recycling space, and the team is truly invested in our success," Munro concluded.

For more information about CDE and its waste recycling solutions, visit ***www.cdegroup.com***

TRACEY WESTBURY
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

From piles to penthouses: How waste is moving indoors

If your waste treatment activities are likely to cause (or are causing) significant pollution at sensitive receptors which cannot be addressed by alternative measures, then you must carry out that waste treatment activity within an enclosed building.

The above statement has been taken from the *Non-Hazardous and Inert Waste: Appropriate Measures for Permitted Facilities* guidance. Note the term 'enclosed building' is used, so this does not refer to the typical three-sided buildings common on waste transfer stations. The above statement is also applied to non-treatment activities, which include storage and transfer of wastes.

Furthermore, along with the requirement for an enclosed building comes the requirement to create a negative pressure and treat air from the building before release. Thus, producing a point source emission that can be monitored, measured and controlled!

On top of this, we also have the fallout from the Environment Agency Consultation 25 that proposes new standard rules permits requiring non-hazardous and inert waste activities to be conducted within a building.

The proposals within Consultation 25 are designed to set a new standard across the industry. By embedding the requirement for indoor waste handling into Standard Rules Permits, the Environment Agency aims to create a consistent baseline for environmental protection.

These requirements are likely to affect new and existing operators alike, with a particular impact on sites located near residential or environmentally sensitive areas.

I think you would agree that the environmental landscape for waste management is shifting, and it's shifting indoors.

Traditionally, outdoor treatment and handling of waste materials have been standard practice across the sector, especially for non-hazardous and inert wastes. The assumption has been that these waste types pose minimal risk to the surrounding environment. However, evolving environmental concerns and heightened regulatory scrutiny have changed that perception. Outdoor waste handling is now recognised as a significant source of dust, odour and noise, affecting the immediate vicinity and posing risks to broader communities and ecosystems.

It's all well and good talking about these changes but what should operators be doing about this:

- *If you have a bespoke Environmental Permit and you don't often get complaints of nuisance – then the impact on you is likely to be minimal for now.*
- *If you have a bespoke Environmental Permit and you are plagued with complaints about nuisance, then I advise you to put additional efforts into controlling emissions.*
- *If you are operating under a Standard Rules permit (with waste activities outside or undercover), check if your Std Rules Set is due to change and take appropriate action soon (changes are coming as early as April 2025).*

Your choices will be:

- *Accept the change to the new Std Rules Set and get everything into an enclosed building.* ***OR***
- *Obtain a bespoke Environmental Permit that does not require you to operate within an enclosed building. This is likely to involve a greater assessment than ever regarding emission control.*

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

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Crushed concrete aggregates produced from recycled materials

BUSINESS CLINIC CONSULTANCY

Keep on crushing!

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

Recycled aggregates are now essential for the construction industry, and the continuation of their supply is key to a buoyant economy, underpinning the provision of housing, transport networks, schools and hospitals. The recent MPA report *Construction Aggregates Supply in Great Britain* stated that: *"In 2022, recycled and secondary sources of aggregates accounted for 30% (73.5 million tonnes) of the overall supply of construction aggregates in Great Britain, one of the highest recycling rates in Europe."* But there are a few critical aspects of these resources to be aware of from a permitting perspective before you go and order that crusher!

Recycling waste for the production of aggregates, whether on a small scale or up to a much grander operation with a wash plant, requires an Environmental Permit issued by the Environment Agency to operate. Fixed site aggregate recycling operations can be permitted through a Standard Rules or a Bespoke Environmental Permit, and it's important to establish your permitting requirements prior to operating to avoid risks to the environment and human health and subsequent enforcement.

You can apply for a standard rules permit if your operation meets the relevant description and rules. The main SR permit under which you would operate an aggregate recycling facility is 'SR2010 No 12: treatment of waste to produce soil, soil substitutes and aggregate' which limits the site to no more than 75,000 tonnes of waste being treated per year.

Conditions to comply with SR2010 No.12 include the operation not being carried out within 500 metres of a European Site or SSSI, not being within an AQMA, being certain distances from a watercourse, well, spring or borehole, not within 250 metres of Great Crested Newts and being at least 50 metres from certain habitats and designated sites such as Ancient Woodland.

As the use of recycled aggregates has grown, more and more aggregate recycling facilities have appeared within quarries, on industrial sites and as stand-alone facilities. Many of these aggregate recycling facilities are now beginning to incorporate wash plants in order to improve the range or quality of their final products. An operation that includes the washing of waste does not meet standard rules and, therefore requires a bespoke permit. Bespoke permits are also required for sites with a throughput over 75,000 tonnes and for any site that doesn't meet the rules within the legislation.

In terms of site infrastructure, from a standard rules perspective, if a site is located within groundwater Source Protection Zones 1 or 2, certain 'specified wastes' must be stored and treated on an impermeable surface with a sealed drainage system. If the site is located outside groundwater Source Protection Zones 1 or 2, then all permitted wastes can be stored and treated on hard-standing or impermeable surfaces with the sealed drainage system. There are no generic rules for bespoke permits, as they are always customised to the specific needs of the site and operation.

As the growth of aggregate recycling continues, ensure you prepare for compliance by prioritising Environmental Permitting and ensuring you have the right permit for your operation.

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**

Komatsu New Year newcomers from McHale Plant Sales

McHale Plant Sales, the Komatsu distributor in Ireland, is launching two new models - the WA475-11 and WA485-11 wheel loaders in the New Year.

These models are designed for quarry owners, aggregates producers and various applications, such as timber, waste, grain and fertiliser handling.

Both loaders offer key upgrades focused on fuel efficiency. The WA485-11 features a 29% reduction in fuel consumption compared to the WA480-8, while the WA475-11 shows a 14% improvement over its Dash-10 predecessor.

Denis McGrath, director of McHale Plant Sales, states that these new units replace proven models and provide better fuel consumption and high torque in the low-speed range. The hydro-mechanical transmission of both machines enhances performance and ease of use during transport and loading tasks.

The Komatsu WA475-11

The WA485-11 allows a permanent payload of 8,800 kg, extendable to 9,300 kg for aggregates handling, reducing the number of loading cycles. A variable gear ratio keeps the engine in a highly efficient zone, and traction control helps minimise wheel spin on difficult terrain.

Both models meet EU Stage V emissions standards and use advanced emissions control technologies, including a diesel particulate filter that requires replacement every 8,000 hours with low-ash engine oil.

Operators will benefit from improved lifting power, speed, and stability, especially in tight loading situations. Features like variable power control and hydraulic response adjustments enhance productivity.

For operator comfort, both models include a spacious cab with excellent visibility, a heated rear window, and reduced noise levels. The lever console adjusts for individual operators, and dust control measures enhance air quality inside the cab.

The Komatsu WA485-11

Additional features include a new air-suspended seat that absorbs vibrations, automatic bucket filling, a high-resolution information system, and a programmable engine management system that turns off the engine during idle periods.

As on all Komatsu equipment, KOMTRAX telematics and Komatsu Care customer maintenance provisions provide fleet management and support, protect the machine from misuse, and ensure maximum efficiency and uptime.

A striving business that gets the 'royal' approval

Richard Weston from Hazell & Jefferies discusses with **SANDRA DICK** how a simple request for driveway repairs laid the foundation for further expansion

It was just another day at work, and Richard Hazell was on his regular rounds delivering firewood to his customers.

But that ordinary day would turn into something quite extraordinary, all thanks to a simple enquiry from one of his regulars.

That passing request would ignite Richard's entrepreneurial streak. And what was a business delivering logs for firewood would be set on its way to serve one of the most revered addresses - and customers - in the land.

The road surfacing specialist firm that grew from that fateful day, Hazell & Jefferies, would become a regular spring and summer visitor to Windsor Castle and other royal addresses for nearly half a century and count the late Queen and, more recently, her son and heir, King Charles III, among their clients.

And it would take care of the most royal of roadways: keeping the distinctive pale red surface of the 2.65 miles of The Long Walk - the chestnut tree-lined walkway leading straight to Windsor Castle gates - in tip-top condition would be among its regular tasks.

The other element of the Oxfordshire-based business, its complementary aggregate waste service, R. Hazell Recycling Waste, would crown it as an all-year-round circular success story.

Mostly focused on gathering commercial and domestic construction and demolition waste, the recycling side produces a range of aggregate both for use in its partner business's civil engineering tasks, and to be sold to serve a role in construction and roadworks.

That avoids the removal of virgin material from quarries, makes use of material already available on the doorstep and diverts waste from landfill - ticking the very boxes which certain environmentally minded modern royals would surely approve.

As the firm's sales executive Richard Weston explains, getting to this point is rooted in an incredible amount of hard work, smart thinking and a few very handy people capable of turning their hands to just about anything.

It was the 1960s, he explains, and Richard was delivering logs to a customer when she happened to ask if he could turn his hand to repair her driveway.

"He realised that the tarmac/surface dressing work was a way to earn a living outside of the firewood season.

"From then on, it took off."

Delivering fire logs over autumn and winter gave way to taking on driveway and road surfacing work in the warmer months.

Richard requested the help of an old school friend, Nick Jefferies, whom he paid £5 per day.

