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EDITORIAL VIEWPOINT

By **Brendan Gilligan**

Over five million Britons are expected to face reduced bin collections, with some potentially receiving them as infrequently as once a month. This is the result of cost-cutting measures by councils, which may leave residents struggling to manage their waste. As a consequence, individuals could face fines of up to £400 for 'bin stuffing', which involves using someone else's bin to dispose of extra rubbish.

Online reports have highlighted the risk of homeowners resorting to such practices, which can be classified as anti-social behaviour or even fly-tipping. Local authorities have the power to issue fixed penalty notices for minor fly-tipping offences, with fines ranging from £150 to £400. If the case goes to court, fines can escalate to as much as £1,000.

In addition to the reduction in bin collection services, households should also prepare for a 5% increase in council tax. This information was revealed by Freedom of Information requests submitted by the Taxpayers' Alliance, which found that one in ten British local councils are considering service reductions.

This development follows significant public disapproval last month when Bristol Council proposed a consultation to reduce black bin collections to just once a month, making it the first local authority in England to do so. **(see page 7 for further information)**

Alongside Bristol, Carmarthenshire and East Ayrshire councils are also contemplating reducing general waste collections to once every four weeks. Meanwhile, North Ayrshire, Dundee, Angus and East Ayrshire are considering limiting recycling pickups to just once a month.

For those who encounter issues with 'bin stuffing', a spokesperson recommended placing bins in less accessible locations. If problems persist, it is advised to have a conversation with the neighbour first. If that fails, contacting the local council may be necessary, potentially providing evidence to support the claim. Some councils even suggest using a locked bin to prevent misuse.

Now that's given me an eureka moment. Expect to see me on the next series of *Dragons' Den*!



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BMRA urges Government to protect metal recyclers more

The British Metals Recycling Association (BMRA) is asking the UK Government to improve conditions for metal recyclers. This sector plays a key role in helping the country meet its goal of being net zero by 2050.

In its new document, *Agenda for Change*, the BMRA presented several important policy requests to Members of Parliament at a dinner. These proposals aim to help the industry work more efficiently and sustainably.

"Recycling is vital for achieving net zero goals, and metals can be recycled completely. The Government must support a strong metals recycling industry to reach its 2050 targets," said James Kelly, the BMRA's CEO.

One of the BMRA's main requests is to maintain unrestricted metal exports. They emphasise that even after supplying UK steelmakers with enough scrap metal, a surplus of four million tonnes will still remain. Currently, the UK exports 70 to 80% of its annual 11.5 million tonnes of scrap metal.

The BMRA also asks for the introduction of the British Industry Supercharger to lower energy costs. They note that switching from diesel to electric balers could reduce CO₂ emissions by 49%, but this requires lower electricity rates.

Other important requests include building more treatment facilities for hazardous materials, promoting eco-design to remove harmful substances, introducing kerbside collections for batteries and small electrical items to reduce fire risks,



and setting minimum recycled content requirements for public infrastructure projects.

According to Material Focus, battery fires increased by 71%, rising from 700 in 2022 to over 1,200 last year.

The BMRA also suggests a variable-rate deposit return scheme to encourage using fully recyclable metal over plastic. They warn that a flat-rate scheme could lead to producing an extra 826 million plastic bottles.

Investing in these initiatives would also benefit the Government, as each tonne of recycled steel can save 1.5 tonnes of carbon dioxide and lower energy and water use.

Kelly added: "Metals recycling clearly helps sustainability and the climate by reducing CO₂ and protecting natural habitats. The BMRA urges the Government to seriously consider the impact of the UK metals recycling industry on its goals."

Digital Waste Tracking delayed until April 2026

Digital Waste Tracking will not become mandatory in April as previously planned; instead, it will be delayed for 12 months, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) has announced.

In a letter to stakeholders, Defra confirmed that the new deadline for implementation is now set for April 2026.

The decision to delay was made after Defra considered feedback from industry stakeholders who expressed concerns about the significant challenges posed by the original deadline of April 2025. The letter stated that this delay would ensure the new IT service is fit for purpose and enhance stakeholder confidence.

The UK Government, the Scottish Government, the Welsh Government and the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs in Northern Ireland have reaffirmed their commitment to supporting the development and implementation of the Digital Waste Tracking service.

Defra emphasised in the letter that Digital Waste Tracking is "instrumental" in the transition to a circular economy. Although Defra acknowledged it is "limited" in the assurances it can provide regarding specific timelines, it will update stakeholders on the scope and timeline for delivery by May this year.

David Gudgeon, Head of External Affairs at Reconomy Connect, remarked: "A UK-wide Digital Waste Tracking system is essential for improving waste management, increasing transparency, and elevating materials within the waste hierarchy. Accurate, real-time data will help combat waste crime, support the circular economy, and achieve better environmental outcomes."

The Skip Yard

Royston



Euan Stainbank, MP (left) with Grant Keenan and Claire Keenan from Keenan Recycling



Scotland's youngest MP champions fight against food waste in Parliament

Keenan Recycling has received recognition in the UK Parliament for its effective work in reducing food waste and lowering Falkirk's carbon footprint. Euan Stainbank MP, Scotland's youngest serving MP, has filed an Early Day Motion (EDM) to honour the company's achievements in sustainability and renewable energy.

The EDM, called *Keenan Recycling Carbon Footprint Reduction*, highlights that Keenan Recycling has diverted over 2,250 tonnes of food waste from landfill since 2019. This waste is turned into renewable energy through anaerobic digestion, which generates enough electricity to power 250 homes each year.

Mr Stainbank pointed out how important it is to manage food waste sustainably. He said: "Anaerobic digestion is a great way to recycle food waste into renewable energy, reducing landfill use and positively impacting the environment. By turning food waste into biofuel, we decrease methane emissions and promote a cleaner future."

"Additionally, we must also focus on giving surplus food to those in need so nothing goes to waste. This sustainable approach not only helps the environment but also benefits communities."

He added: "This approach helps reduce Falkirk's carbon footprint and sets a strong example for how businesses can contribute to a greener future."

"I'm proud to have filed this Early Day Motion to recognise Keenan Recycling's leadership in sustainability. Their work generating electricity from food waste shows how we can fight climate change while providing clean energy for our communities."

Grant Keenan, Managing Director of Keenan Recycling, expressed thanks for the recognition: "We are proud to work with Falkirk and to recycle food waste through anaerobic digestion. It's an honour to have Euan Stainbank MP file this Early Day Motion in the UK Parliament, recognising our efforts to reduce Falkirk's carbon footprint."

New waste crime levy 'illogical and unjust', says sector

The Environment Agency's decision to fund its efforts to combat waste crime by charging businesses that play by the rules has been branded 'illogical and unjust' by aggregate producers.

The Mineral Products Association (MPA) - representing companies who legitimately recycle and reuse millions of tonnes of demolition and construction waste, has criticised the EA's plan to impose a 10% levy on compliant firms' waste permit fees to help tackle rogue operators.

Following a consultation which ran until late January, the levy is set to come into force on sites in England regulated by the EA from next month, at a time when regulatory fees paid by legitimate businesses have already reached an all-time high.

The decision to impose extra costs on waste permits has frustrated the UK's mineral operators, which are recognised worldwide as operating to very high environmental standards - whether that's recycling waste into aggregate as part of a circular economy or putting it to good use to restore former quarry sites.

MPA Executive Director Mark Russell said: "This decision is illogical and unjust. It flies in the face of the Government's drive to kickstart economic growth and will discourage investment in the circular economy. Why should businesses that operate to high environmental standards - yet are facing deteriorating quality of service from the regulator - pay even more to fund unrelated crime-fighting?"

"We strongly back initiatives to tackle waste crime and address the environmental harm it causes. However, this is another example of the burden being put on reputable operators, despite the Chancellor calling on businesses to drive growth and 'tear down regulatory barriers'."

Forum for waste sector launched in the North West

Genee Consulting has launched the North West Resources Forum (NWRf) to enhance collaboration and knowledge-sharing in the waste and resources sector of North West England.

This forum will bring together waste professionals from local authorities, private

companies, and third-sector organisations. WRAP is the first organisation to support NWRf as a "Friend" of the forum.

Inspired by the success of the North East Recycling Forum (NERF), which has been active for over 35 years, Jo Holmes, MD of Genee Consulting, expressed enthusiasm

for launching NWRf. She stated: "We are grateful to WRAP for their support, and we look forward to facilitating collaboration and best practices without competition."

The inaugural meeting will take place on 29th April at the Renew Hub in Trafford Park, Manchester.

Pulpex secures £62 million investment to launch fibre-based packaging facility

The Labour Party's new National Wealth Fund (NWF) is making its first investment in Scotland by partnering with the Scottish National Investment Bank. They are co-financing a £62 million project to change the packaging industry by increasing the production of biodegradable bottles. This could help reduce plastic waste.

The funding will allow Pulpex, based in Cambridge, to build its first large manufacturing facility near Glasgow. This facility will help replace single-use plastic bottles with a sustainable, fibre-based alternative. Unlike traditional plastic, Pulpex's bottles are made from wood pulp and can be recycled like paper or cardboard.

The investment breaks down as follows:

- **£43.5 million directly from the NWF.**
- **£10 million from the Scottish National Investment Bank.**
- **The rest from existing investors.**

This facility will create 35 jobs and represents an important step in changing the UK's packaging industry.

The National Wealth Fund aims to drive industrial change in places where private finance is not available. With at



Picture credit: Pulpex

least £5.8 billion allocated for key sectors like green hydrogen and carbon capture, Pulpex's project fits well with the fund's commitment to sustainability.

Chancellor Rachel Reeves said the NWF had created 8,600 jobs in the past six months and unlocked £1.6 billion in private investment. "This latest investment from the NWF is great news, creating jobs and sustainable growth in Scotland," she said.

Scottish Secretary Ian Murray is pleased with the first NWF investment in Scotland. He added: "To encourage investment in Scotland, we have set aside £200 million for the Bank next year. The Bank has successfully generated over £1.4 billion in private sector investment since it opened in 2020."

Pulpex's CEO, Scott Winston, said:

"This investment will help reduce carbon emissions in the packaging industry through advanced materials. It will show how Pulpex's technology can grow and be used worldwide."

The support for Pulpex is a collaboration between the UK and Scottish governments, using shared resources to boost the economy.

Scotland's Deputy First Minister, Kate Forbes, said: "This investment will build on Glasgow's history of innovation and create more green jobs for the future."

Pulpex is already moving forward. The company has a research and development facility in Cambridge and partners with major brands like Diageo, PepsiCo, Unilever, and Kraft Heinz to develop custom biodegradable packaging.

The impact of switching from plastic and glass to fibre-based packaging could be huge. The UK uses 38.5 million plastic bottles every day, with 16 million ending up in landfill or polluting the environment, according to Water UK.

With this investment, the UK is taking an important step to reduce plastic use. Pulpex's expansion is not just about business; it aims to create a cleaner, more sustainable future.

Bristol may become first English council to collect black bins every four weeks

Bristol City Council is considering becoming the first local authority in England to collect black rubbish bins once every four weeks, changing from the current two-week collection.

This switch could save over £2 million a year and help improve recycling rates, which have dropped despite Bristol's current 45% recycling rate - already among the best in the UK.

Some residents and political opponents are concerned this could lead to increased fly-tipping, with nearly 2,000 people signing a Labour petition against the change. The council, however, argues that areas with three-week collections haven't seen a rise in fly-tipping and asserts it has measures to address any offenders.

The council is conducting a consultation

and aims to decide by spring.

With approximately 483,000 residents generating up to 400kg of waste each year, the council notes that a significant portion of black bin waste could be recycled, particularly food, paper and small electronics.

Councillor Martin Fodor, the chair of the environment and sustainability committee, emphasised that reducing black bin collections would help lower costs and carbon emissions. Adjustments, such as providing additional recycling options or larger bins for families, may be necessary if the proposal moves forward.

Tom Renhard, the Bristol City Council's Labour group leader, urged a focus on improving the current waste service before implementing new collection schedules.



Bristol council says switching from a fortnightly to four-weekly collection would save it more than £2m a year in costs and help reverse a dip in recycling rates



Technology reuse generates up to £346 million in social value

A new report from CIWM and Tech-Takeback shows that the resource and waste management sector created between £120 million and £346 million in social value through product reuse in 2023/24.

The report focuses on reusing technology for digital inclusion and looks at the social value of other reuse activities. It highlights how this sector can support the Government's efforts to create a circular economy and achieve net zero through:

- **Job Creation:** New jobs in the repair and reuse economy.
- **Lower Costs:** Savings for households by providing high-quality reused items at low prices.
- **Employment Support:** Helping people re-enter the workforce through access to reused laptops.
- **Material Recovery:** More recovery of rare earth metals from old products.
- **Carbon Reduction:** Decreasing carbon emissions by reducing the need for new product manufacturing.

The report emphasises that there is a big opportunity for technology reuse. It estimates that about 20 million unused laptops are sitting in homes across the UK, potentially generating up to £44 billion in social value.

To evaluate the social value of technology and other reuse activities,

the research used three tools: TOMS, HACT, and LOOP. Each tool has a different purpose and provides different assessments of social value. This complexity means no single tool gives a complete picture. The report advises organisations to use two different tools for a fuller view.

Jodi Harford, Chief Operating Officer at Tech-Takeback, said: "This report shows that reuse is more than just recycling - it can transform communities. Our calculations indicate that each reused item, whether technology or everyday products, can create jobs, lower costs and improve well-being. We're eager to share these insights and show how reuse organisations can help us build a more sustainable and inclusive future."

A previous report by CIWM suggested that reuse and repair will create the most jobs in the sector over the next ten years. Showing the social value of reuse activities is crucial for achieving this job growth and moving toward a circular economy and a waste-free world.

Tech-Takeback has also created a simple guide to help reuse organisations measure and explain the social value of their work.



You can find a summary of the report by scanning the QR code.

(HAE) backs Lithium-ion Battery Safety Bill and launches safety awareness initiative

Hire Association Europe & Event Hire Association (HAE EHA) is supporting the Lithium-ion Battery Safety Bill, which aims to enhance the safe storage, use, and disposal of lithium-ion batteries.

Launched in July 2024, the bill is currently at Committee Stage in the House of Lords.

To promote safety, HAE EHA will provide best practice videos, infographics on its website and social media, and a detailed resource pack for members.

Lithium-ion batteries, commonly used in power tools, e-bikes and mobile devices, can pose fire risks if misused or damaged, leading to a potential state called 'thermal runaway'.

In 2023, UK fire services responded to 921 battery-related fires, a 46% increase from 2022.

Carl Bartlett, director of certification services at HAE EHA, emphasised the need for better education on handling these batteries to prevent accidents and ensure safe practices within the hire industry.

HAE EHA's advice for the safe handling of lithium-ion batteries includes:

- Before using the equipment, always read the manufacturer's instruction manual.
- Be careful not to drop batteries or use them as hammers, impact and penetration can cause leakage, heat generation, smoke, fire or explosions.
- Keep batteries away from other metal objects. Screws, nails, washers or other similar objects can short the terminals on the battery. Always use a suitable carry case.
- Do not touch the battery poles with your fingers, tools or any other electrically conductive objects.
- Keep batteries away from rain, moisture, salts and other corrosive materials.
- Don't expose batteries to elevated temperatures, sparking or open flames, or direct sunlight behind glass.
- Do not incinerate batteries.
- Do not disassemble batteries.
- Only use chargers recommended by the manufacturer.
- Never use or charge a battery that has suffered impact or been damaged in any way.

