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ISSUE 232 • **MAY 2025**

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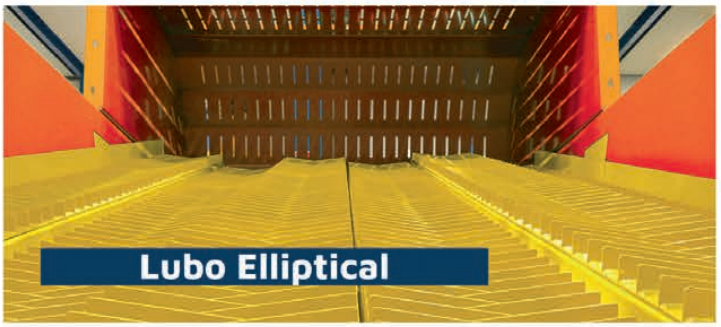

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EDITORIAL VIEWPOINT

By **Brendan Gilligan**

By the time you read this, the bin workers' strike in Birmingham, which began on 11th March, may have already ended. However, considering the unsightly piles of waste, what is the impact on the health of local residents, both now and in the future?

This strike is not the first in the UK. Glasgow had a major refuse strike in 2021, and Birmingham experienced severe disruptions in 2017.

One big concern from the current situation is the rise in rats. Some locals report seeing rats that are 'bigger than cats'.

Rats can carry diseases that affect humans. The most serious is Weil's disease, which can harm the liver and kidneys and cause neurological issues. This disease can even be deadly. People usually get it from rat urine, which can enter the body through cuts or grazes. It is often caught when people swim in water contaminated by rat urine or during flooding.

Another risk is rat bite fever, which happens if a person gets bitten by a rat. Although rare, these infections can be fatal if not treated quickly. Seoul hantavirus can also be caught by breathing in tiny sprays of rat urine and faeces. While these infections are uncommon, rat bites can cause severe injuries and infections.

Stomach bugs, like Salmonella, Campylobacter and E. coli, are also a worry. Wild animals, such as birds and foxes, can rip open bin bags, pick up these germs and spread them to people through food or water. Pet dogs and cats can carry some of these bacteria, putting people at risk. Seagulls can get Salmonella and Campylobacter from waste and then pass these infections to humans.

Some outbreaks of Campylobacter have occurred because birds have pecked through milk bottles.

Flies breed in garbage and can also spread Campylobacter infections.

A serious concern is clinical waste, like needles, being thrown away with regular rubbish. This waste can injure someone and spread blood-borne viruses, like HIV and hepatitis B. It can be hard to know how likely these health risks are, but my biggest worry is injuries from contact with discarded clinical waste, especially for children playing near piles of rubbish. I also worry about rat bites and other vermin attracted to the waste.

Until the rubbish is cleared, keep children and pets away from it. If you volunteer to remove refuse bags, please make sure you wear a mask, strong gloves and protective clothing.

PaL Media

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

CONTRIBUTORS
- Steve Burton
- John Crawford
- Dr Sayed Elhoushy
- Jessica Morgan-Smith
- Kjetil Vikingstad
- Dr Anna Willets
- James Craig
- Sandra Dick
- Lisa Gillespie
- Marco Muia
- Tracey Westbury
- Dr Hossein Zarei

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EDITORIAL: GOT A STORY? 0161 482 6248
Send your stories, press releases and news/feature ideas to **editor@pal-media.co.uk**

SUBSCRIPTIONS: 0161 482 6248

ADVERTISING: 0161 482 6248

PRINTERS: Buxton Press Limited.

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MIX Paper | Supporting responsible forestry FSC® C002375

Registered in England as a magazine: **ISSN 2756-0279**
Skip & Waste magazine is published by:
Perfect Associates Limited,
Floor 2, Unit 7, Rhino Court, Station View,
Hazel Grove, Stockport, SK7 5ER
Telephone: 0161 482 6248
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New recycling rules for all households in England with five different bin collections

The Government has announced that new recycling regulations will be implemented across England, affecting every household. These regulations require local councils to start weekly food waste collections for most homes.

The Simpler Recycling scheme aims to standardise recycling rules, ensuring consistency whether at home, work or school. According to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), by 31st March, 2026, all local authorities will be required to collect core recyclable materials from every household.

This will mean an average of five recycling bins per household for food waste, plastics, paper, green waste and plastic films. *Plastic film collections involve gathering soft, flexible plastic packaging such as bags, wrappers and pouches, which are subsequently processed into new products.*

Weekly food waste collections will begin for most homes, with some councils having transitional arrangements. By 31st March, 2027, kerbside collections of plastic films will also be implemented.

Workplaces with fewer than 10 employees have until 31st March, 2027, to organise recycling of these materials.

The initiative is expected to save greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to £11.8 billion and support the goal of recycling 65% of municipal waste by 2035.

Circular Economy Minister Mary Creagh stated: "We are committed to ending the throwaway society, boosting recycling rates which have stalled for too long, and driving growth through the Government's Plan for Change. We will continue to work closely with businesses to deliver our reforms that will increase recycling rates and ensure more recycled content in the products we buy."

Further changes are coming for recycling in England, with more recycling bins and containers and weekly food waste collections

The Environment Agency will now oversee the Simpler Recycling initiative, demonstrating its commitment to helping businesses - both waste producers and collectors - adapt to their new responsibilities. This commitment includes providing guidance to companies on how to adhere to the regulations.

Steve Molyneux, deputy director of waste and resources regulation at the EA, emphasised the importance of this development: "The implementation of Simpler Recycling for workplaces is a pivotal moment and a significant step forward, driving change in the waste market."

He added: "We are committed to supporting businesses with their new duties. We will adopt a pragmatic approach to implementation and collaborate with stakeholders to help them overcome any challenges related to compliance."

Introducing Simpler Recycling in England is crucial for the Government's circular economy strategy, prioritising efficient resource use and waste reduction. This initiative accelerates the path to net zero while promoting economic growth through investments in infrastructure and green jobs.

UK to use nearly 7 billion plastic bags for deliveries by 2030

New research says that by 2030, nearly seven billion plastic bags will be used for deliveries in the UK. This shows that online shopping is not doing as well as stores in using fewer plastic bags.

The UK is the biggest market in Europe for e-commerce plastic bags. Since the 5p charge for plastic bags started in 2015, stores have reduced their plastic bag use by 98%. But for deliveries, the number of plastic bags is expected to rise by 40% in the next seven years. That means about 1.3 billion plastic delivery bags will be used every year.

To help with this issue, DS Smith is asking for new rules to make online shops use fewer plastic bags. They also want stores to find better options faster. Right now, only 9% of fashion delivery bags are reused or recycled, while 91% end up in landfill or are incinerated.

Stefano Rossi from DS Smith said that online shops need to catch up with regular stores in terms of using fewer plastic bags. He believes that rules should be stricter to help businesses find better choices.

The study found that 67% of people want to stop using plastic bags when there are other options. 60% prefer their items wrapped in cardboard or paper.

Moreover, 51% of UK shoppers feel guilty about using so much plastic and believe stores should help reduce it. Also, 46% would choose a store that uses easy-to-recycle packaging.

First year of Ireland's successful DRS serves as a role model for UK

On 1st February, 2024, Ireland became the 16th European country to implement the Deposit Return System (DRS) for single-use beverage packaging. Just over a year later, on 4th February, 2025, Lidl Ireland in Kilcarbery, Dublin, celebrated the return of the one billionth packaging container - a remarkable achievement for a country with a population of 5.3 million.

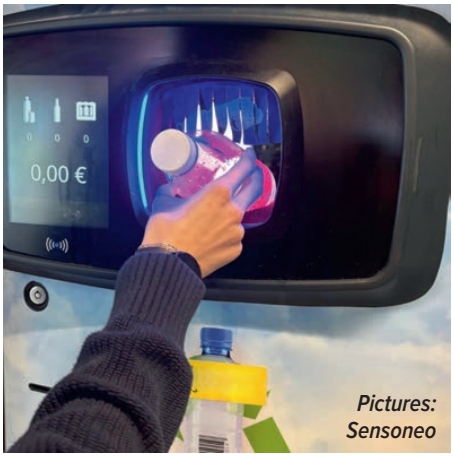
The successful introduction and effective operation of the Irish DRS in its first year serve as a model for the UK, which has faced challenges in its DRS implementation but is expected to launch its own system in the near future.

The DRS aims to promote a cleaner environment by reducing cross-contamination and ensuring higher quality recycling materials. It includes PET plastic bottles and aluminium cans from 150 ml to 3 litres, with a deposit of 15 cents for containers between 150 ml and 500 ml, and 25 cents for those over 500 ml.

DRS Ireland in Numbers (as of 8th April, 2025):

- *3,200 active collection points (Over 2,600 with Reverse Vending Machines and 600 with manual collection)*
- *9,886 registered products*
- *1.2 billion collected containers through RVMs (1,227,178,901)*

Sensoneo, a global technology company, provides the IT solution supporting Ireland's DRS. Their cloud-based software integrates data and streamlines operations among stakeholders. Alan Pearson, Chief Information Officer at Re-turn, emphasised the importance of technology in the DRS success, noting that Sensoneo's platform enables efficient management of the system.



Pictures: Sensoneo

An interesting aspect of the Irish DRS is the ongoing expansion to new collection points to bring recycling closer to people. These include airports, hospitals, prisons, stadiums, public events, government offices, large companies and community collection points.

Since Return for Children launched last June, drinks containers have been donated to the initiative at public events, raising €90,000 to date. Return for Children was created to support six national children's charities: Barnardos Ireland, Barretstown, Childline by ISPCC, Jack and Jill, LauraLynn Children's Hospice and Make-A-Wish Ireland. Collectively, these six charities support over 165,000 vulnerable and seriously ill children across Ireland.