"They both had different qualities," he continues. "Richard was very commercially minded, and Nick would lie under a JCB at night in order to get it up and running for the morning.

"He'd get anything working again."

Their skills complemented each other's. Hazell & Jefferies Ltd, road repair specialists, was born.

Highway contracts for road repairs flowed from local authorities, golf courses and private estates, among them a major contract from the Crown Estate.

That included resurfacing the famous

Long Walk at Windsor Castle with its distinctive reddish colour, which the late Queen said to have been particularly appreciated as a reliable surface for her beloved horses.

The firm has repeatedly won the tender for the work, with the royal link stretching more than 45 years.

While certain roads might need a gentle resurfacing repair job, others that are in a worse condition will need their entire top layer removed and a new one laid down.

And that's where the recycling element of the business found its feet.

"They mill the old tarmac off using a cold milling machine that chews the tarmac up into small chips that go up an elevator into an 8-wheeler," explains Rich.

Road planings - the chewed-up tarmac chips - could be sold to farmers, golf courses, landowners and estates as an easy-to-distribute road surface for tracks and car parks.

It laid the foundations for today's business and solved another issue.

Because surface dressing must be done when it is dry and warm, introducing a recycling and skip hire thread to the firm meant they could utilise vehicles in colder months and create a new income stream.

After Nick Jefferies retired, Richard Hazell, with his natural entrepreneurial spirit and trusted employee and friend Ken Miles by his side, established the recycling business.

Today, it specialises in collecting aggregate from domestic and commercial construction and demolition sites and recycling it for reuse in construction.

"They were very intuitive and took advantage of every opportunity. One thing led to another, it was fate," reflects Rich of the business's founders, Mr Hazell and Mr Jefferies.

"Ken says they diversified all the way through their careers - never at any one point had all eggs in one basket."

Another key character in the business success story would come from further afield: Miroslav 'Danny' Daniel, the yard foreman, arrived from the Czech Republic in 2004, not long after the recycling yard had opened.

"Everyone is in awe of him; he is one of these people who can drive anything, build anything and create anything," says Rich.

"He has been instrumental with the building of the yard, he built the picking station and set up the processing plant."

Hardcore collected from commercial and domestic sources arrives at the yard near Benson in Oxfordshire, where plastic, wood, soil and other unwanted materials are removed via a Liebherr Material Handler and fed through a waste screen supplied by Northern Ireland-based MK Group.

Separated material is then fed through the Terex Finlay crusher, while a McCloskey S190 five-way split screener delivers cable sand, and 10mm, 20mm, 40mm and 75mm recycled aggregate sought out by local developers for groundworks, alongside capped layer material 6F2 which can be used as a sub-base for roads, driveways and pathways.

"Ken worked out the most efficient way of working to minimise how many times we have to move things around to make use of the hardcore, to mill as much material and get a range of material to supply these sites," adds Rich.

The yard produces all the aggregate material required by the civil engineering side of the business. During colder months when road surface dressing work is on hold, workers from the quieter side of the business can shift to civil engineering works and to the recycling yard.

From a chance beginning, the two-prong business is now finely tuned: on the one hand, road repairs such as surface dressing, road planing, tarmac surfacing and micro asphalting, and on the other, delivering recycled aggregates for use throughout Oxfordshire, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and some of Hampshire.

Meanwhile, Mr Hazell, now 81, continues to watch over what he started in the 1960s, one eye on that and the other on the cattle farms he runs.

And the business which began with a chance request for some driveway repairs, retains its royal links: the jewel in the crown of a firm with far humbler beginnings.

For more about Hazell & Jefferies go to ***www.hazellj.co.uk***

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Partnership supports a complete solution for Zorba sorting

Two leading sorting solutions providers, REDWAVE and TOMRA, have announced a strategic agreement to provide customers with a seamless supply of sorting systems based on XRF (x-ray fluorescence) and XRT (x-ray transmission) technology. This new arrangement will make it easier and more efficient for customers to access top-tier sorting technologies from one turnkey supplier

Effective last month, REDWAVE and TOMRA Recycling will offer each other's complementary metal sorting technologies directly to their respective customers. By facilitating access to the combined technologies in one go, both REDWAVE, a Competence Center of BT-Systems, and TOMRA Recycling aim to address the growing demand for sustainable and efficient Zorba sorting processes, enhancing scrap metal recovery and delivering the highest quality of end fractions.

Customers can now source both technologies from one supplier. However, REDWAVE and TOMRA Recycling will continue to operate fully independently, focusing on their individual technology expertise and directly assisting customers with after-sales service on their respective equipment.

Benefits in Zorba sorting

This non-exclusive agreement will particularly benefit recyclers and plant operators in Zorba sorting, providing them with more efficient and accurate capabilities. Zorba, a mix of non-ferrous metals, requires a multi-step, precise process to maximise recovery and value. The combined technologies of REDWAVE and TOMRA Recycling are perfectly suited to meet these complex requirements.

TOMRA's industry-leading XRT sorting solutions are renowned for distinguishing materials based on atomic density. They have been on the market for over two decades and are ideal for separating heavy metals from aluminium. REDWAVE's XRF sorting solutions, also highly regarded globally, excel in recognising materials according to their chemical composition, ensuring high-precision sorting of the recovered mixed heavy metals into mono-metal products such as copper, brass or zinc.

Shared vision and complementary technology

"Both TOMRA Recycling and REDWAVE – the Competence Center for Recycling & Sorting Solutions of BT-Systems GmbH – share the vision for a circular economy and net-zero emissions. While both companies remain independent and focused on their individual strengths, together, we make it easier for our customers to efficiently upgrade scrap metal, achieve the highest quality standards and promote sustainability and efficiency," says Gerald Kreiner, CEO of BT-Systems GmbH.

Tom Jansen, Segment Director of Metal Sales at TOMRA Recycling, added: *"We are thrilled to offer our customers a complete solution by working with another global industry leader in metal sorting. Our complementary technologies offer customers the advantage of one turnkey solution for their needs."*

Combining the two companies' advanced sorting technologies and REDWAVE's plant-building expertise is anticipated to benefit a wide range of industries, from automotive to electronics, by providing higher-quality recycled materials. This agreement underscores the commitment of REDWAVE and TOMRA Recycling to driving innovation and sustainability in the recycling sector.

(top photo) REDWAVE's XRF sorting machines sort by chemical composition, recovering mixed heavy metals into mono-metal products such as copper, brass or zinc

(left) Having been on the market for more than two decades, TOMRA Recycling's XRT solution X-TRACT™ is ideal for separating heavy metals from aluminium

Biffa acquires Keenan Recycling to boost food waste collections

Waste management specialist Biffa has acquired food waste collection firm Keenan Recycling to enhance its food waste collection services.

This acquisition comes in anticipation of a rise in market demand and upcoming regulatory changes under the Simpler Recycling legislation, which requires the separation of dry recyclables and the separate collection of food waste.

Founded in 2003 and headquartered in Aberdeen, Scotland, Keenan Recycling provides food waste collection services to businesses, waste management companies, and councils across England, Scotland, and Wales. The company also operates a composting and biofuel facility in Aberdeen.

Keenan Recycling collects approximately 56,000 tonnes of food waste annually through its 21 depots across the UK. The company's fleet of 80 collection vehicles, which run on diesel and HVO fuel, is equipped with advanced route optimisation and bin-weighing technology. This helps reduce carbon emissions and enhance operational efficiency.

Maxine Mayhew, Chief Operating Officer for Biffa's collections and specialist divisions, stated: "Keenan Recycling has built an outstanding reputation as a leader in commercial food waste collections, and we're delighted to welcome the expertise of 140 colleagues into the Biffa family.

"By integrating Keenan Recycling's offerings with our wider infrastructure and resources, we see tremendous potential to enhance our ability to meet the requirements of the Simpler Recycling legislation."

Grant Keenan, Managing Director of Keenan Recycling, emphasised the company's future growth under Biffa's ownership, saying: "We're extremely proud of the remarkable growth we've achieved over the past 20 years.

"Biffa brings a wealth of expertise, infrastructure, and resources for accelerated growth, and we are confident this acquisition will advance our business - and the UK's food waste recycling efforts - helping to further reduce environmental impact and contribute to a more sustainable future."

51% of supermarket food and drink packaged in unnecessary plastic

A recent survey found that half of supermarket food and drink is packaged in unnecessary plastic. Conducted by Retail Economics for DS Smith, the study assessed 25 supermarkets across six European countries, revealing that the UK is the most reliant on plastic, with 70% of products containing it. In comparison, Spain has 67%, Italy 66%, Germany 66%, Poland 62%, and France 59%.

Over half (51%) of food and drink items in UK supermarkets could eliminate or significantly reduce plastic packaging by using alternatives. The survey revealed that processed foods contribute the most plastic, with ready meals and meal kits at 90%, followed by bread, rice, and cereals at 89%, dairy products at 83%, and meat and fish at 80%.

While 98% of European food manufacturers and retailers are committed to reducing plastic packaging, many face challenges. 60% have less than two years to meet their targets, and 25% are struggling to stay on track. The main obstacles include the cost of raw materials (40%) and concerns about consumer acceptance (39%).

DS Smith highlights that companies fear that switching to sustainable packaging may impact their competitiveness.

