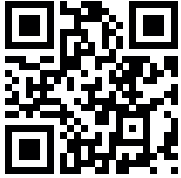


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EDITORIAL VIEWPOINT

By **Brendan Gilligan**

In villages nationwide, farmers are expressing frustration with the Government's decision to eliminate agricultural property relief, which previously exempted farms from inheritance tax.

Since Brexit, there has been a growing consensus that farmers should produce public goods to qualify for public payments. These goods include enhanced biodiversity, potentially requiring farmers to plant trees or wildflower meadows.

The Government has introduced a new inheritance tax threshold: farm assets over £1 million will be taxed at a discounted rate of 20%, while some may qualify for exemptions up to £3 million.

Labour argues that this tax will primarily affect wealthy landowners and may lead to lower land prices, making it easier for newcomers to enter farming. However, many farmers believe that nearly half of working farms will be impacted, particularly those with high turnover yet low-profit margins.

Even if spread over ten years, the inheritance tax could wipe out potential profits for some farms. There are also concerns about tenant farmers, as landlords may evict them to sell land and cover tax bills, or it could open up opportunities for tenants to purchase land.

Additionally, a new carbon tax on imported fertilisers and other goods will also strain farmers, particularly since the EU is implementing similar measures at a slower pace, giving European farmers an edge.

Defra has been underspending its budget for environmental programmes, further frustrating farmers already facing economic pressures and a mental health crisis due to volatile weather and lack of support.

A successful green transition in agriculture requires significant investment and reform, yet Labour appears unwilling to commit to necessary changes. As conditions grow more challenging, it is crucial to support farmers in restoring ecosystems and reducing carbon emissions.

See pages 52-53. Rural firms face more risks from climate change than urban competitors, but helping them innovate could benefit the whole economy.



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Biffa warns of hefty fines ahead of single-use ban

An expert from Biffa has warned business owners about the risks of fines for not complying with UK Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) regulations, which require a take-back system for consumers. Non-compliance could lead to fines of up to £5,000 at Magistrates Court and potentially unlimited fines at Crown Court.

This warning follows the UK Government's announcement of a ban on non-refillable, non-rechargeable vapes effective 1st June, impacting England, Wales, and Scotland.

While rechargeable or refillable vapes are not banned, they still require take-back systems for proper disposal under WEEE regulations. Used disposable vapes are treated as hazardous waste and must be carefully disposed of.

Retailers must allow consumers to return vapes at the point of sale if their annual WEEE sales exceed £100,000.

The warning comes from a new survey from Biffa that found that only 25% of small business owners have a vape takeback scheme in place, while only another 36% intend to implement a scheme in the future.

Daniel Barrett, a reactive services expert at Biffa, emphasised that disposable vapes, often seen as single-use items, actually contain recyclable components if processed correctly.

Retailers need to implement take-back



schemes to prevent these vapes from ending up in general waste, which can cause fires in recycling centres.

By offering an easy and compliant way for customers to dispose of used e-cigarettes, retailers can improve recycling rates and reduce contamination.

Proper labelling and collection points can also help avoid fines of up to £5,000.

Implementing these systems can be integrated into existing waste management, saving costs. This is crucial as nearly 45% of SMEs cited cost as a barrier to sustainability.

The upcoming ban aims to reduce complex, hard-to-recycle waste, benefiting the UK's circular economy. However, all retailers must understand that the ban does not eliminate their responsibility for proper waste management.

Attention must also be given to the growing number of new vape types entering the market before the ban takes effect.

Campaigners warn of 'vapocalypse'

New research reveals that the number of vape products being discarded or recycled improperly each week has increased from five million last year to an estimated 8.2 million this year.

This study, commissioned by Material Focus, indicates that the rise includes both single-use and single-use pod vapes, largely driven by the emergence of the new 'big puff' style vapes.

Material Focus explains that producers have crafted these 'big puff' vapes to circumvent the upcoming disposable vape ban set to take effect in June.

Scott Butler, the executive director of Material Focus, stated: "Vape producers are being incredibly creative with their products in an effort to avoid the forthcoming ban on disposable vapes."

He also emphasised: "Without swift and comprehensive action, we risk facing a 'vapocalypse', and these new big puff vape models are already contributing to an environmental crisis."

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‘Simpler Recycling’: Defra releases new guidelines for businesses on waste stream separation

The Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra) has released updated guidance for waste collectors and businesses, mandating the separation of dry recyclables, food waste and residual black bin waste into distinct streams.

This is part of Defra’s ‘Simpler Recycling’ policy, which was first introduced in May last year, following an initial promise made in the Resources and Waste Strategy published in December 2018.

The new system aims to ensure clarity caused by varying recycling rules across different areas, creating a standardised set of recyclable materials throughout England.

Under the updated guidelines, most households and businesses will be required to use four separate containers for waste by March of this year. These containers will include bins for residual (non-recyclable) waste, food waste (which may be mixed with garden waste), paper and cardboard, and other dry recyclables such as plastics, metals and glass.

The types of containers may vary, ranging from bags to stackable boxes, depending on local needs. This streamlined approach is designed to ensure consistency without increasing the number of bins.

For businesses, starting on 31st March 2025, all workplaces will be required to separate dry recyclables, food waste and residual waste. Companies will have flexibility in choosing container sizes and collection frequencies based on waste volume, but proper segregation will be mandatory.

Micro-firms with fewer than 10



Paper and cardboard will be collected separately under the incoming ‘Simpler Recycling’ regulations

employees will be exempt from this requirement until 31st March 2027.

By 31st March 2026, local authorities will be required to collect core recyclables from all households, including weekly food waste collections in most areas. Additionally, by 31st March 2027, kerbside collections for plastic films will be introduced for both businesses and homes.

Local authorities will have the flexibility to implement these regulations in a way that suits their communities while maintaining a consistent recycling service across the country.

The UK Government will also introduce measures to enforce compliance, allowing the public to report workplaces that do not follow the rules to the Environment Agency starting in April 2025.

Secondary legislation implementing these regulations was presented to Parliament last month, with full implementation - subject to spending review outcomes - set to begin this year.

The Government aims to achieve a 65% recycling rate for municipal waste by 2035 as part of the Environment Act. The Act also aims to halve residual waste per person by 2042 based on the 2019 baseline of 574 kg per capita.

CIWM reaction

The Chartered Institution of Wastes Management (CIWM) said it welcomes Defra’s announcement and is pleased that the Government has moved forward on this policy, “which makes recycling even more convenient for households and businesses”.

CIWM’s director of policy and external affairs, Dan Cooke, said: “The announcement provides the clarity that CIWM has been urging Defra to provide in order for the sector to plan and deliver these important changes to vital recycling services.

“The new default four bin system is a pragmatic move that CIWM applauds. It is also positive to see that local authorities will still be able to draw on their experience and expertise to deliver the best services and value for local residents.

“Together with other key measures now being accelerated, this now provides a firm foundation on which the forthcoming Circular Economy Strategy can be developed, and CIWM looks forward to supporting this process.”

Defra’s announcement marks a critical step in aligning the ‘Simpler Recycling’ framework with sustainability objectives and improving the quality of recyclables across the UK.

See also Marco Muia’s column on page 48

New partnership aims to reduce waste at London shopping centre

From 31st March 2025, the ‘Simpler Recycling’ legislation mandates that businesses must present a minimum number of recyclable waste streams to improve national recycling rates. However, waste segregation in large retail spaces can be difficult due to high contamination risks.

To address this, Churchill, West One, Weightron and the waste management platform Carrot have partnered to reduce waste at the Bond Street shopping centre. Launched last month, the platform trained

around 50 retail employees, who are encouraged to train their colleagues.

Retailers use a scale and integrated touchscreen to record waste, with real-time data available on the Carrot dashboard, showing waste amounts, recycling rates, and waste types expected from different tenants. This transparency promotes accountability and encourages competition among tenants.

Carrot, a Norwegian company, has successfully improved recycling rates in

other shopping centres, achieving a jump from 54% to 70% in one case while reducing contamination by 90%. West One, the first UK retail site to adopt Carrot, is partnering with Veolia for waste management.

Cheryl-Anne Cooper from Churchill Group expressed that better waste management is essential. At the same time, Cyrus Annan at West One noted the platform’s potential to reduce contaminated waste, especially given the number of food outlets on-site.

Mixed reaction to Wales's withdrawal from UK-wide DRS

Last November, Irranca-Davies announced that the Welsh Government would withdraw from the development of a UK-wide deposit return scheme (DRS), citing issues related to the UK Internal Market Act 2020.

This decision may have stemmed from Wales's intent to include glass in its scheme, which contributed to the collapse of Scotland's DRS in 2023.

Dan Cooke, CIWM's Director of Policy, Communications, and External Affairs, commented that while Wales has a different starting point, its withdrawal will create confusion and potentially increase costs. He advised that the introduction of the DRS may need to be delayed until more substantial reforms, such as Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) and 'Simpler Recycling', are fully integrated.

A UK Government spokesperson reaffirmed their commitment to delivering a DRS across England, Northern Ireland, and Scotland by October 2027, emphasising collaboration with the Devolved Governments to ensure that the scheme benefits businesses and consumers.



Picture credit: TOMRA

The Recycling Association has called for scrapping the DRS, labelling it a "disaster." Paul Sanderson, the association's CEO, stated that only soft drink manufacturers and politicians support the scheme. He urged that the focus should shift to implementing EPR and 'Simpler Recycling' instead.

LARAC has also requested a pause on DRS development until other policies are established. Chair Cathy Cook highlighted

the challenges created by having a multi-tiered DRS and the inefficiencies of current infrastructure in improving recycling rates.

Following the announcement, several industry organisations expressed disappointment over Wales's decision, stating it creates uncertainty and confusion for consumers. They emphasised the need for a unified approach to DRS across the UK to enhance recycling efficiency and reduce litter.

Alupro poll shows public support for EPR and DRS

A recent poll by Alupro found that about 70% of people in Britain support extended producer responsibility (EPR). The poll, conducted by Yonder, surveyed 2,000 UK adults.

Earlier research showed that 73% of Britons want a deposit return scheme (DRS) introduced in all four nations by 2027.

Tom Giddings, the executive director of Alupro, said: "Our industry is committed to recycling more aluminium and creating a stronger circular economy. This poll shows the British public feels the same way."

Giddings noted that the Government has faced serious delays in passing important recycling laws, including EPR and DRS. Although some legislation has been introduced recently, real changes are still not in sight.

"The British public clearly wants less litter and expects their packaging to be recycled, not just recyclable. To achieve this, ministers need to promote better packaging options," he added.

Data from the Environment Agency shows that the UK recycled 68% of its aluminium packaging in 2023. A record 162,357 tonnes were recycled nationwide, including over 81% of beverage cans. Almost 75% of the 1.5 billion tonnes of aluminium ever produced is still in use today.

Alupro discussed these topics during a parliamentary meeting in Westminster last month. The meeting focused on how the Government can support a true circular economy for aluminium by 2025 and shared the association's goals for the upcoming year.

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UK glass industry expresses concerns over new packaging regulations

British Glass has warned that the new Extended Producer Responsibility (pEPR) scheme could result in higher consumer costs, job losses and a preference for less sustainable packaging alternatives over recyclable glass.

The UK Government's pEPR regulations shift waste collection responsibilities from local authorities to producers, imposing higher levies on heavier materials like glass. This could significantly raise costs for glass-packaged products, making glass less competitive compared to alternatives like plastic.

The UK glass industry employs around 120,000 people, and Dave Dalton, Chief Executive of British Glass, supports the idea of Extended Producer Responsibility but believes the current pEPR structure may negatively impact glass competitiveness. He raised concerns that the policy might encourage the use of less sustainable materials.

British Glass is actively engaging with MPs and government officials to propose changes to the pEPR framework that



consider both environmental goals and market realities.

The new regulations, effective April 2025, will include levies based on packaging weight, potentially adding an estimated 10p to the price of a glass beer bottle. Meanwhile, packaging made from metal or plastic may see smaller price increases.

Technical Director Dr Nick Kirk noted that while the pEPR aims to promote

recyclable packaging, the weight-based fee structure could discourage glass use, which is infinitely recyclable.

Additionally, British Glass expressed concerns about increased imports of glass packaging with higher carbon footprints than domestically produced glass. The organisation calls for a balance between environmental objectives and the competitiveness of the UK glass manufacturing sector.

Amazon and eBay to pay for e-waste recycling

The Government has announced new plans for online marketplaces and vape producers to help recycle electrical waste.

Currently, businesses in the UK, like Currys, Argos and Tesco, pay into a fund for collecting e-waste, but sellers from other countries on Amazon and eBay do not contribute.

Circular Economy Minister Mary Creagh aims to create fairness by ensuring these large online platforms help with the costs. Vapes will also be treated differently for waste management because they are now incorrectly classified as toys. These

changes will start in January 2026.

Each year, 100,000 tonnes of household electrical items are thrown away in the UK, which adds to carbon emissions and toxic waste. There are about 880 million unwanted items lying around.

Creagh stressed the importance of online marketplaces ensuring that overseas sellers pay their share for recycling costs. Some people worry about how this might affect overseas producers, but Creagh believes fairness and recovering resources are key.

Alex Baldock, chief executive at Currys, said: "We welcome the Government's new measures to help level the playing field for responsibility for waste, making online marketplaces do their part."

"Low value, low quality and unsustainable tech is piling up in landfills, and it's good to see the Government doing something to tackle that."

A spokesperson from Amazon said: "Amazon is committed to minimising waste

and helping our customers to reuse, repair and recycle their products. We provide a range of options through the Amazon Second Chance website, and customers can recycle electronics through Amazon Trade-In and home collection services on our Amazon Recycling website."

"We also work closely with many major repair partners like GXO ServiceTech to repair and refurbish thousands of electronic products to help give them a second life."

According to the plans, online marketplaces are required to register with the Environment Agency and provide data on UK sales made by overseas sellers. This information will be used to determine the financial contribution that each marketplace must make toward the costs associated with the collection and treatment of e-waste.

The cost of this annual registration will be subject to consultation led by the Environment Agency.



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Global talks on plastic pollution have stalled - however, a treaty can be reached if countries agree on three key points

Oil-rich nations and the petrochemical industry put up the strongest opposition to a pact

STEVE FLETCHER

Professor of Ocean Policy and Economy, University of Portsmouth

SAMUEL WINTON

Postgraduate Researcher, University of Portsmouth

United Nations-backed talks for a global treaty to end plastic pollution wrapped up without an agreement in the early hours of Sunday, 1st December. A new round of talks is expected in mid-2025.

Negotiations foundered over a cap on plastic production, restrictions on the use of certain chemicals in plastics and financial support to help developing countries switch to less polluting business models. These are staunchly opposed by the “like-minded group” of countries, including Saudi Arabia, Iran, Russia and other major oil producers with powerful advocates for the petrochemical and chemical sectors, for whom plastic offers a rapidly growing market.

While no deal was agreed in Busan, South Korea, where the talks took place, there was a feeling of renewed determination to create an ambitious and robust plastics treaty. In a memorable moment during the debate, a delegate from Rwanda spoke about the need for reductions in plastic production to confront mounting pollution and was met with a standing ovation.

A delegate from Mexico read out a list of 95 countries that support a global phaseout of plastic products containing chemicals of concern to prolonged cheering by aligned delegations. The spirit

of collaboration and multilateralism was tangible.

Why plastic talks faltered

During the late-night meeting, countries supportive of legal obligations to cut plastic pollution refused to accept a treaty limited to voluntary measures. They asserted that the treaty must take action at each stage of a plastic item’s life cycle, including reducing the amount of plastic made.

The like-minded group prioritised better waste management and recycling, avoiding the fact that excessive overproduction of plastic is set to overwhelm even the most advanced systems.

Yet, observers also criticised the way in which Indigenous peoples were sidelined during the discussions, with no access to closed-door negotiations. The draft treaty text also failed to address gender equality and intergenerational equity.

Towards the end of the night, delegates agreed that the fifth intergovernmental negotiation committee would reconvene sometime in 2025 to continue developing the text of a treaty to end plastic pollution. Critically, delegates agreed that the next round of talks would build on progress made in Busan and not return to older drafts.

Many issues remain for consideration at the resumed negotiations in 2025. Here are three of the most significant.

1. Finance

Developing countries, in particular, need money to adopt business models and transition away from reliance on polluting

Plastic waste is an egregious burden on developing countries



single-use plastics. However, there is little consensus on how this money should be paid.

There is significant disagreement over whether to create a dedicated plastics fund, paid into by developed donor countries or use existing mechanisms such as the Global Environment Facility.