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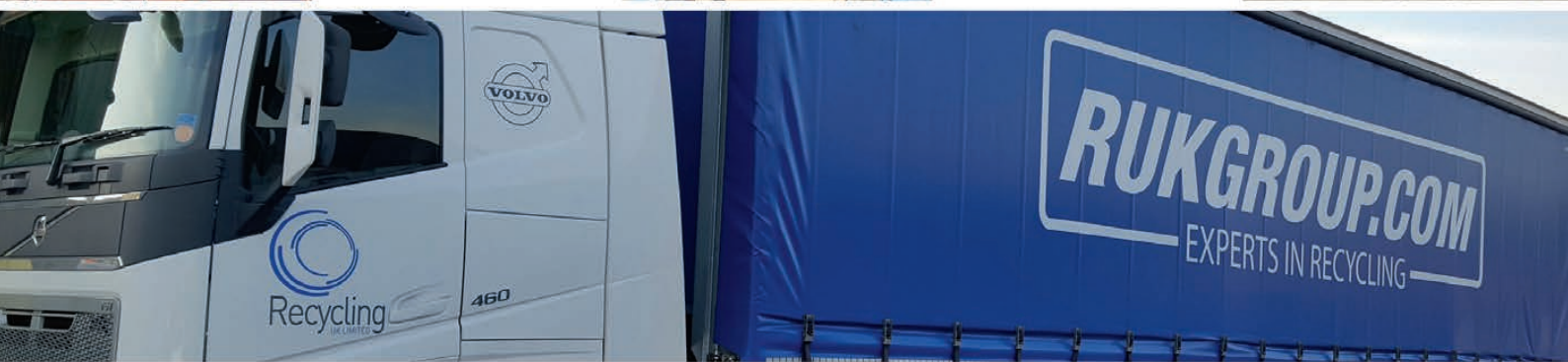
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BUSINESS CLINIC

HR & RECRUITMENT

Aye, robot

Yes, I finally caved in, exorcised my inner Luddite, and bought one of those robot vacuums, and now I'm sitting here eating my dinner and the vacuum is upstairs navigating using infra-red and AI, cheerfully busying itself with fluff.

It's bloody marvellous! This got me thinking about how factionalised the world is becoming.

On the one hand, time-saving AI is everywhere now. Heck, I can't even type an email without Copilot offering to help. Regrettably, it's a bit too Hi-De-Hi when I've tried it. However, on the other hand, some people are really scared of this stuff. It's untrustworthy, taking humans' jobs, etc. However, I just don't see how businesses can fail to embrace it all. And look at the time it saves!

But where does it lead us?

Many friends and businesses have been talking to me lately about the 'big return', i.e. the backlash to pandemic 'home-

working culture', which now requires everyone to be back in the office most of the week. There is a growing paranoia that home-workers are sitting around in their slippers and pyjamas doing the absolute minimum they can get away with.

The BBC released a less-than-pro-home-working *Panorama* episode which aired on 20th January and suggested that those on the opposing sides are catastrophising the whole dilemma. Business leaders were bemoaning the UK's low productivity rates and home-workers were championing being more productive because they do not need to commute, and doing so would jeopardise their new work-life balance.

In terms of the UK's productivity, well, that's been a problem for more than a decade. So much so that I presented a podcast on it in 2018, way before the pandemic... as for those who argue they are more productive now they do not commute, I get that, but maybe ensure you aren't disappearing for swathes of the day, causing the management to become paranoid that you're actually doing your Hoovering.

What a brilliant segue back to my trusty new robot!

Just checked... the bedrooms are looking fluff-free. However, if I want to get into some of those corners, I'll still need my traditional vacuum, but I can live with that.

Oh, and what I haven't told you yet is that the majority of this piece was a stream of consciousness typed by voice input on MS Word whilst I ate a bowl of mussels, totally avoiding any garlic sauce getting on my keyboard. Yes, I've had to do some editing (*gnu paragraph, instead of new paragraph*), but eating mussels whilst typing an article is a game-changer for me.

So, I guess this means that if I can make the leap from a Sinclair Spectrum (*my first computer*) to all this, then we are finally really harnessing technology and able to multi-task, which should lead to a major uptick in err... productivity, because people like me don't have to vacuum so much. And we can eat BBQ wings, sticky pork ribs, mussels and loaded chips whilst typing without turning our laptops into biohazards.

So where will it all end, I wonder?

I suspect for me; I may marry my new robot because I'm yet to meet a man who does this stuff voluntarily. I wonder if that's legal.

On a serious note, I have been saying for a long time that 'time', ironically, is simply an invention by humans to stop everything happening at once. Who really cares how much of it we spend doing work? Isn't it the productivity and performance that is important?

Do we need to trek into a single place of work to do the job and have managers standing hawkishly over our shoulders to make sure we are actually working?

Or is that just archaic nonsense peddled by people who just cannot bear the thought of others being at home with their robot doing the cleaning, working through lunch contentedly because they haven't had to sit in traffic polluting the air for two hours a day getting to the office to do what they can do at home, just because the dissenters had to do that for the last 30 years?

Of course, not all jobs can be done from home, and this was a major theme towards the end of the BBC *Panorama* episode. Of course they can't. However, it is a ridiculous comparison... Just like it would be ridiculous for me to expect my robot to climb walls and tackle the odd cobweb on the ceiling. But all-in-all, am I pleased with its efforts? Aye, robot, I am.



CIWM and The Sustainables Academy launch national free competition for primary schools

The Chartered Institution of Wastes Management (CIWM) and The Sustainables Academy have joined forces to launch a free competition for UK primary schools called *Design the Resource Revolution Centre*. With funding from CIWM, this nationwide initiative combines industry expertise and education to inspire the next generation of leaders in resource and waste management, circular economy and sustainability.

Launching in schools next month, with resources already available for educators to begin planning, the competition is set to improve environmental education by focusing on the 10Rs (Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Repair, Re-purpose, Rethink, Regenerate, Redesign and Recover). Aimed at over 200 primary schools across the UK, learners will engage with concepts of better reuse, recycling, innovative technology, green skills and actions that support Earth stewardship.



The purpose of the initiative is to challenge young minds to think critically about materials and waste management and the circular economy. It also explores the key responsibilities of individuals, communities, businesses and governments in safeguarding the planet's resources. By encouraging schools to integrate this project into their sustainability action plans, the competition creates a learner-led approach that develops practical skills, drives innovation and promotes sustainability awareness.

The CIWM and The Sustainables Academy partnership demonstrates the

importance of connecting education with industry expertise. It introduces learners to real-world applications of waste management and the circular economy, exploring how green technologies and innovation can reduce carbon footprint and protect the environment.

"By integrating critical thinking, innovation, and environmental stewardship into the classroom, this competition empowers young people to design the future of sustainable resource management," said Dan Cooke, Director of Policy, Communications and External Affairs at CIWM. "This is more than just a competition - it's an opportunity to change mindsets, promote green skills development and foster a deeper understanding of resources and waste management and the circular economy."

For more information, visit

www.thesustainablesacademy.org

or contact

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What do incoming food waste regulations mean for UK businesses?

The clock is ticking for businesses across the UK to get ready for new food waste regulations coming into force this month on 31st March. These changes mean significant shifts in how companies handle food waste, and for many, the pressure to comply with the law is mounting. With tougher rules around separating food waste from general waste, businesses must rethink their waste management processes.

ERIC MCBEAN (pictured), waste management expert and founder of **Squosh Compacting Company**, explains that the new regulations represent a significant step forward in the UK's efforts to reduce food waste and minimise environmental impact.

"The Government's new rules are designed to push businesses to dispose of food waste responsibly - and rightly so. If you're producing more than 5kg of food waste a week, you'll need to separate it from general waste and ensure it's collected by licensed carriers. It's a simple concept that's going to have a big impact on businesses, but there are definitely some challenges when it comes to logistics, space and compliance."



What businesses need to know about the new food waste regulations:

From 31st March, most businesses in the UK will need to separate food waste from other waste streams, ensuring that food waste doesn't end up in landfill. This includes any biodegradable materials produced from preparing or processing food, like fruit and vegetable skins, bones, eggshells, tea bags and even coffee grounds.

Companies that generate more than 5kg of food waste per week will need to store this waste in separate bins and arrange for its collection by licensed waste carriers. While the legislation is a significant step in reducing the environmental impact of food waste, businesses are now facing the challenge of adapting their waste management systems to meet these new demands.

Eric highlights that the biggest challenge for businesses is space - specifically, finding room for an additional food waste bin without overcrowding existing storage areas.

"Not all businesses have the capacity to store an extra bin for food waste, and in a busy commercial space, that can be

a real headache. The solution, though, is relatively simple. By compacting general waste, businesses can free up space and avoid overflowing bins, which will be a problem if they don't adjust their processes."

How businesses can prepare for the new regulations:

1. Conduct a bin audit

Take stock of your current bin storage. Can your current bins accommodate food waste, or will you need to make changes? A bin audit will give you a clear idea of the space you have and the adjustments needed before the new regulations hit. It's crucial to understand the impact of the new waste bins and whether you'll need to make changes to your current set-up.

2. Don't let space be an issue

If space is limited, compact your general waste to create more room for the additional food waste bin. By compacting waste, you can avoid overcrowding, which will help prevent overflow and keep your waste management running smoothly.

3. Stay ahead of compliance

Non-compliance could mean hefty fines, especially with the new food and hygiene regulations. Avoid putting your reputation on the line by ensuring that your business stays up to date with the regulations. Plus, complying with the new food waste rules can enhance your business's green credentials, showing customers and stakeholders that you're doing your part for the environment.

4. Make your waste collection smarter

Work with a licensed waste carrier that offers reliable, scheduled collections. You can avoid the last-minute scramble for collection services by getting ahead of the curve. The key is ensuring that food waste is collected regularly and in line with the new regulations.

5. Use Squosh for waste compacting

Squosh Compacting Company is here to help you easily navigate the new regulations. Eric and his team can conduct a bin audit to assess your current waste storage capacity and offer solutions to help compact your bins. Plus, Squosh provides a reactive service to address any issues that might arise between scheduled collections, ensuring that your bins don't overflow and that you remain compliant with the law.

www.squosh.it

Ansawdd extends skip hire service

Swansea-based Ansawdd Skip Hire is expanding its services in the Greater Swansea region. This expansion brings new vehicles and improved customer service.

The company is responding to the growing demand for reliable waste management in South Wales. To meet this need, Ansawdd Skip Hire is adding more mini skips and expanding its fleet to reach more areas quickly.

The investment in new equipment will help reduce wait times and improve service. "Our goal is to provide efficient waste management solutions," said a spokesperson for Ansawdd Skip Hire. "We see the growing needs of our community and want to serve both homeowners and businesses in Swansea better."

Ansawdd Skip Hire specialises in mini skips for home projects, such as renovations and garden cleanouts, and is committed to recycling over 90% of the waste collected. To enhance its environmental efforts, it is partnering with local recycling facilities and investing in sorting technology.

Additionally, the company is improving its commercial waste management services with dedicated account managers and tailored waste management plans for construction sites, retail and industrial facilities.

The expansion creates several new job opportunities within the local community, reinforcing Ansawdd Skip Hire's position as a significant contributor to the regional economy.

Looking ahead, the company plans to further develop its service offerings, with upcoming initiatives including specialised recycling programmes and educational outreach to promote responsible waste management practices within the community.

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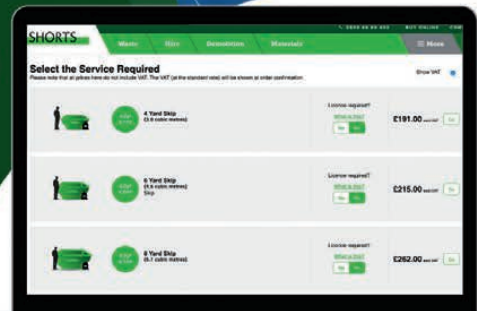
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"For us at Shorts Group, KodaWaste has been a game-changing software for our business that enhances efficiency in waste service bookings."

Revised specification designed to improve waste management

Last month, The British Standards Institution (BSI) announced the revision of its waste resource management specification, PAS 402. This move aims to better facilitate the circular economy while enabling businesses to improve their waste management processes.

The revised standard is designed to help waste management organisations demonstrate a high standard of performance through a particular framework. It aims to support businesses to improve the quality of recyclate, reduce compliance costs and risks and streamline data reporting.

The updated document *PAS 402:2025 Waste resource management - Performance Reporting - Specification* aims to provide waste management organisations with guidelines for performance reporting. The reporting framework outlines key focus areas, such as landfill diversion and material recovery, to demonstrate progress and performance. It is applicable to all organisations that process industrial, commercial or household waste at a transfer station, treatment facility or disposal site.

Sebastiaan Van Dort, Director of Sustainability and Energy at BSI, said *"Working towards a circular economy, involving efficient and accessible disposal of waste and waste flows being turned into inputs for further production, can limit society's impact on finite resources and bring opportunities for positive environmental and economic impacts."*

"The revised PAS 402:2025 specification is designed to offer a critical step in advancing waste resource management and supporting the transition to a more circular economy. This updated standard provides organisations with the opportunity to build trust by enhancing operational performance, improving recyclate quality, and streamlining compliance processes. By working collaboratively with industry partners, we aim to not only help businesses meet regulations but also accelerate progress towards a sustainable world."

For further information on the revised standard, which is free to download, scan the QR code.



A hat-trick of new business contracts for WasteBot Ltd

Waste software automation specialists WasteBot Ltd are celebrating a highly successful end to 2024 after securing three new business contracts with Brown Recycling, Lowmac Recycling and The Waste Connect.

Based in Shropshire, the company will provide cost-effective automation solutions to perform key business tasks 24 hours a day. This allows human workers to concentrate on more meaningful and less repetitive tasks that cannot be automated.

Richard Delooze, Managing Director of WasteBot, expressed his excitement: "We are absolutely delighted to welcome H Brown, Lowmac and The Waste Connect on board. Utilising cutting-edge AI and automation technology will enable them to enhance customer experiences, drive efficiencies, and achieve significant savings."

WasteBot leverages advanced software robots that emulate human interactions within digital systems to execute business processes. This technology can seamlessly integrate with existing IT infrastructure without requiring significant changes or system overhauls, making it highly scalable and adaptable across various departments and processes within an organisation.

The bots can operate 24/7 without breaks, ensuring continuous productivity.



(L-R) Richard Delooze (Managing Director), Dom Cox (Business Analyst) and Phil Lewis (Director)

In terms of accuracy and consistency, the bots perform tasks with high precision, strictly adhering to predefined rules and workflows. This significantly reduces human errors that may arise from fatigue, oversight, or manual data handling, improving accuracy and reliability in process execution.

Since its establishment, WasteBot has achieved substantial cost savings for its clients by developing and deploying software robots to replace manual and repetitive processes, thereby freeing up valuable employee time for more complex tasks.

Liverpool skip firm slam council's double fee increase for permits

Brothers Gerard and Barry Flanagan, co-owners of Barry's Skip Hire in Kirkdale, Liverpool, have criticised the city council's recent decision to increase fees for roadside containers. The company has been operating since 1974, employs around 40 staff and has completed over 500,000 hires in the region.