72% of respondents believe shoppers won't pay more for sustainable options, and 65% think consumers won't give up convenience.

Miles Roberts, Group Chief Executive of DS Smith, called for government action to phase out certain plastics to foster innovation and competition.

Biffa launches partnership with Olio to tackle hunger crisis

Biffa and Olio are now expanding their food-sharing scheme after a successful trial.

Every year in the UK, billions of meals are wasted while 11.3 million people struggle to find enough food. Through this partnership, Biffa helps retailers quickly distribute their surplus food to those in need.

This collaboration adds to Biffa's efforts to reduce food waste, including working with Company Shop Group, which was acquired in 2021. Nisa, along with Nando's and Caffe Nero, took part in the trial.

The scheme collects any leftover edible food to share with the community. Organisers say food can find a new home in as little as 30 minutes after collection.

The process for businesses is simple: staff set aside unsold or uneaten food at the end of the day for Olio volunteers, called Food Waste Heroes, to pick up. Volunteers take the food home and upload it to Olio's app so nearby people can request and collect it.

Tim Norton, trials manager at Nisa, said:

OLIO
THE FOOD SHARING APP

"Reducing food waste is a priority for independent retailers, so we are happy that the initial trial with Biffa and Olio was successful. We look forward to continuing our partnership into 2025 to help our independent retailers."

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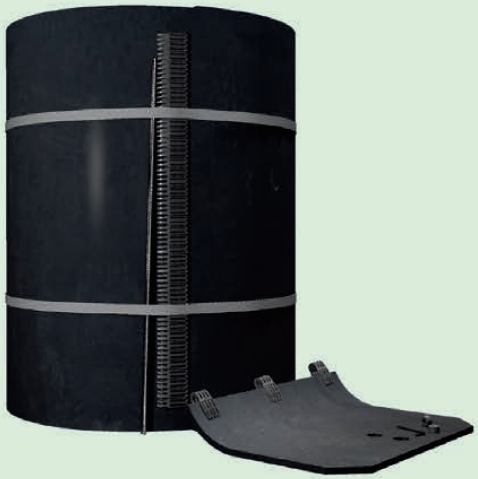


smileymonroe.com

BUSINESS CLINIC CONSULTANCY

Building a healthier community for the waste industry

Tina Jackson of Jackson Consultants created the 'Technically Competent Managers Forum' (TCMF)

Just over three years ago, we took a huge leap of faith and set up Jackson Consultants, offering compliance solutions and TCM (Technically Competent Manager) services to the waste industry.

While this was an exciting time, it also came with many challenges and the realisation that environmental legislation is constantly evolving. Therefore, it's crucial that we stay informed about new or changing regulations, ensuring that we are providing our clients with up-to-date, relevant information.

Throughout the waste industry, people keep so much experience and new initiatives to themselves or within their own company. **Tina Jackson of Jackson Consultants created the 'Technically Competent Managers Forum' (TCMF)**, a forum for TCMs and those working in compliance in the waste industry to share this knowledge.

Tina felt there was a gap in the industry where like-minded individuals could meet and discuss the latest industry topics. It's a working platform to share knowledge, experiences, and the challenges we face in the waste industry today. By working collaboratively, the group will bring different skills, expertise, and perspectives to the table. As a diverse team, we can approach problems from multiple angles and come up with innovative solutions to be shared with the wider group.

To date, we have held three meetings, with the final one of the year planned for 5th December. The aim is to vary the topics each month as we have members of the forum from different sectors of the waste industry. We also have a LinkedIn page where members can ask questions in a safe and non-judgmental environment. **Please scan the QR code to request to join.**

The first online meeting was an introductory call where members learnt about each other, what sector of the waste industry we all work in and what we would like to get from the group. The common theme within the group is to share knowledge, as some of the legislations can be misinterpreted, and learn best practices from other TCMs, operators and sites. We have a wide range of industry professionals already forming part of the working group, from independent operators to national waste operators plus various consultants and technical experts.

We were grateful to have CIWM and Soilflo as the speakers on the second call, which the group found both inciteful and beneficial. CIWM presented its membership scheme to the group, which included the different types of memberships, the benefits of becoming a member, and its connect forum, amongst other topics. We hope to collaborate further with CIWM in the future.

Soilflo also presented Digital Waste Tracking to us, which is a hot topic within the industry at the moment and has created lots of debate within the group.

The third meeting's agenda included 'RPS298/299', an open forum in which we collated questions, comments and feedback to submit to Streetworks UK and the Environment Agency on the new position statement and how it is being rolled out and perceived within the industry.

Our next meeting on 5th December will focus on 'Rapid Testing', how it's being used within the industry, and the benefits of using these techniques. We are fortunate to have Soilex and Milestone Infrastructure leading the call, which we are positive will provide us with alternative ways of testing and classifying waste.

If you want to be part of this meeting and the group, please get in touch with **tina@jacksoncl.co.uk** to join the forum. By extending our network, we will increase knowledge through collaboration and sharing best practices to enable us to be more informed about an ever-evolving industry.

TCMF
Technically Competent Managers Forum

Booking system could start at East Sussex recycling centres

East Sussex County Council is considering a proposal requiring residents to book visits to waste recycling centres. This change could help reduce site wait times, save £50,000 a year, and limit trade waste.

The council needs to find savings to address a projected funding gap of £55 million next year. A consultation is open now and will end on 22nd December.

Councillor Claire Dowling, who focuses on transport and the environment, said that with less funding and more demand for services, the county council must make tough choices to balance the budget next year. She noted that no decision has been made yet and that the council can learn from the booking systems used in nearby areas.

The proposal would create a booking portal for residents to reserve time slots at one of the county's ten household waste recycling sites. Residents could also book by phone.

Ms Dowling mentioned concerns that booking systems might lead to more fly-tipping, but a 2023 report from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) found no evidence of this.

She added that feedback from the consultation will help councillors make their decision when they set the budget in February 2025.

Viridor to close mechanical recycling site at Avonmouth

A recycling plant employing 120 people is scheduled to close at the end of the year, as announced by Viridor, the waste management company that owns the Resource Recovery Centre in Avonmouth, near Bristol. This decision is a response to ongoing challenges in achieving adequate recycling rates.

Viridor stated that the mechanical recycling operations have faced mounting challenges due to persistent market conditions. It's worth noting that the energy recovery facility on the site will remain operational.

The company is actively consulting with employees at the Avonmouth plant and is exploring redeployment opportunities within the organisation to support the affected workers during this transition.

Since its opening in March 2022, the plant has successfully recycled 80,000 tonnes of plastic annually. However, the global virgin polymer market is currently experiencing overcapacity, driven by significant production increases in lower-cost markets outside of Europe.

In light of this, many businesses are opting for alternative materials, which have decreased the price of recycled plastics. Additionally, there has been a rise in the import of recycled plastics from low-cost countries into the European market.

Viridor is also conducting a separate review of the site in Rochester to evaluate future options.

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

The tax man cometh....

Or not. Possibly.

Two sets of news on tax which may affect the waste industry this month. I mainly come across waste tax issues (and have written about this previously for this column) when HMRC is looking to reclaim tax from 'illegal disposals of waste', which ought to have landfill tax paid on them.

Slightly less contentiously, however, tax arose in the October budget in the form of the plastic packaging tax response to the consultation and a proposal to remove pre-consumer recycled content, describing it as a 'tax loophole'.

The consultation response suggests that it is economical to recycle without the PPT advantage and that 'nothing has changed since the tax was introduced'. This does not appear to be entirely true, as some operators have specifically introduced reprocessing equipment to allow them to increase pre-consumer recycled content use. The proposed change will likely adversely affect them, so this does not sit well with many operators.

Secondly, HMRC has launched a consultation, *Tackling the hidden economy: expanding tax conditionality to new sectors.* The consultation can be found by scanning the QR code. If you wish to contribute, it is open until 31st January 2025, giving us plenty of time.

This consultation proposes expanding 'tax conditionality' to new sectors - specifically to licences in the waste sector. What is this, I hear you ask, and what is the 'hidden economy'?

The hidden economy is made up of parties with sources of taxable income that are entirely hidden from HMRC. This tax gap is estimated to be £2.2 billion for 2022 to 2023 and equates to approximately 5% of the overall tax gap - i.e. the difference between the amount of tax that should, in theory, be paid and what is actually paid.

If licences or other approvals are needed from parts of local or national government in order to trade and where those licence holders are receiving income that is taxable this income should be reported to HMRC.

Tax 'conditionality' requires licence holders to undertake checks that confirm they are registered for tax where necessary and makes ongoing access to such licences conditional on completing a tax check.

Conditionality won't force anyone to register with HMRC unless they're already obliged to do so. If the licence applicant is already registered with HMRC as they should be, this will be a straightforward online check each time they renew their licence.

It seems that the thinking behind extending this to the waste sector relates to waste crime and the Government's wish to extend the reach of tax gathering for carriers, brokers and dealers and exempt waste operations. As we know, both of these are being overhauled, so it is not expected this will be applicable at such time as changes are made.

The Government suggests that applying tax conditionality to the above will strengthen existing regulations and make it harder for a small number of dishonest businesses to undercut compliant businesses in the sector - hopefully, it will be another arrow to load in the archer's bow against waste crime.