The draft treaty text mentions fees or taxes on plastic production, which many delegates felt were essential for raising enough money to implement the global treaty. This is a red line for many plastic producer countries, which see any such measure as punitive and imposing an unreasonable cost on trade.

2. Plastic production

The high-ambition coalition co-chaired by Rwanda and Norway considers measures to reduce plastic production essential, a position backed by considerable evidence.

Panama submitted an ambitious proposal requiring countries to adopt a global target to reduce the production of primary plastic polymers to sustainable levels once the treaty is agreed.

However, targets for reducing plastic production are another red line for oil-rich countries. In the closing plenary, statements on behalf of the like-minded group, the Arab group, and others made it clear that they would not accept any such measures.



3. Safety

Research shows that over 16,000 chemicals are used or present in plastics, and while safety information is lacking for over 10,000 of these, 4,200 are known to be of concern.

Effectively regulating the use of chemicals in plastics must be a cornerstone of any plastics treaty. However, despite proposals and the support of over 100 member countries for

global phaseouts of harmful chemicals, the draft treaty text only has passing references to chemicals.

Agreeing the text of a treaty to end plastic pollution is difficult. More time will not guarantee an ambitious agreement, but it provides for further discussions to unlock consensus on this most critical global challenge.

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



Most plastic is made from fossil fuels

HAVE
YOUR SAY!

Another recent article reported that we need \$50 billion to help solve this problem, which would be directed to better pay and conditions for waste collectors and better landfills in the countries that need them. In Sydney, we have spent \$2 billion on a container deposit scheme, which not only duplicates our excellent kerbside collection but has not changed the amount of pollution in our waterways. Many countries are already doing the same, and 39 are looking to start such a scheme; add to this the stupid idea of collection wasting millions more, and my personal favourite is the sea bin. The automated ocean rubbish bin for \$3,825. All you need to do is have appropriate marina infrastructure with little or no waves, run electricity to it and have only small bits of floating plastic, and supposedly, it will clean up the world's oceans for a dollar a day. More than \$50 billion is being wasted enslaving people in stupidity, wasting the world's resources. If we can point out this absurdity, should we not be able to divert this money to the changes we need and save the major global economies money? - Ted Rethers

Polluter pays? In your dreams. The same old fossil fuel brigade calling the shots as ever. Too many people are hung up with plastic recycling when the real solution is to curb plastic production - particularly single-use. - Mike Potter

Cleaning up and disposing of plastic waste is equivalent to direct air capture and underground storage of carbon dioxide (both are mainly products of fossil fuel use). Direct air capture and storage costs up to \$400 US a tonne, so this is the level at which a carbon/plastic tax should be applied if we were serious about addressing the issue.

- Terrence Edward Clay

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Welcome to 2025!

This year is anticipated to bring a whole host of goodies for employees and employers. I bet you can't wait. So let's see what we have to look forward to...

In April 2025, the Neonatal Care (Leave and Pay) Act 2023 comes into force. Subject to service and earnings-based eligibility, working parents whose babies are hospitalised within the first 28 days from birth will be able to take up to 12 weeks of paid leave, with a minimum of one week, alongside other maternity, paternity, or shared parental leave entitlements.

I can't yet confirm the full details; however, be prepared for changes to the right to request flexible working. The Employment Rights Bill aims to ensure employers can only refuse flexible working requests if doing so is deemed reasonable. Watch this space!

Aside from contending with greater flexibility, from 6th April 2025, employer National Insurance Contributions (NICs) will rise from 13.8% to 15%. In addition, the threshold at which employers start paying NICs will also decrease from £9,100 to £5,000, meaning employers' costs will significantly increase for lower-paid/part-time employees. This seems to be contrary to forcing employers to be more flexible, given that it will be more expensive to hire part-time employees. Confucius says this one hasn't been thoroughly thought through!

In more news about wages, both the National Living Wage (NLW) and the National Minimum Wage (NMW) will increase on 1st April 2025. The NLW will rise by 6.7% to £12.21 per hour, while the NMW will reach £10.00 per hour for 18-20-year-olds and £7.55 per hour for 16-17-year-olds and apprentices. Don't forget these increases have a knock-on effect on those in team-leader/

supervisory roles as they narrow the pay gap, meaning employers face increases across more senior levels too.

We are still awaiting the full details on what to expect from The Employment Rights Bill, which is winging its way through parliament. However, I would encourage employers to engage in the upcoming consultations on the Bill, which will be ongoing throughout 2025. If you don't engage, there is no point moaning when it hits you in 2026, and there will be significant changes to consider. There is a useful summary in the form of a fact sheet (*scan the QR code here*). As you will see, some of this is already being implemented (*see my article last month on sexual harassment at work*).



Given Labour's roots, the Bill includes extensive reforms to Trade Union powers and employee rights, which will mean employers have some serious work to do in figuring out the long-term impact of the proposals. I'm not a fan of hypothesising, but this is one time in my professional career when I would advocate having 'what if' discussions in the context of these reforms being legislated and their effect on your industry in 2026.

As with 14 years of Tory government, this looks a lot like further cost and red tape tying employers in knots.

I'm just not sure how Labour intends to reconcile all of this with their commitment to achieving record inward investment in the UK from overseas investors. I guess the future is looking bright if you manufacture red tape... Happy New Year!



JCB signs up for green steel

Tata Steel will supply JCB with recycled 'green' steel from Port Talbot for its construction machinery following the completion of its transformation plans.

This is the first supply agreement that Tata Steel UK has made since announcing a £1.25 billion joint investment with the UK Government to transition to high-quality, low-CO² steel production in South Wales.

The project will create one of the world's largest electric arc furnaces (EAFs). This EAF will turn scrap metal sourced from the UK into new, high-quality steel.

Tata Steel expects this plan to cut CO² emissions at the site by up to 90% and reduce the UK's carbon emissions by about 1.5%.

Anil Jhanji, chief commercial officer at Tata Steel UK, said: "Our loyal customers, like JCB, need green steel to meet their decarbonisation goals. They want to partner with a trusted supplier that makes quality steel in the UK. This agreement shows that two of the UK's largest manufacturers are working together to build a low-carbon supply chain. It is an important step towards a circular economy in the UK."

Wayne Asprey, JCB's group purchasing director, said: "Tata Steel has been a long-term partner for JCB. This agreement is a vital next step in our efforts to reduce emissions in our supply chain."

"We support Tata Steel UK's investment plans and are happy to be one of the first customers to secure British-made green steel as soon as it is available. This agreement is crucial for our decarbonisation journey."

Tata Steel aims to make Port Talbot a leading centre for green steelmaking in Europe. The company states that the £1.25 billion investment, which includes a UK Government grant of up to £500 million, is the largest investment in UK steel production in decades. Three-quarters of the raw materials needed will now come from the UK, up from just 10%.



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Government must act now to close green skills gap, warns new report

A new report examining the green skills gap has urged the Government to take immediate action to align its skills and industrial strategies, warning that the UK risks missing its net zero targets without co-ordinated intervention to develop the workforce needed for a circular economy.

Commissioned by SUEZ Recycling and Recovery UK, it emphasises the essential role of the waste and resources sector in this transition.

By 2040, an estimated 200,000 jobs will be required in the resource and waste sector, but there is a current shortage of 70,000 workers. Additionally, 75% of UK students and graduates feel uninformed about green careers, and only 5% of the workforce is aged 16-24.

The report notes significant policy failures, particularly the Government's decision to abolish the Green Jobs Delivery Group, which has created gaps in strategic oversight and left key recommendations unaddressed.

Dr Adam Read MBE from SUEZ warned that without swift action, the UK risks falling behind its net-zero goals, stating: "We know what skills are needed to reach net zero. Now comes the hard part - making it happen."

Former Minister Chris Skidmore's report highlights significant economic opportunities being overlooked. It indicates that improving waste management and resource efficiency could boost GDP by 0.9% by 2035 and create 450,000 jobs. Reducing waste exports, which currently account for 61% of plastic



waste, could decrease CO² emissions by 16 million tonnes, add £8 billion in Gross Value Added (GVA) to the UK economy, and generate 60,000 new jobs.

Skills Minister Jacqui Smith emphasised that green skills are essential across various sectors, including transport and environmental restoration. The Department for Energy Security and Net Zero estimates that strengthening the electricity grid alone could create up to 130,000 jobs by 2050.

CBI Chief Executive Rain Newton-Smith urged targeted investment and policy co-ordination, noting that a focused industrial strategy is essential. The report reports that 86% of graduates prioritise environmentally responsible companies, but realising this potential requires proper government support.

To address the skills gap, the report calls for greater co-ordination between green skills policy and the Government's Industrial Strategy, alongside integrating circular economy principles into broader economic planning.

It also stresses the need for increased investment in training programmes and support for workers transitioning from traditional industries. Barriers such as fragmented policy responsibilities and insufficient training funding must be addressed. Success will require collaboration between government, industry, and educational institutions.

Shaun Spiers, Executive Director of Green Alliance, remarked that the report effectively connects the need for decarbonisation, investment in skills and a circular economy.

ADEPT response to the English Devolution White Paper

The Government has released the English Devolution White Paper, and Ann Carruthers, the President of ADEPT, has shared support for it.

She said: "ADEPT welcomes the Government's strong approach to devolution mentioned in the English Devolution White Paper. This effort to change local governance comes at a crucial time when councils face serious financial problems and complicated service delivery demands.

"The plan to reorganise with a clear

mandate presents a chance to fix long-standing issues in local government.

"ADEPT sees devolution as a key opportunity to change how local government works, allowing for faster, more efficient and innovative ways to deal with the challenges in our regions. We believe that making decisions closer to the community can boost economic growth, enhance public services, and build stronger, more vibrant communities.

"Creating strategic authorities that match

the areas where people live and work can help us find better solutions for important issues like housing, transport and economic growth. Notably, the White Paper highlights the need for local governments to lead on environmental issues, helping them to implement sustainable solutions and improve climate resilience.

"Giving local leaders more powers in strategic planning and infrastructure development is a major step toward better local governance."

Government pulls plans for a takeback scheme for single-use cups

The Government has decided not to move forward with plans that would require café owners to recycle disposable paper cups.

These plans were suggested by the previous government. They would have required coffee shops with more than 10 employees to provide bins and set up recycling systems for the composite cups that customers use.

An estimated 2.5 to 3 billion coffee cups are thrown away annually in the UK.

Last month, the Environment Department (Defra) confirmed that the proposed recycling scheme had been cancelled in all four parts of the UK. The decision came after an analysis showed that the plan would cost the Government and businesses £52 million, which was higher than the benefits for the environment and economy.



A spokesperson said: "This government wants to reduce waste and promote a future where we use resources longer. The analysis showed that the mandatory takeback scheme for cups proposed by the previous government would not effectively improve recycling rates or reduce litter."

By cancelling this plan, businesses can now focus on other recycling and packaging reforms. These reforms are expected to create 21,000 jobs and bring over £10 billion of investment into recycling over the next decade.

The previous government initially said that shops would need to offer special bins for cups starting in 2024. However, they delayed the plan until 2025 to give businesses more time to prepare. Last year, the former Conservative government paused the plans to talk more with stakeholders.

David Gudgeon, director of external affairs at waste management firm Reconomy Connect, found the announcement surprising. He said: "We expected the introduction of the mandatory takeback scheme to help improve recycling rates for cups and reduce waste."

"Since this policy will not go ahead, it is now up to businesses and the waste industry to work together more closely to find new solutions. This will help improve recycling rates and create a more sustainable future for our communities."

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Globetrotting Roger ends eight-decade-long career

Engineer Roger Clegg has called time on an incredible 73-year career, including more than a quarter of a century at waste management specialist CSG.

Roger, 88, has worked on major engineering projects around the world, including in Egypt, Poland and Romania.

For the last 26 years, he has worked at CSG's Cadishead base as an Engineering Consultant. During that time, he oversaw the construction of processing plants in Glasgow, Bromborough, Plymouth and Middlesbrough.

Reflecting on his retirement, Roger - who is a member of the Institute of Chemical Engineers, Institute of Mechanical Engineers and a senior member of The Welding Institute - said: "I have had a great career and I've enjoyed almost all of it.

"My time at CSG - or Lanstar Holdings as it was when I started before the buy-out - has been brilliant. I have managed some very interesting projects and every job has been different.

"CSG has really looked after me over the years. I've been allowed to use my expertise without micromanagement, but they've always stepped in when I've needed help.

"The business has completely changed over the years. It's much better managed now, and seeing the business grow and develop has been a pleasure.

"I'm dreading retirement, to be honest. I think I'll sleep for a week, then continue with my multiple duties in the church and visit my son in Bulgaria."

Roger's engineering odyssey began as an apprentice at Metropolitan-Vickers in 1951.

Roger's National Service was deferred until he was 23 as he was engaged in an apprenticeship and night school, but eventually, the red letter dropped through his door, and he joined the Merchant Navy, stationed in Liverpool.

"I can't say I was looking forward to National Service, so I joined the Merchant Navy, and that turned out to be a good experience serving on ships around the Caribbean, Peru, El Salvador and the Mediterranean," said Roger. "I was actually in Havana in Cuba when Fidel Castro took control, which was an experience."

After his stint in the Merchant Navy, Roger worked for Pilkington Brothers Ltd. in St Helens. During this time, he was briefly a prime suspect in an FBI investigation into leaked design plans due to his recent spells in Cuba and Yugoslavia.

He moved to Petrocarbon Limited in Manchester during a period when the company was involved in the design of the Carrington chemical plant. He later worked for Matthew Hall Engineering, BiWater, and Huntsman before making his final move to CSG.

Neil Richards, Managing Director of CSG, said: "Roger has been an incredible member of the team, bringing extraordinary knowledge and leadership over 26 years.

"CSG has always been built around people like Roger, who knows the industry inside out. He will be missed by us all and we wish him well as he begins his retirement."

Family-run waste firm promotes sustainability with recycled plastic bins

ESE World (ESE), Europe's leading manufacturer of sustainable waste management solutions, has welcomed Halifax-based AVA Waste Management Group Ltd (AVA) into its growing roster of clients. The partnership will initially supply 120 bins made from post-consumer recycled plastic, aiming to enhance AVA's waste management practices and set a new operational standard for its customers across the region.

Founded by Jonny Turner in 2015, AVA has evolved from a one-man operation into a thriving family-run business with over 20 employees and more than 400 customers in Halifax, Bradford and Huddersfield. Their clientele includes a variety of businesses, from local corner shops and takeaways to large corporate entities.

AVA has its own waste transfer station in Halifax and aims to recycle most of its skip-hire materials while working towards zero waste to landfill. By working with ESE, AVA is committed to sustainability in its operations and the containers it uses for its customers.

Jonny Turner, the Managing Director of AVA, commented: "As a father of two daughters, I am deeply motivated to pave the way for a more sustainable future for them and their generation. We chose to partner with ESE because of their trusted reputation in the industry and their commitment to circular waste practices. Moreover, their ability to manufacture recycled bins that align with our branding is a game changer for us, allowing AVA to maintain its identity while making significant strides in reducing our environmental impact."

ESE uses special CIRCULOGIC® "recycling colours" to achieve a higher recycled content and make sorting different types of waste easy. The bins use a dark grey base with coloured lids or clips, which helps balance brand visibility and environmental responsibility.

"We are excited to partner with AVA to support its sustainability goals," said Peter Vernon, Managing Director at ESE. "AVA's aim to achieve zero waste to landfill shows a strong commitment to creating a sustainable future."



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Willshee's acquires Stanton Recycling

Willshee's Waste and Recycling, based in the Midlands, has acquired Stanton Recycling.

Located in Nottingham and Derbyshire, Stanton Recycling marks an expansion for Willshee's. Its Ilkeston site becomes the company's fifth location and increases its workforce to over 160 employees. All current employees will retain their roles under Willshee's management.

Founded in 2004, Stanton Recycling has provided services in municipal waste, mixed recycling, and organic waste management.

This acquisition allows Willshee's to expand its organic waste collection capabilities, adding to its existing services, which include Total Waste Management, the production of solid recovered fuels and refuse-derived fuels, skip hire, processing and recycling of wood, as well as recycling cardboard, glass, hazardous waste, food and metal.

Dean Willshee, Managing Director of Willshee's, stated: "Acquiring Stanton Recycling enables us to expand our reach across Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire while also enhancing the organic waste capabilities we offer to our existing clients. Looking ahead, we aim to strengthen our business further, create more local jobs, and drive positive environmental change across the region."

Martlink served as the lead M&A advisor for Willshee's Recycling, while Shoosmiths provided legal counsel. Stanton Recycling received financial advice from its accountants at Ashgates and legal assistance from Gateley.