The council has doubled the cost of a week-long skip permit from £20 to £40 and increased fines for operating without a permit from £150 to £200. This decision comes as part of efforts to address a £29 million budget shortfall driven by pressures from social care and homelessness.

Gerard expressed frustration at the short notice for the fee increase, stating:

"We received a letter just days before it took effect." He emphasised the negative impact on customers and criticised the lack of enforcement regarding permits.

Despite appeals from businesses, the council has ruled out extending the permit duration from seven to 14 days alongside the price hike.

Gerard added: "What's so disappointing for us is we understand the council is in dire straits over money. Any reasonable person would expect 30 days' notice. People think you just drop off and pick up a skip. It's a whole industry."

A council spokesperson explained that the fee increases aim to cover operational costs and align Liverpool with other major cities.



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Hole-in-One! CCL secures 1st Waste Management contract for The Belfry

Capital Compactors and Balers (CCL), part of the Impact Environmental Group (IEG), has installed a trio of machines at The Belfry Hotel and Resort, as part of a new contract with waste management solution provider 1st Waste Management.

CCL, which designs and manufactures a vast range of waste and recycling compactors and balers, is working in partnership with Bournemouth-based 1st Waste Management to provide three custom-built machines to the iconic golf resort as part of a rental agreement. Bolstering its environmental efforts and increasing recycling volumes, The Belfry will utilise two portable waste compactors with bin lifts for general waste and dry mixed recycling, and a mill-size baler for cardboard.

Graham Campbell, Technical Sales Manager at CCL, comments: "As a strategic partner to the UK's commercial waste

industry, we are delighted to be extending our support further as we work closely with 1st Waste Management to supply our reliable, leading compaction and recycling machinery to The Belfry Hotel and Resort."

Significantly, CCL will offer a comprehensive service and maintenance package with the rental agreement to ensure optimal performance and longevity of the machines. Our skilled in-house engineers, experienced in waste management, will provide meticulous servicing for a seamless customer experience.

Gemma Roberts, Commercial Director at 1st Waste Management explained: "We are proud to partner with Capital Compactors and Balers to support The Belfry Hotel and Resort in their waste management journey. This collaboration exemplifies our commitment to providing tailored, innovative solutions that enhance operational efficiency and sustainability."

Biffa extends East Sussex Joint Waste Partnership contract

Biffa has extended its waste collection and street cleaning contract with the East Sussex Joint Waste Partnership for an additional seven years, from June 2026 to June 2033.

The original contract, awarded in 2019, is valued at approximately £119 million. It features new environmentally friendly waste collection vehicles using hydrotreated vegetable oil, reducing carbon emissions by up to 90%, along with a transition to electric vans.

The extension allows Biffa and the councils to implement the Government's

Simpler Recycling reforms, including weekly food waste collections to all households starting 30th March, 2026.

During the current contract, the recycling rate has risen from 37% in 2019 to 46% in 2024, with fewer missed bin collections. The contract will also support around 300 local jobs, including two apprentices.

Steve Cole, Managing Director of Biffa Municipal, expressed gratitude for the team's dedication throughout the contract extension process, highlighting the strong partnership and positive outcomes for Sussex communities.

Merton Council extends partnership with Veolia

The London Borough of Merton has appointed Veolia, the UK's leading resource management company, to provide recycling and waste collection services, as well as winter maintenance services under a new eight-year contract starting next month. This contract aims to enhance recycling and waste collection for Merton residents while supporting the Council's goal of becoming carbon neutral by 2030.

To increase recycling capacity, the contract will introduce single-chamber Refuse Collection Vehicles (RCVs), which will improve operational efficiency by allowing collections to be completed with just one tip.

Additionally, food waste collections will be trialled in flats above shops to support greater access to recycling and comply with upcoming changes to recycling policies. The nighttime recycling and waste collection service for these households, which Veolia launched in 2023 to improve street cleanliness, will continue. Veolia will also operate a weekend Community Mobile Recycling Centre (CMRC) to offer localised services for residents.

As a leader in the decarbonisation of municipal recycling and waste services, Veolia will collaborate with Merton Council to explore alternative fuels for RCVs, such as hydrotreated vegetable oil, and work towards electrifying smaller vehicles in the fleet to reduce carbon emissions.

Councillor Stephen Alambritis, Cabinet Member for Transport and Cleaner Streets, said: "Waste and recycling are among the most valued services we provide, and this agreement reflects our shared ambition to deliver a cleaner, greener, and safer borough for all. We look forward to the enhancements secured in our new contract with Veolia and to working together to deliver a reliable collections service for the people of Merton."



*Veolia wins eight-year recycling and waste deal with Merton Council.
Picture credit: Grainge Photography*



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Grantham Industries gets funding to buy waste site

Grantham Industries, a waste management, earthmoving and demolition company based in Lincolnshire, has secured a £500,000 finance facility from Paragon Bank's SME Lending division to support the purchase of a commercial waste site in Rutland.

This funding will enable Grantham Industries to renovate the site, transforming the existing waste transfer station into a comprehensive waste and recycling centre that offers a wider range of services to the local community. The new Rutland site expands the company's geographical presence, augmenting its existing operations in Louth, Lincoln and Doncaster.

In addition to the finance facility, Paragon has also recently provided Grantham Industries with a £198,000 asset finance package to acquire a Volvo Wheel Loader for use at one of its current waste transfer sites, thereby enhancing its fleet of vehicles.

Grantham Industries operates under the brands GBM Demolition, GBM Plant



Services and GBM Waste Management. The company was founded in 2001 by Managing Director Simon Grantham and his brother Andrew Grantham.

This deal was facilitated on behalf of Paragon's SME Lending division by Henry Oakes, the Business Development Manager of the Vendor team, which is headed by Terry Lloyd.

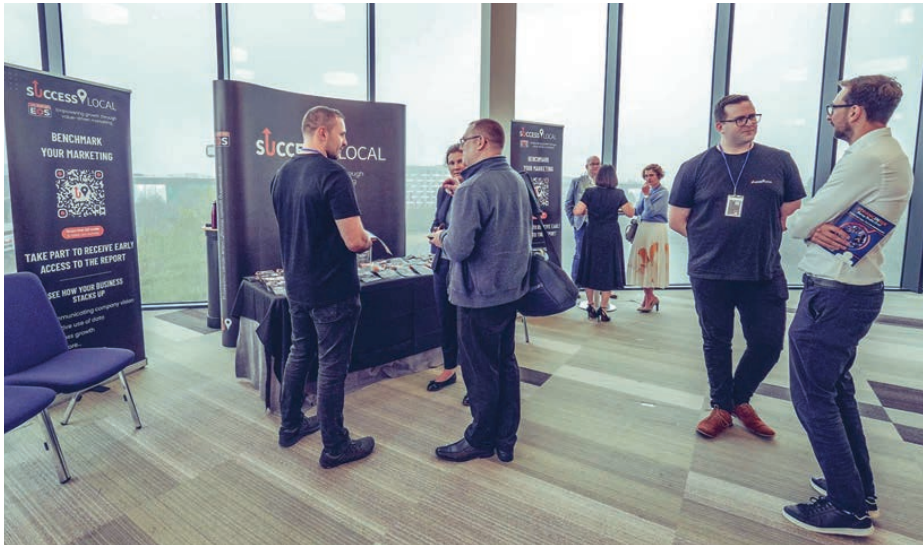
Leanne Fairburn, Finance Director at Grantham Industries, commented: "We had a specific requirement to purchase a waste site and were seeking a lender to support this transaction. We were delighted that Paragon could assist us with a funding facility, building on our existing



relationship with the bank from previous equipment purchases.

"Acquiring the site in Rutland presents a new opportunity for us to expand our footprint and service offerings, and we're grateful to Henry and the Paragon team for their assistance in making this a smooth process."

Henry Oakes added: "It has been a pleasure to help Grantham Industries expand its business and purchase the site, which will undoubtedly create new opportunities for them. "At Paragon, we strive to support our clients in achieving their business goals through various financing options."



Success Local: Helping skip hire and waste management businesses succeed online

The waste management industry is becoming increasingly competitive, making a strong online presence essential. Whether you run a skip hire company or a broader waste management service, attracting customers online is crucial for sustained growth. That's where we at Success Local, a Rugby-based digital marketing agency, come in.

With a proven track record of working with businesses in the waste management sector, we understand the unique challenges and opportunities within the industry. Our expert team specialises in creating tailored digital marketing strategies that help businesses generate leads, increase visibility, and grow.

Who are Success Local?

Founded to help businesses thrive online, we've built a reputation for delivering measurable results. While we work closely with businesses across various sectors, we've carved out a niche in the waste management industry. Our experience working with skip hire companies across England has allowed us to fine-tune strategies for maximum impact.

What sets us apart is our focus on sales-driven digital marketing. Unlike traditional agencies that focus solely on impressions and clicks, we prioritise

real business growth. We offer a unique sales-led guarantee across our SEO, Google Ads, and social media advertising services. If you're unsatisfied within the first three months, we offer a refund – a testament to our confidence in delivering results.

Specialising in waste management

We understand your customer's journey, from their initial online search to service delivery. Potential customers often seek quick solutions online, and we ensure our clients are positioned exactly where they need to be – at the top of search engine results and in front of the right audience.

Our targeted SEO strategies help waste management businesses rank higher on Google for key search terms like "skip hire near me." Our knowledge of search algorithms, combined with industry expertise, ensures sustainable online visibility.

Additionally, our PPC campaigns deliver quick results. By focusing on high-intent keywords and refining ad copy, we help clients achieve a healthy ROI through online bookings, enquiries and mobile click-to-calls.

Proven results

We've helped numerous skip hire and waste management businesses across the UK increase website traffic, improve lead generation, and grow revenue by

delivering over £1.5m in direct sales through the website (not including business generated through phone calls and enquiry forms).

One example is our work with a skip hire company that struggled to generate enquiries online. By implementing a bespoke SEO and Google Ads strategy, we helped them achieve a 72% increase in website traffic and a 58% uplift in leads within six months. Our data-driven approach ensures that every pound spent on digital marketing contributes to growth.

A partnership approach

We take a partnership approach, working closely with our clients to understand their goals, competition, and customer base. This allows us to create tailored strategies that align with each client's vision.

Our transparency and focus on measurable outcomes mean that you're always informed about the performance of your campaigns. Regular reporting and insights help you make data-driven decisions to refine your online presence.

Whether you have a web project or digital marketing services, you can speak directly to the team member working on your campaign. We may be experts in online marketing but we don't hide behind our computers!

Ready to grow your business?

If you're a skip hire or waste management business looking to grow online, partnering with Success Local is a must. With our industry expertise, results-driven strategies, and commitment to delivering value, we are the ideal digital marketing partner.

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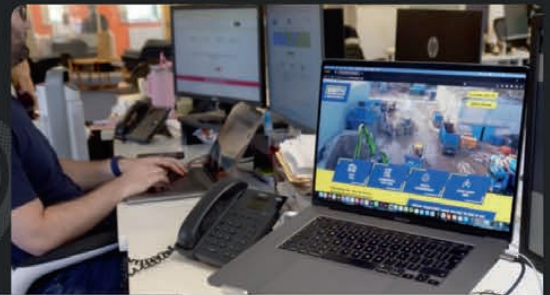
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BACK TO THE FUTURE:

A new era for Middleton Engineering

The name Middleton is widely recognised in the industry. As the business celebrates its 50th anniversary, this year presents an excellent opportunity to advance its efforts and prioritise reconnecting with its customer base. New Sales and Marketing Director James Vaughan shares his insights with **Sandra Dick**.

For half a century, Glastonbury-based Middleton Engineering has been a cornerstone of British manufacturing, renowned for its high-quality balers and bespoke engineering solutions.

With a strong reputation for innovation and reliability, the company has consistently delivered top-tier service, responding swiftly to customer needs and tackling complex challenges with efficiency.

Now, with new management steering the company and a bold strategy to revitalise sales and marketing, Middleton Engineering is set to enter a transformative phase.

Having operated steadily for the past decade, excelling in its core competencies but lacking a proactive growth strategy, this 'sleeping giant' is now being awakened for a dramatic reinvention.



James Vaughan, Middleton's new Sales and Marketing Director, is leading the charge to usher in a new era for the company.

"This year marks a significant milestone for Middleton Engineering," he says. "As we celebrate our 50th anniversary, it's the perfect time to drive the business forward."

"The company has always been at the forefront of engineering excellence, but its marketing and outreach efforts have not kept pace. That's where we come in – to bring fresh energy and direction."

A legacy of innovation

Founded in 1975 by Ashley and Joan Middleton, the company initially focused on designing and manufacturing equipment for the thriving local peat industry. By the 1980s, Middleton Engineering had pivoted towards recycling machinery, anticipating the sector's rapid growth driven by new legalisation.

Strategic acquisitions and partnerships followed, including becoming the UK and Ireland agent for Swedish bulking specialists Presona and acquiring Midlands-based Scapa, a baler specialist. With these developments, Middleton established itself as a dominant force in the industry, operating on a global scale.

"For nearly two decades, Middleton was exporting worldwide, from Australia, New Zealand and the United States to France and Germany," James explains. "At its peak, the company was larger than it is today."

However, over time, momentum was lost. The partnership with Presona was gradually phased out, and, as is often the case with long-standing family businesses, the absence of a clear succession plan led to stagnation. While Middleton continued to produce high-quality machinery and offer expert maintenance services, its growth trajectory slowed.

"Some of our older machinery still outperforms modern alternatives. Local engineering firms often come to us because our machines are robust enough to handle tasks that newer models struggle with"



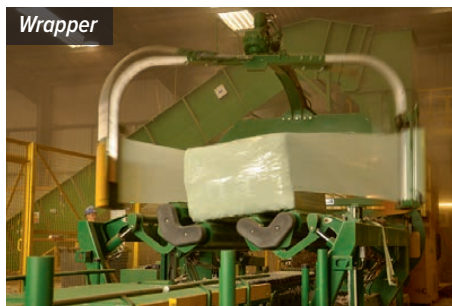
MRF plant - 1999



MRF plant - sorting and picking system



Twin ram baler



Wrapper

A renewed focus

In recent years, the company has concentrated on servicing and supporting customers, responding rapidly to breakdowns, supplying spare parts from its extensive inventory of 20,000 components, and delivering its signature hydraulic cylinders and rams. However, its full range of capabilities was not being widely promoted.

"At its peak, Middleton had nearly 60 employees. By the time we stepped in, that number had dwindled to 28," James notes. "The company remained reactive rather than proactive. If a customer needed new machinery, they would get it, but there was little effort to actively seek new business."

"The company has successfully operated without a dedicated external

sales team for nearly 30 years, relying on its strong reputation and longstanding customer relationships. It speaks volumes that we have a strong reputation in the marketplace," he adds.

"The name Middleton is well known in the industry, and over the next 12 to 24 months, our focus is on reconnecting with our customer base and ensuring our marketing efforts reflect the quality of what we offer."

With the retirement of founders Joan and Ashley Middleton last November, James has taken up the challenge of modernising operations, fostering innovation and reclaiming Middleton's status as a premier provider of recycling equipment.

Bringing with him a wealth of experience from global brands such as Terex, CLAAS, and Powerscreen, James has already made significant strides. The company has undergone a major rebranding, developed a bold social media presence, and invested in digital technology to streamline operations.

Commitment to British manufacturing

Despite these modernisations, Middleton Engineering remains steadfast in its commitment to British manufacturing.