Wales and England consulting on permitting reforms

The UK and Welsh Governments are conducting an eight-week joint consultation ending on 3rd June to reform environmental permits and exemptions for certain waste management activities.

This initiative follows Dan Corry's review of the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra), which identified critical issues in the waste sector.

Corry highlighted that waste criminality, including illegal dumping and misdescription, costs the economy £1 billion annually and undermines compliant operators and customer trust. He recommended that Defra refine its licensing and compliance enforcement strategies.

Challenges in permitting the waste sector

The reforms aim to address problems such as the abuse of exemptions by rogue operators. The Environment Agency has reported a surge in waste export fraud and has exposed sophisticated money laundering networks linked to illegal waste management, including fly-tipping.

Despite high overall compliance with environmental permits, non-compliance is significantly higher in the waste sector, with some facilities showing persistent non-compliance over multiple years.

To combat these issues, the government plans to eliminate three frequently abused waste exemptions, including those covering the use of depolluted end-of-life vehicle parts, the treatment of tyres ***(see opposite page)***, and the recovery of scrap metal.

This consultation is part of the Government's broader Regulatory Action Plan, aiming to streamline the process of updating exemptions and conditions.

The current permitting system features three types: Bespoke Permits for complex activities, Standard Rules Permits for well-defined activities and Exemptions for low-risk operations that still require registration and compliance.

Jo Nettleton, Chief Regulator at the Environment Agency, stated: "We believe that protecting the environment and sustainable development go hand-in-hand, and we support the Government's aim for economic growth. We welcome the proposed reforms to environmental permitting, which will enable us to be a fair and proportionate regulator while supporting businesses and sustainable growth."

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HAVE YOUR VOICE HEARD

A burning shame:
UK's tyre recycling scandal

I was saddened, although not surprised, to hear of the BBC investigation into UK waste tyre exports and how millions of these tyres are being burnt illegally in India, creating all sorts of health and environmental problems for the country and its people.

Even worse, is India's heavy reliance on these exports - some reports suggest that almost half of its imported tyre scrap comes from our shores. However, this issue is not just confined to India; right now, there are hardly any global waste tyre trade restrictions unless an importing country explicitly bans them.

I've always questioned whether our current regulatory controls are fit-for-purpose when it comes to waste exports. See, here's the issue - waste tyre exports aren't classified as hazardous as they fall under 'green-list' waste under the Transfrontier Shipments (TFS) framework. As green-list waste is deemed low risk, it is subject to virtually no regulatory control.

Yes, waste tyres are recyclable and in an ideal world that would happen. But the reality is that unscrupulous operators have long exploited the system, which is why we are seeing this crisis unfold in India and other developing countries that have weak environmental protection laws coupled with inadequate waste-processing infrastructure.

In my view, stricter controls on green-listed waste exports are essential to ensure responsible recycling and a more sustainable and healthier economy for all. Currently, these exports are permitted free movement with no prior authorisation and minimal oversight.

This regularly results in the misclassification of hazardous or contaminated waste for financial gain and loss of valuable resources (ie, high-quality recyclables), which in turn limits opportunities for domestic recycling here in the UK.

What's the solution? Tougher regulation and enforcement. There are various options here, but one course of action could be to reclassify certain green-listed waste, like tyres that have the potential to become hazardous if not managed properly once in the receiving country, as 'amber-list' waste.

This would ensure such exports are subject to more stringent regulatory controls and quality standards. In light of the BBC investigation, a campaign group is already calling for this and has launched a legal case against the UK Government in a bid to force such action.

Exporters should also be required to prove that receiving facilities meet environmental and ethical processing standards, which are the same as those employed in OECD countries.

Taking this a step further, what about making exporters accountable for the final destination and treatment of their shipments? This could be actioned by expanding Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) schemes for exported recyclables like tyres and plastics.

There should also be a cost to export green-list waste, as is the case with amber-list; a small fee and registration for every export would be appropriate to ensure the waste is recorded and sufficiently funded for compliance and proper enforcement.

Last but not least, make digital waste tracking and reporting mandatory, and immediate, don't put it off for another 12 months - these systems would immediately improve transparency and accountability in the waste export process.

*By **Steve Burton**, Director and Founder at Adusia Group*

EA to review its approach to waste tyre exports

The Environment Agency (EA) will review how it handles waste tyre shipments to India after a potential legal action from the group Fighting Dirty. This decision follows months of communication between Fighting Dirty and the EA about the millions of waste tyres exported from the UK.

In response to a letter from lawyers representing Fighting Dirty, the EA announced it would conduct a detailed review of its waste tyre shipping practices and plans to consult with industry representatives, trade groups, the Indian Government and other authorities.

They have invited Fighting Dirty to share its concerns at a meeting and stated they are planning to meet with officials in Autumn 2025. The review should take a little more time with a goal to finish by 30th June, 2025.

Georgia Elliott-Smith, Director at Fighting Dirty, said: "We are pleased the EA wants to engage proactively, and we look forward to learning more about their review. The Government must stop ignoring the illegal and unethical actions of UK waste exporters. Fighting Dirty will continue to press for change, and we may take further legal action if the EA does not address these issues adequately."

Since 2023, Fighting Dirty has been working to uncover how much the EA knows about the roughly 55 million waste tyres sent from the UK to India.

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Shops urged to ditch single-use vapes as ban deadline looms

High street shops and convenience stores must clear their stocks of single-use vapes before new rules take effect. Starting on 1st June, 2025, selling any remaining single-use vapes will be illegal. This decision came after the Government heard strong support for limiting the sale of these products.

Research by Material Focus estimates that about 8.2 million vapes are thrown away or littered every week in the UK, which is around 13 every second. However, recycling single-use vapes is difficult because waste workers need to take them apart by hand, which is slow and expensive. Moreover, the materials in these vapes can be a fire hazard at recycling centres and may leak harmful chemicals into the environment.

From 1st June, businesses that still have single-use vapes will not be allowed to sell them to customers and must ensure safe disposal.

Scott Butler, executive director of Material Focus, said: "The upcoming ban will remove some of the most harmful vape models from the market. However, vape makers and retailers must take responsibility by providing and paying for the takeback and recycling of vapes. This includes offering in-store takeback services wherever vapes are sold and covering the costs of recycling to support a more sustainable economy."

Material Focus has created a briefing paper on vapes to help retailers and producers understand how to comply and guide local authorities.

In England, businesses that do not follow the ban could face a stop notice or a fine of £200 at first, and Trading Standards can seize their products. Further offences may lead to unlimited fines or prosecution.

Waste fines could be issued without court process

An independent review of Defra's rules has recommended that regulators should be able to issue fines for minor waste offences without going to court.

The review, led by former Labour adviser Dan Corry, found the current environmental regulations to be outdated and complicated.

Rather than suggesting a complete overhaul, the review offers 29 recommendations to simplify the regulations, which the Government says it is considering.

One important recommendation is for Defra to rethink its approach to enforcement and penalties to ensure consistency across different offences.

For the waste sector, the review suggests allowing regulators to quickly fine minor offenders without needing court approval. It also calls for tougher penalties for those who refuse to comply deliberately and for repeat offenders.

Dan Corry, an economist and former charity leader who led the review, stated: "Our current system for environmental regulation lets down both nature and economic growth. We must focus on achieving positive outcomes and enhancing nature rather than rigidly preserving everything at any cost.

"This review shows that simply scrapping regulations isn't the answer - instead, we need modern, streamlined regulations that are easier for everyone to navigate."

Polytag boosts plastics recycling in Wales with UV detection units

Polytag has installed four Plastic Detection units in Material Recycling Facilities across Wales to track the 170,000 tons of waste that enters the recycling stream each year. The company creates invisible UV tags that help businesses access real-time data on packaging recycling and improve recycling efficiency.

These UV tags allow brands to monitor when and where their plastic packaging is recycled. Polytag partnered with EBS Automation, a machinery maker in Wales, to install the detection units. These units can scan and collect barcode data on individual products as they enter the recycling process.

Alice Rackley, CEO of Polytag, highlighted that Wales leads the UK in recycling with a 66.5% rate and believes these units will further improve this success.

The initiative aims to give brands and waste management companies valuable data on recycling, allowing them to take responsibility for their packaging and enhance recycling rates. The installation sites are in Conwy, Gwynedd, Pembrokeshire and Anglesey, part of Polytag's Ecotrace Programme, which focuses on real-time tracking of single-use plastics.

The project received a £100,000 grant from the Small Business Research Initiative (SBRI) funded by the Welsh Government. Kate Williams, SBRI's innovation programme manager, noted that this technology is crucial for advancing a circular economy and improving recycling data in Wales.

Last November, Polytag also encouraged industry leaders to back a flexible UK deposit return scheme, with over 50 signatories advocating for the use of digital innovations to enhance packaging recycling.

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LISA GILLESPIE

Managing Director, Meliora HR

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

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

Sadly, nobody really wins

The UK Supreme Court handed down a landmark ruling on 16th April, 2025, which provided a definitive definition of sex to mean 'biological sex' under the Equality Act 2010.

The decision was met with elation from those who have argued this for years; however, the trans community and their supporters were devastated by the judgment.

It has clarified a long-standing grey area for employers, while simultaneously adding another layer of complexity. Employers may have been operating a policy that trans people could use single sex spaces in accordance with their gender identity, however now a person of biological sex, if so minded, will be able to reference this ruling in requesting trans people do not use single sex facilities if they are not of that biological sex.

This is such an emotive and complicated issue. So, what is the answer? To be honest, the best I can come up with is that this is a sad tale of competing and conflicting interests and a difficult balance in the protection of rights.

Even sadder is that women and trans people actually have so much in common in terms of having to endlessly fight for better treatment by society, yet this is a fundamental point of difference for which many are entrenched on opposing sides.

The obvious battlegrounds at work will be changing facilities and toilets.