Stanton Recycling plans to continue delivering excellent service to its current customers, which is now complemented by Willshee's support. In the future, both companies will operate under the Willshee's name.



Toni Storer, Director at Anglian, with the Green Apple Award, which has been presented to the company. Image credit: Anglian

Anglian receives top environmental commendation from Green Apple

Norfolk-based multi-service contractor Anglian has been commended in the Green Apple Environment Awards 2024 for its Waste Recycling division.

The Green Apple Environment Awards are presented by The Green Organisation, an international, independent, non-profit, non-political environmental group dedicated to recognising, rewarding and promoting environmental best practice. Anglian was commended in this year's awards for the growth and future development of its Waste Division, including investment made to expand its on-site recycling operation.

Established in 2007 as a Demolition company, Anglian has always processed waste collected from every project, but as the company has grown, the requirement and opportunity to expand this area has increased. The creation of a dedicated Waste Recycling division in 2022 saw Anglian change its existing permit to allow sorting and treatment of commercial waste at its 10-acre site in Attleborough,

Norfolk. Ongoing investment has enabled improvements in the yard to allow effective waste segregation and the installation of new machinery for final waste treatment processes. Anglian is in phase two of a four-phase development plan for the facility.

Toni Storer, director at Anglian, said: "We are delighted to receive the Green Apple commendation, which is a testament to the investment and hard work of the team at Anglian. Waste has always been part of our business, and by developing our facility, we have been able to maximise recycling rates for every job we undertake and offer businesses in the region a more sustainable way to dispose of their waste. The site project is ongoing and forms part of our development plans at Anglian, which will continue to support the growth of our other divisions."

A multi-service contractor, Anglian's divisions include Anglian Demolition & Asbestos, Anglian Scaffolding, Anglian Earthworks & Remediation and Anglian Waste Recycling.

Croydon Council signs £21.5m contract with Veolia

Veolia has signed an eight-year, £21.5 million contract with Croydon Council to enhance recycling, waste collection and street cleansing services while supporting the council's net zero target by 2030.

Starting in April 2025, the contract will introduce a night-time collection service for flats above shops to improve daytime cleanliness on busy streets. Veolia will also address fly-tipping through targeted

interventions by experienced teams.

The company plans to invest in new technology to increase energy efficiency, reduce carbon emissions, and minimise costs.

A dedicated Education, Communication and Outreach team will promote recycling among residents, while Veolia's Sustainability Fund will support local community groups.

Pascal Hauret, Managing Director of

Municipal Services, expressed excitement about continuing the partnership, stating: "Together with Croydon Council, we will work towards a cleaner, greener future for all residents."

Veolia is committed to ecological transformation. By addressing climate change, resource depletion and pollution, it aims to shift production and consumption patterns while placing ecology at the heart of its processes.



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NWH Group secures waste management contract with St James Quarter, Edinburgh

The NWH Group, a leading family-owned national waste management and recycling business, has announced a significant contract win with St James Quarter, Edinburgh's exciting new lifestyle district. The four-year contract focuses on sustainable waste management solutions, with a target to increase recycling rates for all industrial and commercial (I&C) waste streams by the end of year one.

Leading this contract for the NWH Group is Emma Oattes, working in close partnership with the operations team at St James Quarter. Together, the aim is to implement a comprehensive waste management strategy that supports St James Quarter's ambitious sustainability goals.

Emma said: "We're excited to work with St James Quarter to deliver innovative waste management solutions that prioritise sustainability and recycling."

"Our shared commitment to increasing recycling rates is at the core of this partnership, which underlines our dedication to offering waste management



services that go beyond compliance, aligning with our core value of sustainability and our broader strategy to support clients in meeting their environmental objectives."

The contract will see NWH Group manage all waste streams across the St James Quarter site. The focus will be on improving waste segregation, increasing recycling rates, and ultimately reducing the

site's carbon footprint.

Anne Ledgerwood, Estate Director at St James Quarter, added: "Sustainability is at the heart of our operations. We are confident that our partnership with the NWH Group will support us in achieving ambitious waste reduction and recycling targets, which contributes to our overall ESG strategy and ambitions."

The legalities and guidelines for skip hire in the UK


A.R. Richards Ltd

Hiring a skip is a practical solution when planning a project that generates substantial waste. However, it's crucial to understand the legal requirements and guidelines associated with skip hire in the UK to ensure compliance and avoid potential penalties.

What homeowners and businesses need to know before hiring a skip

Before hiring a skip, it's essential to consider several factors to ensure a smooth legal process. Determine the appropriate skip size for your needs, whether a mini skip for minor domestic projects or a larger container for commercial use. Assess the placement - if the skip will be on public land, you'll need to obtain a permit. Familiarise yourself with the types of waste permitted in skips, as certain materials are prohibited. Finally, choose a licensed skip hire company to handle your waste responsibly and in compliance with UK regulations.

Understanding skip hire permits

• When is a permit required?

If you intend to place a skip on public land, such as a road, you must obtain a skip permit from your local council. This permit grants permission to position the skip in a public area and ensures adherence to safety regulations. A permit is typically unnecessary if the skip is placed entirely on private property, like your driveway.

• How to obtain a permit

In many regions, the skip hire company will handle the permit application on your behalf. However, you may need to apply directly to your local council in some areas. Confirming this process with your chosen skip hire provider is advisable to ensure all necessary permits are secured before the skip's delivery.

Safety requirements for skip placement

• Visibility and markings

Skips placed on public roads must be



clearly visible to both pedestrians and drivers. This often involves attaching reflective markings and, in some cases, providing safety lights, especially if the skip remains overnight. These measures are designed to prevent accidents and ensure public safety.

• Placement restrictions

It's prohibited to place a skip on the pavement, as this can obstruct pedestrian pathways. Additionally, skips should not block driveways or utility access points or be positioned near junctions where they might impede visibility. Following these placement guidelines helps maintain safety and accessibility for all road users.

Waste Management Regulations

• Prohibited materials

Not all types of waste are permissible in skips. Items such as asbestos, electrical appliances, tyres and hazardous materials are typically prohibited due to environmental and safety concerns. Disposing of these items requires specialised handling and should be discussed with your skip hire provider.

• Environmental responsibility

As a waste producer, it is your legal responsibility to ensure proper disposal of your waste. This includes segregating recyclable materials and utilising recycling services offered by many skip hire companies. Such practices help reduce landfill usage and minimise environmental impact.

• Choosing a licensed skip hire company

Understanding the legalities and guidelines of skip hire in the UK is essential for a smooth and compliant waste disposal process. Hiring a licensed skip hire company ensures that your waste will be managed in compliance with UK regulations, reducing the risk of environmental harm and legal repercussions.

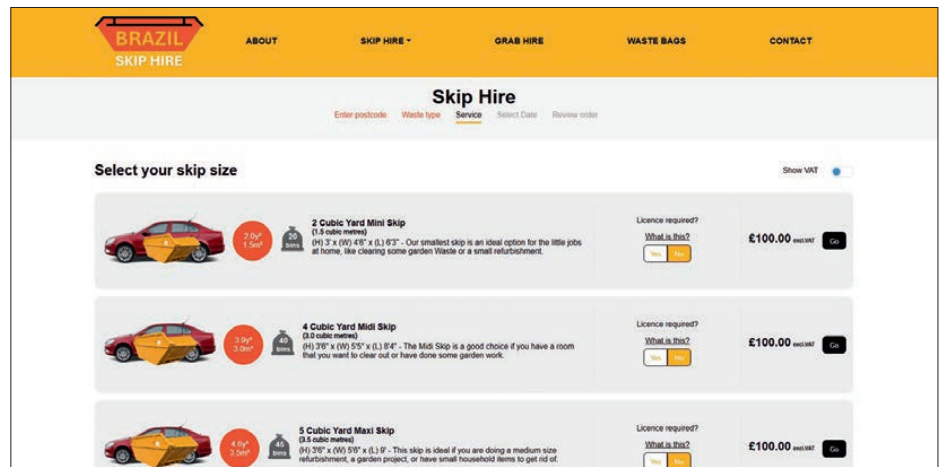
*You can manage your waste responsibly and efficiently by securing the necessary permits, adhering to safety requirements, and choosing a licensed skip hire company. For more detailed information or to discuss hiring a skip, contact **A.R. Richards Ltd** at **01630 639 888** for expert advice or visit **www.arrichards.co.uk***

Elevate your business with KodaWaste software solutions

KodaWaste is a pioneering online waste management sales and hiring software designed to streamline and optimise the operations of waste management companies. Developed by KodaSoft, KodaWaste serves as a powerful tool that ensures your waste services are available 24/7 to your customers, enhancing accessibility and boosting sales potential.

This innovative software solution can seamlessly integrate into your existing website, maintaining your brand's look and feel, or it can operate as a stand-alone website. With easy onboarding and user-friendly interfaces, KodaWaste simplifies the transition to digital, making it as effortless as taking out the trash.

KodaWaste supports a wide range of services, including skip hire, product sales, ready-mixed concrete delivery, skip exchanges and portable toilet hire. Its modular design allows for extensive customisation through content management features, enabling businesses to tailor the platform to their specific needs.



The software includes advanced tools for customer account management, allowing users to easily reorder services, manage project sites, and track their transactions. KodaWaste's integrated cross-selling and upselling features help businesses maximise revenue opportunities with minimal effort.

A robust full reporting suite provides essential business insights, helping companies make informed decisions with real-time data. Additionally,

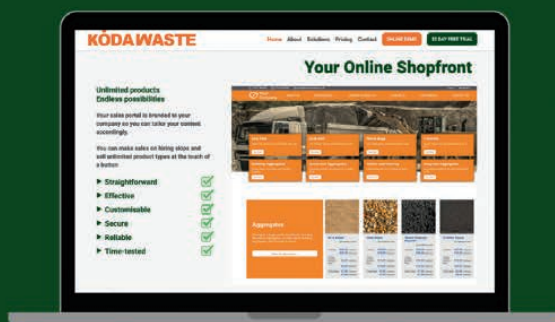
KodaWaste facilitates efficient skip permit management and dynamic price management, adapting to seasonal demands and market changes.

For businesses seeking to enhance their operational efficiency and elevate their customer service experience, KodaWaste offers a 30-day free trial, allowing them to explore the software's full capabilities before committing. Join the future of waste management and transform your business with KodaWaste.

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Enhancing waste management efficiency with Waste Logics

The waste industry demands efficiency, accuracy and sustainability. Waste Logics stands at the forefront, delivering a comprehensive cloud-based solution that addresses the industry's most pressing challenges while fostering customer satisfaction, streamlining operations and enabling data-driven decision-making. Here's a closer look at how Waste Logics transforms waste management processes.

Automated insights for data-driven decisions

The ability to make informed decisions quickly is crucial in the waste industry. Waste Logics provides businesses with real-time KPI tracking and detailed insights, saving teams countless hours. By synchronising accounts and operational data, businesses can save hours of manual work, minimise business risks and foster a data-driven culture for sustained growth and operational success.



Managing fleet operations

Efficient fleet management is central to operational success. Waste Logics software simplifies the process by automating driver work changes, eliminating paperwork and providing live job updates. Businesses can enhance driver productivity, reduce fuel costs and improve asset utilisation - all contributing to increased revenue. Seamless integration between office operations and on-the-road teams ensures smoother workflows and better resource utilisation.

Material Recycling Facilities

Waste Logics equips MRFs with tools to document compliance, capture waste



breakdowns in detail, and automate legislative documents and returns. These features ensure that facilities can meet legal requirements while maintaining operational efficiency and accuracy that also focuses on sustainability.

Your favourite tools, connected to work together

Waste Logics ensures that your business tools work harmoniously. With integrations for accounting systems, weighbridges, onboard weighing systems, ESG reporting and asset tracking, companies benefit from data accuracy and operational synergy. This connectivity reduces manual errors and allows businesses to focus on growth and efficiency.

Optimised workflows

By automating manual processes such as inquiry-to-quote, order conversion and online ordering, Waste Logics accelerates workflow efficiency. These features free up valuable time for teams, allowing them to focus on operational productivity, as well as improving customer service.

Brokering and outsourcing

Waste Logics takes the complexity out of brokering and outsourcing by providing a system that automates data exchange between brokers and suppliers. This integration allows businesses to outsource

jobs effortlessly and track profits on a per-job basis. Waste companies can focus on growth and strengthening partnerships rather than spending time on administrative tasks.

Increase customer satisfaction

In an industry where service reliability is paramount, Waste Logics excels at helping businesses foster better relationships with their clients by enabling them to automate communication and providing customers with real-time recycling and CO₂ reports while offering 24/7 self-service capabilities. Improved service success rates and streamlined communication add a competitive edge for waste companies aiming to enhance their customer experience.

24/7 customer support

Waste Logics offers 24/7 customer support backed by industry professionals. Businesses can access help through multiple channels, including phone, online helpdesk and an extensive knowledge base. This ensures users always have the assistance they need to maximise the platform's potential.

Cloud-based - effortless for you

The platform's cloud-based infrastructure ensures reliability and security. With 99.9% uptime, regular updates and real-time backups, Waste Logics eliminates the need for additional infrastructure costs while guaranteeing uninterrupted operations and allowing businesses to focus on growth.

Why Waste Logics?

Waste Logics is more than just software - it's a comprehensive solution that empowers waste management businesses to operate smarter, faster, and more sustainably. By integrating tools, automating processes, and providing actionable insights, Waste Logics enables companies to stay competitive in a rapidly evolving industry. With its customer-centric approach, cutting-edge features, and unwavering support, Waste Logics stands out as a trusted partner for transforming your waste management business.

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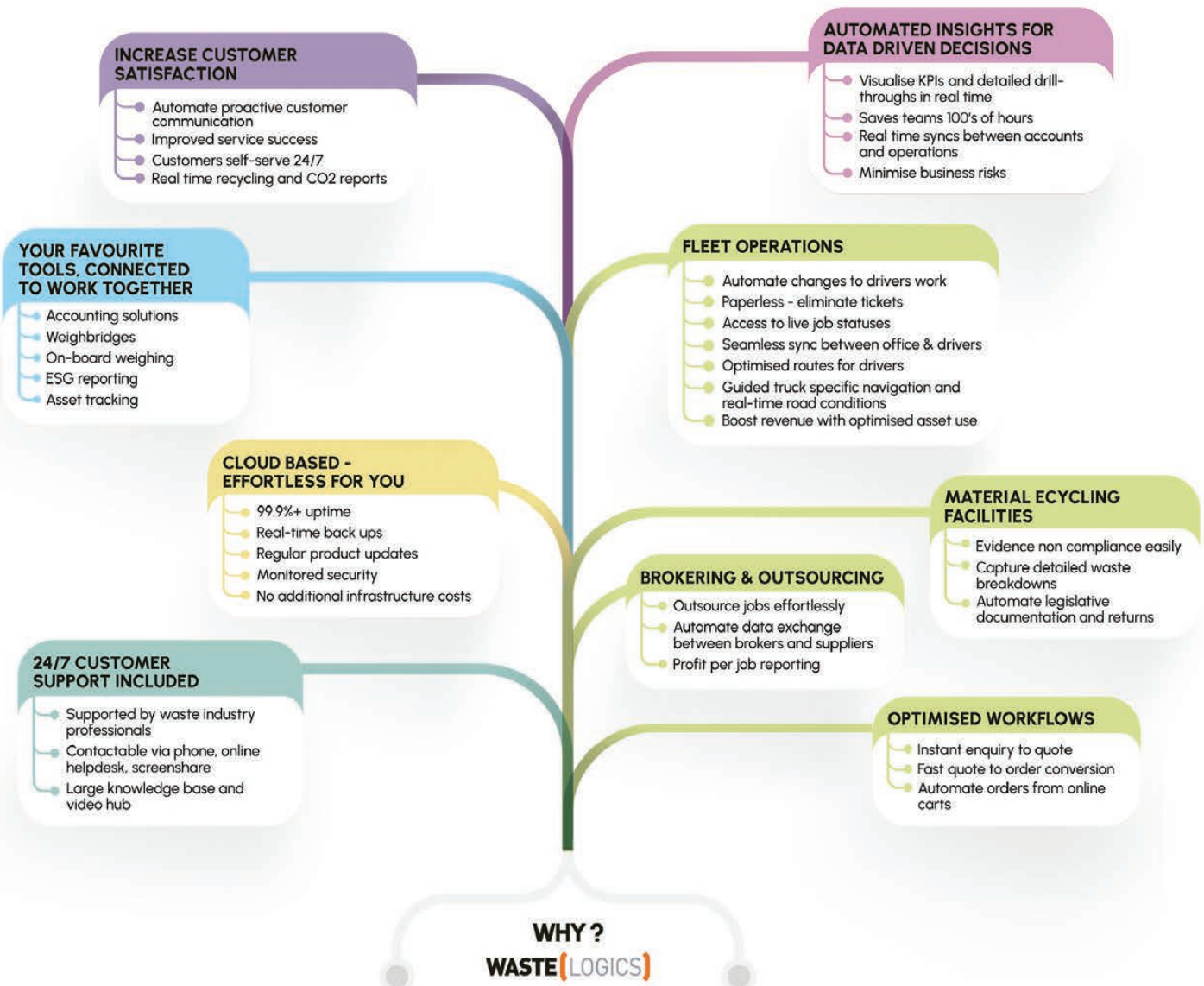
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Terex Ecotec teams up with E H Hassell & Sons to strengthen its UK presence

E H Hassell & Sons is proud to announce the inclusion of Terex Ecotec Waste Handlers to its product lineup. This addition in November 2024 further strengthens their renowned position in the material handling and recycling industry. As a business that has built a reputation for excellence over the last five decades, this new partnership comes at a particularly exciting time as it celebrates its 50th anniversary.