"Middleton is a true British Engineering firm," James says. "Visitors to our factory are often surprised by how much we manufacture in-house. Many companies outsource their hydraulics to China and Europe, but we build our own."

"Of course, there are some components we must source externally, but wherever possible, we design and manufacture in-house – from control panels, hydraulic rams, hydraulic valve blocks, software solutions and all pre-fabrications. We even have our own electrical team. That is something I want to continue to have, given the skill gaps in the current employment market for electrical engineers."

By keeping production in-house, Middleton ensures quality control, minimises costs, and eliminates potential supply chain disruptions.

In its workshop, cutting-edge 3D design software sits alongside manufacturing machines that have been in operation since the 1960s, proving their longevity and reliability.

"Some of our older machinery still outperforms modern alternatives," James explains. "Local engineering firms often come to us because our machines are robust enough to handle tasks that newer models struggle with."

Even competitors acknowledge Middleton's expertise: "Recently, a

competitor's machine broke down, and they couldn't source a replacement hydraulic component. We manufactured one for them within two weeks."

With a dedicated team of mobile engineers covering the UK, Middleton is renowned for its swift response times.

"Our seven field engineers travel nationwide, from Guernsey to Scotland," James says. "We take pride in our ability to keep customers operational, often working weekends and bank holidays to get the job done."

Embracing the future

Far from being stuck in the past, Middleton Engineering is already incorporating cutting-edge technology into its machines, integrating smart sensors and remote monitoring systems that enable real-time communication with engineers.

The company is also prioritising customer engagement, attending industry trade shows, and keeping a close watch on evolving waste management legislation, which will require businesses and local authorities to improve oversight of their waste handling processes.

Expansion plans are in motion, including recruitment initiatives, new product development, and an increased focus on international sales.

"Just this week, we've received enquiries from South Korea and France," James reveals. "From next year, we'll be placing greater emphasis on exports, exploring sales and distribution channels in key global markets where demand for recycling equipment is growing."

With the next 12 to 24 months being critical for the company's future, James is optimistic: "The foundation of this business is strong; it doesn't need fixing, just driving forward and modernising."

"There is real excitement about what lies ahead, and we are confident that Middleton Engineering will reclaim its position as an industry leader."

Find out more at

www.middletonengineering.co.uk



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Waste Logics also **seamlessly integrates with bin weighing equipment**, capturing accurate weight data, ensuring accurate billing and improved insight for contract negotiations.

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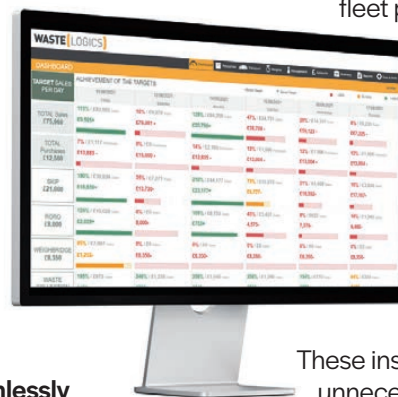
Waste Logics empowers businesses with data-driven decision-making by providing clear visibility over

fleet performance and

profitability. Instead of relying on guesswork, businesses can leverage detailed reporting tools to track fuel efficiency, route effectiveness and profit per vehicle.

These insights help to reduce unnecessary costs, improve service reliability, and identify growth opportunities. Without these tools, businesses risk rising operational costs, declining customer satisfaction and missed chances for expansion - all of which can impact long-term profitability.

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Their offering includes 8, 14 and 18-tonne skiploader equipment plus 14, 21 and 25-tonne hookloader equipment,

ready to be fitted to customers' desired chassis and customised to their exacting requirements. It is known for its high strength, steadfast reliability, and fast operation, which loads 10 seconds faster than the competition. VDL gear has seen significant growth in the UK

market since the COVID-19 lockdowns of 2020, with large numbers of companies diversifying their operations from running straight skip or hook operations to multifaceted entities with skips and hookloaders (running multiple bodies). All of this has resulted in VDL Equipment UK needing and being ready to expand its presence with a bold vision for future growth. The company has now decided to take on three new members to its sales team, spearheaded by Sales Director Brett Hickey, with Sales Executives Andrew Brown and Callum Wright also joining the experienced lineup.

Although new to the business, Brett and Andrew are no strangers to the waste industry, having spent several years at HYVA Group, Brett Hickey in the position of regional sales manager, and Andrew, formerly working in the engineering department, with a combined experience of over 25 plus years, it's safe to say they bring a wealth of knowledge to the team, benefitting the business, and especially its customers.





Phone the sales team today at **01325 808585** or visit www.vdlequipmentuk.co.uk/ for more information.



Brett said: *"Having joined VDL Equipment UK, I have a real appreciation for the quality of products we supply, innovative container handling systems backed by our standard 5-year warranty term, providing our customers with the reassurance that VDL equipment is built to last, withstanding the toughest environments."*

"With a dedicated sales team and extensive nationwide aftersales support network, we are committed to our customers, providing first-class equipment and aftersales support."

"My passion and dedication to providing industry-leading equipment and service support is paramount. By joining VDL Equipment UK, we can meet these market demands through the quality, reliability, and innovation of our products, backed by a passionate and experienced driven team around me."

Andrew Brown added: *"After departing from my role at HYVA Group as R&D Design engineer and joining VDL Equipment UK in September 2024, I was amazed to find how strong, smooth and fast loading the VDL gear operates. Meeting the VDL team in the Netherlands on our recent visit to the factory was a real eye-opener as to how dominant the VDL brand is in Europe, especially in the home city of Eindhoven. Its long-standing history in the UK market is only going to grow with our expansion plans, as more and more businesses switch to running VDL Gear, realising the clear financial and operational advantages of doing so."*

As part of the roster of growth measures, VDL Equipment UK has also

introduced a groundbreaking change to its warranty programme. Effective immediately, customers will now receive a standard 5-year warranty on their skip/hookloader gear. They are the first supplier in the industry to offer such a level and length of warranty on their products, with other suppliers only offering 2 or 3 years.

This reflects VDL's commitment to adapting to a rapidly changing market, which demands more from its vehicles while helping operators lower costs and focus on growth. It's no secret that in recent years, costs for everyone have gone up; that's why it's even more important than ever before for waste operators to have peace of mind when making investments in their fleet and having every right to expect the best for years to come.

Callum Wright, Sales Executive, commented: *"Selling the best quality and highest performing equipment is one thing, but being supported by a comprehensive package of other benefits is what really makes us stand out amongst the competition. I'm particularly proud we offer UK-wide sales, servicing, and next-day parts availability, with over 24 authorised service partners. Hence, customers are never far from the help they need to keep their business running."*

The company is launching a dedicated live demonstrator fleet to allow prospective waste clients to experience VDL Equipment UK's industry-leading solutions in real-world conditions. This initiative allows potential customers to put VDL's robust and high-performance

equipment to the test in a live working environment before making a purchasing decision.

The first two units in the demo fleet include an 18-tonne skiploader fitted with VDL's powerful 14-tonne equipment and a 32-tonne hookloader equipped with their 25-tonne system. These vehicles showcase the company's commitment to reliability, efficiency, and innovation, helping businesses see firsthand how VDL's equipment can enhance their operations.

This investment, totalling over £300,000, underscores VDL Equipment UK's confidence in its product range and dedication to customer satisfaction. Sales Director Brett sees it as a strategic move for long-term growth, stating: *"The demonstrator fleet is a key part of our growth strategy over the next five years. I think it's crucial that customers not only hear about the quality and performance of our equipment but also have the chance to experience it themselves, on the exact type of work they do every day. We believe there is no better way than this to see how our equipment can benefit the customer."*

With a strengthened UK presence, an expanded sales team, and an industry-leading 5-year warranty, VDL Equipment UK is setting new standards in the skip and hookloader sector. As demand for durable, high-performance equipment continues to grow, the company remains focused on delivering innovation, reliability, and customer-driven solutions that meet the evolving needs of the waste industry.

Leeds leads the way with electric Mercedes-Benz eEconic bin trucks

Leeds City Council has enhanced its refuse collection system by adding three battery-powered Mercedes-Benz eEconic trucks to its fleet.

Each electric vehicle is expected to save 15 tonnes of carbon dioxide annually, totalling 45 tonnes when combined, while improving air quality and reducing noise in the community.

Supplied by FAUN Zoeller UK, the trucks feature 22m³ Variopress compactor bodies and Rotary 3 bin lifters on Mercedes-Benz eEconic 300 chassis, supported by local dealer Northside Truck & Van for maintenance.

Leeds collects over half a million waste and recycling bins weekly, with 75 trucks operating six days a week. In the last year, less than 0.2% of collected domestic waste has gone to landfill. Black bin waste is incinerated for energy recovery, while recyclables and garden waste are processed locally.



Chief Environmental Services Officer John Woolmer stated that the new electric RCVs will serve areas with significant air quality issues and contribute to the city's Clean Air Strategy aims for 2030. The electric trucks will charge overnight at the eco-designed depot, ensuring readiness each morning.

The eEconic is specifically designed as an electric vehicle, featuring a twin-speed eAxle and three battery packs with a total

capacity of 336 kWh. Batteries can be recharged from 20% to 80% in 75 minutes using a 400A 160 kW charger.

Standard features include a Multimedia Cockpit with dual displays, an electronic parking brake, Keyless Go, LED headlights, and advanced safety systems such as Sideguard Assist and Active Brake Assist. A six-year connectivity package offers free access to digital support services.

Enviro-Clean 'cleans up' with four IVECO S-Way 530 trucks

Enviro-Clean, a leading provider of waste management and industrial services across Scotland and Northern England, has added four new IVECO S-Way 530 (AS440S53TX/FP) trucks to its fleet. Stylishly wrapped in Enviro-Clean's vivid green and white colourway, these trucks are powered by the Cursor

13 engine producing 530hp, providing huge mission capabilities in exchange for impressive fuel economy, even when running at 44 tonnes.

Additionally, Enviro-Clean has added two flagship IVECO S-Way 570s to its fleet, each producing 570hp engines and a strong 2400Nm torque - while an IVECO

X-Way 8x4 tipper has also just joined the fleet.

Enviro-Clean's procurement of these 6x2 IVECO S-Way is part of a £15M investment in renewing its fleet of truck and plant equipment following the company's rapid expansion throughout the pandemic. They were supplied on an R&M service contract by AM Phillip Trucktech Ltd.

These trucks each cover 70,000 miles per year, so comfort was a top priority for Enviro-Clean. Fortunately, the IVECO S-Way's Active Sleeper cabs provide unmatched comfort with best-in-class cab space, including a built-in fridge and freezer to keep the driver refuelled. When at the wheel, IVECO's infotainment system, complete with Apple CarPlay and Android Auto, features IVECO Driver Pal - an onboard voice-activated travel companion powered by Amazon Web Services and Alexa capabilities.

Mark Donaghy, Director at Enviro-Clean, said: "We've been using IVECO trucks for many years, and the comfort is unmatched. We had drivers bickering over who would drive these trucks before they were even delivered! The new IVECO engines also have the option to run on HVO, which we're looking to implement in the future."





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Biffa works with Fleetclear to become DVS 2 compliant

Biffa has partnered with Fleetclear to ensure that its HGV fleet in London complies with the new Direct Vision Standard (DVS) regulations introduced on 28th October, 2024.

Biffa upgraded 111 vehicles across 19 depots in Greater London, with Fleetclear



One of Biffa's vehicles fitted with the Fleetclear Progressive Safe System

successfully retrofitting all applicable vehicles with the Progressive Safe System (PSS).

Under the DVS, all HGVs over 12 tonnes must obtain a safety permit to operate in London, and only vehicles rated three stars or higher or equipped with PSS are permitted. Non-compliance can result in fines of up to £550 per operator and £150 per driver, per vehicle, per day.

Zoë Smith, Fleet Development Manager at Biffa, remarked: "Fleetclear has exceeded our expectations in ensuring compliance, and the equipment has reduced false alerts, allowing our drivers to focus on the safety of vulnerable road users."

Despite some delays due to equipment availability, Fleetclear has provided a quick and hassle-free compliance solution.

The Fleetclear PSS is a stand-alone system that does not require existing equipment and includes features for full DVS compliance.

Integration with Fleetclear Connect allows operators to access key safety data, including detection statistics and embedded video.

Shadow Business Minister praises Fleetclear

Dame Harriett Baldwin, the MP for Worcestershire, recently visited Fleetclear's Head Office in Pershore and praised the fleet technology company.

She stated: "It is always great to visit local business success stories. I was grateful to meet a company that has secured private investment to encourage significant growth. Hearing feedback from a successful local company helps me understand their short and medium-term priorities."

The British Private Equity and Venture Capital Association (BVCA) arranged the visit. Ms Baldwin met the Fleetclear team to learn how the company innovates in fleet safety technology.

For over 10 years, Fleetclear, backed by private capital, has focused on helping fleets operate safely and comply with changing regulations. The company achieves this through continuous innovation and by working closely with

customers and industry partners to create tailored solutions.

Five years ago, YFM Equity Partners, a private equity firm that helps small businesses grow, invested in Fleetclear. This investment has driven Fleetclear's growth, allowing them to develop groundbreaking software projects. As a result, the company has invested in new technology and research and development and more than doubled its workforce.

Gavin Thoday, CEO of Fleetclear, said: "It was a pleasure to welcome Harriett to Fleetclear and show her how we make innovation and growth central to our work. With YFM's support, we're speeding up software development, improving fleet visibility and expanding our aftersales service. It's important for us to have partners who share our commitment to customer excellence and innovation as we continue our growth journey."



Get your free ticket today for RTX 2025

Road Transport Expo (RTX) will be bringing its winning 'all about the truck' formula back to NAEC Stoneleigh in Warwickshire from 24th-26th June.

Now firmly established as a go-to summer tradeshow for the industry, the organisers will be lining up a stellar array of more than 300 exhibitors to meet hauliers' complete fleet needs.

This includes a vast range of trucks on display from major truck brands including - DAF, Isuzu, Iveco, MAN, Mercedes-Benz, Renault Trucks, Scania and Volvo - alongside exciting new entrants to the market.

RTX 2025 is gearing up to be the biggest and boldest to date, with new product launches and demonstrations galore in the mix.

"Now in its fourth year, RTX has gone from strength to strength and has truly become a must-attend tradeshow for the road transport industry," said Vic Bunby, RTX show director and divisional director at CM publisher *Road Transport Media*.

"We can't wait to welcome visitors back to NAEC Stoneleigh in June and are confident this year's show will be the best yet, with a massive array of exhibitors that you wouldn't see anywhere else."

He added: "The atmosphere at RTX is unique because it's both business-focused and social. The show is held both indoors and outdoors, creating a lively environment where people are eating, drinking, chatting, and doing business."

"It's a great place for networking and making connections, and the social aspect adds a special touch to the event."

Scan the QR code to register for your free ticket.





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Is your tipper hire business losing money? Here's how PurGo can help



If you're noticing higher costs, missed revenue opportunities, or inefficiencies in your tipper hire business, it may be time to evaluate your operations. At WVS Software Solutions, we developed PurGo, an ERP software tailored to help tipper and waste management companies streamline their processes, improve operational efficiency, and ultimately protect their profits. Here's a closer look at how you can use PurGo to address some of the most common areas where tipper hire businesses lose money - and how to start regaining control.