There is in fact an ongoing employment tribunal case in which these very matters arise *(see Peggie v NHS Fife)* in which Nurse Sandie Peggie was suspended from work at the Victoria Hospital in Kirkcaldy, Fife, in January 2024 after she objected to Dr Beth Upton, a trans woman, using the female changing room in the A&E department.

Peggie lodged a claim against the Fife health board and Dr Upton, citing the Equality Act, including sexual harassment, harassment related to a protected belief, indirect discrimination and victimisation. The Supreme Court ruling puts Peggie's claim in a clear legal context and it isn't easy to see how the health board is going to be able to carry on defending the claims.

On the day of the judgment, NHS Fife said it *"notes the clarity provided by today's Supreme Court ruling regarding the legal definition of a woman"* and that it *"will now take time to carefully consider the judgment and its implications."*

The implications are clear. It is a fool's errand for them to spend any more public money on defending this case.

This shows just how painful and expensive these complexities of navigating employment rights can be. I'm also making the assumption that up until the judgment, Dr Upton was continuing to use the female changing rooms; so now what?

Her employer, which has invested huge amounts of time and money defending her right to use the female changing room, will have to undertake a massive U-turn and withdraw permission. What a mess.

In truth, there are no winners in these situations. I had a similar case early on in my career in which a trans woman wished to use the female toilets at work. Her female colleagues objected, and the male colleagues objected to her using theirs.

I asked the employer if they had separate male and female disabled toilets, to which they responded no, there was one unisex disabled toilet. That's the answer, I said. Rather than risk spending a lot of time and money on litigation, it is worth getting a quote to refurbish them and make them all unisex. If anyone complains, tell them that the disabled employees have been putting up with unisex toilets for years.

In the end, that's what the client did. And I guess that ultimately that advice is as relevant today as it was almost two decades ago... sometimes the path of least resistance is the only option.

Mary Creagh and Defra to support Festival of Circular Economy

The Circular Economy Institute and CIWM have announced that Mary Creagh, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), will participate in the upcoming Festival of Circular Economy, highlighting the UK Government's commitment to a circular economy.

Creagh, the government Minister for Nature, will give a keynote presentation and provide an update on the Circular Economy Taskforce, established in November 2024 to assist in developing a circular economy strategy for England. She will be joined by Taskforce members, including Dr David Greenfield from the Circular Economy Institute, for a discussion on the opportunities and challenges of transitioning from traditional economic models.

The Festival of Circular Economy returns for 2025, featuring an in-person day at Second Home Spitalfields in London on 22nd May, alongside two days of online content.

"It is great to see such strong governmental support for this year's Festival of Circular Economy, an event which provides a crucial platform for knowledge sharing, innovation and collaboration," said Dr David Greenfield from the Circular Economy Institute. "By combining diverse perspectives from some of the leading experts in the field, we can accelerate the transition to a more sustainable future."

Taking place from 20th-22th May, the event will blend virtual and in-person activities, focusing on design's role in advancing a circular economy, and will gather experts from various sectors.

For more information, visit ***www.circulareconomyfestival.com/***

Kiverco welcomes Invest NI Chief Executive to discuss Ambitious Growth Strategy

Kiverco recently welcomed Invest Northern Ireland's Chief Executive, Kieran Donoghue, to its headquarters, alongside Anne Beggs, Executive Director of International Business and Skills, Kate Gilmore, International Trade Adviser and Denzil Morrow, Client Executive, to discuss its ambitious 10-year growth strategy focused on digital transformation and global expansion.

The company is investing in infrastructure, people and sustainability, having expanded its manufacturing facility to 40,000 sq ft in 2024 to boost production capacity. Earlier this year, they installed solar panels with support from Invest NI, moving towards net zero.

Kiverco prioritises talent development through training and upskilling, aided by Invest NI support. Its digital transformation enhances product range and operational efficiency.

Collaborations with Queen's University and other organisations ensure Kiverco contributes to Northern Ireland's manufacturing innovation ecosystem.

Kiverco's Managing Director and Chair of the AMIC Industry Advisory Board, John Irwin, commented: "Digitalising manufacturing and incorporating smart designs are at the core of our business growth strategy, helping us to compete globally with a sustainable focus. With over 400 plants worldwide, we play a key role in cleaning up the world's waste, reducing environmental impact and contributing to a cleaner, circular economy.

"Committed to innovation and expanding into new markets, our recent progress in the Middle East and Australia presents exciting opportunities. Thanks to our partnership with Invest NI, we are poised for continued domestic and export market growth with enhanced production capabilities and digital advancements."

Kieran Donoghue, Chief Executive of Invest NI, stated: "Invest NI has worked with Kiverco for more than 15 years, supporting it to accelerate innovation and skills, improve supply chain resilience and export its products worldwide. We are excited to support Kiverco as it expands and impacts the global recycling industry."

Biffa appoints MD to drive growth of its C&D division

Biffa has appointed Robin Stevenson as the new MD of its construction and demolition (C&D) Division, transitioning from his role as managing director at Hamilton Waste & Recycling, which Biffa acquired in November 2023. He joins four other divisional MDs within Biffa's Collections & Specialist Services.

With over 30 years of experience in the waste industry, Robin aims to drive growth in Biffa's C&D business, especially in light of the Government's plans for 1.5 million new homes and major infrastructure projects.

Biffa operates C&D processing facilities across several UK cities and is a leading supplier of waste skips.

Robin shared that the growth strategy will involve acquisitions, expanding recycling infrastructure and creating partnerships with regional operators. He emphasised the importance of developing low-carbon recycling solutions to reduce emissions and support a circular economy.

Robin believes it's an exciting time for Biffa as it seeks to set new standards in the construction waste sector.

Alupro partners with LARAC to enhance recycling rates

Aluminium packaging recycling organisation Alupro has announced a partnership with the Local Authority Recycling Advisory Committee (LARAC) to enhance recycling rates across UK councils.

This collaboration will allow Alupro to engage directly with LARAC members, providing guidance on best practices for recycling aluminium packaging. The partnership includes regular content sharing through blogs, articles, and advertorials on LARAC's website.

Tom Giddings, Executive Director of Alupro, stated: "Through our proven engagement initiatives, such as MetalMatters, which hundreds of councils have implemented since its launch in 2013, we aim to make recycling simple, accessible, and easy to understand for households."

The partnership builds on Alupro's MetalMatters programme, which has successfully improved household recycling rates since 2013. These campaigns involve a two-phase leaflet distribution to all households in the target area, supplemented by additional communications and messages.

The initiative also seeks to improve kerbside collection rates and material quality by collaborating with local authorities, with the goal of achieving a 100% recycling rate for aluminium packaging across the UK.

"Thanks to our funded programmes, we can help positively influence community awareness about aluminium packaging recycling and drive widespread consumer engagement," Giddings added.

LARAC Executive Director Toni McNamara expressed enthusiasm for the partnership, stating: "LARAC is delighted to partner with Alupro to support local authorities in increasing aluminium packaging recycling rates. Councils play a crucial role in encouraging household recycling behaviour, and by working together, we can provide them with the resources, guidance, and proven engagement initiatives needed to make a significant impact."

UK incineration boom could change how waste is managed across Europe

KJETIL VIKINGSTAD
R&D and Founder of material and energy recovery firm Geminor

COMMENT

The London Waste Edmonton Eco Park in Enfield

The UK is on the brink of a significant shift. Over the next two years, between four to five million tonnes of new EfW capacity will come online, alongside rising landfill taxes that could release up to seven million tonnes of waste. Whether the UK becomes a net importer or exporter depends on available feedstock. Market dynamics, seasonal shifts and waste composition will decide the balance, bringing both opportunity and risk across Europe's waste flows.

At Geminor, we've worked in this flow for years. I've seen how the UK's excess waste has supported plants across the Nordics, the Netherlands and Germany. However, with a sharp increase in treatment capacity, more waste will be handled domestically. Depending on seasonal and market dynamics, there may be periods when imports are needed to maintain operational efficiency in UK facilities.

This evolution could be felt beyond UK borders. Operators in Northern Europe that previously depended on British RDF may begin looking toward Southern and Eastern Europe, where up to 100 million tonnes of waste are still landfilled annually. Yet accessing these markets is not straightforward. Infrastructure constraints, transport costs, regulatory variation and compliance challenges all add layers of complexity that must be navigated.

Meanwhile, the UK still landfills around seven million tonnes of waste yearly. However, a key question remains: How much of that landfilled waste is suitable and economically viable for energy recovery? EfW plants are designed for low-calorific household and commercial waste streams. If the quality being landfilled today is suited for modern EfW plants, it could be treated domestically or exported, depending on the volumes available. Understanding this is essential for aligning capacity, infrastructure, and long-term waste strategies.

In the UK, as in other parts of Europe, the push for circularity is accelerating with the rollout of new EfW capacity, reshaping residual waste and complicating operations. As source separation, mechanical sorting and advanced recycling technologies improve, more high-value materials are removed upstream, typically leaving a less consistent, lower-calorific waste stream for incineration.

At Geminor, we're observing increased interest in Carbon Capture technologies, particularly for biogenic waste streams with negative emissions potential. However, these technologies' effectiveness and economic viability partly depend on stable feedstock and predictable biogenic carbon content, which may become increasingly variable as sorting advances. This variability could directly impact plant efficiency and complicate long-term planning for carbon capture infrastructure.

These operational shifts highlight the growing need for policy alignment. The UK is exploring its own carbon tax or emissions trading scheme. Still, if this diverges from the EU ETS, it could disrupt cross-border investments in energy recovery infrastructure, Carbon Capture Storage (CCS) deployment, and broader circular economy systems. Introducing CCS may also lead to significantly higher gate fees for waste deliveries due to higher capital and operating costs, posing financial challenges for municipal and inter-municipal companies already operating under budget constraints. For many, the viability of adopting CCS may depend on developing carbon dioxide removal (CDR) frameworks, where negative emissions, particularly from biogenic sources, can generate tradable carbon credits. If recognised in future regulatory systems, these credits could play a key role in offsetting costs and supporting scalable decarbonisation in the sector.