Next month, I will continue the tax theme - a tax case of mine which has recently narrowly avoided a Judicial Review (JR).

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

Acer UK tackles plastic waste with Aspire Vero

Acer UK recently announced a partnership with adventurer and TV personality Ben Fogle to launch an initiative to address plastic pollution.

Through this initiative, Acer will collaborate with Plastic Bank to remove 80 kg of plastic waste from the environment for every Vero laptop purchased and registered in the UK. This figure surpasses the average annual plastic waste generated per person in UK households, which is approximately 76 kg, emphasising Acer's dedication to sustainability.

In addition to contributing to environmental efforts, customers who purchase a Vero laptop will receive a complimentary set of Vero accessories valued at £89.97. This package includes a laptop case, mouse and mouse mat made from recycled materials.

The Vero product line, featuring the Aspire Vero 16 as its flagship model, illustrates that sustainable technology can be accessible and affordable.

Ben Fogle remarked: "The Vero range, especially the Aspire Vero 16, shows that you don't have to choose between performance and protecting our planet. It's the ideal device for eco-conscious consumers."

Competition winners with the new fleet

Bruce Springclean and Bindiana Jones improve recycling in Teignbridge

Teignbridge District Council has announced the winners of its social media competition, which invited residents to provide names for a new fleet of recycling vehicles.

Specialist Fleet Services Ltd (SFS), the council's fleet and workshop partner for over 20 years, delivered 21 brand-new Romaquip Kerbsort recycling vehicles as part of a 56-vehicle replacement programme that commenced in April.

Over 300 entries from adults and children were received, and the winning names include Big Dumpy, Binderella, Dusbin Hoffman and Taylorry Swift.

A selection of winners recently joined members of the waste and recycling team at the recycling depot in Newton Abbot to be presented with certificates and officially name their vehicles.

Where possible, the names for the lorries have been chosen for routes close to where the winners live, so winners will be able to see the vehicle they named out and about working.

Bob Sweetland, Managing Director, SFS, said: "We have been working with Teignbridge District Council since 2002, and we are delighted to provide this new fleet of recycling vehicles as well as support the naming competition."

Cllr Peter Williams, Executive Member for Recycling, Household Waste & Environmental Health, said: "We had a great response to the competition to name our new fleet of vehicles. There were so many fun and creative names that it was hard for the panel to decide.

"We're very pleased with the names chosen as they give the new fleet a distinct identity, and we can't wait to see them around Teignbridge providing their services."

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

Calling all cash cows

The Environment Agency has just launched a fees consultation which aims to introduce new charges for specific waste activities from April 2025.

I've reviewed the proposals below, and as usual, I urge you to respond to the consultation and make your views known (for what it's worth).

The consultation closes on 20th January 2025, and I've focused on the newer charges as standard permitting charges will probably go up as usual. This is just a snapshot, so please have a look at the detailed proposals and subscribe to the alerts on **gov.uk** to get advance notice of consultations and information about legislation, prosecutions, etc.

Waste exemptions

The proposal is for a registration and compliance charge similar to the charges for permits. Reduced charges will apply to farmers for 15 specified exemptions (£88 per farm). This is not before time, and I welcome it as it will hopefully make it easier to check exemption compliance before using an exempt site. However, the examples of exemption abuse cited in the document are wholesale waste crime rather than exemption abuse. The registration cost will be £56 to register one or more exemptions. The compliance charges will be banded, which is where the costs really bite i.e.

- ***Band 1** – T8, T9, U16 – charge will apply until they are replaced under the exemption review. All band 1 exemptions will be assessed during the 3-year registration period. The S1, S2, U1, T4, T5, T6, T10, T12, T21, T24 and T25 are also in this band, which are the main exemptions many of you will be familiar with.*
- ***Band 2** – 50% will be inspected during the 3-year registration period.*
- ***Band 3** – Will be regulated by targeted campaigns and desk-based assessments.*

Compliance charge will be £420 per annum for Band 1, £212 for Band 2 and £30 for Band 3. Registration of multiple exemptions will result in additional charges per exemption. There are worked examples in the consultation document.

Fee for intervention and hourly rate charges

The new fee (£100 per hour) will be similar to that imposed by the Health and Safety Executive to cover the cost of investigating sites that do have the correct permits or authorisations. This would cover advice, guidance, warnings, issue of notices and order i.e. any exercise of regulatory powers. Most sites in the past have incurred 10 - 20 hours of intervention work. This includes regulating enforcement notices and could also affect permitted sites.

- *hourly rate for unplanned events.*
- *hourly rate for water pollution. incident activity (this exists already).*
- *hourly rate for definition of waste (this exists already – hourly fee will be £130 plus an interim fee of £780).*
- *voluntary remediation of contaminated sites will also attract fees where advice is sought.*

Additional waste levy

A 10% additional levy is proposed on top of annual subsistence fees for waste transfer treatment sites, landfill and deposit for recovery sites. Surely the cost of enforcement should be recovered by the fee for intervention rather than further taxing legitimate permitted operators? It's a bit of an insult, really. This will generate an additional £3.2 million!

Will the additional fees help to improve the extremely poor permitting service we've had over the last five years? I doubt it. When will we get value for money?

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

GOT A QUESTION **ASK THE EXPERTS**

Casepak awarded £750k+ Warwickshire recycling contract

Casepak has been awarded a contract to provide containers, haulage and recycling services for cardboard and paper collected from Warwickshire's Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs).

The contract, valued between £750,000 and £1,000,000 over five years, entails recycling approximately 2,000 tonnes of cardboard and paper annually at Casepak's facility in Leicester.

Councillor Heather Timms, Warwickshire County Council's portfolio holder for environment, climate, and culture, stated: "This new contract with Casepak is an essential step in Warwickshire's commitment to responsible waste management and recycling. It supports our broader environmental goals by ensuring that cardboard and paper are recycled efficiently, positively impacting the environment and the local economy.

"Casepak's impressive track record and dedication to social value, including their goal of achieving carbon neutrality by 2028, align well with our shared values and objectives."

Mark Smith, Managing Director of Casepak, commented: "We are delighted to have successfully secured this contract and to continue supporting Warwickshire County Council in its commitment to responsible waste management. The additional social value that this contract brings is crucial in delivering the highest quality of service."

The contract commenced last month.

Routeware's software helps waste companies increase their revenue

Waste and skip management software company Routeware is focused on helping operators drive additional revenue and efficiency savings as it develops further features for its next-generation solution, Routeware Elements.

The cloud-based software solution connects components for managing customers, billing, payments, route planning, dispatch, inventory and customer satisfaction in a single solution, as well as providing connected mobile apps and devices for drivers, supervisors and depot staff to use.

With the driver technology, Routeware says the biggest win for many waste companies will be improving their ability to bill for extras - waste that's being collected but not paid for.

Given the number of overfilled containers or containers with side waste that any driver encounters on their route, helping them record these issues and then address them with customers is potentially a game-changer. Whether it's charging an additional ad-hoc fee or selling the customers an upgraded service plan, operators can look to increase income without additional resources.

To make this easy for drivers to do, the company uses an in-cab driver app where they can quickly record overfilled containers - or even better, automatically capture photos of overloaded containers - turning what used to be a tedious chore that few drivers completed into a simple, efficient process with high driver adoption. And with photographic evidence of what was collected, conversations with customers become a whole lot easier as well.