1. Control your fleet and reduce downtime with real-time tracking

For a tipper hire business, keeping the fleet on the road is essential to maintaining productivity and profitability. When vehicles are out of action due to breakdowns or inefficient scheduling, your bottom line takes a hit. PurGo offers comprehensive fleet management tools, allowing you to track every vehicle in real time, monitor usage, and proactively schedule maintenance.

With PurGo's tracking capabilities, you can see where your vehicles are at any given moment, ensuring they're being used efficiently. And by scheduling regular maintenance alerts, you'll reduce unexpected breakdowns, keeping your fleet on the road where it belongs. With better fleet control, you can minimise costly downtime and increase the number of jobs you complete each day.

2. Streamline your billing to improve cash flow

Billing errors, delayed invoices, and inconsistent payment cycles can all have a serious impact on cash flow. PurGo's comprehensive billing system allows you to automate invoicing, ensuring that invoices are accurate, timely, and easy for customers to understand. Whether you're billing by the hour, by load, or using custom pricing models, PurGo's billing tools simplify the entire process.

Automated billing not only saves time for your admin team but also reduces the risk of missed or delayed payments. With PurGo's invoicing system, you can track outstanding payments and send reminders, keeping cash flow steady and reducing the need for time-consuming follow-ups. A healthy cash flow means a more stable, resilient business - and with

PurGo, staying on top of billing becomes a streamlined, error-free process.

3. Use real-time data to make informed decisions

Every decision you make in your tipper hire business affects your profitability, and having access to real-time data is essential for making informed choices. PurGo's real-time reporting and dashboards provide insights into key metrics like fuel usage, job completion rates, and fleet performance, so you can see exactly where your business stands at any moment.

For instance, if you notice that specific routes or customers are consistently costing more, PurGo's data can help you identify why. You might discover that some jobs aren't profitable or need adjustments in pricing or job allocation. With access to this data, you can quickly make changes



to address problem areas, keeping your business on track financially.

4. Keep customers satisfied with transparent communication

Customer satisfaction plays a huge role in the success of your tipper hire business, and clear communication is key to maintaining positive relationships. PurGo includes a built-in CRM that helps you stay organised, track customer interactions, and ensure every customer gets timely updates on their jobs.

This level of organisation makes it easier to manage customer expectations and respond to any issues that arise. A satisfied customer is far more likely to return and refer your business to others, helping you build a loyal customer base. By using PurGo to keep communication smooth and transparent, you're investing in long-term growth and stability for your business.

5. Ensure compliance without the hassle

Compliance is necessary in the tipper hire industry, from duty of care regulations to vehicle checks. Managing compliance can be complex and time-consuming, especially if you're relying on paper records. PurGo simplifies compliance by allowing you to store all relevant documents digitally, set automatic reminders for inspections, and quickly generate reports when needed.

With PurGo, you're not just meeting compliance requirements - you're doing so efficiently. The system keeps everything organised, so when you're faced with an audit, you have everything ready at your fingertips. This not only saves time but also gives you peace of mind, knowing that you're covered on the regulatory side without constant manual tracking.

Make PurGo your partner in profitability

If your tipper hire business is struggling with high costs or missed revenue opportunities, PurGo offers a comprehensive solution to turn things around. From route planning and fleet management to billing and compliance, PurGo brings together all the tools you need to run a smooth, cost-effective operation. At VWS Software Solutions, we're committed to helping tipper hire companies like yours maximise efficiency, improve cash flow, and protect profits in a competitive industry. With PurGo by your side, you can stop losing money and start driving your business forward.

For further information visit
www.vwssoftware.com/



Wiltshire Council's new electric refuse vehicle

Wiltshire Council trials electric RCV in UK first

Wiltshire Council has invested in a 100% electric refuse vehicle to help reduce its carbon emissions. A UK first the vehicle is also the first Volvo FE Low Entry Cab eRCV to operate in the country.

The vehicle, which has been wrapped by Creative Vehicle Wrapping in a striking green electric circuit design is being put through its paces across Wiltshire by the council's waste collection contractor, Hills Waste Solutions Ltd.

The Volvo FE Low Entry Cab RCV will be trialled at operating depots and assigned to household waste collection rounds, initially starting in largely urban rounds in the northern areas of the county, including Calne and Chippenham. It will later be trialled in the city of Salisbury. The trial will later look to assess the vehicle's performance in semi-urban, semi-rural, and finally, the mainly rural rounds.

Martin Litherland, Head of Service for Waste Management at Wiltshire Council, said: "We have invested in this 100% electric refuse collection vehicle to support our mission to reduce carbon emissions. The vehicle will be trialled around the county by our waste collection contractor, Hills, to help us understand the role that electric vehicles can play in delivering household waste collection services in Wiltshire."

"We are extremely happy with the wrapping service provided by Creative Vehicle Wrapping, with the finish complementing and enhancing our design, which highlights our commitment to sustainability and to be Carbon Neutral by 2030."

Amy Stokes, Head of e-Mobility, Volvo Trucks UK & Ireland, said: "Our electric technology is designed to deliver performance, efficiency, and environmental benefits. This partnership with Wiltshire Council and Hills Group allows us to bring those advantages to life. It's an ideal opportunity to support the council's plans for a cleaner, more sustainable waste collection fleet. We're eager to demonstrate how electric trucks can meet the demands of diverse operating environments, from urban areas to rural rounds."

CLLr Dominic Muns, Cabinet Member for Waste and Environment: said: "This is an exciting collaboration with Volvo Trucks, which has a wealth of experience in the electric vehicle market. The 100% electric RCV contributes to cleaner air as it does not produce exhaust gas. This trial brings us a step closer to achieving our mission to modernise the council's waste collection fleet to include low-carbon vehicles and ultimately reduce carbon emissions.

"This trial will establish what percentage of collection routes could realistically be achieved with an electric vehicle, fully testing the capabilities of eRCVs in Wiltshire. It will play a significant role in determining the future procurement of waste collection vehicles and how they can potentially be utilised across the county.

"We can't wait to see it on the road soon throughout our communities across the county."

To further improve the sustainability of the vehicle, the eRCV has been adapted to include TRAILAR solar panels on the roof, supporting the power requirements of the cab.

Austin Contract Services has added a Renault Trucks C480 8x4 tipper supplied by Renault Truck Commercials as part of the company's 25th anniversary celebrations



Austin Contract Services selects Renault Trucks to mark 25th anniversary

Austin Contract Services Ltd, a leading provider of biosolids transport to the agricultural sector, has added a second Renault Truck to its fleet as part of the company's 25th-anniversary celebrations.

The new C480 8x4 Off Road with Wilcox tipper body, finished in metallic silver grey, was supplied by Jamie Sutherland at Renault Truck Commercials on a 2-year "Excellence" R&M contract and will be primarily used for transporting biosolids to agricultural sites across the South East.

The addition of the C480 anniversary vehicle highlights Austin Contract Services' growth over the past 25 years. It reflects the company's commitment to evolving

with the needs of its clients, with the C480's reliability and versatility vital in maintaining Austin Contract Services' reputation for high service standards.

Kim Wetherell, Operations Director at Austin Contract Services Ltd, explained why Renault Trucks was the natural choice for this milestone vehicle: "We got our first Renault Trucks vehicle in January 2024, a hookloader, and it's performing exceptionally well. Renault Trucks offered the ideal combination of performance, availability, and overall value for money for our needs, making the new C480 the ideal vehicle to mark our anniversary, helping us not only celebrate where we've come from but also look forward to the future."

Austin Contract Services has expanded its fleet significantly since 2021, growing from nine to 23 heavy goods vehicles, including a mix of tippers and hook loaders. "Our growth in the last few years has been incredibly encouraging," Kim noted. "By investing in this new Renault Truck, we are sending a clear message to our customers that we are dedicated to meeting their needs while adapting to the demands of the industry."

The C480's exterior has been finished in metallic silver to commemorate the company's 25 years of operations, but the key focus is on the truck's performance. Built on a reinforced Renault Trucks' construction chassis with steel bumpers, the vehicle is ideal for Austin Contract Services' needs, offering superior off-road capabilities and enhanced ground clearance which are vital for businesses the company serves. Designed with driver comfort in mind, the C480 with sleeper cab features Renault Trucks' "serenity" bunk, offering double the number of springs and a thicker mattress, a heated and ventilated driver's seat, enhanced cab and night lighting and an electric roof vent.

"Our drivers are thrilled with it," Kim said. "It's one of the best trucks they've driven, and it meets all our operational requirements, making their working lives easier and more enjoyable. Our drivers are at the heart of what we do, and we want to give them the best tools for the job. Renault Trucks delivers exceptional performance, reliability, and comfort to help them succeed."

Regarding the service provided by Renault Truck Commercials, Kim concluded: "So far, so good. We've had a positive experience, and we anticipate a strong partnership moving forward as our fleet continues to grow."

Austin Contract Service Ltd. is based in Sittingbourne, Kent, and specialises in agriculture products, waste management and soil sampling.

TIP Mechanic Academy gains CPD accreditation from SOE

TIP, a leading provider of trailer and truck hire and maintenance services, has announced that its Mechanic Academy has been accredited for Continuing Professional Development (CPD) by the Society of Operations Engineers (SOE).

This accreditation underscores TIP's commitment to advancing industry skills and maintaining high standards in trailer

maintenance.

Students currently enrolled in the academy will receive CPD certification upon completing their training, enhancing their credibility and career prospects.

Launched in the Autumn of 2023, the TIP Mechanic Academy aims to fill the gap in formal trailer mechanic training. Last spring, 10 students graduated, becoming

valuable team members at TIP.

With this new CPD accreditation, the TIP Mechanic Academy reinforces its dedication to professional development and technical excellence. Mark Carlin, TIP Fleet & Engineering Director, expressed that the accreditation reflects their commitment to upskilling the next generation of trailer mechanics.

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The importance of traffic management

JESSICA MORGAN-SMITH

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



Traffic management is a key part of any waste operation. It plays such an important role in the safety and compliance of a site from both a planning, environmental, site efficiency and health and safety perspective.

Skip yards, landfill sites, MRFs and metal recycling sites are inherently busy operations with various types and sizes of vehicles and heavy machinery moving in, out and through the sites during the working day.

Without proper traffic control measures in place, it's very easy for a waste site to become dangerous, leading to accidents, environmental harm, amenity issues and operational problems. Below we look at why traffic management is essential and how it benefits your operations.

One of the key reasons for implementing an effective traffic management system is to ensure safety for people who work or visit your site. Waste sites are notoriously high-risk environments, mainly due to the operations involving large vehicles and machinery which are typically in constant use during operational hours, combined with people either working at, contracting or visiting sites.

When traffic is unmanaged or poorly managed, preventable accidents readily occur. According to the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) *Waste statistics in Great Britain 2024*, 52% of fatalities in the waste industry in 2023/24 were caused by being struck by a moving vehicle.

Traffic management at a site can be easily implemented and relatively simple measures can have a significant, positive impact. Clearly marked pedestrian walkways/safety barriers and operator/vehicle segregation are vital, speed limits that are firmly enforced, and appropriate warning signs are all a good starting point to improve safety. Once implemented, training staff and contractors and inductions for visitors on traffic



Aerial view of a UK waste management site

management further reduce the likelihood of accidents. The improvement in technology around transport is also a huge benefit to traffic management on sites and can be used to analyse current operations and gaps that require improvements.

When traffic management is implemented correctly and trained out, it can also improve the operational efficiency of your site. When staff understand the logistics and management of vehicles manoeuvring through their site, operations run smoother, timings of loading and unloading increase and throughput improves. The knock-on of this is improved fuel efficiency, reduced idling, subsequent financial benefits and overall improvement to the site's sustainability.

The above can also have huge environmental benefits, such as reduced

noise amenity issues, improved air quality and reduced risk of pollution caused by fuel spillages.

Practical, well-trained out traffic management systems are vital in our ever-changing industry. The improvements to health and safety, operational efficiency and reducing risks to the environment should be the only incentive needed to seriously consider how traffic management works on your site and to make improvements, where possible, that benefit people working or visiting your site and the surrounding area.

By making traffic management a regular talking point with your operational team and asking for feedback on improvements, you can keep people safe, satisfy the regulators that your site is being well run and protect the environment in the process.

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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Timberpak celebrates 25 years of sustainable wood recycling, growth and environmental responsibility

Timberpak Limited is one of the largest users of recycled timber in the UK and is celebrating 25 years of growth and responsible recycling of wood for making EGGER chipboard. Since it started in January 2000, Timberpak, a part of EGGER (UK) Ltd, has focused on sustainable wood recycling. Today, it processes around 350,000 tonnes of wood each year across its four locations in Leeds, Washington, Belshill and St Albans.

Under Mark Hayton's leadership since 2003, Timberpak has experienced significant growth. The number of employees has expanded from five in 2000 to 77 today. Additionally, a joint venture in St Albans has added 52 FTE's direct employees and 52 agency workers. The company has also increased its recycling capacity to 625,000 tonnes annually across all sites.

Hayton said: "When I look back to 2003, I could never have imagined our growth in size, tonnage, and employment, or our market position. My goal was to be the most reliable and cost-effective partner for wood waste disposal, and we meet that goal every day."

"It is crucial that we use wood sustainably to make the most of this resource, which will decrease if not managed properly. I feel responsible for promoting the environmentally friendly use of recycled wood. Timberpak helps us achieve that, and our staff are our greatest asset in living and delivering this vision every day."

Over the years, Timberpak has expanded by changing its waste wood acceptance criteria to meet increased demand and through strategic acquisitions. The new Leeds2 site, which opened in August 2023,



The Leeds2 site, which opened in 2023



is an example of this. It has a capacity of 300,000 tonnes and includes advanced safety measures to meet future waste wood needs.

In 2023, Timberpak reinforced its commitment to sustainability by buying a 50% share in Pearce Recycling, a dry waste recycling business in St Albans.

Last year, Timberpak handled 315,000 tonnes of wood, supplying 289,000 tonnes to the EGGER chipboard production sites at Hexham and Barony. It also provided 25,500 tonnes of wood residues for energy production in biomass. The company only sends wood residues to biomass when they cannot be used in production processes.

Since its start, Timberpak has processed 4.1 million tonnes of waste wood, showing its vital role in the sustainable wood supply chain. This recycled wood is used to create

new EGGER products for furniture and interior design, which are also recyclable. These products help keep carbon stored from trees for longer and prevent waste wood from being burned or sent to landfill.

Timberpak also shows its dedication to environmental sustainability through investments in solar energy, electric shredders and forklifts. It uses well water for dust suppression, demonstrating a comprehensive approach to environmental responsibility.

As Timberpak continues to lead the way in sustainable wood recycling, the company remains committed to making a valuable contribution to improving the environment by giving all timber waste material multiple lives, conserving fresh resources and fostering a sustainable manufacturing process to secure the future for the next 25 years and beyond.



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Keenan is the first UK waste company to have its carbon emissions verified by BSI

Keenan Recycling, a leader in sustainable waste management, is proud to be the UK's first waste recycling company to have its baseline greenhouse gas emissions inventory verified by the British Standards Institution (BSI) against the internationally recognised ISO 14064-1 standard.

This verification confirms Keenan

Recycling's commitment to transparent emissions reporting, providing a solid foundation for its net zero plan and future emissions reduction efforts.

"Our carbon inventory is essential for our carbon reduction planning," stated Fergus Healy, Head of Strategic Development & Net Zero at Keenan Recycling.