Recognising these shifting dynamics underscores the necessity of harmonised practices across borders. As national waste systems evolve independently, the demand grows for shared standards: consistent waste documentation, cohesive TFS legislation, a clear application of the polluter-pays principle, and aligned carbon accounting. Without this, Europe risks fragmentation just when co-ordinated action is most critical.

Ultimately, EfW will continue to play an essential role in Europe's circular economy, particularly for non-recyclable waste. However, successfully managing the UK's transition will require more than capacity alone. It demands joined-up thinking across markets, technologies and policies to build a more resilient and integrated European waste system.

NWH Group launches 2025 Community Fund

The NWH Group, a pioneering family-owned waste management business, has launched its Community Fund Initiative for 2025 with an annual commitment of £21,000. Since its inception in 2016, the initiative has donated more than £189,000 to local, community-led charities.

The Community Fund aims to support organisations within the areas where The NWH Group operates, reinforcing the company's ongoing dedication to social responsibility and community development.

Funding will be allocated three times a year, with applications reviewed by a committee of NWH employees to ensure a fair and transparent selection process. Charities whose missions align with the Fund's four core pillars of support are encouraged to apply:

- Recycling education for young people: encouraging and facilitating environmental awareness and sustainable practices among the youth.

- Mental wellbeing: promoting mental health initiatives and supporting programmes that foster emotional resilience and wellbeing.

- Carbon reduction: Investing in initiatives aimed at reducing carbon footprint.

- Talent growth: supporting scholarships, apprenticeships, and skills development programs to nurture talent.

Gavin Money, Managing Director of The NWH Group, said: "By focusing on sustainability, mental wellbeing, and future talent, we're not only investing in local causes - we're trying to help people change and improve their lives."

The NWH Group remains committed to building stronger communities and fostering positive change across Scotland and and the North East of England.

For more information and to apply, please visit:
www.nwhgroup.co.uk/community_fund_application/

Binn Group acquires skip hire firm

Based in Perthshire, Binn Group has acquired R Finnie Skip Hire, a waste management company in Inverness. This deal helps Binn Group expand its operations in northern Scotland and the Highlands, adding 17 employees to its existing workforce of over 140.

Fiona Labrum, who has managed Binn Group's Shore Road depot for 22 years, will move to Inverness as the new site manager.

Binn Group plans to invest in the Highland location by improving its personnel, fleet, and operational infrastructure, which will create additional jobs as the site develops.

R Finnie Skip Hire started in 1976 as a motorcycle sales company and switched to skip hire and scrap metal services in 1990. Robert Finnie and Carrie MacKay, who have led R Finnie Skip Hire, will stay with the company during the transition.

Guy MacGregor, Binn Group's business development director, said: "Robert and Carrie have built a fantastic business known for quality service and a loyal team - values that match ours. We appreciate their support during this transition to continue helping our customers. This acquisition is an important step for Binn Group as we extend our reach into the Highlands."

Robert Finnie added: "After 35 years of building R Finnie Skip Hire, we are proud to hand it over to Binn Group, a company that shares our values and commitment to customer service. We believe our staff will be well supported as they join the Binn family, and we look forward to working closely with the team during this exciting transition."

‘We skip the rest – because it’s HARSH service that really counts’

EA Barnes & Sons Ltd, based in Lichfield, Staffordshire, has added an 18t skiploader to its 15-vehicle waste disposal fleet. This new HARSH unit will work alongside two other HARSH vehicles: a smaller 12t skiploader and a 32t hookloader.

Why does this family-run business prefer HARSH? Director Jeff Smith explains: “All our HARSH equipment is strong and reliable, just as it should be. But what sets HARSH apart is its service and support. Whenever we need parts or help with maintenance, HARSH responds quickly. This level of support is much better than what we got from other suppliers. We skip the rest - because for us it’s HARSH service that really counts.”

The new skiploader is mounted on a 250hp Volvo FL chassis, designed for city driving. This truck is easy to manoeuvre and has a lightweight of just over nine tonnes.

While the support is a top reason for choosing HARSH, the truck also makes life easier for Adam, the regular driver. He appreciates the powerful performance and the remote control, which speeds up operations.

“You can control the truck from anywhere, giving you a full view around it,” he says. “This improves safety and helps position the skip accurately, especially in tight spaces like driveways.”

Another feature that helps speed up the job is HARSH’s button control for the sheeting system. It is simple to use: one set of buttons raises or lowers the tower holding the storage box, and the other moves the sheet back and forth. Whether carrying a large builder’s skip or a small driveway skip, this system makes covering skips quick.

Jeff adds: “If these HARSH features save us even five minutes on each skip, that could save us about 40 minutes a day. That means we might handle one extra job each shift. Maximising our truck’s productivity is crucial, so any improvement in efficiency is valuable.”

Fleetclear improves bin lifting operation safety

Fleetclear has introduced a Vehicle Lift Information System (VLIS) enhanced by AI technology to improve safety during bin lifting operations in the waste management industry.

Incidents involving bin lifts, including crew entrapment and accidental lifting of individuals, have led to several fatalities. Between 2012 and 2022, the HSE reported 389 incidents related to bin lifts, with 30 involving people being lifted.

Bin lifts require constant situational awareness, and neglecting proper procedures can result in serious accidents. Fleetclear’s VLIS is type-approved and fits all makes and models of Refuse Collection Vehicles (RCVs).

Chris Waller, Chief Technical Officer, explained that various situations can lead to injuries, such as clearing debris or handling falling bins. The VLIS uses AI detection to monitor the danger zone during operations. If a person or object is detected, the lifting mechanism is automatically disabled, significantly reducing the risk of accidents.

In November 2024, the Waste Industry Safety and Health Forum (WISH) released guidelines on the safe use of automatic bin lifts, emphasising that relying solely on procedures is ineffective due to human error. They also noted that modern technology can significantly enhance machine safety.

Fleetclear’s VLIS utilises AI camera recognition algorithms to minimise false activations, with adjustable detection zones tailored to different vehicles. Event reconstruction with video and telematics data is available when used with Fleetclear Connect software and DVR camera systems.

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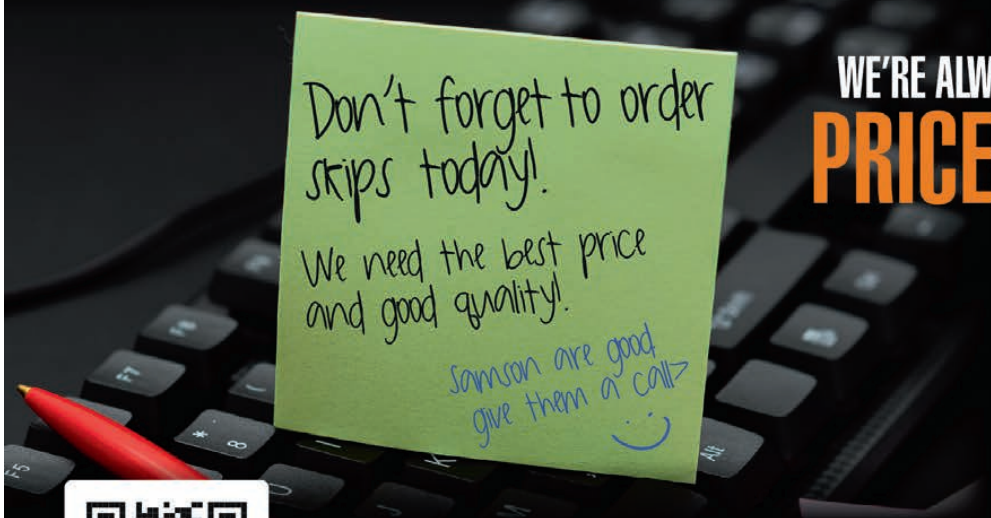

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Recycling Partnership fleet comes of age with 21st Mercedes-Benz Econic

Sussex-based waste management specialist The Recycling Partnership has completed its transformation to an all-Mercedes-Benz Econic fleet of 21 refuse collection vehicles, with the arrival of two new chassis from Dealer SAGA Truck & Van.

The Recycling Partnership's Andrew Burgess with one of his latest Mercedes-Benz Econic refuse collection trucks

Transport Manager Andrew Burgess said: "We've run Mercedes-Benz vehicles for some years, but they came from several different sources and other manufacturers were represented in the line-up too. When I took on this role a year ago, I wanted to standardise - not just on one vehicle, but also one supplier.

"This simplifies the job of fleet management but also allows us to develop a relationship with a trusted partner, both for vehicle acquisition and ongoing support. We reached out to several potential suppliers, but the response from SAGA stood out as by far the best."

The two new trucks are 6x2 Econic 2530 models, their rear-steer chassis fitted with Dennis Eagle compactor bodies and Terberg bin lifters. Each is powered by a 7.7-litre engine generating 220 kw (300 hp) and driving through a fully automatic Allison six-speed gearbox.

Routine maintenance on the trucks will be carried out at The Recycling Partnership's own workshop on its headquarters site at Turners Hill, near Crawley.

"The fact that we maintain the trucks in-house was another reason for wanting to standardise the fleet - it makes life easier for our technicians," continued Burgess. "As SAGA customers, we also know that technical advice or support with any more serious issues is just a phone call away, if we should need it - not that we ever have."

The new trucks have joined a fleet from The Recycling Partnership's headquarters and a second depot in Brighton.

Econic drivers benefit from a superior view due to its deep, wraparound windscreen and low seating position. It earns a five-star Direct Vision rating from Transport for London, especially with the optional fully glazed, bus-style folding side door, enabling eye contact with cyclists and pedestrians at junctions.

Additionally, the Econic features Active Brake Assist 5 for emergency braking with pedestrian recognition and an automatically applied Electronic Parking Brake when the engine is turned off.