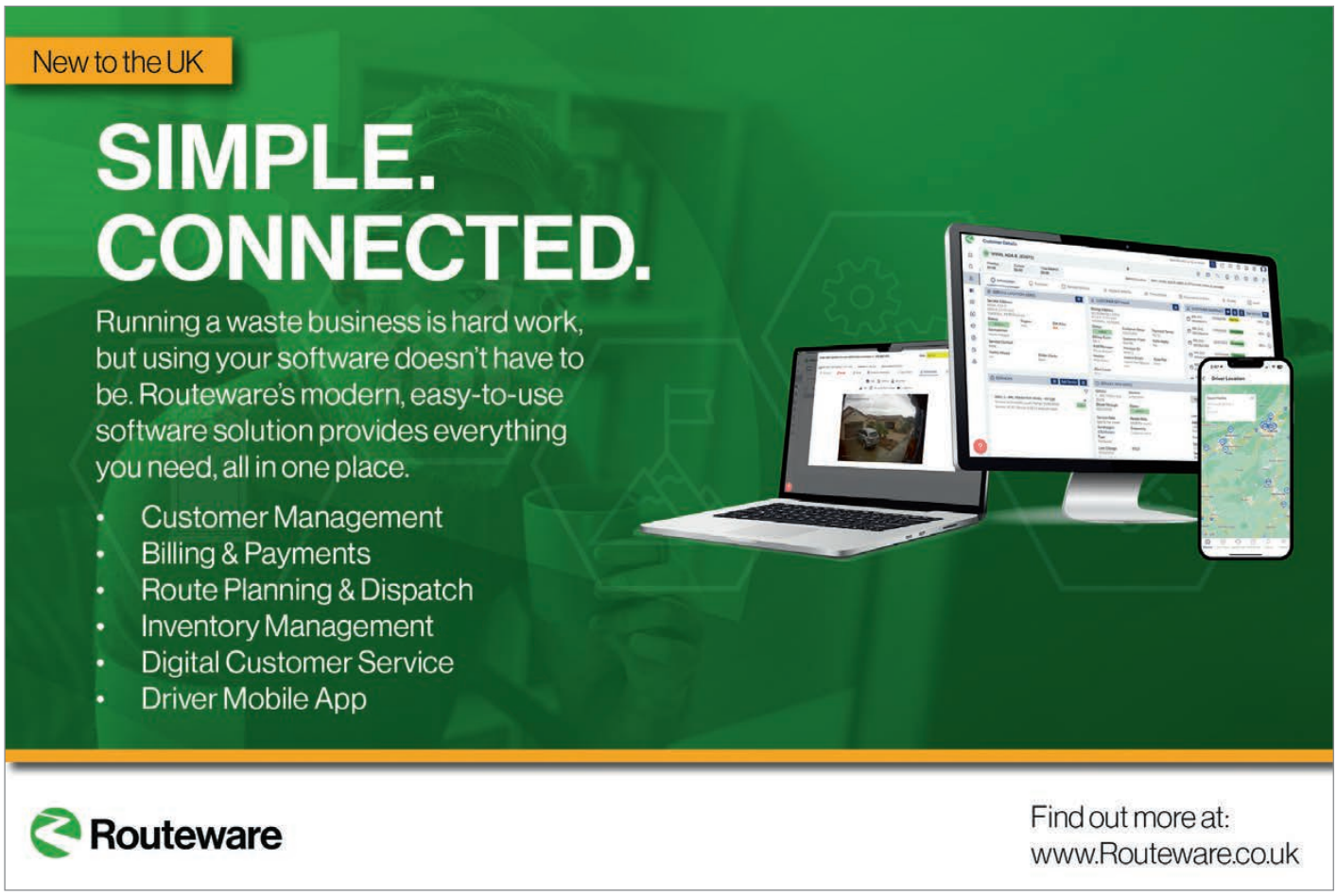
Another way that Routeware highlights that waste companies can grow revenue profitably is by increasing route density. If vehicles are passing prospective customers on their daily routes, that's an opportunity that shouldn't be missed.

The software can help waste companies identify marketing and pricing opportunities to win profitable new business and optimise and rebalance route plans as they bring new customers on board to maintain effectiveness. Route optimisation tools designed to intelligently sequence and balance stops are a key part of any waste management software platform. By distributing work more effectively across routes, companies can accommodate growth in customer numbers using fewer trucks and staff.

Customer experience is also a particular focus of the company. With over 65% of customer interactions now being digital, it is crucial that waste and skip companies engage with their customers online and on mobile. Routeware says businesses should see this as an excellent opportunity to increase revenue rather than an unwelcome cost.

Routeware's software includes sophisticated online tools that let customers quickly self-sign up for new services and encourage existing customers to buy more services while making it quicker and easier to manage their existing orders.

For further information, visit ***www.routeware.co.uk***



BUSINESS CLINIC MARKETING

Promoting the waste industry through marketing

Amy Jenkinson,
Marketing Director, Banakedi

As an industry, waste management has spent many years on the receiving end of negative publicity. In an era of sustainability driving a circular economy, very few outside the industry understand the vital role waste management plays in ensuring compliance, reducing waste and encouraging recycling.

As with many industries, marketing is often at the bottom of the list of importance for waste management, but positive PR can make all the difference for businesses. With many projects requiring due diligence of suppliers, projecting the right image to prospective customers is vital. This is why presenting your company as professional, knowledgeable and responsible is important.

If you are tendering or quoting for a large project, the company will want reassurance that, if they work with you, you are who you say you are and you can deliver what you promise. Your website is the first place any prospective customer will visit to check that you are a genuine company, which is why design and content are so important. If you just have a holding page or a site with little relevant information about your company, products and services, this can immediately put people off using you.

These days social media is an essential business tool. Your company's digital profile will be viewed by existing and prospective clients, so make sure you have some social media presence, particularly on LinkedIn. Regular posts won't necessarily generate direct sales but will increase your brand awareness in the industry. It is also the perfect platform to shout about all the good work your company is doing. Have you recently completed a large project? Helped a customer reduce their environmental impact? Introduced new sustainable working practices? If you don't tell anyone what you have done, you are missing an opportunity to promote yourselves and practice the industry's best practices.

Working in waste management is non-stop, and it can be difficult for businesses to find the time to update their website or social media. This is when outsourcing your marketing can help. If you don't employ a marketing person and don't want to incur the expense of recruitment, salary, holiday pay and National Insurance, then hiring an agency to carry out this work can be hugely beneficial. If you choose to engage with a third party for your marketing, then choose one that understands your industry. This will save you time explaining the ins and outs of what you do and reduce the risk of inaccurate messaging.

Don't waste the opportunity to promote your business; move your marketing up the priority list!

If you're looking for a marketing agency with experience of working in waste management, get in touch with Banakedi.

E: amym_jenkinson@outlook.com
or visit ***www.banakedi.com***

EMR to explore graphite recovery during EV battery recycling

EMR, a leader in sustainable materials, has announced a new project with the University of Birmingham. This initiative seeks better ways to recycle graphite from old electric vehicle (EV) batteries.

When recycling lithium-ion batteries, most efforts focus on high-value metals like lithium, cobalt, and nickel. However, graphite is also important. EV batteries can contain around 11 times more graphite by weight than lithium. Graphite recovered by EMR can be reused in various applications, such as making new EV batteries, steel, brake linings, and even pencils.

EMR has been improving technology for recycling EV batteries. One project, called RECOVAS, involved recyclers, academics, engineers, and car manufacturers like JLR, BMW, and Bentley. Earlier this year, EMR opened a new Battery Recycling Centre in Coventry based on the lessons learned from this project.

Researchers at the University of Birmingham will work with EMR's recycling

Photo credit: Tycorun

experts to study how to recover and regenerate graphite from 'black mass', the material leftover when shredding EV batteries. They will look into recovery methods at different stages of EMR's recycling process and explore ways to upgrade the material into high-capacity graphite SiOx for demanding uses.

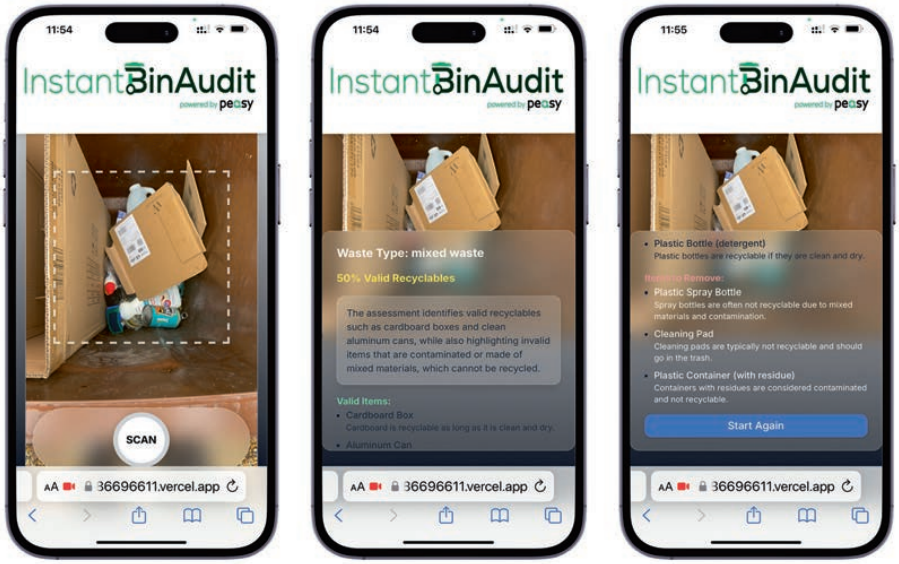
If successful, this project will help keep graphite within the UK's circular economy and establish the UK as a leader in graphite recovery for EV battery recycling. Industry Sprints form small teams of researchers to tackle important challenges the Faraday Institution identifies.

Roger Morton, EMR's Managing Director for Technology and Innovation, said: "Our recycling experts are proud to lead in end-of-life vehicle recycling. It is vital to develop technologies to support the transition to electric vehicles.

"Until now, most focus has been on recovering metals like lithium and cobalt from these batteries. However, we also need to find effective and environmentally friendly ways to recover the significant amounts of graphite that are present.

"The EMR team is excited to work with the University of Birmingham to create a solid recycling and recovery plan to reintegrate this important material into the economy.

"Our new Battery Recycling Centre in Birmingham shows that industrial-scale EV battery recycling has begun, and this project highlights the ongoing potential to create sustainable processes that improve our operations."



Instant Bin Audit App scanning, analysing and identifying contamination, followed by instructions on which contaminants to remove

New tool launched to combat costly bin contamination

Instant Bin Audit uses AI to rapidly identify key waste categories and highlight any compliance issues, all within four seconds

Bin contamination is the scourge of the waste and recycling industry. Putting the wrong things in the wrong bin not only reduces recycling but could also mean an entire load is rejected through contamination. This is not only costly for the facility or waste operator (residual waste disposal is almost twice the cost of dry mixed recycling) but also results in far more waste being landfilled or incinerated.