Hassell's is a trusted dealer in the scrap, waste, and port industries. Supplying material handlers that set the standard in the industry. With the addition of Terex Ecotec, they continue to expand their range with another globally respected brand. This solidifies their commitment to providing quality solutions for the recycling and material handling sectors.

Terex Ecotec is known for producing purpose-built machines designed specifically for the recycling industry.

These high-performance waste handlers are engineered for demanding environments, whether in open terrain or indoor facilities. Offering unparalleled stability and an impressive load capacity, Terex Ecotec machines are loaded with features that have become essential in modern recycling plants. With their reputation for outstanding reliability and highly durable components, every detail of these machines is designed to maximise productivity.

Whether it be the TWH 216 with a 9-metre reach where robustness does not necessarily have to do with size or

the TWH 251 with an 18-metre reach, making even the most challenging material handling tasks smooth and efficient, you will not be disappointed with our range of material handlers.

E H Hassell & Sons will provide full servicing and repair support for these Terex Ecotec products, ensuring your equipment remains in peak condition.

As they enter their 50th anniversary, this new chapter marks a significant milestone for E H Hassell & Sons.

"We are excited to offer our customers the very pinnacle in material handling technology with Terex Ecotec."

Thomas Coulter, Sales Director at Terex Ecotec, commented on the partnership: "It feels fitting to join E H Hassell & Sons during their 50th year in business. A strong and trusted dealer like Hassell's is exactly the kind of partner we seek as our machines find their homes. We are excited to see what the future holds with such a reliable partner at the helm."



CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE AT HASSELL'S

Hassell's proudly celebrates 50 years of innovation, dedication, and service. Founded in 1974 by Ernest Haig Hassell, the company have evolved from a mechanical engineering provider for the quarrying industry to a trusted leader in machinery solutions. Their 1985 move to a 2.3-acre site in Trentham, Stoke-on-Trent, with 36,000 sq. ft. of undercover space, laid the groundwork for future growth and diversification.

In 1998, Hassell's expanded into dealership services, representing leading global brands. Today, under the leadership of Ian Hassell - who brings 46 years of expertise to the company - they continue to thrive, recognised for their quality and reliability.

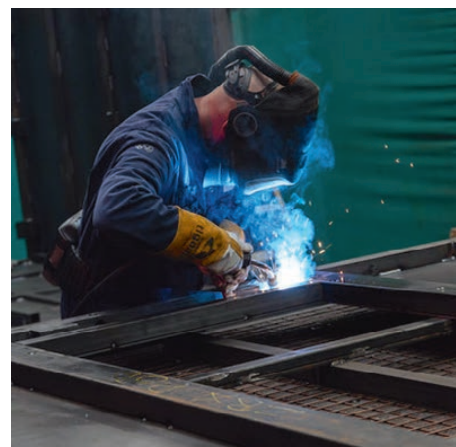
MACHINERY SPECIALISTS: EXPERTISE AND INTEGRITY

E H Hassell & Sons prides itself on delivering high-quality machinery and services. Their experienced team provides tailored advice and solutions,

building lasting relationships with clients across equipment purchases, short, and long-term hire agreements.

Operating from Staffordshire, they specialise in material handlers, scrap metal processing equipment and engineering, supported by a dedicated workforce of over 50 employees.

- **Sales excellence:** Their seasoned sales team offers unmatched support to clients across the UK and Ireland, leveraging extensive knowledge of machinery and the recycling industry.



- **Service reliability:** Highly skilled Hassell's technicians ensure every machine operates at peak performance, upholding Hassell's reputation for dependability.
- **Precision engineering:** From machining to fabrication in carbon steel, stainless steel, and aluminium, they deliver end-to-end solutions, including surface preparation, painting, powder coating, and assembly - all certified to rigorous quality standards.

A LEGACY OF EXCELLENCE

Their success over the past five decades is a testament to the vision, integrity, and hard work of their team, past and present. As a family-owned business, they remain committed to innovation, exceptional service, and ethical practices.

"As we honour our history, we look forward to shaping the future with passion, precision, and the same unwavering commitment to excellence. Here's to the next 50 years!"

- Jack Hassell-Director.



Continued on page 26 >

Working with numerous well-respected brand names known worldwide

E H Hassell and Sons is a premium supplier of specialist machinery. Over the years, we have built a reputation for delivering innovative and reliable machinery for the quarrying, scrap and waste sectors. Our team of experienced professionals are dedicated to ensuring our client's operations run smoothly and efficiently by providing solutions that enhance productivity and performance. As well as Terex Ecotec, we offer a number of respected brand names you see below, but there are many more:

- **Bronneberg** is a leading manufacturer of recycling and metal processing machinery, including

balers, shears, cable strippers and car flatteners, which are engineered for reliability and efficiency.

- **Taurus** stands tall as a provider of industry-leading scrap processing equipment with a focus on shears, pre-shredders and hammermills.

Taurus has established itself as a frontrunner in delivering top-tier products.

- **Guidetti** is a leading manufacturer of solutions to optimise material recovery in scrap metal recycling and processing efficiency.



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Why are solid tyres a good idea for your material handler?

Solid tyres are a popular choice for material handlers, offering several advantages over pneumatic tyres. Tyre Boss, a leading supplier in the solid tyre market, provides a comprehensive range of solid tyre assemblies specifically designed for these demanding applications. These robust tyres provide significant benefits in durability, puncture resistance and operational efficiency.

Unlike pneumatic tyres, solid tyres eliminate the risk of punctures. This is crucial for material handlers, which often operate in harsh environments and demanding conditions. Punctures can lead to costly downtime, repairs and potential damage to the machine or the surrounding area. Solid tyres eliminate this downtime, ensuring continuous operation and maximising productivity. This reliability is particularly valuable in busy MRFs, construction sites and recycling facilities where consistent operation is paramount.

The inherent strength of solid tyres also contributes to their longevity. They are built to withstand heavy loads and impacts, resisting wear and tear far better than their pneumatic counterparts. This translates to reduced replacement costs and a lower overall cost of ownership over the tyre's lifespan. The reduced maintenance requirements further contribute to this cost-effectiveness. No need for inflation checks, repairs, or replacements due to punctures significantly reduces labour costs and operational interruptions.

Tyre Boss' solid tyre assemblies are engineered for optimal performance on material handlers. They are designed to provide excellent traction and stability, even on uneven surfaces. This ensures safe and efficient operation, minimising the risk of accidents or damage to the handled materials. The company's commitment to quality ensures that its assemblies meet the highest industry standards, providing reliable performance and long-lasting



durability. Whether for forklifts, reach stackers, or other material handling equipment, Tyre Boss offers a solution tailored to specific needs, ensuring optimal performance and minimising downtime. Choosing solid tyres from Tyre Boss is an investment in operational efficiency and will provide long-term savings.

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- Maximum life

Liebherr shows its metal

In years past, equipment fleets in UK scrap yards tended to be dominated by excavators nearing the end of their productive working lives in construction applications. The industry is more sophisticated these days, and Northern Metal Recycling is keen to be at the forefront of sustainable recycling techniques and technology...with a little help from Liebherr material handlers.

The company's business strategy is guided by a combination of efficient organisation and the right equipment, investing heavily at its yard in County Durham to increase throughput of materials. Managing director Jordan Bell explained: *"Having a well-organised yard and a great team that is all pulling in the right direction is a start. Having the right*

equipment in place to undertake the work in a safe and productive manner completes the circle."

And for "the right equipment" the company continues to invest in Liebherr, which aligns with its long-term plan to migrate to an all-Liebherr fleet. *"The fuel efficiency and operator comfort of the Liebherrs are unsurpassed,"* comments



Jordan, hence the latest purchases of a pair of new LH 50 M material handlers to replace a competitor's smaller machines.

Both newcomers arrived equipped with identical front-end configurations comprising GA18 boom and stick to allow a ground level reach of 19m and carrying Liebherr's own GMM 50-5 five-tine, semi-closed scrap grabs with 0.90m³ capacity.

They joined a 38t LH 40 M Industry that was delivered last year and which has impressed with its hydraulic speed, comfort and smooth operation, encouraging Northern Metals to return to the German manufacturer for its latest acquisitions.

Although the same model number identifies both machines, one is significantly larger due to the introduction of a 1.2m tall pylon that sits in between the chassis and upper

LIEBHERR

With a wide range of products, Liebherr offers customised solutions for efficient material handling of scrap, wood, waste, bulk and general cargo. Liebherr material handlers are characterised by high performance, economy, reliability, comfort and ease of maintenance.



Scan the QR code to find out more



carriage. Designated as an LH 50 M Industry High Rise, it increases the standard machine's weight from 42t to 52t, and the additional height gained from the pylon means it is ideal for loading shredded material into containers for export around the world.

Both machines were specified with Liebherr's heavy-duty undercarriage with large single wheels and Solideal Magnum solid tyres, sitting on 70t drive axles. Four-point outriggers – each with 550mm x 550mm pads on the low-rise machine and 700mm x 850mm on the high-rise – provide stability even at the furthest reach. Cabs are hydraulically elevating, raising the operator's eye level to 5.7m from the ground and boosting it to just over 8m on the sister model.

The handlers are identical under the skin, featuring Liebherr 4-cylinder, 7-litre D934 engines delivering 211hp. A simple AdBlue system allows the engine to

meet the latest emissions regulations while a pair of 237l/min variable displacement pumps provide plenty of hydraulic muscle for simultaneous use of the attachment and drive functions.

The arrival of the new Liebherrs heralds an increase in capacity and throughput at the yard and will cement Northern Metal's position as a leading player in the industry's drive towards a more sustainable future. And its investment comes at the right time,

as Liebherr's area sales manager Lee Graver explained: *"The material handling market has never been as competitive, with more and more manufacturers showing a presence. Our production factory in Kirchdorf, Germany, is constantly developing and improving our advanced material handling range to ensure we maintain our market leader status, ensure high levels of resale value and offer our customers a machine with low ownership costs."*

"The fuel efficiency and operator comfort of the Liebherrs are unsurpassed" - Jordan Bell, Managing Director

Northern Metal Recycling is the North East's largest independent metal recycler, operating from a 20-acre fully licensed metal recycling facility. T: 01388 772 300
www.northernmetalrecycling.co.uk



**NORTHERN
METAL
RECYCLING**



Develon, formerly Doosan Construction Equipment, has announced several new features and options for the company's award-winning DL-7 wheel loader range.

Comprising eleven models, from the smallest DL200-7 to the top-of-the-range DL580-7, the DL-7 range is designed to provide easier and faster loading with maximum bucket capacities from 2.0 to 6.4 m³, increasing productivity for a wide range of material-handling applications.

These include the transport and delivery of soil, sand, aggregates and other materials in industry, recycling, waste, construction, demolition, mining and quarrying. Develon also offers a wide choice of options to provide more work tools for a better match with applications, further increasing output.

Parallel lift for enhanced pallet handling and lifting work

One of the most important changes in the DL-7 range is the new parallel lift system, which is now standard in the six smallest models, from the DL200-7 to the DL380-7.

These wheel loaders now feature a parallel lift system with electro-hydraulic compensation, specifically designed to maintain the horizontal alignment of the pallet forks during lifting. This advanced system automatically adjusts the forks to stay level as they move up and down, ensuring loads remain stable and securely

balanced. Ideal for precise pallet handling, Parallel Lift simplifies loading and unloading operations and reduces the risk of spillage or damage. This enhancement improves safety and increases productivity, allowing operators to handle materials with greater confidence and efficiency in any working environment.

Electric joystick steering extended

Electric joystick steering integrated on the armrest, a proven feature on large Develon wheel loaders, is now available for the smallest models from the DL200-7 to the DL280-7.

Electric joystick steering helps operators to keep their concentration and reduces stress. The comfortable electric joystick allows the operator to drive their machine more easily, especially in repetitive tasks and tight spaces. Designed to give the operator more precise control with a shorter lever stroke, resulting in less fatigue, the sensitivity of the ergonomic joystick control can be set and altered according to operator preferences using the SmartTouch touchscreen monitor. User-friendly and easy to read in all conditions, the touchscreen provides all the important settings and information the operator needs in one place.

Full visibility

Another upgrade for all the models in



the DL-7 range is a comprehensive Full LED Lighting Pack designed to improve visibility, safety and operator comfort. This new package includes advanced LED work lights, which provide powerful illumination for optimum visibility during night shifts or in low-light conditions, ensuring tasks are completed safely and efficiently.

The LED road lights add an extra layer of safety when transporting materials, improving visibility on roads and in busy working areas.

In addition to the lighting enhancements, this package also includes heated and electrically adjustable door mirrors. The heating function ensures clear vision in cold or frosty conditions by preventing fog and ice build-up. The power adjustment allows the operator to set the optimum angle without leaving the cab, increasing comfort and ease of operation.

With the full LED lighting package in place, Develon wheel loaders can tackle and operate in any environment with improved safety, enhanced functionality and greater operator control.

Spacious ergonomic cab design

Inside the cab, there is an option on all models of a new seat with both heating and ventilation. The seat offers fully adjustable horizontal and vertical suspension settings and a pneumatic lumbar function as standard. There is a 3-point safety belt with alarm icons on the SmartTouch touchscreen monitor and on the gauge panel, which offers a clear layout and anti-reflective glass.



DL-7 wheel loaders offer significantly enhanced operating comfort, an enhanced steering system and advanced electronic controls. Using the new Develon Smart Key system on the control panel in the cab, the operator can start the machine using a keyless device, helping to prevent machine theft. The Smart Key system provides remote door control, door lock and unlock, door release, searching and other functions. The control panel also includes two USB sockets.

New quick coupling and 3rd spool piping

DL-7 wheel loaders have smooth and responsive hydraulics and auxiliary hydraulic connections. All of the newly updated DL-7 wheel loaders are equipped as standard with a 3rd spool valve with settable flow and detent function, providing a constant flow for hydraulically driven attachments. Operators can easily and comfortably control hydraulic attachments via the proportional switch on the joystick.

The DL200-7, DL220-7, DL250-7 and DL280-7 models now have both quick coupler and 3rd spool piping as standard, with these new features optional on the larger models.

For more on Develon, please visit the website: <https://eu.develon-ce.com/en/>



Down to Earth Developments bought two electric-drive Cat D6 XE dozers last year from Finning UK and Ireland

Home Counties-based reclamation company make landmark purchase

Down to Earth Developments, a Home Counties-based land reclamation company has invested in two Cat® D6 XE dozers from Finning and is believed to be the youngest customer to own the latest electric drive Cat machines in the UK.

Ben Maclean, owner of Down to Earth Developments, bought one of the electric drive Cat D6 XE dozers earlier this year from Finning UK and Ireland, the world's largest dealer of Cat equipment, parts and aftermarket services. So impressed with the machine's performance, he subsequently ordered another, citing the machine's sustainability credentials combined with its performance as the reason for the follow-up purchase.

Ryan Trafford, Customer Service Manager at Finning UK and Ireland, explained why this deal is key for the industry as a whole: "We're really pleased to be working with a next generation of machine owners, who really value sustainability when it comes to making decisions. Down to Earth Developments are experts in land reclamation and recovery, working with private clients and government agencies to restore land to its natural state.

"Sustainability is quite literally what they do. Customers like Ben are the first generation to have grown up understanding the importance of making responsible decisions, with sustainability being at the heart of that."

The Cat D6 XE, the world's first high-drive electric drive dozer, offers significant sustainability benefits. It delivers up to 35% better fuel efficiency than previous models, resulting in substantially reduced greenhouse gas emissions. Moreover, this reduction in fuel use directly impacts operating costs, meaning a significant financial saving over the life cycle of the machine.