"We're looking forward to developing an increasingly close partnership with SAGA as we move forward, and are already tapping into its impressive knowledge of the battery-powered eEconic as we begin to make plans for a possible move to electric transport," Burgess concluded.

Proceeds from Skip Art Challenge partnership go to hospice

The Brown Recycling Skip Art Challenge, developed in partnership with Short Supply and supported by WasteBot Ltd., celebrates artistic expression and environmental sustainability.

Brown Recycling invited 11 talented artists to transform old skips into remarkable artworks while positively impacting the community. This initiative raised awareness about recycling, waste reduction and upcycling in creative industries.

Mitch Brown, Co-Managing Director at Brown Recycling, stated: "This unique venture allowed us to commission amazing artists to revitalise our skips and was generously supported by our diverse range of customers, suppliers, and local organisations, including the innovative team at WasteBot. We were excited to showcase these creations at the Skip Art Exhibition in Stoke-on-Trent city centre.

"Moreover, it was truly heartwarming to know that through this venture, we could extend our support to Dougie Mac Hospice, raising £7,581 for this excellent cause."

Deborah Vickers, Head of Business and Events Fundraising at the hospice, expressed gratitude for the support, noting: "The finished skips look brilliant, and the artists have worked hard to bring their visions to life. Thank you to everyone involved for helping raise vital funds for hospice services in Stoke-on-Trent and North Staffordshire."

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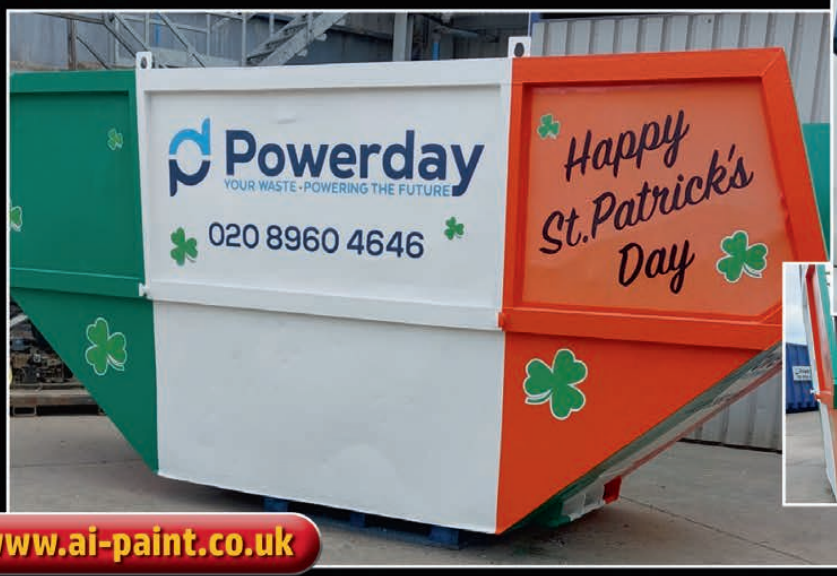

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Coastal Recycling expands fleet with bespoke skip truck

Devon-based waste and recycling specialist, Coastal Recycling, has bolstered its fleet with a new Renault Trucks D12 tailored for maximum manoeuvrability in commercial and residential sites with tight access.

The latest addition strengthens Coastal Recycling's growing Renault Trucks fleet, which already includes two 6x4 23-plate tractor units and an 18-tonne skip lorry. With an additional D18 Wide skip truck and a C520 8x4 Ro-Ro on order, Renault Trucks remains the preferred choice for the operator's 44-strong fleet.

Developed in partnership with Sparks Commercial Services, the new D12 has been carefully specified to meet Coastal Recycling's operational demands. Its compact footprint and manoeuvrability ensure its capability to work in challenging commercial and residential environments.

Marc Williamson, Transport Manager, at Coastal Recycling commented: "We opted for Renault Trucks due to our strong working relationship with Sparks and their expertise in delivering bespoke vehicle solutions. After our positive experience with the artics, we had full confidence in their ability to specify the new D12 to our exact needs. Given the nature of our 12-tonne skip truck operations, maintaining a compact design was essential, and Sparks delivered the perfect solution."

Marc added: "Elliot Tratt at Sparks provided excellent support throughout the process, keeping us informed at every stage of the build and ensuring the specification was spot on."

Designed for maximum efficiency, the D12 is equipped with rear air suspension for added clearance in confined spaces. To further enhance its size and agility, the truck features aspect wheels, reducing the overall width of the rear wheels. Additionally, the Webb TA8000 extra reach skip handler, one of the most compact lifting systems available, provides unmatched versatility in restricted spaces.

Now fully operational, the D12 is already making an impact across Devon, providing an efficient and reliable service for commercial and residential skip collections. "Feedback from the driver team has been positive, with particular praise for its driveability and manoeuvrability," said Marc.

"As we continue to expand our Renault Trucks fleet, Sparks remains a key partner in delivering tailored transport solutions that support our business growth and customer needs," he concluded.

Amid rising costs and compliance pressures:

The growing challenges for skip hire companies during 2025

Skip hire businesses are the backbone of the UK's waste and recycling industry, playing a crucial role in waste management for households, construction firms and other businesses. However, with ever-increasing costs, tightening regulations, and shifting environmental expectations, skip hire companies are feeling the pressure from multiple angles. From rising costs due to the landfill tax increase to navigating complex compliance requirements and handling hazardous waste, to frequent surprise fires caused by lithium batteries and vapes amongst the regular waste, businesses must constantly adapt and face an uphill battle to be competitive in the market.

Together, these and other contributing factors are squeezing profit margins and making day-to-day operations more difficult. Not only are risks increased and costs driven up, but the increasing challenges force businesses to strategically change how they operate. Here, we explore these challenges in detail and the impact they are having on the sector.

Landfill Tax: The rising cost of disposal

One of the biggest concerns for skip hire companies currently is the continuous increase in landfill tax. The 2024/25 rate increase of over 20% means tighter budgets for everyone. However, companies that haven't been able to invest significant capital in sophisticated recycling plant will be hit the hardest.

This increase doesn't just directly affect disposal costs; it also influences pricing strategies and customer expectations. With customers looking for affordable services, passing on these rising costs isn't always straightforward. This puts businesses in a difficult position - either absorb the additional costs and take a hit on margins, or increase prices and risk losing customers to competitors or illegal operators that fly-tip.

A further consequence is the expected rise in fly-tipping and illegal dumping, as both individuals and businesses seek to avoid higher disposal costs. This puts added pressure on waste operators, who may be called upon to remove illegally dumped waste.

Beyond the financial burden, rising landfill tax further restricts the viable choices of disposal outlets available. Gate fees at UK energy-from-waste (EfW) plants are climbing as more businesses seek alternatives to landfill, leading to higher disposal costs, longer wait times, and reduced capacity, making it even harder for skip hire operators to maintain profitability.

This leads to increased transport costs and journey time, service disruptions and dissatisfied customers, resulting in less revenue capacity if the fleet can't complete the same volume of work.

Compliance with POPs and hazardous waste: A growing concern

The tightening of legislation around Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) has added another layer of complexity for skip hire businesses. Materials such as upholstered domestic seating now require specialist treatment and cannot be disposed of in general waste streams.

For skip hire operators, this means additional handling, transportation, the need to work with licensed disposal partners and increased disposal costs. New rules mean a necessity for staff training, process change and additional admin effort to ensure compliance.

Moreover, confusion around the classification of certain waste types can lead to delays and regulatory disputes, making it difficult for businesses to operate efficiently. Any misclassification or failure to meet requirements can result in fines and reputational damage. Additionally, with the ongoing confusion around POPs segregation and disposal, many companies are struggling to adapt to the changes while maintaining efficiency in their operations.

A major issue skip hire companies face is that customers often unknowingly or deliberately place POPs-containing or hazardous items (like empty mastic tubes) or batteries into general waste skips. Because these materials must be separated and processed differently, it is the skip hire company - not the customer - who is left covering the additional disposal costs if this non-compliance is missed. The batteries, in addition, also dramatically increase the risk of fires at the facility.

The impact on profit margins and increased risk to operations

Individually, each of these challenges presents an operational headache. Together, they create a perfect storm that puts skip hire businesses at risk and under immense financial and logistical strain. The result? Increased operational costs, increased admin, less options, and a constant battle to remain compliant and efficient, while maintaining profitability.

Many skip hire businesses are already running on thin margins, and these regulatory pressures only make it harder to stay competitive. To remain viable, companies must find ways to get reliable insight to reduce costs, streamline processes, and ensure they are fully compliant with ever-changing waste legislation.

Navigating the challenges with confidence

At Waste Logics, we understand the difficulties skip hire operators face every day and that's why we provide the tools and insights needed to help businesses navigate these hurdles with confidence.

To find out how we can support your business in tackling these industry-wide challenges, scan the QR code below or visit our website.