To combat this, waste tech pioneers Peasy have come up with an innovative AI tool that can be used on any smartphone. Instant Bin Audit™ provides an assessment of any bin's level of contamination and can even identify the offending waste streams - within four seconds. Options then include storing, emailing or recording the image and data, indicating the contamination level together with a list of items that should be removed. The data can also be integrated with legacy systems, providing undeniable evidence of repeat offenders. The operator may then choose a path of re-education or levy penalties. Facility operators can use the tool to pre-empt costly waste penalties or simply use it for training purposes.

According to David Landsberg, Peasy's Founder: "Up until now, the only way to check bin contamination was to lift the lid and make a subjective view. Now, Instant Bin Audit™ provides indisputable evidence of procedural failures in waste segregation. Through either carrot or stick, organisations can now rely on accurate data to reduce contamination, thereby increasing recycling with fewer materials being to landfill or incineration."

Instant Bin Audit™ has been available on a trial basis and has already become a necessity for many companies and organisations that care about minimising bin contamination. These include individual businesses, local authorities, waste operators, facility management companies, corporate sustainability programmes and even public events and festivals.

"Waste management companies are using the tool for on-site audits. Previously, they were only measuring contamination on bulk loads at their facilities and having to do this with rubber gloves," says David. "Now they can do an entire load or even a skip with this tool. For a deep-dive report, the tool can be used for all content by tipping out the bin, sack, or skip.

"It's just the same with Municipalities," says David. "Currently, the operative lifts the lid and guesses whether the bin's worthy of collection. Instant Bin Audit™ now makes the process more transparent and could even allow the local authority to issue penalties, together with photo evidence."

For more information and to trial the app, go to ***instantbinaudit.co.uk***

Festive plea to use tea towels to wrap gifts

East Suffolk Council is initiating a campaign encouraging residents to consider giving "experiences" rather than physical gifts this Christmas. The campaign also promotes using sustainable wrapping materials, such as old newspapers, tea towels, or brown paper tied with twine.

The Circular Christmas campaign aims to foster a commitment to reusing, reducing and recycling among community members. It emphasises the importance of supporting local businesses, purchasing second-hand gifts, regifting unwanted items and responsibly recycling holiday waste.

Inspired by the principles of the circular economy, the council's initiative seeks to enhance awareness around the production, consumption, reuse and recycling of materials, minimising the environmental impact of single-use items.

The campaign conveys the message: *"By reducing, reusing and recycling, we can celebrate the festive season in a way that is both environmentally responsible and budget-conscious. This Christmas, let us extend our generosity not only to one another but also to our planet."*

Sally Noble, the Green cabinet member responsible for environmental initiatives, stated that the campaign aligns with the council's broader objectives. She remarked: "This initiative not only supports positive environmental outcomes but also addresses the financial challenges many face during the holiday season. Reusing or regifting can provide relief from the economic pressures accompanying this time of year."

Additionally, the campaign is intended to extend beyond the holiday season, focusing on ongoing strategies for saving money while maintaining environmental consciousness throughout the year.

Residents are also encouraged to donate unwanted items to charity shops before the holiday period, which will allow others to acquire meaningful gifts.

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

HAVE YOUR SAY!

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

Drop the (live) tortoise!

It's now so long ago that I can't remember whether I was coerced into or volunteered to do the PR work for REHIS and then CIWM Scottish Centre afterwards. I hadn't much of a clue about where to start, but luckily, I was on good terms with colleagues in our Council PR Department, and they kindly gave me a crash course on how to write a Press Release and the best day (Mondays in Scotland) to hold a Press Conference.

I quickly learned that it wasn't enough to simply churn out the facts, as the hard-bitten media people were always looking for some 'angle': e.g. *'your Annual Report claims a 20% increase in reported rat infestations. Is that simply due to varying weather from year to year, more vigilance on the part of householders, or even mediocre performances by Council Pest Control Officers?'* As we'd collated information from the 53 Scottish District Councils, it wasn't easy finding a reply that wouldn't displease some of the latter.

I recalled all this in October when the BBC ran an item about a live tortoise that had been intercepted on a recyclate picking belt in a Materials Recovery Facility (MRF). There was a shot of a picking belt in full flow with contraries being manually removed (it wasn't made clear if this was the actual location or not) as well as vehicles discharging waste (that looked to me more like residual waste) in a reception hall that was being stockpiled by a wheeled loader. They then cut to the tortoise being cared for in a Vet's Practice, apparently none the worse for his/her ordeal. However, I doubt if we'll ever find out how the animal got into the recyclate stream in the first place.

In some ways, I felt the clip had been very helpful for our industry as it showed viewers how some source-separated recyclate is processed in MRFs, but there was also a danger that some viewers might think all their residual waste was treated like this, leading to the attitude *'even if I put recyclate in the 'wrong bin' it will still be captured.'* It set me wondering if some of the public funding spent on Consultants specialising in 'behavioural change' would be better invested in a series of short public service films that showed the public exactly what happens to their waste and separated recyclate after it goes into the trucks?

However, I'd been very disappointed the week before to see a poorly-researched, half-baked BBC report feeding off complaints from a few residents who are unhappy living next door to an Energy-from-Waste (EfW) plant.

There was no mention of the fact that if John Major hadn't committed the UK to the EU Landfill Directive at Maastricht, we wouldn't have needed to divert so much waste away from landfill or that the UK has been harvesting landfill methane gases to generate electricity for decades.

Instead of explaining that waste recycling in the UK has been stuck in a rut for a decade or more and the main option for stopping more waste from going to landfill is to use EfW plants, the reporter chose to grandstand, brandishing black plastic bags. If he'd done some more research, he'd have found out that the continentals have been using EfW for decades, and these plants qualify in terms of the Renewable Energy Guarantee of Origin Scheme, so they have a lot to contribute.

Energy from waste plants captures all the combustible waste that's either too contaminated to recycle or people are too lazy to sort out for separate collections.

So let's have more balance BBC.

Isle of Man Government phase out paper recycling banks

The Isle of Man Government has removed paper recycling banks to save money, as they are no longer considered environmentally beneficial.

Previously, paper collected on the island had been transported to the UK for recycling, leading to costs for collection and transport and increased carbon emissions.

The Government has concluded that the carbon savings achieved through energy recovery from burning paper at the island's Energy-from-Waste (EfW) plant will be greater than recycling.

This change, which came into effect last month, is in response to a significant decline in paper recovery for recycling, which dropped from 1,600 tonnes in 2007 to just 200 tonnes in 2023. This reduction is attributed to the rise of online publishing and the continued decrease in sales of newspapers and print products.

The change will save the Department of Infrastructure between £35,000 and £50,000 each year.

Infrastructure Minister Tim Crookall stated: "Making this change will mark a significant shift for many households, where paper has been recycled for years alongside other materials."

Residents who used the paper recycling banks are now encouraged to dispose of their paper in their wheelie bins instead, where it will be processed through the EfW plant.

Crookall noted that residents with kerbside paper collection or those using private recycling services should continue with those options.

He clarified that this change applies only to paper due to the value of its incineration for renewable electricity production.

New hookloader helps Sparling Recycling increase efficiency

Recycling and Waste Management experts Sparling Recycling has added a new Renault Trucks C430 8x4 hookloader to its six-strong Renault Trucks exclusive fleet. The latest acquisition, equipped with a Hyvalift Titan hooklift and Hyvalift "Easysheet" sheeting system, replaces a 61-plate Renault Trucks Kerax, further enhancing the company's operational efficiency and capability.

The new C430 joins a varied lineup of Renault trucks, including tippers, hookloaders and skiploaders, that serve Sparling Recycling's Commercial and Household clients throughout the Devon and Cornwall area. Supplied by Elliot Tratt at Sparks Commercial Services in Exeter, the latest vehicle highlights Sparling Recycling's commitment to reliability and quality in its fleet operations.

Barry Green at Sparling Recycling Ltd commented on the new addition: "I've known Wayne Petherick, Commercial Director at Sparks Commercial Services, for over a decade. Wayne, Elliot and the team at Sparks are incredibly professional and always put the customer first. They know me and know exactly what I need in a vehicle."

Barry also highlighted the truck's exceptional performance: "The C430 construction chassis is bulletproof and does what it says on the tin. The durability and build quality are second to none. It's a strong and reliable bit of kit. The automatic gearbox is outstanding, and, with all the mod cons that are built in, the driver will be pretty happy, too."

The new C430 with day cab is specified with optional extras including 4-point cab air suspension for increased driver comfort, a 7" colour multimedia touchscreen, an adjustable heated "Comfort" driver's seat, air conditioning, an ultimate leather steering wheel, roof-mounted twin air horns, and Renault Trucks' audio, navigation, and entertainment system ROADPAD+.

"The addition of a new C430 is a testament to our dedication to maintaining a robust and efficient fleet, ensuring our clients receive the outstanding service they deserve, and we are delighted with both the new vehicle and the service we have received," concluded Barry.

Hammersmith & Fulham adds eight new electric bikes to its Veolia fleet

Veolia and Hammersmith & Fulham Council have added eight new electric cargo bikes, bringing their total fleet to 20 electric vehicles. This upgrade aims to make collections and street cleaning cleaner and quieter for residents.