Ben Maclean's decision to choose these state-of-the-art machines was also influenced by the operational efficiency they offer.

He commented: "It's not just the electric drive using less fuel but the all-around technology package you get with Cat machines that saves costs in quite a few ways. We also have two Cat 323 hydraulic excavators, and their grade assist and payload technology helps us get the job done a little bit quicker.

"The D6 XEs are also fitted with Trimble™ 3D GPS systems supplied by SITECH® UK and Ireland, which means we make the absolute minimum number of passes to get perfect grading. We also ensure we tap into the telematics data that's available through VisionLink® telematics so we can monitor machine idle time, productivity and fuel use, as well as the general health of each of the assets, so we can ensure timely and preventative maintenance that fits with our work schedules."

As a Contracts Director at Down to Earth Developments, Ben ensures that they are using these efficiencies to their advantage. With plenty of projects in the pipeline, they could be looking to expand the fleet in the near future.

Volvo L350F rebuild demonstrates potential for sustainable industry practices

Last year, Heidelberg Materials UK collaborated with Volvo dealer SMT to refurbish an older wheeled loader. This avoids the purchase of a new diesel machine that would run for many years to come, as well as the emissions and material consumption associated with its manufacture and transportation. Rebuilding older machines also offers faster delivery times and smoother operations due to the existing machine's known history.

"Rebuilding existing machines is a sustainable practice," says Dominic Carver, a strategic account manager at SMT. "Rebuilds can extend machine life, recycle major components and significantly reduce carbon emissions. Refurbishing a used engine for continued use, for example, can save around 56% in CO₂ emissions, and a transmission of about 60%."

To explore the potential of equipment rebuilds, Heidelberg Materials UK and SMT selected a 14-year-old Volvo L350F wheeled loader used to load limestone into crushers at the Ribblesdale cement works in Clitheroe – one of Heidelberg Materials' three UK plants producing Portland cement for various infrastructure projects. Despite the 21,341 operating hours on the clock, the machine's condition indicated that it could continue to operate reliably and productively with necessary repairs and upgrades.

What the rebuild entailed...

The rebuild was carried out at SMT's Newcastle depot, with lead engineer Michael Christer and skilled welder Rhys Nixon assigned to oversee the project from start to finish. The L350F was stripped back to the chassis, with new hydraulic pumps, hoses, steering systems and refurbished cylinders installed to factory standards.

Significant work included replacing the driveline components (front and rear axles, engine, transmission, dropbox and prop shafts), as well as full line boring and repair of the load frame and bucket. These were fully overhauled with new specialised cutting-edge and strengthened wear plates for greater penetration and added protection. Upgrades to the machine to



How the Volvo L350F wheeled loader arrived at SMT's Newcastle depot

align with modern Volvo standards also included new lighting and high-intensity decals for better visibility.

Meanwhile, enhancements were made to the cab for greater operator comfort, including a refurbished seat, new floor mats, replacement headlining and an updated switchgear. The Comfort Drive Control system was also installed to reduce operator strain and stress.

"Despite the sheer size and power of the L350F, it's so easy to operate," says Andrew Graham, who operates the loader. "It's just like being in an armchair at home."

"It's got great visibility and, due to the large bucket size, we can reduce the number of trips to the crusher. This efficiency translates to better fuel economy and reduced tyre wear."

The SMT rebuild process typically takes around 12 weeks. Machines are selected based on national guidelines, service history, oil samples and component

Scan the QR code to watch a video of the refurbished 14-year-old Volvo wheeled loader L350F



ageing. The process also uses genuine Volvo parts, meaning that the machine is covered by a 24-month warranty on major components. This offers Heidelberg Materials UK peace of mind with no additional costs for potential issues.

Looking forward to the future

Heidelberg Materials UK and SMT are partnering to promote sustainability and innovation in the construction equipment industry.

Elliot Wellbelove, Carbon Innovation Manager at Heidelberg Materials UK, states: "Collaboration with suppliers like SMT is essential for our sustainability goals. Their emissions reduction data for rebuilt machines helps us calculate environmental benefits."

The successful rebuild of L350F reflects both companies' progress in decarbonisation and operational efficiency.

Heidelberg Materials UK plans to expand the rebuild programme across the UK, with future collaborations focusing on electrification and hydrogen-powered machinery.



Heidelberg Materials' rebuilt Volvo L350F wheeled loader takes pride of place at quarrying, construction and recycling exhibition Hillhead 2024

2,000-year-old Roman road revealed directly under Old Kent Road, London

Archaeological work has been taking place as part of Southwark's low-carbon heat network expansion by Southwark Council and Veolia

A new energy supply for Southwark's low-carbon heat network will be the latest layer of Old Kent Road's history following an important section of its Roman past being discovered during excavation works.

Watling Street was built shortly after the Roman invasion of Britain in AD 43.

Roman roads are characteristically straight, so archaeologists had a good idea of where it should be. Yet until now, archaeological evidence has proved very difficult to find in confirming Watling Street's exact route.

It is the first physical proof that sections of the 2000-year-old route survive directly beneath its modern counterpart Old Kent Road, identified by a team of archaeologists from MOLA (Museum of London Archaeology), working on behalf of Veolia and archaeological consultant RPS, with advice and support from the council's in-house archaeology officer, Dr Chris Constable.

He said: "I'm pleased this project has answered our questions over the course of the Roman road south of the Cantium Retail Park where a section was excavated in the early 1990s, south of the line of the modern road. In the planning for this project, we'd expected to solve this question, but the extent of survival of the road is remarkable. We hope this project will answer some other archaeological questions in the borough."

Gillian King, director of archaeology at RPS Consulting Ltd, said: "The discovery of an intact section of Roman Watling Street directly under the current Old Kent Road has redrawn the Roman road map for Southwark and informs on Roman construction techniques generally. It is a key finding for archaeological research for London."

Dave Taylor, MOLA project manager, said: "It's amazing this section of road has survived for almost 2000 years. There has been so much activity here over the past few hundred years, from sewers to power cables, tramlines and, of course, the building of the modern road, so we're

really excited to find such a substantial chunk of Roman material remaining."

The section of Roman road uncovered was well preserved and measures 5.8 metres wide by 1.4 metres high. Distinct layers can be seen, which tell the story of the road's construction. It has a solid foundation of compacted gravel sealed by two layers of chalk. This was topped with another layer of compacted sand and gravel. The original surface of the road would likely have been made from the same material and sat at a similar level to the modern road, however this has been lost. The base of the modern road rests directly on the Roman fabric.

Old Kent Road has a vibrant past dating from prehistory to the modern day. Among the most influential literary characters to walk Watling Street were the pilgrims of Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales* in the Middle Ages, followed by many notable others, for example: James Bond, who drove along it in *Moonraker* and *Doctor Who* was often depicted here in various regenerations.

The recent discovery was made during early works to bring low carbon heating to 3,000 more council homes along Old Kent Road by Southwark Council and Veolia, with hopes to reduce the borough's carbon footprint by a further 11,100 tonnes of carbon each year.

Cllr Helen Dennis, cabinet member for new homes and sustainable development, said: "Old Kent Road is one of London's oldest thoroughfares that embodies much of what makes today's London special: the diversity, the hubbub, and community spirit. It's extraordinary to literally be peeling back the layers of Old Kent Road's history as we work towards a greener future by expanding Southwark's low-carbon heat network.

"I'm excited Southwark is paving the way for future generations by tackling the climate emergency head-on. This project to expand the low-carbon heat network is absolutely vital to us in reducing our reliance on fossil fuels and embracing cleaner, more efficient energy resources. The new insulated pipes also get us closer



Picture credit: MOLA 2024

to ensuring affordable and reliable heating for the 3,000 additional council homes connected to the network around Old Kent Road."

John Abraham, Chief Operating Officer - Industrial, Water & Energy for the UK, Ireland and Nordics at Veolia, said: "This new discovery, unearthed during our infrastructure project, gives us a fascinating insight into Roman construction. Whereas the Romans built aqueducts to transport water to cities, Veolia and Southwark Council are utilising a district heating network to provide low-carbon heat to homes in the borough. We are delighted to have played a part in this find, an incredible example of where old meets modern technology!"

The discovery will be marked by a sign on the nearby Old Kent Road bridge, which has undergone its own transformation from old to new with a colourful makeover celebrating the area's diversity; a bespoke mural titled *A Home from Home* made in collaboration with the local community.

Along a route once used by visiting emperors, today's Old Kent Road remains a great place to live, work and do business with huge potential to grow. It's the busiest Opportunity Area in London in respect of new housing. Since 2018, Southwark Council has approved 9,500 homes (an average of 1,500 approvals per year), of which 708 have been completed and 1,825 are currently under construction.

AIC Group Limited are a leading manufacturer specialising in bespoke **Waste To Energy solutions** headquartered in Armagh, Northern Ireland.



Known for 'Engineering a Cleaner Future', AIC Group consults, designs, manufactures, installs and maintains cutting-edge systems that transform waste into valuable energy. AIC Group has earned a reputation for its strong commitment to sustainability, efficiency and innovation.

The company provides Thermal Treatment and Waste To Energy Systems to a wide range of industries worldwide to help them reduce their environmental impact by implementing profitable bespoke solutions with class-leading return on investment timeline.

AIC Group is proud to have once again collaborated with Oakwood Incineration to design and manufacture a heat exchanger at their state-of-the-art medical waste processing facility in Enfield, London. This marks the second successful project between the two companies, reinforcing their shared values of innovation, sustainability and environmental responsibility.

The Oakwood facility processes medical and hazardous waste using a thermal treatment method. This process generates high-temperature gases exceeding 1,250°C when exiting the secondary combustion chamber.

To meet strict environmental air quality standards, these gases must be cooled to below 300°C before they undergo acid gas scrubbing and are released into the atmosphere. The gases coming from the secondary combustion chamber are highly acidic due to the materials being treated. Because of this acidity, the heat exchanger needs special materials and a custom design.

AIC Group designed and built a custom shell and tube heat exchanger to meet the needs of Oakwood. This system captures excess heat from the flue gases and converts it into hot water for the client's on-site processes.

To ensure the system was installed and maintained properly, AIC Group worked with Oakwoods existing Contractor Sabre Engineering from central London.

Sabre Engineering has vast experience in waste processing and can provide site installation, equipment commissioning and ongoing service. This partnership helps Oakwood maximise system uptime with support from both AIC Group and local rapid response assistance.

The heat exchanger is designed with tubes that carry hot exhaust gases. A mixture of water and glycol flows around the outside of the tubes.

Special baffle plates improve heat transfer from the gases to the liquid. As the water-glycol mix absorbs heat, its temperature rises, cooling the flue gases. This cooling process brings the exhaust gases down to the required <300°C before they enter the pollution control system. Here, the acidic components are neutralised using sodium bicarbonate and activated carbon.

The heat exchanger not only cools the exhaust gases but also captures energy for other uses on-site. After absorbing heat, the water-glycol mixture is pumped to the client's facility, where it is needed for drying. If there is no need for thermal energy, the mixture goes to condenser banks, where the heat is safely released into the air as hot, clean air. The cooled water-glycol mixture then returns to the heat exchanger in a closed-loop system, ready to absorb more heat in the next cycle.



This system helps Oakwood use thermal energy more efficiently, meet environmental goals, reduce reliance on external energy, and lower operational costs while minimising its carbon footprint.

Mark Lennon commented: "Working closely with Conor Donnelly at AIC Group and Will Newnham at Sabre Engineering, we came up with the design, upgrades and programme. Our 4-week shutdown and maintenance period was planned around the delivery date of the heat exchanger from AIC Group, which was the key component in the whole process. As promised, the unit turned up on the day and was installed safely the same day by Sabre. Our clients were updated weekly and delighted to hear that the whole process was delivered on time."

Conor Donnelly, Technical Director at AIC Group, shared his thoughts: "As a company, we have worked with Mark and the Oakwood teams for a number of years now, and we are thrilled to collaborate with them once again. Oakwoods strong commitment to sustainability aligns with AIC Group's values, and we at AIC Group are proud to assist Oakwood as they continue to expand their medical and hazardous waste treatment operations in the London area. We look forward to furthering our successful partnership in the future."



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Northumbria University helps businesses turn waste streams into new products

Following its part in the successful delivery of a £4.7 million, three-year government funded research consortium, Northumbria University aims to engage with companies eager to commercialise their waste streams, increase their efficiency and bolster profitability.

The Government's Transforming Foundation Industries Research and Innovation (TransFIRE) Hub focuses on UK manufacturing and its supply chain, specifically those companies in the chemicals, cement, ceramics, glass, metals and paper industries.

Northumbria University has been named Modern University of the Year 2025 by *The Times* and recorded the largest rise in research power among UK universities for the second consecutive time in REF2021. The university promotes meaningful knowledge exchange and collaboration with organisations of all sizes in the North East of England.

According to BiGGAR Economics, Northumbria's research contributed £181 million to the UK economy and supported over 3,100 jobs in the academic year 2021-2022.

Professors Justin Perry and Matt Unthank from the Department of Applied Sciences led research on the bulk chemicals sector. Their findings showed that converting zero-value waste from one industry into valuable components for another is possible and profitable.

One of the collaborations established through the research was with coatings



Members of Northumbria University's Applied Sciences department

specialists AkzoNobel and Jayplas, a specialist in post-consumer plastic recycling, reprocessing and manufacturing. The project showcases what is achievable by working across discipline boundaries in the manufacturing, polymer and construction industries.

The team has shown that it is possible to further optimise current plastic bottle recycling technology, which recycles a plastic called PET, used in single-use water and soft drink bottles, by taking its currently unrecyclable waste and transforming it into a novel, high-performance protective coating, for industrial applications, using only sustainable feedstocks. This demonstrates it is viable to convert a waste material into a high-value, high-performance product which can supply a coating market with global consumption reported as high as one million tonnes per annum.

Professor Matt Unthank, co-lead on the Northumbria University project, stated: "This research highlights the potential of collaboration among businesses in different industries to implement science-led, solution-based projects. We aim to assist companies in moving from initial concepts to commercial-level trials, helping them become more sustainable while developing profitable, high-value products."

He added: "The UK Government is actively promoting sustainability in manufacturing, and investment in research is vital. We want to help businesses enhance their R&D to leverage sustainability for profitability. Our work shows how one 'waste stream' can create value for another industry, moving us closer to a circular economy."

The foundation industries contribute £52 billion to the UK economy and produce 28 million tonnes of materials annually, accounting for about 10% of the UK's total CO₂ emissions.

Ralph Slikkerveer, R&D Director at AkzoNobel's Marine Protective & Yacht business unit, noted: "Advancing sustainable coatings is a priority for us. Our collaboration with Northumbria University is essential to achieving our sustainability goal of 100% circular use of materials by 2030. While fully implementing these innovations may take time, they are crucial for encouraging collaboration and driving industries towards a more sustainable future."

For more information, visit www.northumbria.ac.uk/spin

Bicycle tyre recycler to double collection points by 2026

A recycler of bicycle tyres and inner tubes has announced plans to double its collection points across the UK by 2026.

Velorim, which operates 600 locations nationwide, aims to make recycling bike tyres and inner tubes easier for cyclists by establishing collection points at local bike shops. The company reported that cyclists discard 44,000 tonnes of bicycle tyres and inner tubes every year.

Due to limited recycling capacity, much of this waste ends up in landfill, where materials can leak lead and zinc into the soil

or are incinerated, producing three tonnes of CO₂ for every tonne of rubber burned.

Launched in 2020, the programme has successfully collected more than 150,000 tyres and 150,000 inner tubes for recycling. To achieve its goal of doubling collection points by 2026, Velorim co-founders Russ Taylor and Richard Lawrence are encouraging cyclists to nominate their local bike shops, repairers, and mechanics to join the scheme.

They stated: "We know that cyclists tend to take an active approach to

ecological and environmental matters, and our service supports this ethos. Since starting our business in 2020, we have experienced steady growth, but we recognise that we still have yet to reach many areas across the country.

"We're calling on bike retailers and the cycling community to embrace the service and support us in our mission to make cycling even greener. Cyclists can nominate local bike businesses to sign up for the scheme."

To find your nearest collection point, visit www.velorim-group.com

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Scott Bros seeking entry to carbon credit market

Recycling experts Scott Bros is seeking to enter a carbon credit market worth £200m using artificial soil developed from waste products.

The family-run company has partnered with Teesside University through a Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP), funded partly by Innovate UK, to explore remote technology for monitoring carbon capture effectiveness. The goal is to establish a reliable method for measuring the carbon capture capabilities of their materials, which include natural clay, construction by-products, and green waste.