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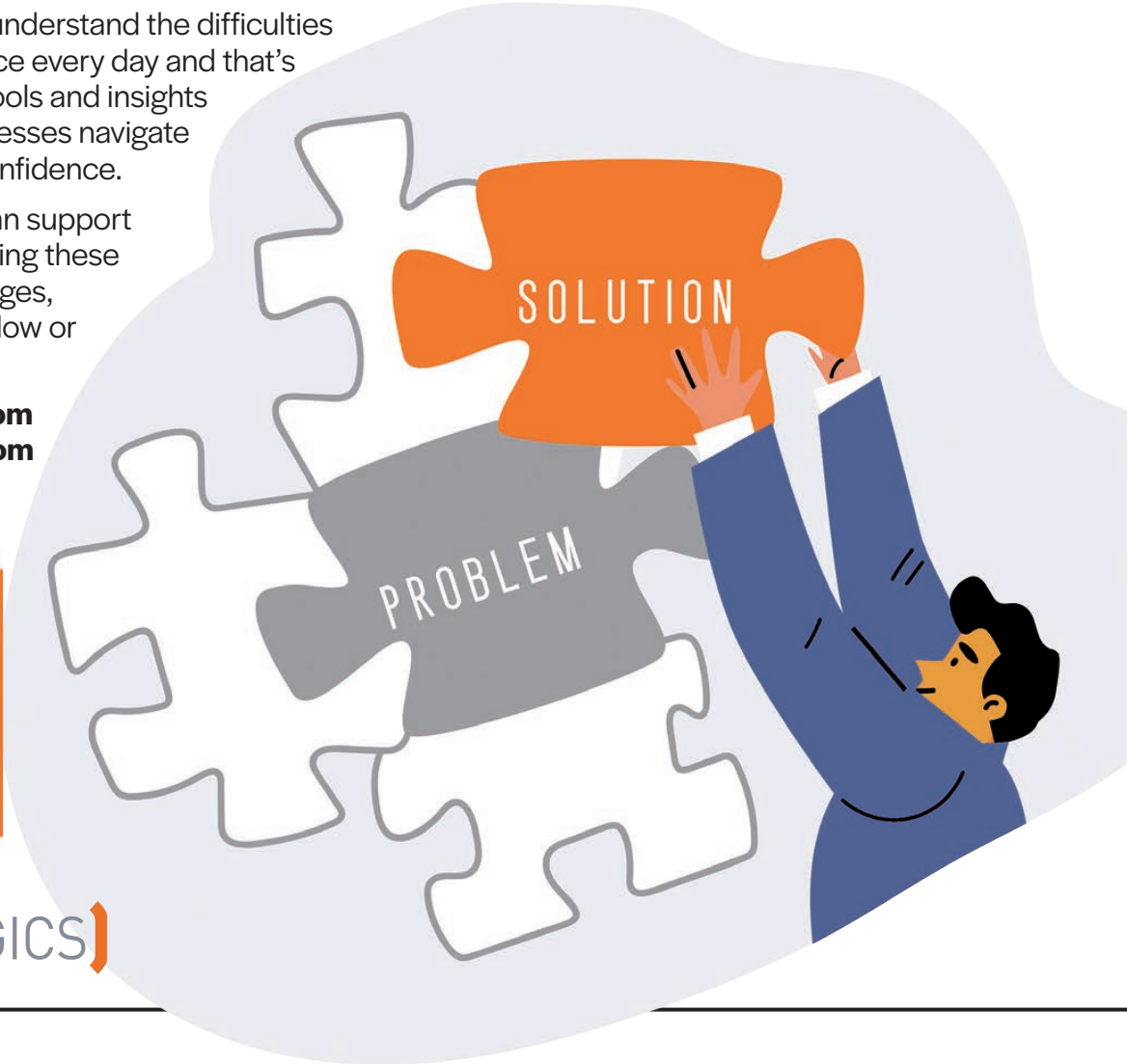

WASTE LOGICS

The two blast furnaces at British Steel's Scunthorpe plant are the last of their kind in the UK

What caused the crisis at British Steel?

DR HOSSEIN ZAREI
Assistant Professor of Operations Management, Aston University

The two blast furnaces at British Steel's Scunthorpe plant in England are the last of their kind in the UK. The UK steel industry was once a world leader, powering the Industrial Revolution. But these days it is in crisis.

The Chinese owner of the plant, Jingye Group, stopped ordering the raw materials needed for steel production and recently announced the furnaces would close down for good. Around 2,700 jobs are at risk at the plant - which is reportedly losing £700,000 a day.

In response, the UK Government introduced emergency powers to take control of production in a scramble to stop the furnaces from going cold. But its future remains uncertain.

So why couldn't the Government just buy the raw materials needed to keep the furnaces burning? With steel, there are peculiarities around the production and supply chain.

Virgin steel is the strongest form of the material and is used in key industries like railways, construction and manufacturing. It will be vital for the Government's ambitions to invest in UK infrastructure, from housing to green energy. Virgin steel is made using the extreme heat from a blast furnace, which must run 24 hours a day, all year round.

Manufacturing in other industries can be paused when demand goes down and then resumed once products are needed again. But for blast furnaces, if paused, the molten iron inside solidifies. And once reheated, it expands and cracks the furnace.

It needs steady supplies (and "steady" is a key word here) of coking coal and iron ore to keep the blast furnaces running. These are the two main raw materials needed for virgin steel.

Planning for a steady supply requires inventory management, a science that aims to avoid either over-supply or shortages in the production process.

Within inventory management, there are various models. For the steel industry, the "economic order quantity" model minimises the costs of ordering and holding raw materials to work out the best order size.

For example, when ordering costs go up due to increased shipping costs, the model adjusts the order size by buying larger batches. This should eventually keep the total inventory cost to a minimum.

Ordering steel supplies and other inventory management techniques build on models like this. This ensures that costs are minimised while keeping enough iron ore and coking coal on hand to keep the furnaces burning.

This is opposite to the "just-in-time" model, which recommends that smaller quantities be ordered only when and where needed. Models like just-in-time are a better fit further downstream in supply chains, closer to the end customers. Here, there is more variability in demand as customers' tastes change.

Virgin steel, on the other hand, follows a much more stable demand pattern. It prioritises cost-efficiency over agility.

However, problems arise when supply chains are distorted by external factors. The UK Government has questioned whether Jingye was guilty of neglecting the plant. Undoubtedly, if the furnaces in Scunthorpe went cold, the UK would

become the only country in the G7 without the ability to produce its own virgin steel.

It would then have to turn to China, the single largest global producer of steel (subsidised by the Chinese state), for imports.

Where did it go wrong?

Research on geopolitical tensions in supply chains shows that larger firms often adopt a "wait and see" strategy, rather than a proactive one in the face of these tensions. Geopolitical risks are less damaging to firms that have planned their supply chain resilience better and have greater cash holdings.

Both of these were overlooked at British Steel, which has been struggling with financial problems and inefficient planning in recent years.

Research on supply chains also shows that in the face of disruptions, firms can reconfigure their supplier networks. They can adopt a more diversified base of suppliers, create parallel supply chains, and consider reshoring (moving operations back from overseas).

Again, the opposite is true for British Steel. It transitioned from domestic coking coal suppliers to international ones due to stricter UK environmental regulations and cheaper prices overseas.

Another factor is lead times - the time from when an order is placed until it reaches the plant's gate. Unlike the downstream of the supply chain, which is based on agile response to changing customer demands (the "pull" concept), the upstream of supply chains, where commodities like steel are manufactured, works in anticipation of demand ("push") for the weeks and even months to come.

Here, the lead times are long and cost-efficiency, not responsiveness, is the main objective. For steel production supplies, the lead time is around 45 days in normal times. The Government has been able to secure emergency shipments from the US, Australia and Sweden to tackle the supply shortage for now.

However, there are other factors that exacerbate British Steel's problems. The 25% tariffs imposed by the US on steel imports and fears of a global trade war may drive down the already declining global demand for steel.

Second, producing virgin steel in blast furnaces is extremely energy-intensive compared to other methods of production, like electric arc furnaces (although these cannot produce virgin steel). And the UK already has higher energy costs than rival steel-producing nations.

The energy demands of blast furnaces are immense

Third, after years of apparent neglect, the Scunthorpe furnaces are now near the end of their lives. They should retire soon, even without Jingye's decision to shut them down. All these elements have accelerated British Steel's loss of competitive edge, leading to it filing those huge daily losses.

Supply chain issues compounded by global tensions and an uncertain market create a perfect storm for the demise of British Steel. Government efforts to secure supplies are half measures that will merely keep the old furnaces operational for another few years. Whether it is eventually nationalised or acquired by a new parent company, the long-term sustainability of British Steel lies in investment in newer, greener virgin steel production methods - and getting a hold of the supply chain.

This article first appeared at www.theconversation.com

HAVE YOUR SAY!

The previous Government's policy towards the UK steel industry was one of neglect. The Labour Government has to make a political decision about whether, in these uncertain times, it wants to ensure virgin steel is produced in the UK. With overcapacity in the global industry, no company will want to buy the Scunthorpe operation. It is nonsense to believe that the UK Government could not sustain local production should it choose to do so. However, it would have to ensure that state-run companies and those companies with Government contracts used UK-made steel rather than cheap Chinese imports; otherwise, what's the point?

The real problem for the Government will be finding someone with the right skills and expertise to run the industry and manage the transition to electric arc production. **- Michael Bruce**

What caused the demise of industry?

Free trade and globalisation policies of neo liberal capitalism.

The policies that sold off national assets to offshore tax dodgers and prioritise the accumulation of capital over all else.

These policies have allowed financiers and corporations to bring down elected governments, burden people with debt and normalise rentier capitalism.

The same policies that have created massive inequality and a crisis of trust in representative democracy and the rise of right-wing nationalism, of which Trump is a variety.

Inadvertently, Trump has given us an opportunity to break with American hegemony, but instead of taking it, governments and liberals advocate more of the Nixon, Reagan, Bush, Clinton, Biden, etc. consensus that has kept them and their class comfortable. **- Margaret Addelim**

It's a sign of the strange times we live in when we have Nigel Farage, a Thatcher disciple, bouncing a reluctant Labour Government into nationalising British Steel. **- Brian P Fairclough in reply to Margaret Addelim**

The new game-changer for on-site recycling

The recycling industry just got a major upgrade with the launch of the Pronar Pro S1 Twin Shaft Shredder. This compact, powerful and adaptable machine streamlines waste processing for businesses of all sizes.

Whether you're dealing with municipal waste, wood, green waste, or even the toughest construction and demolition debris, the Pro S1 is designed to deliver impressive performance while keeping operational efficiency at its core.

Small but mighty

Weighing in at just 16 tonnes, the Pro S1 is light enough to be transported using a standard hooklift truck, yet tough enough to tackle a wide array of waste streams. This machine is proof that big things come in small packages.