"Having it verified by BSI demonstrates

our commitment to internationally recognised standards and science-backed sustainability initiatives."

ISO 14064-1 offers a framework for organisations to effectively monitor and report greenhouse gas emissions, reinforcing Keenan Recycling's leadership in accountability and transparency within the waste sector.

Tesco pilots 100% rPET food trays for its own-brand minced beef

Klöckner Pentaplast (kp), a global leader in rigid and flexible packaging and speciality film solutions, is launching an exciting UK market-first venture with Tesco and Hilton Foods to pilot the first-ever 100% recycled PET (rPET) food trays made from recovered tray material through its kp Tray2Tray® initiative.

Marking a significant leap forward in the journey towards full circularity in food packaging, the pilot will see Tesco's Finest minced beef product packed in the 100% rPET kp Tray2Tray®, and sealed with kp FlexiLid®, a high-performance barrier film containing 30% recycled PCR content.

"While this is a pilot, it's clearly a massive step forward for the packaging circular economy," said Rebecca Harris, Global Account Director at kp. "We launched our kp Tray2Tray® initiative because valuable food-safe tray material enters the recycling loop, but all too often the rPET material is downcycled to other product applications. Until something changes and demand is boosted, the required collection, sorting and recycling at scale will not be sufficient. So, what we're doing here has real significance.

"The pilot is a dream match. At kp, we're innovative designers of food packaging solutions driven by our ambitious *Investing in Better* sustainability strategy; Hilton Foods, focused on its Sustainable Protein Plan, creates and produces high-quality packaged food, and Tesco has built sustainability into its purpose, strategy and business plans. kp made a splash



when we launched our first trays with 100% kp Tray2Tray® rPET from trays in the UK, and this real-world trial is the perfect opportunity to show what our experienced technical team has accomplished."

The kp Tray2Tray® initiative was developed to create a stronger circular economy in food packaging trays. With an estimated one million tonnes of PET trays produced annually in the EU, only 5% are currently recycled back into food-grade trays. kp's solution has the potential to significantly increase this percentage by creating a dedicated supply stream of recycled PET from trays, ensuring these materials are reused efficiently.

James Bull, Head of Packaging and Food Waste at Tesco added: "We are determined to close the loop on our packaging - for it to be fully recyclable and contain recycled content wherever possible. We remain committed to reducing our environmental impact and helping our customers do the same as we work together to protect our planet."

Brush up on recycling: give your toothpaste tubes a second life!

Somerset Council and its contractor, SUEZ Recycling and Recovery UK, are among the first in the country to collect empty toothpaste tubes for kerbside recycling.

Thanks to recent changes in materials, most tubes can be recycled in the Bright Blue Bag if labelled 'recyclable'.

Around 300 million toothpaste tubes are thrown away annually in the UK.

Adam Herriott, Senior Sector Specialist at WRAP (the Waste and Resources Action Programme) commented: "It's fantastic news that toothpaste tubes are now recyclable and Somerset is leading the way by collecting them.

"Residents should ensure they've squeezed out as much as possible and check that their toothpaste tubes are made from recyclable materials. Most toothpaste tubes are, but it's always good to double-check - look for the recycling symbol."

In addition to toothpaste tubes, the Bright Blue Bag can also be used for other containers like plastic pots, tubs, tins and aerosols. Collected materials are sorted at a recycling facility to be reprocessed into new products.

The council publishes an annual recycling tracker showing where the recycling goes; last year, 96% of Somerset's recycling stayed in the UK.





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The waste carrier, broker, dealer regime reform is under way!!!

TRACEY WESTBURY

Director – Westbury Environmental Limited



The words I have used in the title of this article are what was sent to a skip hire operator from the Environment Agency recently. This certainly raised my eyebrows since I have seen no update on this since the end of 2023.

So, what is this reform all about?

Currently, registering as a waste carrier, broker, or dealer is a relatively straightforward process. However, under the new system, a permit-based approach will replace the current registration model. This means businesses will need to secure either a standard rules environmental permit or an exemption under the Environmental Permitting Regulations.

This shift aims to improve regulatory control, reduce waste crime and raise professional standards across the industry. However, it also introduces new obligations for operators, particularly around

demonstrating technical competence and ensuring compliance.

Defra proposed changes to this regime back in 2022, which have been through the consultation process and now it appears that it is about to be rolled out.

What do the proposals look like?

The infographic below provides an overview of the proposed system and how the new permits and exemptions may be implemented. The final details will be revealed in due course.

Simplified terminology is proposed, which includes Transporters and Controllers:

- **Waste Transporters** - Entities tasked with the physical movement of waste as directed, without authority over its classification or final destination.
- **Waste Controllers** - Individuals or organisations responsible for the classification, collection, transportation arrangements and determination of waste destinations, including brokers, dealers and consultants.

The new permits will require applicants to demonstrate technical proficiency pertinent to their operations. It is proposed

that this be completed via an online course followed by a theory test.

Key steps waste operators need to take

Understand your new classification –

Review your business operations carefully and determine whether you are primarily a transporter, controller, or both. This will dictate which permit or exemption applies to you.

Prepare for permit applications –

Unlike the current registration system, the new framework will require some operators to obtain environmental permits, which involve more rigorous checks and compliance obligations.

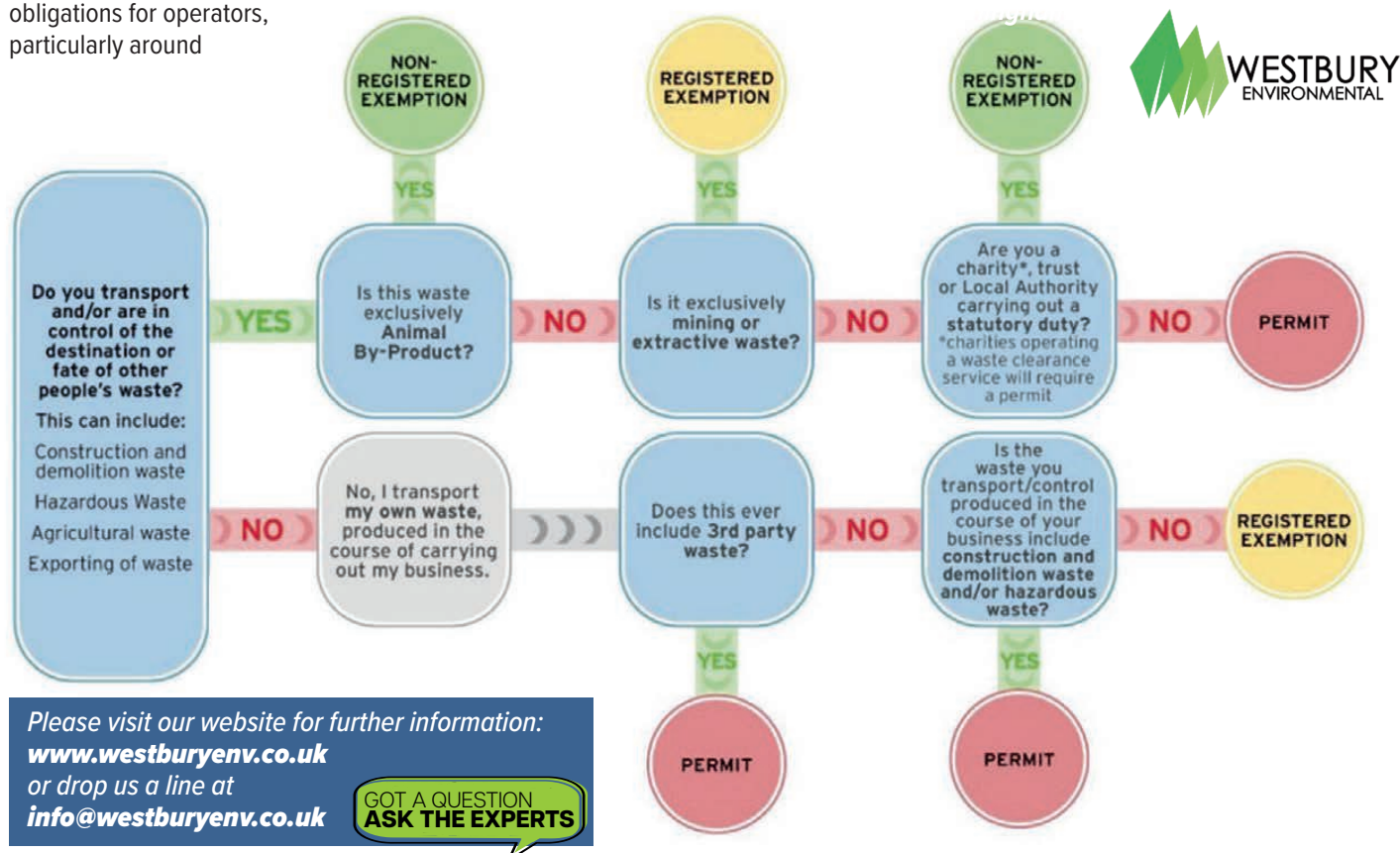
Anticipate increased enforcement

– The Government has emphasised cracking down on illegal waste activity, meaning there will be stricter checks and enforcement actions against non-compliance. Ensure your business is operating lawfully now to avoid issues when the new rules take effect.

Stay informed and seek support –

Defra and the Environment Agency will release detailed guidance as the new system is finalised. Keep an eye on updates, attend industry briefings, and work with consultants or trade associations to ensure you remain compliant.

If you need assistance with any of the above issues, get in touch; we are happy to help. Tel: 01952 879705.





Enva's fridge recycling plant at Toomebridge in Northern Ireland. Picture credit: Enva

Currys and Deloitte team up to encourage tech recycling

Currys is partnering with Deloitte to launch 'Recycle for Good', helping Deloitte's 25,000 UK employees recycle their old technology and electrical items at Currys stores.

Deloitte's research shows that 59% of consumers are more committed to reducing waste than last year, but many find recycling small electronics difficult. By recycling their old tech at Currys, Deloitte employees can contribute to reducing e-waste and extend the life of these products.

Through Currys' Cash for Trash and trade-in programmes, employees can recycle their tech for free and receive at least a £5 Currys voucher, regardless of the tech's original purchase date or location.

Currys will return some reusable tech to Deloitte for donation through its device donation scheme, promoting digital inclusion. This initiative complements Deloitte's existing programme, which has already provided over 17,500 refurbished laptops to those in need.

Scott Butler, Executive Director at Material Focus, highlighted that the average household has nearly 10 unused tech items, and this initiative by Currys and Deloitte helps repurpose those items to support individuals without access to technology, promoting a more inclusive and sustainable future.

Enva plans fridge recycling facility

Enva, a waste management and resource recovery solutions company, is set to develop a state-of-the-art facility to enhance recycling capacity in London and the South East by 2026.

The company has announced plans to expand its fridge recycling capabilities by constructing new premises that will process 35,000 tonnes per year. While the specific location and additional details have not yet been revealed, Enva anticipates that the facility will be operational during the second half of next year.

This development will strengthen Enva's market-leading position in the UK, following the recent opening of new plants in Perth, Scotland, and Toomebridge,

Northern Ireland, as well as existing fridge recycling facilities in Grantham and Stourbridge in England.

Barry Phillips, Managing Director for Fridges, WEEE, and Glass at Enva, expressed enthusiasm about the new project: "We're excited to bring the latest fridge recycling technology to London and the South East, providing much-needed additional processing capacity. This development demonstrates Enva's commitment to executing its long-term growth strategy and investing in the latest technology to safely and sustainably process end-of-life fridges while realising their commercial and environmental value."

Vaculug becomes Europe's first B Corp certified tyre retreader

Vaculug is proud to announce that it has officially become a Certified B Corporation (B Corp), joining a global movement of businesses that meet the highest standards of social and environmental responsibility.

This is a landmark achievement, as Vaculug is the first tyre retreader in Europe to earn this prestigious certification. As a B Corp, Vaculug aligns itself with a global community of like-minded organisations that prioritise people, planet and profit in equal measure.

"For nearly 75 years, Vaculug has been at the forefront of sustainable tyre solutions, introducing innovative retreading technologies that reduce waste and extend the lifecycle of tyres," said Mark Holloway, Head of Sustainability and Compliance at Vaculug Limited. "Achieving our B Corp status after a year-long certification process is a natural progression of our commitment to making a positive impact on both our industry and the wider world. Being the first retreader in Europe to achieve this certification is a significant milestone for us and the whole sector."

The certification reinforces Vaculug's core values, including sustainability, innovation and responsibility. Through its retreading

process, Vaculug helps fleets significantly cut carbon emissions and reduce their environmental footprint. The company also continues to champion ethical supply chains, employee well-being and community engagement as part of its broader corporate ethos.



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Leading the charge in vape recycling

Every week in the UK, over 8.2 million disposable vapes are used - a staggering figure that's rapidly growing. In fact, vape usage in the UK saw an alarming 60% increase in 2024 alone. This equates to nearly 300 tonnes of waste per week, or a shocking 15,600 tonnes per year - an amount roughly equivalent to 28 Airbus A380s worth of discarded vapes annually. While this might seem like a distant concern, the truth is that 77% of vapers don't know how or where to properly recycle their vapes, resulting in hazardous lithium batteries ending up in landfill and contributing to dangerous fires in waste facilities.

At VP Recycling Ltd, we are committed to solving this growing environmental challenge. As one of the industry's leading innovators, we've developed a game-changing AI-powered facility that revolutionises how disposable vapes are recycled. Our technology processes up to one tonne of vapes per hour - around 28,000 vapes - at a speed and efficiency never before seen in the industry.

What makes us different?

Unlike traditional methods where vapes are manually dismantled - often at great expense and with limited scalability - our cutting-edge machinery uses artificial

intelligence to automatically sort and separate materials, such as plastics, metals and lithium batteries. This streamlined process not only reduces costs (*we're over 50% cheaper than competitors*), but it also maximises the quality and efficiency of the recycling effort. The batteries we recover are undamaged and can either be sent back to manufacturers for reuse in new vapes or recycled locally in the UK. We're also in discussions with UK-based companies specialising in lithium battery recycling, which means even more sustainable outcomes for the materials we extract.

Why is vape recycling so important?

In 2023 alone, the UK's vaping industry saw over five million disposable vapes used per week. That number grew to 8.2 million in 2024. If not properly disposed of, these vapes pose a significant environmental threat. When damaged, the lithium batteries inside disposable vapes can ignite fires that are incredibly difficult to control. Lithium reacts by producing its own oxygen when burning, meaning water does little to suppress the flames, and it can cause widespread destruction at recycling yards and waste processing plants.

By properly recycling vapes, we're not just protecting our landfills from hazardous

waste. We're also unlocking the potential to recover valuable materials. The lithium in disposable vapes could power over 10,000 electric vehicles per year. With rising concerns about the environmental impact of disposable vape waste, VP Recycling Ltd is stepping in with a solution that's both affordable and sustainable.

A step ahead of legislation changes

From 1st June this year, new legislation will be enacted in the UK that will ban disposable vapes - a vital move to curb the growing issue of vape waste. However, as confirmed by the NHS, vaping remains an effective alternative to smoking, and this transition won't be instantaneous. Even with stricter regulations on vape liquid amounts and the growth of the illicit vape trade, which already accounts for nearly one-third of all vapes in circulation, the need for an efficient and reliable recycling solution is more urgent than ever.