Businesses purchase carbon credits to offset their emissions, either to meet regulatory targets or voluntarily. Teesside University is conducting a three-year research programme to identify optimal waste materials for carbon sequestration.

The current KTP will investigate how artificial intelligence and the Internet of Things (AIoT) can enhance Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) processes for soil carbon content (SCC), addressing reliability issues in existing methods.

Dr Sina Rezaei Gomari, Associate Professor of Research at Teesside University, who is leading the KTP, said: "This project will develop in-situ sensors and remote sensing platforms to monitor Soil Carbon Content and provide a machine learning model to predict the carbonation under different soil conditions for years to come.

"This can be used by farmers, material waste managers and government to evaluate their contribution to carbon budget and credits."

Peter Scott, a Director of Scott Bros, said: "A digital solution will help us expand our reach, allowing us to offer our new MRV services across the country and eventually to landowners and haulage companies internationally.

"This KTP will create the opportunity to generate around £200 million annually in carbon credits by turning waste into value through technologies that remove carbon dioxide.

"Building a reliable MRV system is crucial for carbon markets to succeed, helping landowners earn money for capturing and storing greenhouse gases in the soil."

Professor David Hughes from Teesside University added that the project aligns with their investment in a new Digital Life Building, which will support initiatives toward net zero ambitions.

Recorra invests in AI-powered robotic sorting arm

London and South-East based recycling company Recorra has announced its investment in an AI-powered robotic sorting arm for its Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) in Essex, developed by the UK-based firm Recycleye. This makes Recorra the first commercial-only MRF to utilise this technology to sort business waste.

An AI 'vision unit' will be installed above the MRF conveyor belt. This AI sensor will monitor and identify recyclable materials as they pass over the sorting belt. The AI processor will then direct the robotic arm to pick the targeted materials. The arm features a suction cup used to grasp and remove recyclables from the belt, which are then deposited into a dedicated bunker below.

The robotic arm can pick between 35 and 60 items per minute and will be used to sort cardboard, plastics and coffee cups.

Introducing robotic pickers into the sorting process reduces the need for manual labour, minimising workers' exposure to hazardous working conditions, strenuous tasks and waste handling. This enhancement leads to a safer work environment and reduces the likelihood of injuries at MRFs.

The AI arm's processing capabilities allow for accurate recognition and selection of target materials, ensuring

more items are correctly picked and recycled. Its advanced sensors and machine learning algorithms make it highly effective in identifying and categorising various materials on the conveyor belt. By implementing this technology, Recorra aims to reduce contamination and increase overall efficiency.

Additionally, an online dashboard will track waste composition trends, providing better visibility into the materials entering the MRF.

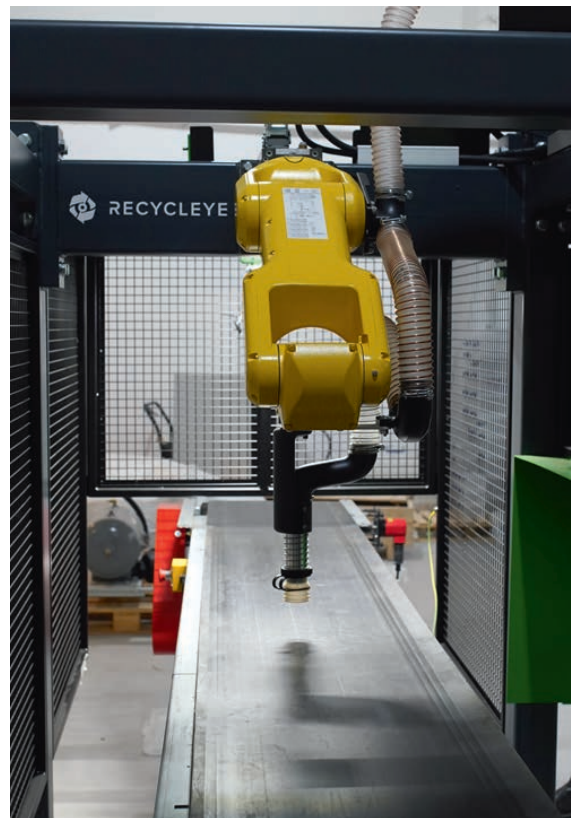
Bill Swan, Managing Director of Recorra, stated: "This cutting-edge sorting arm represents our commitment to enhancing operational efficiency and, most importantly, health and safety. The waste and recycling industry is inherently hazardous, and by automating part of the sorting process, we are taking essential steps to minimise manual labour in high-risk areas.

"Initially, the sorting arm will focus on cardboard, mixed plastics and coffee cups. Its advanced sensors and machine-learning capabilities will help achieve higher sorting accuracy and quality, ultimately improving the recyclability of our customers' materials. This technology also allows us to adapt to the changing material compositions brought about by new legislation.

"The investment in the AI sorting arm is the first step in a £1 million investment plan

to enhance our MRF's sorting capacity and accuracy."

Installation of the AI vision system will begin this month, and it will monitor materials on the conveyor belt to learn and analyse material composition and item distribution. Full installation of the robotic sorting arm is expected by this summer.



Bunting and Smiley Monroe collaborate to extend belt life of metal separators

Bunting has partnered with Smiley Monroe to enhance the ToughFlex® belt specifically for Overband Magnets, making it more resistant to wear in challenging conditions.

Overband Magnets use a permanent or electromagnetic block mounted between two pulleys, with a cleaning belt running continuously. This setup suspends the magnet above a conveyor, attracting ferrous metals and other magnetic materials. The cleaning belt carries the captured metal away from the conveyor into a collection area.

The sharp-edged metal often damages the rubber cleaning belt, especially in applications handling industrial and commercial waste. Customers using the lightweight ElectroMax Overband Magnet achieve high levels of metal separation, which leads to increased belt wear.

In contrast, permanent Overband Magnets cause less wear due to lower magnetic power. To extend belt life in demanding applications, Bunting approached Smiley Monroe, known for their conveyor belts and rubber components.

After testing various options, Smiley Monroe recommended the ToughFlex® Belt, engineered to handle tough applications with reinforced fabric plies and heavy-duty covers, minimising damage from sharp metal. Bunting and Smiley Monroe's engineering teams collaborated to modify the belt for Overband Magnet use, adding moulded cleats to aid in the transfer of captured metal.



Smiley Monroe recommended the 'ToughFlex Belt' to extend the life of the belt

"We are continually looking to make improvements that help our customers," explained Adrian Coleman, Bunting's Technical Director. "An increasing number of our customers are turning to the ElectroMax Overband Magnet because of the increased magnetic power but compact design. However, for certain applications, we identified a benefit of using a belt with better wear characteristics and contacted Smiley Monroe."
























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The year ahead: Will cost you more

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.



charge separately for their intervention (after April 2025).

BUSINESS CLINIC

CONSULTANCY

The proposed waste regulatory charges, set to take effect in April 2025, are a suite of fees proposed by the Environment Agency to combat illegal waste activities and recover regulatory costs. These include a waste levy for enhanced enforcement, updated hourly rates for compliance checks and charges for waste exemption registrations.

All in all that means that if you have an Environmental Permit or use Exemptions, you may well end up paying your Environmental Regulator more money in 2025.

But no one wants to do that, do they? So, let's look at two of the proposed charges to see if they are avoidable.

Waste fee for intervention

The regulator will be able to charge a fee for taking action where they suspect that waste operations do not comply with a permit or operate in the absence of an authorisation. That includes preparing for meetings and travel, assessing impact and advising on routes to compliance.

Are you thinking the same as me? Isn't

that what you pay your annual permit subsistence fee for?

My advice:

- *Get advice and check that all your permits, processes and documentation are in order. Please don't allow them to legitimately find non-compliance and charge you for intervening.*
- *Challenge non-compliances in Compliance Audit Reports (CAR forms) that you don't entirely agree with, along with any charges incurred. And do this promptly so as not to lose your right to appeal.*
- *Since we do not know many details on how this will be implemented, ask the officer during the visit if they intend to*

Waste crime levy

The waste crime levy will generate income to help deal with waste crime. The levy will be implemented by introducing additional charges, specifically a 10% increase on subsistence charges for permits.

My Advice:

- *Respond to the consultation to have your say about this.*
- *Factor this into your budget for permit fees going forward.*

If you have an Environmental Permit, you will already be paying an annual subsistence fee to cover the cost of compliance checks by the regulator. After April 2025, it appears that you will also be paying additional fees for the regulator's intervention if they suspect non-compliance. And on top of that, you will be paying a 10% levy on your annual fees to the regulator to fight waste crime.

Some of the additional charges are out of your control, but I always say 'control the controllables'. The waste fee for intervention is within your control. Act to minimise non-compliance, get your documentation in order and avoid giving the regulator any reason to impose more charges on you.

This time last year, my article covered New Year's resolutions, including a variety of compliance issues. This year, the same advice applies, but now the penalty for not taking action is an additional cost for your permit.

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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**GOT A QUESTION
ASK THE EXPERTS**

Scottish council signs £1.2m SRF partnership

Comhairle Nan Eilean Siar is leading the way in sustainable waste management by diverting 100% of non-recyclable waste from landfill in Uist and Barra and converting it into an alternative fuel.

Through a £1.2 million, eight-year partnership with Advetec, the council will process 10 tonnes of domestic and commercial black bag waste daily into Solid Recovered Fuel (SRF) at its waste transfer site in Market Stance, Benbecula.

Powered by Advetec's cutting-edge XO22 digester, this initiative will eliminate the need to transport waste 93 miles to the landfill in Stornoway, representing a significant shift in waste management practices.

This compact digester accelerates the breakdown of organic matter using specialised bacteria, turning non-recyclable waste into SRF, which emits 95% less CO₂e than fossil fuels. For every two tonnes of waste processed, approximately one tonne of SRF is produced, saving 1.2 tonnes of CO₂e.

This initiative is part of the council's strategy to prepare for Scotland's 2026 ban on biodegradable waste in landfills.

Glass recycling bins to be fitted with sensors

Edinburgh's council is planning to eliminate regular collections of glass recycling bins by implementing sensors that will indicate when the bins are full. This initiative is part of the council's goal of becoming a 'smart city' and reducing noise for residents living near communal bin areas.

Over 3,000 bins across the city will transition to a 'dynamic' collection system, meaning they will only be emptied when nearly full.

The council intends to fully establish this dynamic collection service later this month once the sensor installations are complete.

The new approach is designed to make waste collection more efficient and to minimise noise for residents. Data from the sensors will also help identify bins that are underused and may be considered for removal from the streets.

According to a report by the council's transport and environment committee, approximately 3,400 communal glass

recycling bins are located throughout the city, with 2,700 already equipped with sensors. About 700 sensors are still planned for installation before transitioning to a fully dynamic collection service.

The report stated: "This means there will be no fixed collection schedule for on-street bins, as they will be emptied on a demand basis linked directly to the sensor data."

Additionally, the council plans to allow residents to propose alternative locations for glass collection to create more centralised hubs. They have stated that they will consider feedback once the new system has been operational for several months later this year.

The report also noted that noise levels associated with glass recycling are 'highly variable', making it challenging to find a solution that effectively reduces sound. It concluded: "There is a limit to what the structure of the bottle bank can do to dampen noise levels."

Scottish Government approves pioneering tyre recycling plant

The Scottish Government has approved the planning for a state-of-the-art tyre recycling facility in Linwood, Renfrewshire, to address the increasing problem of waste tyres across the country.

This facility, managed by SSH Recycling, a company based in Renfrewshire, will be the first of its kind in the UK. It is designed to recycle or repurpose every component of waste tyres.

Construction is set to begin this year, with operations expected to start by 2027. The plant is projected to create up to 80 jobs, including scientific roles and apprenticeships, contributing to local economic growth and generating over £120 million in investment in the West of Scotland.

"This approval marks a significant milestone in Scotland's transition to a circular economy," said Robert Keay, Director of Operations at SSH Recycling.

"By converting waste tyres into valuable materials, we address a major environmental challenge while helping other industries reduce their carbon footprints. This plant sets a new standard for sustainable resource management, creates local employment, boosts the local economy, and helps protect Scotland's environment."

Once operational, the plant will process up to 100,000 tonnes of waste tyres annually, equivalent to more than one million commercial tyres and nearly four million passenger tyres. It will be a carbon-negative facility, preventing approximately 2.7 tonnes of CO₂ emissions for every tonne of waste tyres processed.

Recycled materials from the facility will be used as substitutes

for virgin rubber in new tyre manufacturing, as well as in industrial and construction products.

The Linwood site has been designed with flood-resistant infrastructure to address local environmental concerns. Processing equipment will be elevated to mitigate flood risks, and the buildings will be engineered to accommodate floodwaters without displacing nearby areas.

Additionally, the facility will feature an on-site energy system powered by microturbines. Initially, it will use green gas, but plans are to transition to green hydrogen, generating low-carbon energy for the plant's operations.



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Planning reform and its relevance to the waste industry

JESSICA MORGAN-SMITH

Partner at MPG, based in
Bingley, Bradford and
Skipton, North Yorkshire



Last month, the Government announced an overhaul of the planning system, which was on its way to growing the economy and supporting the Government's 'Plan for Change' milestone of building 1.5 million homes by 2029. The updated NPPF (National Planning Policy Framework) was subsequently published on 12th December in response to the proposed reforms to the NPPF and other changes to the planning system consultation.

Below, we delve into the wonderful world of the NPPF (including other relevant Government policies), its significance to the waste and recycling industry and how it will impact the Government's ambition to work towards a more sustainable and efficient approach to resource use and management rates in the UK.

The NPPF is built around providing development in a sustainable manner and states: *"The purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development, including the provision of homes, commercial development and supporting infrastructure in a sustainable manner. At a very high level, the objective of sustainable development can be summarised as meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."*

The NPPF goes on to state that: *"The Framework should be read in conjunction with the Government's planning policy for waste."* (our bolding)

Whilst there is a separate policy document specifically related to waste, the NPPF is a key planning document built around sustainable development. It goes on to mention the word 'waste' a total of 16 times, and 'recycling' is mentioned just once.

However, the NPPF's narrative on aggregate products is a little more promising: *"safeguard existing, planned and potential sites for..... the handling, processing and distribution of substitute,*



recycled and secondary aggregate material."

Whilst the above shows some clear support for facilitating the sustainable use of minerals and recycled products to support the milestone of building 1.5 million homes, we have yet to see any discussion (or acknowledgement) regarding the supply of mineral products for these new homes. It's almost as if the Government has overlooked the need for materials to build homes (and they must meet the NPPF's key objective of sustainability).

The other relevant Government policy in relation to waste is the National Planning Policy for Waste (NPPW), published in October 2014 - over 10 years ago!

This policy discusses how positive planning plays a key role in delivering the country's waste ambitions through: *"ensuring that waste management is considered alongside other spatial planning concerns, such as housing and transport, recognising the positive contribution that waste management can make to the development of sustainable communities."*

The 2014 NPPW says all the right things and directs Local Authorities to identify opportunities for waste management needs, including suitable sites. However, many Local Authorities have grossly out-of-date data, which does not support the real need for waste management facilities in some areas. The requirement for monitoring in the NPPW is also often overlooked in Local Authorities, further impacting the need for up-to-date, relevant data.

To conclude, the Government's overhaul of the planning system has begun! However, it's unlikely to directly drive the key requirement of increasing recycling rates by driving waste up the waste hierarchy and considering waste management alongside other planning concerns (as required by the Government) as the industry has continued to be overlooked. However, as an industry, we will continue to do those things and ensure waste recycling facilities are planned, implemented and operated in the right place at the right time to continue driving recycling rates in the UK.

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.



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DR ANNA WILLETTS

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



New Environment Agency guidance on appeals process

I was going to write a tax article this month, as I indicated at the end of last month's landfill tax article, but then this new guidance appeared on 3rd December, so I changed my mind. A girl's prerogative....

The guidance is entitled:

Environment Agency's response to the High Court judgment in R (Suez Recycling and Recovery UK Ltd) v Environment Agency [2023] EWHC 3012 (Admin)

In the judgement, the Court held that the Environment Agency's approach of dealing with a challenge to a CAR as a complaint, rather than treating it as an appeal against a regulatory decision, was based on a misinterpretation of the Regulators' Code.

The Environment Agency has a statutory duty to regard the Regulators' Code

when developing its general policies (s. 22(2), Legislative and Regulatory Reform Act 2006). The Code states: "Regulators should provide an impartial and clearly explained route to appeal against a regulatory decision."