Its standout feature? The asynchronous dual-shaft system. Unlike traditional synchronous shredders, the Pro S1 allows the shafts to operate independently - a crucial advantage when processing challenging materials like aggregates and tarmac. This means improved efficiency, control, and flexibility for operators.

Built for versatility

At the heart of the Pro S1 is a 1.55m x 1.55m shredding chamber fitted with interchangeable shafts tailored to different waste types:

- *Municipal waste;*
- *Heavy-duty (fine shred);*
- *Aggregate-specific.*

Coupled with adjustable breaker bars and manually operated side doors, operators can fine-tune the machine to produce a sub-80mm product, which is especially useful in aggregate processing.

Changing the shafts is a breeze - thanks to their cassette mounting, you can switch them out in just 90 minutes. This is particularly valuable in busy skip yards or mixed-waste facilities where quick turnarounds are essential.

Performance you can count on

The Pronar Pro S1 delivers an impressive throughput:

- *8-10 tonnes per hour for wood waste;*
- *4-18 tonnes per hour for municipal waste;*
- *A whopping 50-70 tonnes per hour for aggregates.*

Powering this beast is a 173 hp Volvo Stage 5 diesel engine, mounted transversely for better service access and optimal airflow. With a fuel consumption of just 6–8 litres per hour and a cleanfix reversible fan, the Pro S1 is both economical and eco-conscious.

Smart control, smarter operation

Equipped with an intuitive IFM control system, users can operate the shredder

via radio remote or tethered lead. With four customisable programs, users can switch between synchronous and asynchronous settings for optimised performance across different materials.

The onboard discharge system features variable speed control, a reversible conveyor, and a bi-directional overband magnet - ensuring flexibility and reliability in any setting.

Jason Purllant, Global Machinery Solutions' Business Line Manager, said: *"The Pronar Pro S1 is all about flexibility, mobility and efficiency. But most importantly, we're here to work directly with businesses to ensure these machines fit seamlessly into their operations. Whether it's configuring the machine for a specific waste stream or offering hands-on demos, we'll ensure it works for you."*

Available from Global Machinery Solutions

As an approved dealer of the Pronar Pro S1, Global Machinery Solutions is proud to offer this innovative shredder to customers across the UK. Even better - it's available for both sale and hire, giving businesses the flexibility to choose the option that works best for their budget and operational needs.

But our commitment doesn't stop there. With a dedicated after-sales support team, we're here to provide:

- *On-site training;*
- *Scheduled servicing;*
- *Rapid-response maintenance;*
- *Genuine spare parts;*
- *Expert advice and technical assistance.*

We don't just supply machines - we build partnerships that last.

Savings on service packages

Global Machinery Solutions also offers tailored service packages to ensure all machines are kept in peak condition throughout their working lives. They're also offering a summer deal as part of all new Pronar machine sales, which includes full aftersales and technical support.

Find out more and arrange a demonstration

If you're looking for a compact, fuel-efficient shredder that's up for just about any waste challenge, the Pronar Pro S1 is your go-to solution. Contact Global Machinery Solutions today to arrange a demonstration or to discuss purchase and hire options.

Supplying recyclers with world-class machines

Global Machinery Solutions has been providing high-quality machinery across the UK, Ireland and Europe for more than 20 years and is an approved dealer for leading recycling machinery manufacturer, Pronar.

Customers range from sole traders to major European infrastructure companies and there's a huge emphasis on looking after them before, during and after they invest in a new machine.

Global has a centrally-located depot in Long Bennington, Nottinghamshire and another in Mildenhall, Suffolk, meaning the team is accessible from all corners of the UK and engineers are never too far away to assist when needed.

The Long Bennington depot is home to a large parts warehouse with more than £2m worth of stock, which helps engineers to repair machines even more quickly. Plus, customers can buy parts online and either have them delivered or collect them from the trade counter.

Global prides itself on its aftersales service and provides technical support and full-service packages for all machines.

Global Machinery Solutions is incredibly proud of the industry reputation it has achieved. It hopes to continue its outstanding level of growth and aspires to become one of the best-known machinery distributors across the industries it supplies.

GLOBAL MACHINERY SOLUTIONS

For further information, call **01476 568384** or email **sales@globalmachinerysolutions.co.uk**
Visit our website at **www.globalmachinerysolutions.co.uk** or scan the QR code.

Optimising jobsite crusher performance: Essential feeding practices for operators

Efficient operation of jobsite crushers is pivotal in the construction, demolition and recycling sectors, directly influencing productivity and profitability. Proper feeding techniques are central to achieving optimal performance, ensuring smooth operations and prolonging equipment lifespan. At RubbleCrusher, we emphasise the importance of correct feeding practices to maximise crusher efficiency.

Avoid oversized material

Introducing oversized material into the crusher can lead to blockages, disrupting operations and causing potential damage. It's advisable that the largest material dimension does not exceed 80% of the crusher's chamber size. For instance, with the RC150T Tracked Jaw Crusher's chamber measuring 26" x 14", the maximum material size should be approximately 21" x 11", akin to the size of a basketball. Adhering to this guideline ensures the crusher processes material efficiently without jamming.

Ensure clean feed material

Excessive fines and soil content can clog the crushing chamber, hindering performance and reducing throughput. Pre-screening material to remove such contaminants before feeding promotes smoother operations and enhances productivity.

Optimal feeding techniques

For best results, position mini excavators or skid-steer loaders at the rear of the crusher, directing feed material towards the back of the crushing chamber. This approach allows material to settle in the hopper and progress smoothly into the chamber. Feeding from a slightly elevated position offers operators a clear view of the feed process, facilitating timely adjustments and ensuring consistent operation. If equipment height is limited, constructing a level pad adjacent to the crusher can provide the necessary elevation.

Pre-screen for non-crushable materials

Materials like wood, plastics and metals can obstruct the crushing process and damage equipment. Removing such items before feeding is crucial. Implementing an overband magnet at the end of the crusher's conveyor can effectively capture small metal pieces, preventing them from contaminating the final product.

Commit to regular maintenance

Routine maintenance is essential for sustained crusher performance. Regular lubrication of moving parts, timely engine inspections and adherence to manufacturer-recommended maintenance schedules help prevent unexpected breakdowns and extend equipment lifespan.

By implementing these feeding practices, operators can enhance crusher efficiency, reduce downtime, and achieve higher productivity on-site.

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Orba Group introduces the **Screencore 480 Dual Drive tracked stockpiler:** A versatile, eco-friendly solution

Screencore, a leading manufacturer of mobile screens, crushers, stockpilers and pugmills, is proud to unveil its latest innovation - the **Screencore 480 Dual Drive tracked stockpiler.** This cutting-edge stockpiler offers unparalleled flexibility, operating either electrically from an external power source or hydraulically from its own powerpack.

The key feature of the 480 Dual Drive lies in its unique conveyor drive system, which can easily switch from an electric drive motor on one side to a hydraulic drive motor on the opposite side. This groundbreaking capability empowers operators to choose the most suitable and readily available power source, all while enjoying the convenience of a fully track-mobile unit.

The advantages of the 24m (80') Dual Drive 480 stockpiler extend beyond its operational versatility. For instance, when connected to the electrical outlet of the dual-power SBM Jaw crusher, the stockpiler can run efficiently at virtually zero additional cost, offering a cost-effective solution for materials handling. Moreover, this intelligent integration can be extended to other crushers or screens with spare electrical capacity, eliminating the need for an extra engine and significantly contributing to carbon reduction efforts.

At Screencore, we are dedicated to driving innovation with a focus on sustainable practices. The 480 Dual Drive is a testament to our commitment to providing cutting-edge solutions that align with our carbon reduction objectives.

"By offering the 480 Dual Drive, we aim not only to enhance operational flexibility for our customers but also contribute to environmental preservation". Our team's dedication to developing eco-friendly equipment remains unwavering, and we are excited to see how this innovation can make a positive impact on various industries."

Orba Group Ltd.: Leading providers of crushing and screening solutions

Orba Group Ltd. is a premier provider of cutting-edge crushing and screening solutions, catering to the construction, mining and aggregate industries. As an authorised dealer for SBM, Maskin Mekano and Screencore, Orba Group Ltd. supplies world-class equipment designed for efficiency, durability, and high performance.

With a commitment to delivering innovative material processing solutions, Orba Group Ltd. offers a diverse range of mobile and stationary crushing and screening systems, ensuring optimal productivity for its clients. By partnering with globally recognised brands, the company provides advanced, reliable, cost-effective machinery that meets the toughest operational demands.

Backed by industry expertise and a customer-centric approach, Orba Group Ltd. stands as a trusted partner for businesses seeking high-quality equipment, technical support and tailored solutions. Whether enhancing efficiency in aggregate production or streamlining operations in mining and recycling, Orba Group Ltd. continues to set new standards in material processing excellence.

*For more information call the Sales team at **07452 816415** or visit **www.orbagroupltd.com/***

Orba Group introduces the **SBM Jawmax 450:**

A hybrid jaw crusher built for the future

Power, precision and versatility define the **SBM Jawmax 450 Jaw Crusher** from Orba Group. Engineered for primary crushing across demanding quarrying, demolition and recycling applications such as the highly demanding crushing of heavily reinforced power station cooling towers, the SBM Jawmax 450 combines heavy-duty performance with next-generation energy efficiency - thanks to its **diesel-electric hybrid drive system with plug-in grid capability.**

This innovative drive system offers unmatched flexibility: the onboard Cummins diesel engine powers a high-efficiency generator to drive the crusher electrically, while the **plug-in option** enables direct connection to external electric power sources when available, dramatically reducing fuel use and emissions on hybrid or fully electric job sites.

Hybrid power, maximum efficiency

The SBM Jawmax 450's **diesel-electric hybrid system** reduces mechanical losses, improves energy transfer, and lowers operating costs compared to traditional hydraulic crushers. The **plug-in** power option allows operators to run entirely off external grid or generator power, significantly reducing environmental impact and fuel dependency.