The illegal market has already introduced devices with larger batteries and higher puff counts, making it even more critical to have the infrastructure to prevent environmental harm.

Why choose VP Recycling Ltd?

At VP Recycling, our mission is clear: to provide the most efficient, cost-effective and environmentally responsible solution for recycling disposable vapes. Our innovative technology ensures we can process large volumes of vapes quickly and safely while safeguarding the environment and local communities. We're passionate about keeping hazardous materials like lithium out of our landfills while maximising the reuse of valuable resources.

VP Recycling Ltd is more than just a recycling company - it's a movement towards a cleaner, greener and more sustainable future. We believe that, through innovation and commitment, we can make a massive difference in how the UK handles disposable vape waste.

Make a difference today

As the vape industry grows and regulations evolve, it's crucial for both businesses and consumers to take responsibility for proper disposal. Join us in reducing the environmental impact of disposable vapes. Recycle smarter, and let's protect the future together.

For more information or to partner with us, visit www.vprecycling.com today.



Calling all waste and recycling yards We want your disposable vapes!



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About us

We have developed an industry first in the recycling world and have created an AI-controlled vape recycling facility that splits the vapes into plastic, metals and batteries.

Because we have developed this facility, our recycling costs are much lower than our competitors, who have people manually stripping vapes.

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- **We collect anywhere in the UK for free**
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The tax man cometh....and goeth



DR ANNA WILLETTS

Anna is an environmental criminal lawyer, specialising in defence work in the waste and recycling industry. She is dual-qualified, having completed a PhD in geochemistry and worked as an environmental consultant for 5 years before qualifying as a lawyer. Anna represents waste and recycling businesses and directors who are prosecuted by the regulators for environmental and waste offences.



BUSINESS CLINIC

This is the promised tax article, bumped from January as I wrote about the new Environment Agency appeals system instead.

HMRC had investigated a client for waste deposits, which allegedly ought to have been subject to landfill tax.

HRMC officers visited the site to view the deposits, after being informed about the site by the Environment Agency. The Agency had taken no action against the operator apart from deregistering an exemption (*which I would have challenged had I been involved at the time...*) on the grounds that officers thought a U1 exemption limit of 1000 tonnes had been breached. There was no evidence for this and all waste transfer notes were produced, on request, for 650 tonnes of waste.

It was, therefore, surprising to our client when HMRC visited site to investigate alleged unauthorised waste deposits which

ought to have been subject to landfill tax. Officers arrived on-site with tape measures and measured piles of earth materials. Our client explained that all material they were looking at was already on-site when he purchased it and had been dug up from one area of site and moved to others for pre-construction activities.

Officers did not ask to see the waste which had actually been imported to site, the 650 tonnes under the U1 exemption. Our client thought matters had all been explained in full, so he was surprised to then receive a pre-assessment letter from HMRC for £1,600,000.

We wrote to HMRC to set out why material on-site prior to our client purchasing the site was not his responsibility, and in any event, it was not waste as it had not been discarded, so it was not subject to landfill tax. We also explained that the material which had been brought to site, the 650 tonnes of

waste, was all lawful and permitted under the U1 exemption. We provided copies of all the waste transfer notes which had been provided to the Environment Agency demonstrating this.

The resulting letter from HMRC indicated that no further action would be taken and landfill tax would not be owed. It was a happy result for our client, but it was a stressful period for him to deal with and it is not the first time I have dealt with the revenue not understanding the waste regime and issuing pre-assessment letters such as this.

There was a blatant assumption that piles of material on a site must all have been waste, with no investigation of the origin, nature or reason for them or questioning how they had come to be there or what they were.

This is one of the first principles of waste definition from the Waste Framework Directive. I think that part of the issue with these cases is that tax officers are very good at dealing with tax, but there seems to be a lack of understanding and a disconnect between tax and the waste side of the matter.

It appears that many assumptions were made in this case, and we know what they say about 'assume' - *it makes an ass out of you and me....*

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 launches new range of bins containing 80% recycled plastic

Biffa is revitalising its old commercial bins by recycling them into new ones as part of its ongoing efforts to reduce waste and promote a circular economy.

The company has already reintroduced nearly 1,500 recycled bins and aims to make all its new commercial bins from unusable bins, creating a fully closed-loop solution.

Biffa, already well-known for recycling billions of plastic bottles each year, is now applying the same circular approach to the very containers that hold waste.

The recycled bins consist of 80% recycled HDPE and are as durable and

reliable as their virgin plastic counterparts. Recycling these materials generates fewer carbon emissions than disposing of them and making new goods from virgin materials.

Biffa's business customers across the UK can use the bins for various waste streams, including residual waste, dry mixed recycling, food waste and glass.

The recycling process involves shredding the old containers into flakes, which are then converted into pellets. These pellets are melted and injected into specialised moulds to form new bins.

To ensure they meet strict quality and



safety standards, the recycled bins are tested like the original bins, including drop tests and exposure to various temperatures. Customers can also rest assured that the bins retain the iconic Biffa red colour, just in a more eco-friendly version.



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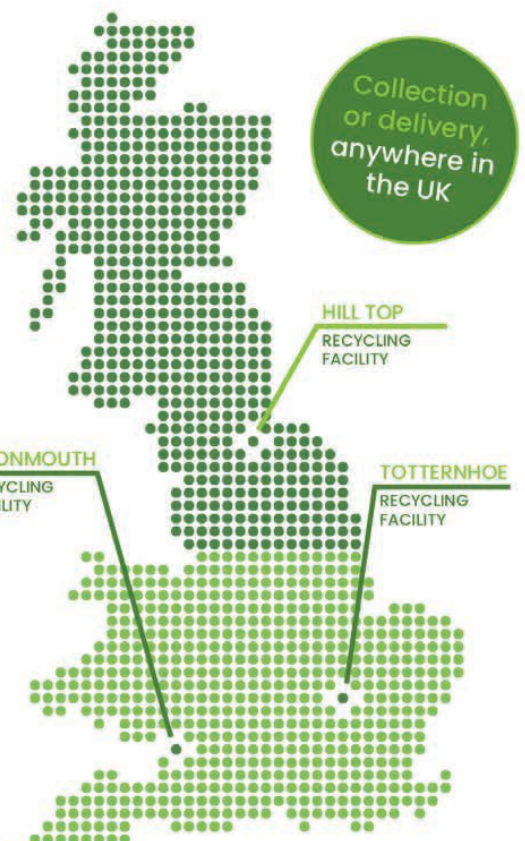
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Too many changes or not enough?

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

Over the years I have covered many subjects in our industry, including the regular changes brought in by new legislation and changes in guidance from regulators. Of the many changes we have seen in the last few years, none have addressed the fundamental issues associated with end of waste.

The WRAP Quality Protocol “Aggregates from inert waste” is long overdue for an update since the last one in October 2013, as are all quality protocols. However, the [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/123456) page *Waste quality protocols review* was last updated in December 2021, so no progress there. Getting a bespoke end of waste decision is prohibitively expensive and doesn't inspire confidence. With the increase in fine-tuning of existing technology and coming innovations, the range of potential recyclates is always increasing, so please can we have a grown-up conversation rather than the response: “There isn't a protocol for that” or “It would still be

19 12 12”. My thoughts on a wet Sunday afternoon for comment are below.

We urgently need a soils protocol or some agreed guidance that goes beyond the British Standard for topsoil BS3882, which is limited in addressing contaminants in soil. Recycling of clean soils should be allowed if strict criteria can be agreed upon rather than the limited application that the U1 exemption offers for reuse of soils in construction. There is no reason why a soils protocol cannot be developed. Carrying out an assessment of the soils in accordance with WM3 to confirm that it is non-hazardous isn't enough, as the soil needs to be suitable for the intended end use.

Give wash plants a break. A specific protocol or update to the aggregates protocol (to add wash plants specifically) would remove the current confusion expressed by many regulatory staff who can't grasp that wash plants can produce clean aggregates and clay from soils and trommel fines. I've worked on sites washing

hazardous railway ballast (oil contaminated), soils and trommel fines, all of which have been successfully set up to push waste up the waste hierarchy. More guidance on sampling plans should be included as well.

It is almost 20 years since the OSS Group Limited's case judgment from the Court of Appeal, which made a decision on when a material (waste oils in this case) ceases to be a waste. The court stated “It is also consistent with the objective of encouraging the recovery of waste materials for uses which replace raw materials. It should be enough that the holder has converted the waste material into a distinct, marketable product, which can be used in exactly the same way as an ordinary fuel, and with no worse environmental effects.” So why are we not there yet? The case appears to find an answer to the end of waste, but verifying and documenting the products has to be done in a manner that doesn't need to be argued in court every time.

How can investment in our industry be secured when there is no legal certainty for all outputs? No one invests millions in infrastructure to cut corners, as there are plenty doing that with no investment and not getting regulatory attention. If we don't sort these issues out, then the criminals will win. We need a better working relationship with our regulators as well to enable end of waste to be brought to the forefront of the discussion.

If you have any questions about this article contact Marco on 01606 558833 or e-mail him at marco@oaktree-environmental.co.uk

**GOT A QUESTION
 ASK THE EXPERTS**

Sainsbury's to produce biofuel from its recycled food waste

Sainsbury's is set to revolutionise its logistics by transforming food waste into fuel for a number of its HGV trucks.

Starting this month, this pioneering initiative will see biofuel produced directly from Sainsbury's food waste power 30 trucks at its Emerald Park distribution centre, which constitutes half of the site's fleet. This will save over 3,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide annually, equivalent to the yearly electricity consumption of 1,950 households.

Sainsbury's is working with waste processor RenECO to convert food waste that cannot be donated or used for animal feed into biogas through anaerobic

digestion. This circular system will now use the biogas generated from this process to create liquid biofuel suitable for HGVs.

Unlike traditional methods that blend certified biomethane with non-renewable gases, this system ensures that all the fuel comes directly from Sainsbury's waste. Through their collaboration, the retailer and supplier are demonstrating how teamwork can unlock new ways to reduce environmental impact.

This circular system also allows for precise tracking of carbon emission reductions, which contributes to Sainsbury's targets for reducing scope 1 and 2 emissions.

Patrick Dunne, Sainsbury's Director of Property, Procurement, and EV Ventures, stated: “Today's announcement underscores the power that collaboration has in driving impactful change across business. We are proud to have worked closely with our supplier RenECO to deliver a pioneering initiative that supports our commitment to circularity and helps us take a significant step toward becoming net zero across our operations by 2035.”

By producing biofuel from its food waste, Sainsbury's aims to save over 3,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide each year.

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HEALTH & SAFETY MANAGER
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Terra Select



Coffee pod recycling scheme expands into 600 Asda stores

Asda has announced a partnership with Podback to tackle coffee pod waste through a UK-wide recycling initiative.

Customers can now recycle their used aluminium and plastic coffee pods in more than 600 stores by using the Asda toYou parcel returns service. Podback users can return filled Podback bags at their nearest participating store.

The collected pods will be processed at recycling facilities within the UK, where the coffee grounds will be separated from the pod materials through shredding. The grounds are either composted or processed with other food waste using anaerobic digestion, which produces biogas and soil improver for agriculture.

The remaining materials, plastic and aluminium, will be sent through different recycling streams and can be repurposed into new products such as drink cans, building materials and garden furniture.

In the UK, approximately 800 million beverage pods are sold each year, and over 20% of households own a coffee pod machine.

Beth Fowler, Senior Manager of Healthy and Sustainable Choices at Asda, commented: "The partnership with Podback is one of many workstreams across Asda's ESG strategy, including broader commitments on packaging reduction, recyclability and recycled content. By offering the collection and recycling service with Asda toYou and Podback, we hope that we can make recycling more convenient than ever when shopping with Asda."

Podback was launched in 2021 by Nestlé and Jacobs Douwe Egberts (JDE), and has previously partnered with brands including Nespresso, Tassimo, Starbucks and L'OR.

Rick Hindley, Executive Director at Podback, added: "Our partnership with Asda marks an exciting step forward in Podback's mission to make sure every coffee pod enjoyed is recycled."

"Our customers tell us that they want easy and convenient ways to recycle, and the nationwide network of Asda toYou drop-off points means they can now drop their pods off for recycling as part of their regular visit to the supermarket."



Kadant PAAL working with Willshee's Waste & Recycling

Willshee's Waste and Recycling was founded in 1984 with one lorry and ten skips. Today it has transformed into a leading waste management business that handles an impressive 300,000 tonnes per year. Thanks to the team's hard work, the company forecasts 20% year-on-year growth, and by quickly grasping opportunities, Willshee's has become a formidable presence in this sector.

The family-owned business has now passed to the second generation, with Dean Willshee taking the reins alongside an experienced senior management team. This has enabled the company to provide comprehensive services to both commercial and domestic customers across the East Midlands. With stricter and evolving recycling and waste management legislation now affecting businesses across the UK, Willshee's is well-placed to provide knowledge and professional advice to all its customers.

The growth and scale of the business has led it to invest in new equipment from Kadant PAAL, which has worked with Willshee's for many years. Kadant PAAL and Willshee's began their working relationship many years ago, supplying,

installing and maintaining a range of PAAL and Dicom products.

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In this instance, Willshee's Waste & Recycling replaced its Konti 600 G, which was originally manufactured in 2011. This horizontal baler had been a highly productive workhorse for the company meeting the intensive requirements that this industry dictates.





The Konti 500 J has been the new investment of choice, and we appreciate these decisions are not made lightly. PAAL was founded in 1854 and has a long history of manufacturing high-performance balers. The current robust construction of the Konti J baler delivers optimum performance and reliability, even under the most demanding operating conditions. The tried and tested design of this baler

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1. TOMRA's AUTOSORT™ PULSE now allows Gerhard Lang Recycling GmbH to produce high-purity 5xxx and 6xxx aluminium scrap. 2. At the core of the system is TOMRA's Dynamic LIBS solution, an in-house developed, advanced laser technology that separates the alloys based on the elemental composition. 3. The purity levels that Gerhard Lang Recycling achieves exceed 95% and can potentially reach 97%, making the material suitable for use in the production of aluminium without downgrading

TOMRA Recycling and Gerhard Lang Recycling partner in pioneering project

Gerhard Lang Recycling GmbH has made history by becoming one of the first companies globally to implement TOMRA Recycling's AUTOSORT™ PULSE system for the precision sorting of aluminium alloy stamping scrap generated from automotive production.

The leading German metal recycling company has installed an AUTOSORT™ PULSE unit at its metals sorting plant in southwestern Germany as part of a research project funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action.

The KANAL project* is an ambitious initiative aimed at closing the loop on aluminium scrap generated in automotive production. TOMRA, Gerhard Lang Recycling GmbH, Pforzheim University of Applied Sciences and engineers from Jeanvri have teamed up for the 3.9 million euro-funded project to prove that aluminium production scrap can be effectively sorted and transformed into high-quality secondary aluminium. The consortium is using TOMRA's dynamic laser-induced plasma spectroscopy (Dynamic LIBS) technology. Gerhard Lang Recycling GmbH is both a research and field validation partner in this pioneering project.

Sorting of 5xxx and 6xxx aluminium wrought alloys

The plant's infeed material consists of stamping scrap - the excess metal material that is removed during the metal stamping process - generated during the production of car parts and panels. While highly efficient, the stamping process inevitably generates significant amounts of scrap, with an estimated 30-50% of the material being discarded. The aluminium scrap comprises a mixture of 5xxx (high-magnesium) and 6xxx (low-magnesium) aluminium wrought alloys that are employed in different components within automotive production.