The court held that the meaning of "regulatory decision" in the Regulators' Code is not confined to a decision that imposes a mandatory obligation on the regulated person. Instead, a "regulatory decision" for the purposes of the Code means simply a decision to exercise a regulatory function that is adverse to a regulated person. In the court's judgment, a CAR is a decision in the exercise of a regulatory function that can be adverse to a regulated person. Accordingly, the court ordered the Agency to reconsider its approach of not providing a route to

appeal against a CAR.

If you haven't seen this, there are some key points to be aware of that are different from the interim appeals process that was previously in place. Previous CAR forms (the procedure set out on the back page) allowed 28 days for challenge. The interim appeal process then allowed 14 days for appeal.

The new process is as follows in two stages:

Stage 1. This provides an opportunity for the operator to contact the Agency officer who made the original regulatory decision within **14 calendar days** of receipt. The purpose of this is for them to make any quick corrections or resolve any misunderstandings.

Stage 2. If the response is unsatisfactory, the operator can make a request, within **28 calendar days** of receipt of the Stage 1 response, for a 'regulatory appeal'. The regulatory appeal will be allocated to an impartial person with the Agency for them to determine.

The Agency has increased the number of staff who can deal with Appeals.

A final point to note is that the Briefing Note produced by the local officer is to be disclosed to the operator. Other advisers and I have had inconsistent responses to requests for these in the last few months, ranging from disclosure and refusal to disclose on the basis of privacy for officers to have discussions to outright refusals under EIR requests. This decision in favour of disclosure is therefore welcomed.

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**

Biffa secures £3m 'zero-to-landfill' contract with DS Smith

Biffa has secured a £3 million contract for zero waste-to-landfill collection and disposal services with the corrugated packaging company DS Smith. This agreement will enable Biffa to collect and manage nearly 15,000 tonnes of waste from over 30 DS Smith sites across the UK over the next three years.

The contract encompasses 20 types of waste: general waste, dry-mixed recyclables, food waste, ink, mixed wood and liquid waste. Biffa will use a fleet of vehicles, including tankers, to service these waste streams.

Maxine Mayhew, Chief Operating Officer for Collections and Specialist Services at

Biffa, stated: "This is a fantastic group-wide contract that truly showcases the strength of our services as the UK's leading sustainable waste management provider.

"We have the expertise and infrastructure to provide highly complex solutions for large organisations, and I'm thrilled that DS Smith, which shares our sustainability vision and values, has entrusted us with managing waste at 34 of its sites across Scotland, England and Wales. Together, we will ensure that zero waste is sent to landfill, using more sustainable and carbon-efficient alternatives for waste that cannot be recycled."

Paul Clarke, Managing Director of the UK and Ireland Packaging Division at DS Smith, added: "We are pleased to award this zero waste-to-landfill contract to Biffa for our UK Packaging Division. Sustainability is a critical focus for us, and we are happy to collaborate with an organisation specialising in sustainable waste management solutions.

"Part of our mission is to extend the life cycle of materials, which we have demonstrated by replacing over one billion plastic items ahead of schedule. Through this new agreement with Biffa, we are working towards our 'Now & Next' sustainability goal of achieving zero waste to landfill by 2030."

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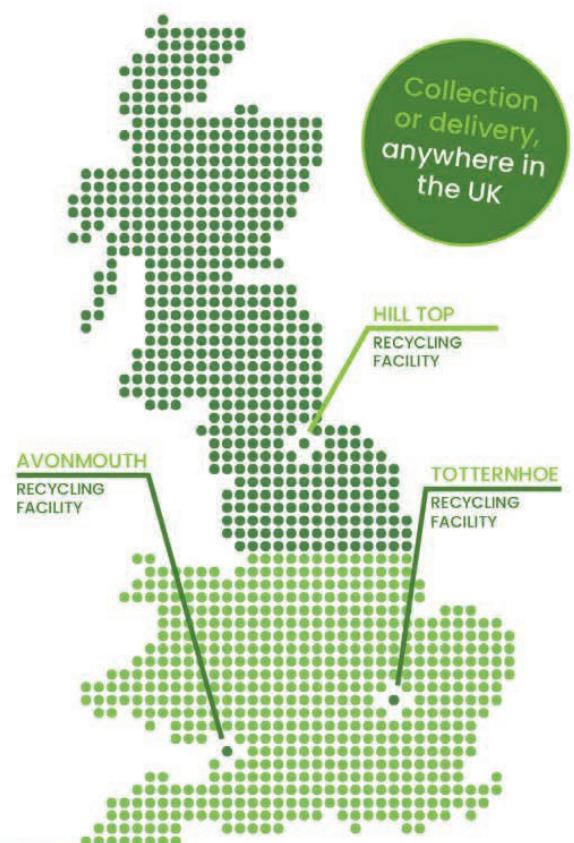
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CDE team up with ITN Business programme

New programme highlights how the sector is striving for sustainability and driving the circular economy

CDE, a leading provider of wet processing solutions for the natural and waste recycling sectors, has teamed up with ITN Business on its Responsible, Sustainable, Essential Minerals programme. This programme explores the role of the mineral industry in the journey towards net zero.

Launched on 4th December, the programme explores how organisations are prioritising sustainable practices across the industry. CDE highlights the importance of its solutions in transforming waste streams into in-spec sand and aggregates.

Sand is the second most consumed material in the world, and there is an increasing demand for sand and aggregates in construction projects worldwide. CDE's solutions support businesses in extracting value from waste streams and diverting more waste from landfill.

Commenting on the importance of highlighting the opportunities when it comes to adding value to waste materials,



L-R: Oliver Rees, Managing Director of SRC Group, talking to David Kinloch, Director of UK & Ireland, Middle East & Africa and Australasia at CDE

David Kinloch, Director of UK & Ireland, Middle East & Africa and Australasia at CDE, said: "It's been a pleasure to work with ITN Business and the Mineral Products Association (MPA) on this programme, to showcase how our solutions are helping customers become more sustainable.

"For over 30 years, CDE has been offering innovative wet processing solutions to add value to construction waste materials so that they can be repurposed in the market. We're currently focussing on three main areas to support our customers;

tackling difficult waste streams to divert more from landfill, increasing the value of output products and maximising yield of outputs from the waste resource."

Featured in the programme is SRC Group, which has been working with CDE over the past 12 years to deliver twelve projects across the UK.

Oliver Rees, Managing Director at SRC Group, commented: "Sustainability plays a huge role for us at SRC Group, with waste from projects through our construction, demolition and quarrying businesses being recycled into high-end, valuable products.

"Thanks to CDE's state-of-the-art solutions, we've been able to grow our business, operate in new locations, expand the lifespan of our quarries and offer a sustainable option for local construction projects."

The ITN Business programme is associated with MPA, a trade association formed in 2009 for UK mineral products operating companies across its 14 product groups.

To watch the programme, please visit:
<https://business.itn.co.uk/programmes/essential-minerals/>

LOOKING AHEAD - FUTURE FEATURES



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

OCTOBER 2025: ISSUE 237

Energy from Waste (EfW) - renewable energy sources
/ Shredders

NOVEMBER 2025: ISSUE 238

Materials recovery facilities (MRFs) / Artificial intelligence in waste management systems

DECEMBER 2025: ISSUE 239

Construction and demolition waste,
plus aggregates

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Certified recycled aggregate produced at Walshestown Restoration



Enva strengthens its circular solutions in Ireland with two key acquisitions

Enva, a leading environmental services and resource recovery business in the UK and Ireland, is taking significant strides in its growth strategy by completing two key acquisitions. These strategic decisions underscore Enva's dedication to enhancing its operations and customer service offerings while furthering its mission to create low-carbon secondary materials from waste.

The first acquisition, Walshestown Restoration Limited, allows Enva to broaden its soil recovery operations in Ireland. This

esteemed restoration and recovery partner is committed to the sustainable treatment of soils and the recovery of sand and gravel from recycled materials.

Based near Naas, Co. Kildare, Walshestown Restoration expertly processes construction and demolition waste to produce certified recycled aggregate, providing a sustainable alternative to virgin aggregates. This acquisition enhances Enva's capacity to manage non-hazardous waste soils, complementing its robust capabilities in

hazardous soil treatment.

In addition, Enva has acquired M&T Plant Hire Limited, an independent company specialising in industrial services and organic composting, located in Ballyeden, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford.

Established in 1980, M&T Plant Hire offers a range of services, including septic tank emptying, drain cleaning, civil engineering, CCTV surveying, and sludge disposal. Their modern composting facility enables the recycling of organic waste into high-quality compost, reinforcing Enva's commitment to effective organic waste management. Under the skilled leadership of Liam O'Neill, General Manager, operations will continue smoothly, ensuring that customers receive uninterrupted service.

Roger McDermott, Enva's Chief Operating Officer, emphasised the positive impact of these acquisitions, stating: "Both of these acquisitions expand our existing business in Ireland. The increased scale from incorporating these assets allows us to offer a broader portfolio of sustainable waste management solutions, empowering our customers in their decarbonisation efforts."

Overall, these acquisitions mark a pivotal advancement in Enva's strategy to provide high-quality, sustainable materials and circular solutions, ultimately benefiting both customers and the environment.

Wormganix method employed in Veolia and Starbucks trial

Veolia has started a trial to keep spent coffee grounds out of landfill. They are working with Wormganix, which makes worm castings, to recycle three tonnes of used coffee grounds, equivalent to 420,000 single-shot coffees.

Wormganix has a special process of feeding worms a mix of paper pulp and coffee grounds. The worms digest this mixture and create nutrient-rich fertilisers like humus or vermicompost. These fertilisers are packed with beneficial microbes, fungi, and bacteria that improve soil health.

In the UK, people drink around 98 million cups of coffee every day, leading to over 250,000 tonnes of used coffee ground waste each year. If used properly, spent coffee grounds can enhance soil health because they are rich in nutrients like nitrogen, potassium, and phosphorus. This trial will test a new low-carbon way to eliminate spent coffee grounds, which could lessen the need for chemical-heavy fertilisers.

The Veolia Wormganix trial is happening at a Starbucks store in Bradford, West Yorkshire. Veolia collects the spent coffee grounds from the store and sends them to Wormganix, located just six miles away in Cleckheaton.

This trial adds to Starbucks' current food waste efforts by addressing coffee ground waste. Starbucks already runs the "Grounds For Your Garden" programme, where stores give customers bags of used coffee grounds for gardening. They also support other businesses with innovative food waste solutions through The Eat It Up Fund, a partnership with the environmental charity Hubbub.



Adam Wylie, Veolia's Managing Director for Commercial, said: "We are always looking for innovative ways to help our customers meet their sustainability goals. This project uses new methods to tackle a difficult waste issue, and we look forward to seeing the trial results and its positive effects on the coffee industry."

Veolia aims to create and sell high-quality, sustainable fertilisers for the gardening industry, helping clients reach their environmental goals. This project could open up a new way to recycle nutrients back into the food chain using organic waste.



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

Separation anxiety

Last May, I covered the separate collection legislation for businesses in Wales and materials facilities in November. These are relevant to one of the major changes in legislation coming in April, which will bring separate collection in England via the *Separation of Waste (England) Regulations 2024* and Section 45 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1990*. With more customers having to segregate waste for recycling or composting, more waste collectors will be affected, so I'll concentrate on the impact on our readers rather than the minor details.

When do the regulations take effect?

- 31/03/25 and 31/03/26 - amendments to the Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011.
- 31/03/27 - Paragraph 4(1)(e) in Part 4 of Schedule 1 - plastic film/bags are added to the list above.

The following waste streams are affected (defined as "recyclable relevant waste") with some exclusions within each stream that may affect recyclability.

- glass bottles and jars;
- metals - steel and aluminium - cans, foil, food trays, tubes, bottles and jars (including jar and bottle lids);
- plastic bottles, pots, tubs, trays and tubes (plastic film by 2027);
- paper and card - subject to a number of exclusions;
- food waste - includes waste from food and drink processing or preparation.

Are there any conditions relating to the waste types affected?

- The waste item must be empty;
- The waste item is not heavily contaminated by other substances;
- The waste item is not classified as EWC 15 01 10* (hazardous packaging);
- The waste must not contain plastics containing pigments that prevent separating using near-infrared detection;
- Items must measure a minimum of 40 mm by 40 mm;
- The waste must be collected separately;
- Two or more waste streams can be combined if it is not technically or economically practical to collect separately or where there is no significant

environmental benefit in doing so (think carbon footprint). Still, there must be a written assessment justifying the usage of the allowance (mainly for paper and card).

The key issue is how detailed the associated guidance will be, as a strict reading of the legislation is scary. I have been trying to give advice on the matter, but it was only published on 29/11/24 at www.gov.uk/guidance/simpler-recycling-workplace-recycling-in-england which doesn't give a lot of time to prepare customers, order bins and buy some new vehicles!

The guidance makes the following requirements of note (from 31/03/25):

- Separation of dry recyclable waste, food waste and black bin/residual waste - potentially only three separate collections;
- Micro firms are exempted until 31/03/27 (less than 10 employees);
- Waste collectors have a legal duty to ensure that dry recyclable materials (plastic, metal, glass, paper and card) and food waste are collected separately from residual waste;
- Once collected, waste that has been separated for recycling cannot be mixed with other materials of different properties after. Waste separated for recycling cannot be disposed to landfill or incineration.

In summary, the bins you will need to collect separately will be:

- glass, metal and plastic;
- card and paper (unless combined with glass, metal and plastic with a written justification);
- food waste;
- residual waste.

So the bottom line is three or four containers and hopefully compliant customers.

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**

Significant funding granted to UK e-waste innovators

London-based innovator DEScycle is set to establish a pre-commercial pilot plant for recycling metals from electronic waste. The company is developing deep eutectic solvents (DES), which are mixtures that have lower melting points than their components.

Recently, DEScycle raised £10.2 million in Series A funding, led by BGF and co-led by Berlin-based Vorwerk Ventures. The funds will be used to build and operate a pilot plant at Wilton International on Teesside, in

the North East of England.

This plant will showcase DEScycle's technology and collect data for future commercial operations. Plans include launching an e-waste recycling facility in Gateshead, supported by joint venture partner GAP Group, a major UK e-waste recycler. The commercial plant aims to process 5,000 tonnes of e-waste annually, extracting copper, palladium and gold.

Ian Cockerill, chair of DEScycle, emphasised that the funding reflects

confidence in the team and technology, aiming to create a responsible and profitable approach to metals recycling. He noted that sectors like artificial intelligence, which rely on metals, will benefit greatly.

E-waste is the fastest-growing waste stream globally, valued at over €87 billion in 2022 and predicted to grow to €115 billion by 2030. The Global E-Waste Monitor reports that e-waste generation currently outpaces recycling capacity by five times.



Lili Waste vehicle fitted with Fleetclear cameras and Fleetclear Connect

Lili Waste 'exonerates' drivers with Fleetclear technology

Lili Waste, a sustainable waste and recycling service provider, has upgraded its 5-star DVS-rated trade waste vehicles with Fleetclear's DVR camera systems and the Fleetclear Connect platform for enhanced vehicle safety monitoring.

John Hopkins, Fleet & Depot Manager at Lili Waste, said: "Most of our drivers are lone workers, so there are important safety issues to consider, and we wanted peace of mind."

The fleet now benefits from 360-degree recording and live tracking, which has helped resolve 90% of complaints related

to damage claims against the company. The camera footage has also been invaluable for training purposes, allowing the team to improve best practices and reduce accidents.

Additionally, the cameras provide evidence when accessing customer bins, documenting any obstructions encountered.

John emphasised the importance of Fleetclear's after-sales support, stating, "We wouldn't continue using them if we weren't satisfied. Their quick response to issues and the supportive team truly feels like a partnership."

Reclamet claims top title at national awards

Reclamet is excited to announce its victory in the 'Vehicle Recycling (Medium Size) Company of the Year Award 2024.' The award was presented to Owner and Managing Director Stuart Mann and his team at a ceremony at the RAF Museum Cosford in the West Midlands on 28th November, 2024.

Reclamet was recognised for its innovative approach to vehicle salvaging and recycling, particularly its efforts to reduce waste and emissions. The company also received praise for supporting local charities and events in Kent, including a new boxing club in Ramsgate.

Stuart said: "This is an incredibly proud moment for Reclamet. A huge thank you to all our UK customers, partners, and suppliers who made this award possible."

The National Vehicle Recycling Awards were set up by *ATF Professional Magazine* to honour contributions to the UK's sustainability targets.

The vehicle recycling sector plays a vital role in reducing waste and cutting carbon emissions. It saves three billion kilograms of emissions in the UK each year - equivalent to the emissions from manufacturing 240,000 new cars.