The fleet now includes eight cargo bikes, eight electric vans, three street cleansing cage vehicles, and one electric Refuse Collection Vehicle (eRCV) for garden waste collection.

These electric vehicles will significantly reduce air pollution by cutting emissions of nitrogen oxide (NOx), carbon monoxide (CO), and particulate matter (PM) by approximately 89% compared to diesel vehicles, supporting the council's goal of becoming the country's greenest borough.

Cargo bikes will efficiently service narrower routes like the Thames Pathway, enabling the team to empty litter bins and address fly-tipped waste.

Since starting their contract in 2022, Veolia has also introduced food waste services to over 50,000 homes and provided recycling bins to 16,000 properties. A new paid garden waste collection service will transport green waste to a composting facility to create high-quality fertiliser.

Councillor Sharon Holder highlighted that the new vehicles will help keep parks and streets clean while reducing air pollution.

Scott Edgell from Veolia emphasised that these efforts align with the council's goal of achieving net zero emissions by 2030 and improving services for residents.

Vaculug launches new app to enhance fleet sustainability

Vaculug Ltd, a leader in tyre retreading, is excited to announce the launch of its new app, V-Torque.

Developed in the UK, this innovative app offers unparalleled re-torquing data and sets a new standard for sustainability in fleet management for commercial vehicles of 7.5 tonnes and above, including trailers.

Inspired by discussions at Vaculug's Sustainable Thinking Forum in 2023, V-Torque provides comprehensive re-torquing data to enhance vehicle maintenance efficiency and safety. Its advanced features allow users to manage re-torquing processes accurately, ensuring wheel security compliance while reducing maintenance costs and supporting sustainability goals.

Glenn Sherwood, Chief Growth Officer of Vaculug Ltd, expressed excitement about the app, highlighting its role in driving positive change in the industry. The user-friendly interface provides up-to-date vehicle data and best practice recommendations, making it an essential tool for improving fleet performance.

HaulTech helps power growth at high Velocity

Investing in a transport management system (TMS) has significantly boosted Velocity Transport Solutions, a Sunderland-based haulier founded in 2016.

Since implementing HaulTech's TMS in 2020, the company has expanded its fleet from a few heavy goods vehicles (HGVs) to over 15, operating across ambient, chilled, and frozen goods.

Mike Bones, head of transport at Velocity, stated: "HaulTech has certainly contributed to our growth, as the transport planning is very user-friendly."

The TMS reduces administrative processes by up to 80% and helps manage operational costs by allowing users to create, schedule, assign and manage jobs through a single data entry point. It also streamlines invoicing and integrates with accounting software like Sage.

With multiple offices in the region, Mike noted: "HaulTech provides a central register for all the information we need."

He added: "The biggest benefit is the seamless invoicing process, moving from proof of delivery to invoicing at the push of a button."

Originally providing traction units and drivers, Velocity now also offers general haulage with its own fleet, serving various sectors, including automotive and food products.

Mike praised HaulTech, saying: "They are flexible and responsive to our needs. I've recommended them to another haulier in the North-East, who is now using the system as well."

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

Dennis Eagle safeguards van drivers with safety and management system

Dennis Eagle, a leader in refuse collection vehicle manufacturing, has equipped 112 vans with advanced dashcams as part of a video-enabled driver protection solution. This system from SureCam is integrated with Peoplesafe's lone worker service, enhancing safety for service engineers in remote and high-risk areas.

"Our top priority is the safety of our engineers while they work," says Dave Nicholls, Service Operations Manager at Dennis Eagle.

"By combining vehicle cameras, tracking, driver behaviour monitoring and lone worker protection into one solution, we can safeguard our team and improve efficiency and productivity."

After a successful trial with 28 engineers at two sites, the technology was rolled out to 112 vans operating from 18 locations nationwide.

Depot Managers receive alerts about collisions and harsh driving, while scheduled reports offer insights into driver behaviour. The operations team uses location data to respond effectively to maintenance needs.

The Peoplesafe integration allows drivers to quickly request assistance. When an alert is raised, the Alarm Receiving Centre (ARC) can access audio communication and video footage, enabling prompt emergency response.

Nicholls adds: "We recognised the power of an integrated, video-enabled solution for driver protection. SureCam's support made the rollout seamless. We are now focused on fully embedding this technology into our operations."

Sam Footer, Partnership Director at SureCam, stated: "Our video-enabled telematics ecosystem brings together various technologies to streamline fleet management and reduce risks. Dennis Eagle is leveraging this integrated approach to address their safety and operational challenges."

SFS wins new North Northants contract

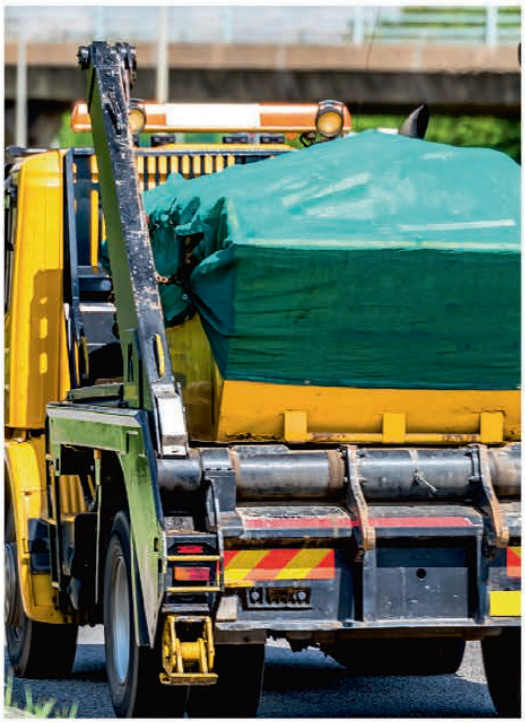
A fleet of about 100 vehicles for North Northamptonshire Council's Housing services will now be maintained by Specialist Fleet Services Ltd (SFS) at their depot in Kettering.

This three-year contract started in August. SFS has already invested in new workshop equipment, including a 4.5-ton ramp, tools, and diagnostic gear. Two technicians have completed Level 3 training for electric vehicles (EVs) to support this fleet's hybrid and electric vehicles.

Cllr Matt Binley, North Northamptonshire Council's Executive Member for Highways, Travel, and Assets, said: "It is vital to have well-maintained vehicles to deliver the services residents expect. This allows our officers to reach all areas of North Northamptonshire to assist residents.

"It's also important to plan for the future, so it's great that SFS can now support our growing number of hybrid and electric vehicles."

Bob Sweetland, Managing Director of SFS, said: "We are pleased to expand our services with North Northamptonshire Council for this fleet maintenance. We will keep investing in our team, depot, and fleet to improve essential council services."



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PUP IDOL

Please send pictures of your pup along with a few facts, such as their likes and dislikes, to: **editor@pal-media.co.uk**

POOCH OF THE MONTH

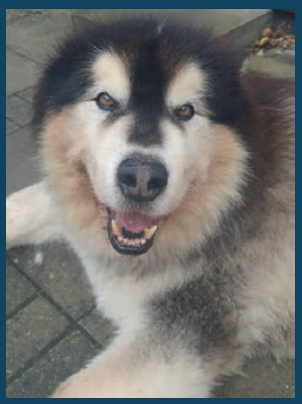
TED

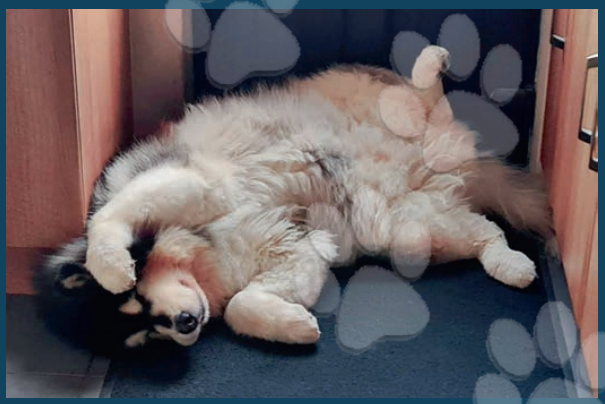
Ted is seven-years-old and is quite a mix of breeds. He was rescued from a chaotic home filled with various dogs. His mother was a Husky/Alaskan Malamute, and his father was a combination of German Shepherd, Collie and Spaniel. This mix means he is very fluffy and extremely cuddly.

Ted has an amazingly calm temperament and is instantly loved by everyone who meets him. He loves life, squeaky toys, chasing squirrels, going to work, riding in the car, spending time with children, watching horse events and enjoying ice cream. However, he dislikes having a bath.

Ted is a walking fun fact, starting with his unusual breeding! He is a happy, fluffy dog who loves being around people and has expressive facial features that cheer up anyone nearby. At work, he enjoys being busy in the yard and can often be found rummaging through skips for anything worth saving. As a result, he has a lot of toys and hundreds of tennis balls!

Axe Skip Hire is based in Axminster, Devon. www.axeskiphire.co.uk





PO

Po, my Alaskan Malamute, will celebrate his ninth birthday in January 2025.
He is not just any Malamute; he is particularly large and exceptionally fluffy, making him quite a sight to behold!
His personality shines through his independence and intelligence, but he also exhibits a stubborn streak that keeps life interesting. Despite these quirks, I wouldn't trade him for any other dog.