Upon arrival at Gerhard Lang Recycling GmbH's metals sorting plant in Gaggenau, the material is shredded before undergoing a multi-stage magnetic separation process to remove the ferrous metals. In the next step, the non-ferrous material is then fed into the AUTOSORT™ PULSE for advanced sorting.

Prior to the installation of the AUTOSORT™ PULSE unit, the Gerhard Lang Recycling GmbH team sold the mixed material to aluminium manufacturers immediately after the shredding process as there was no efficient solution on the market to separate the high- and low-magnesium aluminium alloys. With the AUTOSORT™ PULSE now in place, and thanks to TOMRA's dynamic laser-induced breakdown spectroscopy (Dynamic LIBS) technology, these alloys are sorted into different products, allowing Gerhard Lang Recycling GmbH to produce exceptionally high purity 5xxx and 6xxx aluminium scrap.

Highly advanced dynamic laser detection

Given the alloys' identical appearance and density, traditional sorting methods are ineffective. However, the AUTOSORT™ PULSE separation process is based on the precise analysis of the elemental composition of each material and on highly advanced dynamic laser detection, making it capable of distinguishing between alloys.

Additionally, object singulation allows the AUTOSORT™ PULSE to accurately

*KANAL stands for 'Kreislaufsystem für funktionales Aluminium-Neuschrottrecycling aus der Automobilproduktion mittels LIBS,' which translates to 'Circular System for Functional Aluminium Scrap Recycling from Automotive Production Using LIBS.' Project Number (Förderkennzeichen) 03LB4015B and name: Verbundvorhaben: KANAL – Kreislaufsystem für funktionales Aluminium-Neuschrottrecycling aus der Automobilproduktion mittels LIBS.

identify and separate even overlapping and adjacent materials, maximising yield and efficiency in the sorting process. Its 3D object scanning feature recognises the shape, height and position of the object and identifies the ideal shooting point for the Dynamic LIBS laser. This laser offers two focus modes: multi-point, where the laser shoots in a line across the sample, and single-point, where the laser drills down into a specific spot, providing ideal detection conditions. The latter, developed by TOMRA, has demonstrated superior performance in tests.

Another key benefit of AUTOSORT™ PULSE is its ability to minimise contamination and subsequently enhance the value and marketability of the recycled materials. The system's precision sorting reduces the risk of cross-contamination, safeguarding the integrity of the recycled materials and ensuring they are suitable for their intended applications.

Boosting purity levels

Gerhard Lang Recycling GmbH consulted with TOMRA's metals experts prior to investing in the plant's new aluminium sorting process. The project's development spanned several years, with initial discussions beginning around 2018.

Maximilian Lang, Managing Director at Gerhard Lang Recycling GmbH, comments: "With the integration of AUTOSORT™ PULSE, we are able to process a throughput of around 4-7 tons per hour and achieve exceptionally high purity levels, exceeding 95% and potentially reaching 97%. As a result, our material is suitable for use in the production of aluminium without downgrading.

"We can now sell the recovered materials to leading aluminium manufacturers and recyclers for direct integration into the production of new aluminium alloys. What's more, we are considering the potential to explore

additional applications for other aluminium alloys."

Frank van de Winkel, Market Strategy Manager - Metal at TOMRA Recycling, adds: "This is a very exciting project for TOMRA to be involved in, and we are delighted that Gerhard Lang Recycling GmbH is reaping the benefits that our AUTOSORT™ PULSE can offer. With the European Union's commitment to climate neutrality by 2050, as outlined in the Green Deal, and the specific target of a 55% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 under the 'Fit for 55' initiative, there has never been a more crucial time to explore ways of making the aluminium supply chain more sustainable.

"Our AUTOSORT™ PULSE system empowers aluminium manufacturers to enhance the utilisation of recycled aluminium in their production processes. This innovative solution unlocks access to previously untapped scrap sources, enabling the recovery of high-quality, 'alloy-true' recycled aluminium. By preventing downcycling and conserving material value, we are closing another gap towards full material circularity. The successful implementation of our technology at Gerhard Lang Recycling GmbH's plant demonstrates the feasibility of closed-loop recycling for production scrap and paves the way for a less carbon-intensive aluminium supply chain."

For further information about TOMRA, visit www.tomra.com

To see TOMRA's AUTOSORT™ PULSE in action and learn how it works at Gerhard Lang Recycling GmbH's sorting plant, scan the QR code here.



As part of the research project Kanal, the Gerhard Lang Recycling and TOMRA teams, together with other partners, aim to demonstrate the feasibility of closed-loop recycling for aluminium production scrap

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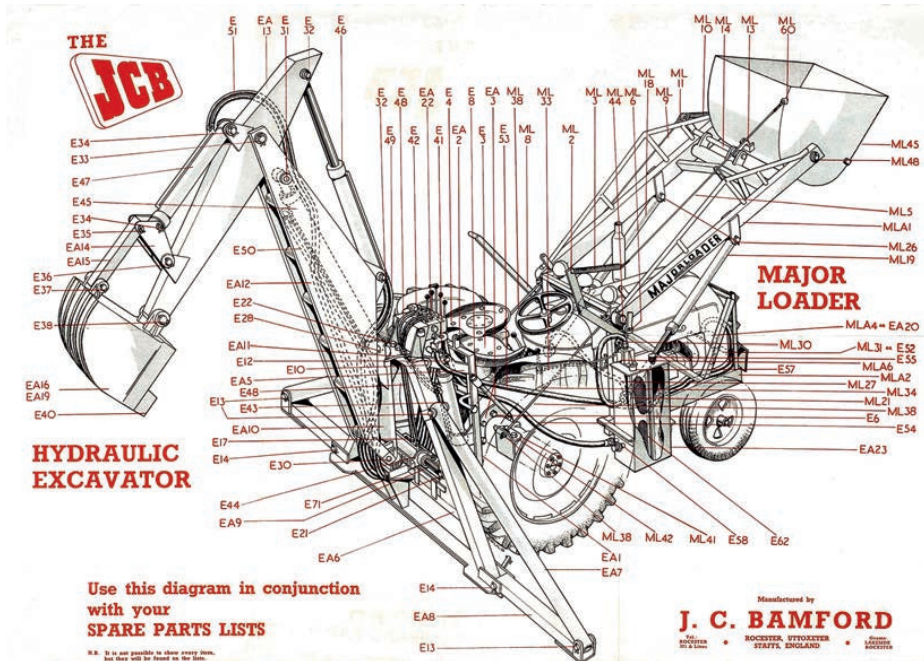
Sorting and separation

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RWM preview

BUILDING THE WORLD

JCB marks milestone with production of one millionth backhoe loader



1953: A specification sheet for JCB's first backhoe loader, the JCB Mk 1 Excavator

JCB, the creator and world's number one manufacturer of the backhoe loader is celebrating the production of the one-millionth machine. Through constant evolution, JCB has become synonymous with the concept of a wheeled machine, with a bucket at one end and a shovel at the other. Over 73 years, the backhoe loader has been the foundation, the cornerstone of construction and plant hire businesses worldwide.

Designed initially for post-war reconstruction as a machine that could complete a host of tasks on site, the concept started as an agricultural tractor with a Major Loader fitted to the front and an excavator arm to the rear. By 1953, Joseph Cyril Bamford had designed and launched the Mk 1, one of the most important and influential machines the construction industry has ever seen.

This early model was strengthened and performance improved, with



1963: The JCB 3C backhoe loader became acknowledged as a design class



Lord Bamford addresses the audience at the recent milestone event

the launch of the Hydra-Digga in 1956 and the more powerful JCB 4 in 1960. Demand for a smaller, more manoeuvrable model would soon lead to the JCB 3, a backhoe loader for the housebuilder, rather than the civil engineer and a model that would launch plant hire businesses worldwide.

In the seven decades since, JCB has continued to develop and evolve the concept, adding longer loader arms, a horizontal 'side shift' for the backhoe mounting, the six-in-one front shovel and even a kettle for the operator. Turbocharged engines, powershift transmissions, all-wheel drive, the extending dipper arm and auxiliary hydraulics, have turned the humble backhoe loader into one of the most versatile, productive and reliable master-of-all-trades machines.

From those early days, JCB realised the benefits and potential of vertical integration, designing and engineering its own components specifically for the backhoe loader and its other equipment lines. Transmissions, axles, hydraulic cylinders and cabs are all sourced internally, more recently being joined by JCB's award-winning range of low emission diesel engines. The company is currently working on an innovative



A 1953 JCB backhoe leads the cavalcade at JCB's World HQ

For more than 70 years JCB has continued to develop and refine the backhoe loader, achieving sales success and market leadership in every corner of the globe. The most efficient, productive, versatile and reliable backhoe loader in the world, continues to provide customers with one machine that can carry out a multitude of tasks.

The JCB backhoe loader can load 20 tonnes of material in less than five minutes while using 10% less fuel than a 13-tonne excavator. It can move material across site 25% faster than an 8-tonne excavator and 9-tonne site dumper while using 50% less fuel. It is able to level material three times faster than a 13-tonne excavator while using 25% less fuel. Plus, the backhoe loader can drive itself to and from site with no requirement for additional transportation.

Alternatively, customers can remove the bucket and shovel and operate the backhoe loader with a host of other attachments, from road sweepers to patch planers, hydraulic breakers to compaction, and pallet forks to post-hole augers.

hydrogen engine that will boldly take the backhoe loader into a zero-emission future.

The backhoe loader concept continues to expand, from the skid steer loader-based 1CX, through the 3CX Compact and the various 3CX models, to the all-wheel steer 4CX and powerful

5CX. There are Highways Master and Wastemaster trims, even a Polemaster Plus for specialist utility work. There is a JCB backhoe loader to suit every application anywhere in the world, and the JCB backhoe loader is built at multiple sites worldwide to suit local demand better.

Centenarian Ken helps JCB mark major milestone

Centenarian Ken Harrison was a guest of honour at the recent celebrations to mark the production of JCB's one millionth backhoe loader as the last known survivor of the original production team that built the first machines.

Ken, who turned 100 last November, joined JCB as a welder in 1952 when only 29 people worked on the shop floor, earning four shillings and sixpence an hour. He stayed for 36 years before retiring in 1988.

He returned to the place where the first JCB backhoes rolled off the production line 72 years ago - JCB's World Headquarters in Rocester. This time, instead of clocking on, he arrived in style in the company's chauffeur-driven Jaguar to join in the celebrations.

When Ken joined JCB, it was to be the start of a family tradition. Thirteen other relatives followed in his footsteps, and to date, Ken's family has amassed more than 350 years of service to JCB.

He had been brought up as the eldest of eight children at Barrow Hill overlooking what would become the JCB factory half a mile away. Ken was also at the forefront of JCB's European sales drive in the 1950s and 1960s, having spent six years in the Demonstration Team driving machines to show to customers and dealers.

Ken said: "We put long hours in at the factory in those days; in fact, we almost lived there. I can remember being at work at 5pm one Sunday and being the only one there when Joe Bamford came in and shouted across to me: 'I'm relying on you Harrison'. In those days, everyone was addressed by their surname. Joe was all right; I really liked him. Everyone was happy and friendly, and everyone mucked in during those days. One day you would be welding and the next you would be operating a concrete mixer. You'd be doing all sorts of jobs in those early days, nothing like it is today."

Ed Farnley, 24, of Uttoxeter, is Ken Harrison's great-nephew and joined JCB six years ago as a Business Degree Apprentice. He works as a Product Specialist for JCB Attachments in Uttoxeter.

Ed said: "I'm the fourth generation of my family to work here and it gives me a real sense of pride to know that we have contributed so much service to JCB. My great-grandfather John Harrison and my grandfather Colin Farnley both worked here as does my dad Alan. It's great that we have all been part of the success story that JCB has become over the past 80 years."



JCB Chairman Anthony Bamford (left) and Ken Harrison with the millionth JCB backhoe loader

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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

Has SEPA worked?

When it emerged in 1992 that the Westminster Government intended to set up SEPA, a new Scotland-wide organisation to improve environmental protection, the Royal Environmental Health Institute of Scotland (REHIS) wasn't impressed.

At the time, the 53 District Councils and the 3 Islands Councils were responsible for Licensing and Regulating all waste transfer, treatment, and disposal facilities (including sites that they themselves operated) as well as the collection, treatment and disposal of Special Waste. They also had extensive powers for controlling environmental pollution.

The control of water quality in rivers and watercourses was the responsibility of nine River Purification Boards (RPBs). The Board Members were nominated by the Secretary of State for Scotland and had a healthy balance of representation from both public and private sector interests. The RPBs also had a statutory input to the licensing and regulation of waste treatment and disposal facilities (especially landfills) as well as the collection, treatment and disposal of Special Waste.

On top of this, we had the Hazardous Waste Inspectorate (HWI) based in Edinburgh, charged with the responsibility for assessing performance standards at the Councils' waste treatment and disposal facilities, and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Pollution (HMIP), whose remit included specified industrial plants and processes.

The argument for replacing the existing arrangements was based on a view that there was limited liaison

between the RPB staff and the District and Island Councils; there was evidence that in some District Councils, the level of regulation carried out on private sector waste disposal sites was more onerous than that on the Council's own sites (an example being that one Council Enforcement Officer, well-known for being a stickler to the legislation, wasn't allowed near any of the sites operated by his Council); and some private sector waste disposal operators complained that a standard that was acceptable by one District Council wasn't in another.

It was believed that by setting up a Scotland-wide organisation (an equivalent one was proposed for England) to emulate the USA's Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), these issues would be fully addressed and higher, more consistent standards of enforcement would follow. The proposal was to transfer those District Council staff (mostly Environmental Health Officers) currently on pollution control duties to the new SEPA, who would also take over the staff and duties of the existing RPBs as well as HWI and HMIP.

REHIS argued that there was already sufficient liaison between the Councils' and the RPB's staff. The existing arrangements had worked well for years in terms of the licensing and regulation of waste transfer, treatment and disposal facilities. RPB regulatory staff had appropriate powers of entry and there was plenty of evidence that if a river or stream had become polluted due to problems at a waste disposal site, the Board had taken immediate action (including successful

prosecutions) without having to consult with the appropriate Council. REHIS did concede that there were one or two Councils whose enforcement staff weren't as rigid when dealing with their own sites as those operated by a private contractor. However, HWI had been set up specifically to address this issue and also that of some Councils interpreting the legislation differently to others.

REHIS also pointed out that the RPB staff had an excellent working relationship with local angling clubs who were quick to report pollution incidents and fish kills in watercourses but over time, this relationship might be diluted if SEPA took over. They also said many of the Councils' regulatory staff had come through the ranks and had practical experience of operating in-house waste treatment and disposal sites. Over time as these Officers retired or moved on, that expertise would be lost.

See here we are over 30 years later. We're told 20% of our waste is now handled by criminals with both SEPA and the EA apparently unable to know where all the illegal waste operations are located. HMRC is actually levying Landfill Tax on many of these illegal sites. It was reported over a year ago that EA staff had been told to keep away from sites considered 'problematical' to avoid them failing to meet their prescribed inspection targets. It's crazy.

Who knows if there would have been so many illegal sites if the Councils and RPBs still had their original powers, but at least local people would have been able to alert the authorities to get people out very quickly and start sorting it out.

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