Two new DAF XDCs for Phillip Carruthers

Another two new DAF XDC eight-wheelers have just joined the Workington-based fleet of Phillip Carruthers Ltd, one of northern England's leading specialists in groundworks and plant hire. And just like Carruthers' previous XDC tipplers, both are fitted with HARSH front-end (FE) tipping cylinders.

Carruthers acquires its trucks from stock vehicles held by MOTUS Commercials in Carlisle, which in turn looks to L. Townend Ltd of Holmfirth in Yorkshire to fit the chassis with their bodies and tipping gears. The completed tipplers are then quickly snapped up by tipper operators across the region.

Because of their proven performance, HARSH FE gears are highly popular throughout the bodybuilder / truck dealer / end-user supply chain. Strong, reliable and durable yet highly competitive in weight, they are now a first choice throughout the tipping industry. They are found on trucks working in every business sector, from moving sand and aggregates through to site clearance and recycling.

Richard Townend comments: "As a tipper bodybuilder, we now fit more HARSH gears than any other make - it's our preferred choice. Their long-term performance is guaranteed, they raise no issues for operators and HARSH after-sales support is fully proven, too. From a bodybuilder standpoint, working with HARSH is easy - there's rarely any issue with supply, and Jason Bramall (Business Development Manager) looks after us very well indeed. We have a long-standing relationship with HARSH that only grows stronger through time."



Ready for work, Carruthers' new 450hp XDCs, with their single-skin steel 'Governor' bodies and combined ram and tank FE gears, tare off at 12,500kgs, thereby affording a 19.5t payload. The trucks typically make multiple short-haul trips per day, shifting soil and earth, so they are worked notably hard.

Carruthers' Transport Manager Steve Irving is once again delighted with the company's latest trucks. "For us, it's all about performance, reliability and value for money", he says, adding, "Our drivers love these new DAFs too. Between them, DAF, HARSH and Townend create an ideal tipper package."

TAKE THE HIGH ROAD



HOW DID THE IDEA FOR RTX SCOTLAND COME ABOUT?

Plans for RTX Scotland have been in the works for several years, explains Bunby, stemming from the same initial conversations that led to the creation of the award-winning original RTX event.

“When we were first talking to manufacturers about RTX, they expressed a keen interest in having a dedicated event for the Scottish transport industry,” he explains.

“Scotland is a distinct market with its own unique needs and challenges, so we knew there was an opportunity to create something tailored specifically for this audience.”

WILL RTX SCOTLAND RUN EVERY YEAR?

“We want it to, but let’s see how it goes in year one,” says Bunby.

“We are feeling very confident though, as we know people want this show, both potential exhibitors and potential visitors, and we’ll be able to announce very soon after the 2025 event if it will go ahead annually.”

HOW HAVE MANUFACTURERS AND EXHIBITORS RESPONDED TO THE LAUNCH OF RTX SCOTLAND?

The initial response from the industry has been very positive, with major manufacturers and brands expressing keen interest in participating in the event, confirms Bunby.

“We’re still in the process of finalising the exhibitor line-up, but we’re confident we’ll have a strong representation from across the industry,” he says.

“The manufacturers see this as a unique opportunity to engage more directly with their Scottish customer base – which they haven’t had for a long time.

The organisers of the successful Road Transport Expo (RTX) are launching RTX Scotland in 2025, expanding their “All About the Truck” show formula. This event will be a sister show to the original Road Transport Expo, taking place at NAEC Stoneleigh from 24th-26th June, 2025. We spoke with **VIC BUNBY**, divisional director at *Commercial Motor* and publisher of *Road Transport Media*, the event’s organiser.



HOW CAN INDUSTRY VISITORS AND EXHIBITORS GET INVOLVED?

Visitor registration for RTX Scotland will open in mid-2025. (See details below)

“We want to hear from Scottish operators leading in areas like decarbonisation and vehicle safety. Our Knowledge Zone stage will feature a range of operators, big and small,” says Bunby.

Interested exhibitors can contact our sales team for stand options and pricing, with sponsorship opportunities also available.

“Our goal for RTX Scotland is to foster collaboration with the industry. We welcome ideas from exhibitors and visitors to ensure the event meets the needs of the Scottish transport sector,” Bunby emphasises.

WHAT CAN VISITORS EXPECT AT RTX SCOTLAND?

RTX Scotland will take place on November 19th-20th, 2025, at the SEC in Glasgow, easily accessible by car and public transport. The event coincides with the 31st annual *Transport News Scottish Rewards*, attracting around 600 industry visitors.

The event features a 5,000 sqm indoor exhibition showcasing various manufacturers’ latest vehicles, equipment,

and innovations. Attendees can explore everything from trucks and trailers to telematics systems and ancillary services. Additionally, a conference programme on the Knowledge Zone stage will feature speakers, panel discussions, and interactive sessions.

The organisers aim to involve key industry figures, including Scottish operators and government representatives. With a focus on networking, there will be spaces for relaxation and conversation, including an informal drinks reception on the first evening for all attendees.

RTX SCOTLAND – THE DETAILS

- **When:** 19th-20th November 2025
- **Where:** SEC, Glasgow
- **Cost:** Free for all visitors
- **Registration:** Officially opens mid-2025, but you can register your interest today to be kept in the loop for all show announcements at transportnews.co.uk/rtsxscotland2025
- **Sales, exhibition and sponsorship enquiries:** emma.tyrer@roadtransport.com
- **Show content enquiries, including the Knowledge Zone:** hayley.tayler@roadtransport.com



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Green innovation could be the key to growth for rural businesses in the UK

Rural firms face more risks from climate change than urban competitors, but helping them innovate could benefit the whole economy

PANAGIOTIS KYRIAKOPOULOS

Research Fellow,
Warwick Business School,
University of Warwick



As climate change speeds up and resources become more scarce, businesses are realising that innovation and sustainable practices are becoming necessities rather than merely nice things to do. Companies that invest in sustainable operations (for example, waste management and net zero practices) are setting themselves up for resilience and success as climate issues threaten their businesses, and customers and governments demand better practices.

Rural businesses need particular help in this quickly evolving environment.

These companies – firms like small-scale manufacturers, farms and rural service providers like independent shops – face particular pressures related to their economic and geographical landscapes.

These businesses make up nearly a quarter of all firms registered in England – more than 549,000 enterprises employing 3.8 million people.

The recent protests by UK farmers highlighted the need for fair inheritance tax legislation that considers the unique financial challenges of farming, such as being asset-rich but cash-poor. More broadly, rural firms are more vulnerable to changes like taxes or severe weather events than their urban counterparts because of their limited access to markets, infrastructure and resources.

My recent review paper on business innovation in rural areas highlights the innovation gaps that rural firms face compared to competitors in more urban

settings. This disparity frequently results from rural firms being overlooked in terms of policy and research.

For instance, my research showed that rural businesses are less likely to invest in sustainable solutions like solar energy or waste management systems or adopt the latest technologies. This is because rural businesses frequently have less money and fewer options available to them because of their location. Adopting smart systems and artificial intelligence (AI) technology can improve their efficiency and their connection to suppliers and customers.

However, their growth is often restricted by the increasing costs of buying new tech or the firms' own resistance to change and adapting to the digital era. This makes them more vulnerable to environmental stressors and economic shocks. Addressing these issues and investing in innovation is essential if they want to grow.

Things like advanced energy storage systems and investment in renewable energy technologies can help rural enterprises reduce their dependency on fossil fuels and provide more energy stability. Similarly, environmentally friendly farming methods like circular waste management (where waste materials are reused, repurposed or recycled) and precision agriculture using satellites and automation can increase output while reducing environmental harm.

These developments not only improve rural businesses' long-term competitiveness but also help the environment. For instance, energy-efficient procedures reduce operating expenses, and implementing sustainable branding might draw in eco-aware clients. According to my study, innovation in digital technology, waste management and energy can completely transform rural businesses and give them the tools they need to prosper in a changing global environment.

Innovation is key

Cutting greenhouse gas emissions has become a primary environmental challenge for businesses. Transitioning to renewable energy sources like solar and wind is becoming increasingly important. Businesses that adopt these practices can reduce their carbon footprint and eventually lower their energy costs.

But what is clear from my research is that rural firms need support to become more innovative. Critical barriers to innovation include a lack of skilled labour,

inadequate infrastructure and restricted access to funds like grants. Rural firms frequently operate in remote locations, which may limit their opportunities to collaborate and share knowledge.

The Government can help rural businesses overcome these barriers by creating innovation hubs in rural areas and investing more in rural infrastructure. Partnerships between colleges, universities and rural companies are also important for sharing ideas and best practices. Grants to businesses in those sectors and investment in better transport operations are also critical to their expansion.

Overall, my research shows that when rural businesses invest in environmental sustainability, growth is far more likely. In addition to making the companies themselves more resilient, the firms also support wider regional growth with new products, services and processes.

Supporting rural businesses in implementing sustainable practices is a vital pillar of the UK Government's ambitions to build a greener economy and its emphasis on economic growth. Investing in innovation in rural businesses is not a choice, it is a necessary path to growth.

By overcoming their particular difficulties and encouraging them to adopt sustainability, rural businesses can realise their full potential as engines of environmental and economic advancement.

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



Renewables can provide greater energy security for rural firms

**HAVE
YOUR SAY!**

In the article, it mentions independent shops. One of the problems with such shops in rural areas is that they are difficult to access unless you have your own transport. Rural bus services are non-existent in many rural areas, and definitely in the part of the South West of England where I live. You could possibly get to the farm shop on Monday, but you'd have to wait until Wednesday to get home. It might seem a small factor in comparison with the scope of the article, but to my mind, everything is linked. Supporting your local farm shop isn't akin to popping down to the artisan baker in a city centre. - Liz Chambers

I suspect that the Government intends to use the new inheritance tax to force farmers into the position where they have to sell farmland for housing development to generate growth.

Solar panel arrays the size of large meadows look hideous and destroy our enjoyment of amenities associated with traditionally maintained countryside. I understand that many farmers hate them also.

The increase in demand for electricity is, to some extent, a result of successive governments attempting to generate growth in the face of the long-term ongoing UK population decline by importing and housing many new job-seekers, both legal and illegal.

If degrowth were to be managed to match the rate of population decline, then much of this degradation of the natural and agricultural environment would be unnecessary.

New timber-frame and timber-clad agricultural buildings in styles familiar to the various regions are now appearing.

Buildings using traditional, locally occurring materials will preserve the appearance of settlements, which will be enjoyed by their residents and visitors for posterity. Locally sourced materials tend to be sustainable and biodegradable.

If innovation renders our countryside unpleasant to live with, then maybe it's not worthwhile.

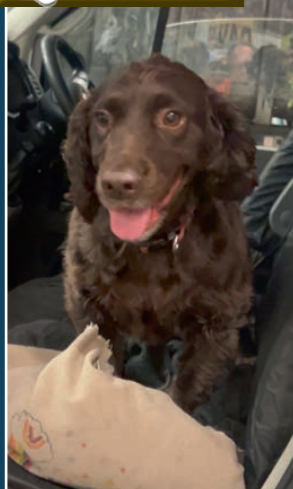
We're on this planet to enjoy life, not to be someone's business opportunity.

- Charlie Browne



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

MEG



Meg is a lively four-year-old Miniature Cocker Spaniel, adored by her owner, Dave, one of the fitters at Ron Hull Jnr Limited.

She enjoys going out in the van and greeting drivers at the end of the day. Meg keeps Dave company while he works on jobs and loves to receive treats from the drivers occasionally.

However, she dislikes being on a job when she sees Dave outside the van without her. Since she is very close to Dave, she gets anxious when she loses sight of him when they are off-site.

Ron Hull Jnr Limited is a recycling company based in Rotherham, South Yorkshire. For more information, please visit www.ronhull.co.uk



Teddy and Baxter are Shih Tzus, brothers, and best friends. They celebrated their 9th birthdays on 21st November.

Likes: They are happiest when surrounded by people and love spending time in the office, where they receive plenty of attention. They enjoy lazy days spent sleeping as much as they love going out for walks and exploring. Both of them adore cuddles and are always nearby when food is being served, hoping to snag a few crumbs!

Dislikes: Teddy is exclusively a fair-weather walker, while Baxter does not like being separated from his brother.

Flame Energy is located in West Bridgford, Nottingham. For more information, visit www.flameenergy.co.uk

TED & BAXTER



Happy New Year! A fresh start for business and balance sheets

Hello, and Happy New Year! I'm Sarah, your financial adviser with a knack for numbers and a soft spot for skip hire, recycling and waste management. While others may dread spreadsheets or piles of rubbish, I see opportunities – whether for tax efficiency or transforming waste into value.



and retirement planning headaches. My mission is to make your money work as hard as you do without overwhelming you with jargon. Whether it's protecting your family, planning for growth, or navigating ever-changing regulations, I aim to make it clear and actionable.

Why waste management deserves special attention

Your industry is crucial – not just for the environment but also for its dynamic nature. Constant shifts in regulations, technology, and market trends mean that staying ahead is challenging. With landfill taxes, energy costs and green incentives to manage, having a sector-specific financial strategy is not just helpful; it's vital.

Running a waste or recycling business is already messy – let me simplify your finances. I'm here to help you make sense of the chaos, crunch the numbers and ensure your financial goals don't end up in the metaphorical bin.

Get in touch

We'd love to help you secure your family's financial safety net. At Blossom, we're proud to offer tailored solutions and access to our carefully selected insurance panel.

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sarah@skipmag.co.uk

who will be in touch at her earliest convenience.



BLOSSOM

family financial planning

SARAH TURNER

DipPFS Certs CII MP&ER Financial Adviser - Director of Blossom

My promise for 2025

If reviewing your finances sounds as appealing as sorting through mixed recyclables, let's change that. In 2025, I'm dedicated to turning financial advice into something practical, profitable, and even enjoyable. I'll bring expertise – and a touch of humour – to the table.

Cheers to a prosperous 2025

Here's to a year of growth, innovation and stress-free tea breaks. If you're ready to tackle 2025 and make your business soar, I'm here to help. Let's recycle old financial habits and build something brilliant together!

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

A Fellow of CIWM, he served on their Scottish Centre Council from 1988-2009.

He is a Fellow of the Royal Environmental Health Institute of Scotland and was their President between 1991-92.

JOHN CRAWFORD

Planning perplexities

When it was first unveiled, *The Control of Pollution Act 1974* was hailed as a major step forward towards improving waste management standards in the UK. In addition to introducing a new regulatory regime, the first Section required all Councils to prepare plans to ensure there was adequate provision for the treatment and disposal of all the wastes arising in their area. As a young student Member of CIWM, I (rather naively) saw this as a major asset for coping with those elements that regularly did their best to stop us from developing new facilities. My naivety was exposed, however, when the section was never implemented, it was clearly an admission that it had no chance of ever being enforceable.

So what has happened meantime? We've now had decades of a regime where many waste treatment and disposal facilities have been built in 'areas of least resistance', with some of the best sites (in engineering terms) having had to be left alone due to well-organised opposition from local communities. The establishment of new sites was driven mainly by

private sector interests rather than the conventional planning approach that the 1974 Act had initially envisaged. With hindsight, it was a bit much to expect every Council to comply, but an alternative option would have been to encourage more joint working (as has happened since on several occasions when circumstances dictated).

This fact, however, seems lost on our respective national governments. Years ago, the Scottish Parliament announced in a spectacular PR foray their intention to ban the landfilling of untreated municipal waste from January 2021, their Advisers having apparently neglected to warn them that there wasn't sufficient installed treatment capacity in Scotland to cope with the additional loading, meaning that the surplus would have to be trucked to England.

That blew a hole in the claims that it was 'a measure designed to reduce pollution.' Nor were they aware that municipal waste provides the main bread and butter income for many of the smaller landfill operators who also handle some other (non-special) waste, and without the former tonnages, these sites would have to close, creating a secondary problem of additional haulage

miles and increasing costs all round. The revised starting date for this ban is now sometime this year.

A similar issue has now arisen with the UK Government's intention to 'eliminate food waste from landfill by 2030' using new legislation (also due this year) to require any business that produces more than 5kg of food waste/week to separate it out and (presumably) treat it in an AD plant. Has anybody done the sums to see if there's enough installed AD capacity to cope with the increased tonnages this legislation will generate? Will we see the Applicants for Planning Consent for a new AD plant tell the protesters: 'Sorry, but this proposed facility is the only way our customers will be able to meet their Statutory obligations due to the Government's 2030 target?' How much weight will the Planning Reporter give to such an argument?

The elephant in the room, however, is the sad fact that it's now estimated that 20% of the UK's waste is now 'managed' by crooks and criminals, so all these bold promises about what we're going to achieve by specified dates can (arguably) only be 80% accurate.

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