Likes: Po enjoys chasing squirrels, although he only indulges in this activity when he's in the mood. Winter is his absolute favourite season; when the temperatures drop and snow covers the ground, he becomes almost impossible to get indoors. The colder it is, the happier he seems! Additionally, like most dogs, Po has a passion for anything food-related.

Dislikes: Po detests being brushed, which makes grooming a bit of a challenge. He is also scared of the sound of the lawnmower, often retreating to a safe spot until it's turned off. Interestingly, while he is not a fan of scary movies, he finds great delight in watching cartoons.

Ilona Dixon is an employee at Windsor Integrated Services Group, a firm located in Brentwood, Essex. www.wisg.co.uk

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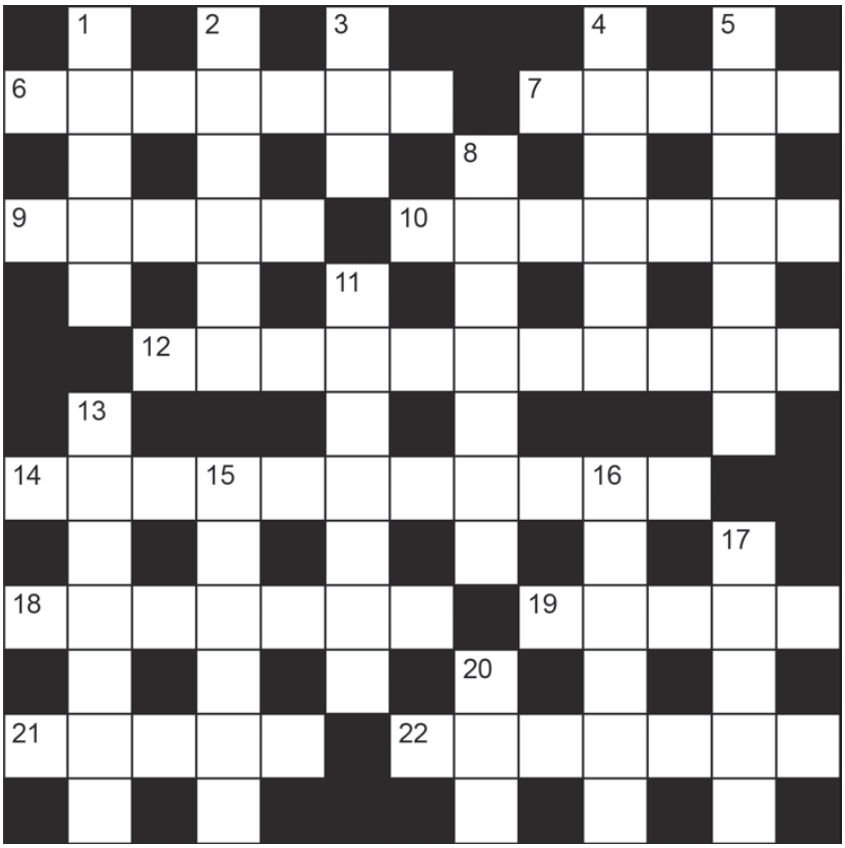

Across

6. Uses some charm - everybody sure to be confused (7)
7. Cosy place for the start of a new life, we hear (5)
9. For this stunt, put busy worker in charge (5)
10. Being prejudiced, I depart in shocking debt (7)
12. Presumably no pointless contest! (6,5)
14. Prime piece of instruction in the service (5,6)
18. Work by newspaper reporters to impose a heavy load (7)
19. Take off for southern tour (5)
21. See 2 Down
22. See 15 Down

Down

1 & 5Dn. A protracted spell on the rack - the result of serious crime! (1,4,7)
2 & 21Ac. This is used for cleaning - no piece must be broken (6,5)
3. The bird to provide a quill (3)
4. One's backing the artist - a girl from Barcelona (6)
5. See 1 Down
8. This will cause ill-health - Diana's needing relaxation (7)
11. Worship what is destroyed by iconoclasts? (7)
13. Argue about being placed in a disorganised side (7)
15 & 22Ac. Did some seasonal work - watch mechanism serviced (6-7)
16. To exile is not in the legal procedure (6)
17. See 20 Down
20 & 17Dn. Veteran convict? (3-5)

SKIP & WASTE MAGAZINE SUDOKU No.23

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

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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JANUARY 2025: ISSUE 228
Material handlers

FEBRUARY 2025: ISSUE 229
Crushers, screeners and aggregates

MARCH 2025: ISSUE 230
Industry vehicles: Skip hookloaders, RCV, electric etc.

APRIL 2025: ISSUE 231
Dust suppression systems & odour control.
Fire protection & site safety

MAY 2025: ISSUE 232
Plant, machinery & equipment

JUNE 2025: ISSUE 233
Compactors and balers

JULY 2025: ISSUE 234
CRM system software for waste management

AUGUST 2025: ISSUE 235
Sorting and separation

SEPTEMBER 2025: ISSUE 236
RWM preview

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ADVERTISING FEATURE

Rachel Reeves, Chancellor of the Exchequer, poses outside 11 Downing Street ahead of presenting her budget to parliament in London

How will the Autumn Budget affect me?

In the latest Budget, the Chancellor increased taxes by a record £40bn and confirmed £127bn in borrowing to repair the billion-pound 'black hole' in public finances and grow the economy – with the words 'invest, invest, invest'.

Whether you're a business owner, a saver, or an investor planning to leave a legacy – or all three – there are key tax changes that may affect your plans. Here's what you need to know and what to do next.

Capital Gains Tax

Capital Gains Tax (CGT) is up from 10% to 18% for basic rate taxpayers and up from 20% to 24% for higher and additional rate taxpayers.

What's the good news?

If you're selling property, such as a second home or buy-to-let, there's no change in the rate of CGT you pay.

What can you do now?

If you need to sell an asset, consider using your CGT £3,000 annual exemption and possibly offset any CGT losses you may have incurred. You can also consider gifting part of an asset to your spouse or civil partner before selling – so they can use their exemption too (such a transfer must be on an outright and unconditional basis).

Pensions and IHT

From 2027, unspent defined contribution pension pots will be counted as part of your estate and liable for 40% IHT.

What's the good news?

You can still draw 25% of your pension tax-free (generally up to £268,275). And the IHT thresholds of £325,000 and £175,000 for a main residence will now be frozen until 2030.

What can you do?

Start using the £3,000 annual gifting exemption (£6,000 for a couple) to reduce the size of your estate - a tax-smart move, especially before tax year-end. You may also have scope to use other IHT exemptions.

Your business and the Budget

Business owners bore the brunt of the tax raises in this budget. Employer NI contributions are rising to 15%, and employers will start paying NI when employees earn £5,000 instead of the current allowance of £9,100.

What's the good news?

Corporation Tax will be held at 25% for the rest of this Parliament.

What can you do?

Explore whether salary sacrifice or taking dividends will help mitigate this new tax burden for businesses.

Let's talk...

This was never going to be an easy Budget – and these are simply the key changes. No financial adviser? No problem - visit our website: **www.blossomwealth.co.uk**

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CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS
(from page 66)

Across: 6 Allures; 7 Berth; 9 Antic; 10 Bigoted; 12 Needle match; 14 First lesson; 18 Oppress; 19 Strip; 21 Stone; 22 Cleaned.

Down: 1 A long; 2 Pumice; 3 Pen; 4 Senora; 5 Stretch; 8 Disease; 11 Idolise; 13 Dispute; 15 Spring; 16 Outlaw; 17 Timer; 20 Old.

SUDOKU SOLUTION
(from page 66)

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

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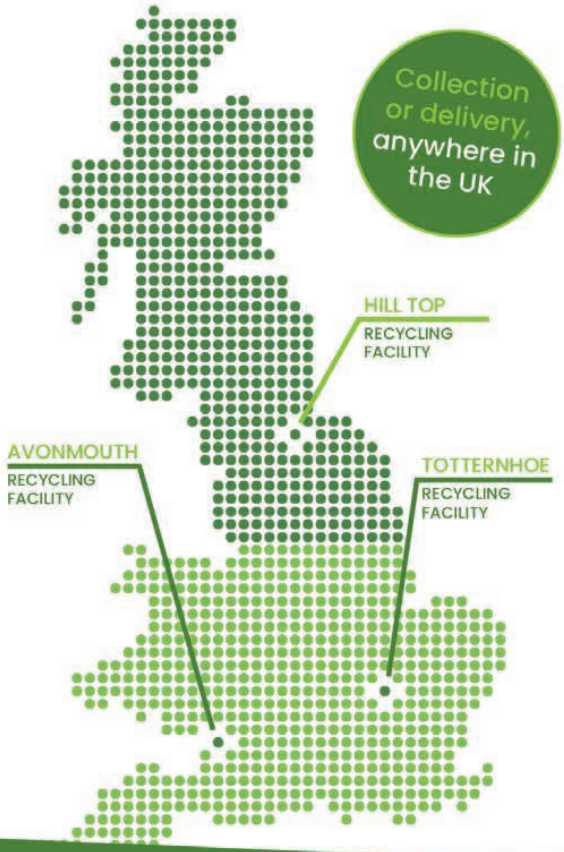

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