Whether operating in remote quarries or power-accessible construction sites, the SBM Jawmax 450 adapts to the job without sacrificing crushing power or uptime.

Designed for real-world demands

- **High wear resistance:** Reinforced jaw plates and abrasion-resistant liners for extended service life;
- **User-friendly access:** Modular layout and wide maintenance platforms simplify servicing;
- **Mobility ready:** Integrated transport lugs and compact dimensions for site relocation;
- **Smart control:** Intuitive HMI and diagnostic interface support efficient operation and predictive maintenance.

Industry applications

- Primary crushing in hard rock quarries;
- Mobile crushing setups for infrastructure projects;
- Recycled material processing in urban environments;
- Energy-conscious operations and hybrid power job sites.

Expert insight

"The SBM Jawmax 450's hybrid system reflects our commitment to high performance and sustainable innovation in the most demanding of applications. It's the right crusher for companies aiming to increase productivity while lowering their environmental footprint."
- Barry O'Regan, Director, Orba Group

Conclusion

With the **SBM Jawmax 450 Jaw Crusher**, Orba Group delivers a crushing solution that balances raw power with cutting-edge energy efficiency. Its **hybrid diesel-electric drive with plug-in capability** makes it a forward-looking investment for contractors and producers who need adaptability, lower costs, and reduced emissions, without compromising on throughput.

Key technical highlights

Performance specs:

- **Max throughput:** Up to 450 TPH
- **Feed opening:** 1,100 x 700 mm
- **CSS range:** 40–160 mm (hydraulically adjustable)
- **Hybrid drive:** Diesel-electric system with plug-in grid option
- **Diesel engine:** 250 kw
- **Electric motor:** 110 kw
- **Machine weight:** 40,000 kg
- **Control:** Advanced PLC system with remote monitoring and diagnostics
- **Chassis:** Vibration-isolated heavy-duty skid frame

Komatsu hails its most advanced excavators to date

Komatsu has launched its new PC220LC-12 and PC220LCi-12 excavators. They call these machines "the most advanced excavators ever" and part of the next generation. This announcement took place at Bauma 2025 last month.

McHale Plant Sales, Komatsu's distributor in Ireland, looks forward to deliveries starting this autumn, giving Irish customers a chance to explore the new features.

Both models are designed to meet the needs of the construction, recycling and civil work sectors. They highlight Komatsu's goal to lead the industry.

In addition to their attractive design, the excavators offer easy-to-use controls, great fuel efficiency, low emissions and excellent performance. They also include new technology for construction machines.

These excavators come with advanced safety systems and feature a new Komatsu engine along with an efficient hydraulic system. Together, they provide strong power, high productivity, quick responsiveness, and reduce fuel use to a single-digit rate per hour.

Komatsu states that these advantages will help customers reduce carbon emissions and cut costs. The spacious cabin focuses on the operator and includes an easy-to-use 8-inch touchscreen. Other key features include programmable control levers, a payload meter, and customisable settings for hydraulics. The new P+ mode boosts production capabilities.

The excavators also provide plenty of storage, joystick steering, and an operator ID system that stores up to 50 profiles. This feature lets the excavator recognise authorised drivers using an electronic key or typed ID.

In the PC220LCi model, the third-generation Intelligent Machine Control (iMC3.0) system allows any operator to work like a pro. It supports controlling a tilt-rotator, uses a 3D boundary control system for safety, and automatically navigates along a line.

The new, clear 10-inch iMC3.0 monitor improves the driving experience. With Smart Construction Remote included, users can connect and stay in control 24/7.

Flannery first to back Xwatch MK2 in Bauma deal

Flannery Plant Hire has become the first plant hire company to order the newly launched Xwatch MK2, finalising the deal at Bauma 2025 in Munich last month. Managing Director Patrick Flannery and Sales Director Dan Leaney completed the agreement at the Hexagon stand.

This investment reinforces their strong relationship; Flannery was the first major hire firm to support Xwatch since its launch in July 2019 and has installed nearly 400 safety systems across its fleet.

As part of a £100 million machinery investment, Flannery ordered 200 new excavators, many equipped with the MK2 XW5 systems, and some with the Leica 3D collision avoidance system, developed jointly by Leica Geosystems and Xwatch, both of which are part of Hexagon.

Dan and Patrick finalised the deal at Bauma 2025 in Munich last month

The MK2 is Xwatch's fastest and most advanced system, installing 30% faster while maintaining all original safety features. It is compact, user-friendly, and the first to be PLd-rated for the civil engineering market, enhancing integration and reducing installation time.

Dan Leaney said: "Flannery has been a key partner from day one - always pushing to raise the bar regarding safety and machine technology. It means a lot that they're the first to commit to the MK2. This system is a leap forward, and Flannery shows real leadership by putting it to work straight out of the gate."

Patrick Flannery added: "We've built our business on safety, innovation, and relationships that last. Investing in the MK2 is a natural step for us, and continuing to work with Dan and the team at Xwatch means we're getting the very latest tech, backed by a team that knows our industry inside out."

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EMAX140 Overband Magnet over the 1.2-metre-wide conveyor

Western Bio-Energy clean woodchip with an EMAX Overband Magnet

Bunting Magnetics has provided a powerful EMAX Overband Magnet to Western Bio-Energy Ltd to eliminate problematic ferrous metal from woodchip. The air-cooled electromagnetic Overband Magnet effectively removes a wide range of small and large tramp metal.

Bunting Magnetics is one of the world's leading designers and manufacturers of magnetic separators, eddy current separators, metal detectors and electrostatic separators, with globally located manufacturing facilities.

Western Bio-Energy Ltd operates a sustainably resourced 15.8MWh Biomass Power Plant exporting electricity to the grid and is based in Margam, South Wales, UK. Established in 2007, the company generates power using different sources of wood. This includes brash chip (e.g. foliage), whole tree chip (complete with the canopy), RCF chip (e.g. pallets and clean recycling wood), and virgin wood chip from just the tree log.

The nature of the material and process of supply means that all sources of wood are potentially contaminated with a varying degree of ferrous metal contamination. Such metal can damage shredders, conveyors and other process plant, as well as present a fire safety issue.

After an on-site review, Bunting Magnetics supplied a model EMAX140 Electromagnetic Overband Magnet. The Overband Magnet sites inline over the head pulley of a 1.2-metre-wide conveyor handling an average of 22 tonnes per hour of wood chip.

BUNTING

For further information, contact ***01527 65858*** *or visit the website at* ***www.bunting-redditch.com***

In operation, the wood chip is conveyed into the magnetic field of the Overband Magnet, where any magnetically susceptible metal is attracted by the strong magnetic field and lifted out of the wood chip and onto a self-cleaning belt before being automatically transferred and deposited into a waste collection area. The inline position of the Overband Magnet has the self-cleaning belt running in the same direction as the conveyor, but at a higher speed. As the wood chip flows over the conveyor's head pulley, the burden breaks enabling easier capture of smaller magnetics such as nails and screws.

The EMAX Overband Magnet is fitted with a lightweight and robust armoured belt to extend belt life. The armouring on the rubber belt is comprised of high-density polyethylene (HDPE) slats. Each slat is 100mm wide and 10mm thick, with a length to suit the model of Overband Magnet. The slats are fastened to the belt using special 304 stainless steel elevator bucket bolts and Nyloc nuts.

Once separated from the conveyed wood chip, ferrous metal falls into a waste collection area, which contains a wide range of small and large tramp metal, including wire, large bolts, flanges and tools.

"The high-level separation performance of the EMAX Overband Magnet has eliminating concerns about tramp metal contamination at West Bio-Energy," explained Ben Clemett, Bunting's Area Sales Manager.

Separated tramp ferrous metal

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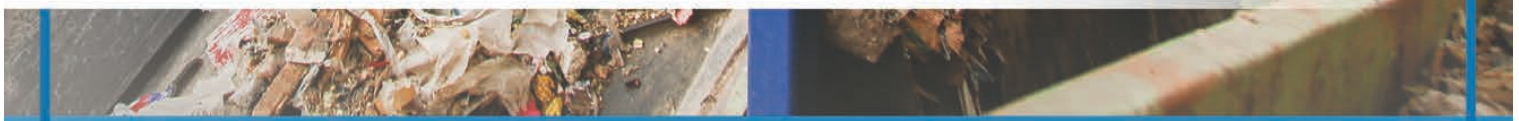

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MGL Group invests in CDE waste recycling plant

New construction and demolition (C&D) waste plant to be commissioned later this year

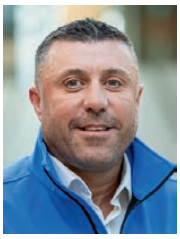
One of the largest privately-owned civil engineering and demolition companies in the North of England has announced a strategic investment in a new construction and demolition (C&D) waste recycling plant, designed and engineered by wet processing experts CDE.

In a region with increasingly limited primary sand and gravel resources, a long-term strategy to ensure a consistent supply of sustainably sourced construction materials is critical to meet increasing demand.

To help meet the needs of the local market, family-owned and -operated business MGL Group has revealed plans for a new 160 tonnes per hour C&D waste recycling plant to be commissioned at the group's recycling facility at Newburn, Newcastle upon Tyne.

Newcastle contains very small pockets of known sand and gravel deposits, most of which are of low quality and are poorly located, making their extraction unfeasible and the environmental impact of such activities unacceptable.

Mark Davison, joint chief executive of MGL Group, said: "We aim to enhance our waste management capabilities by diverting high-value material from landfill and returning that quality recycled sand and aggregate to good use in the construction industry. CDE impressed us with their expertise and deep understanding of our needs, instilling real confidence in us with their commitment to engineering a solution that will help us strengthen our own environmental commitments and deliver even greater social value for the North East."

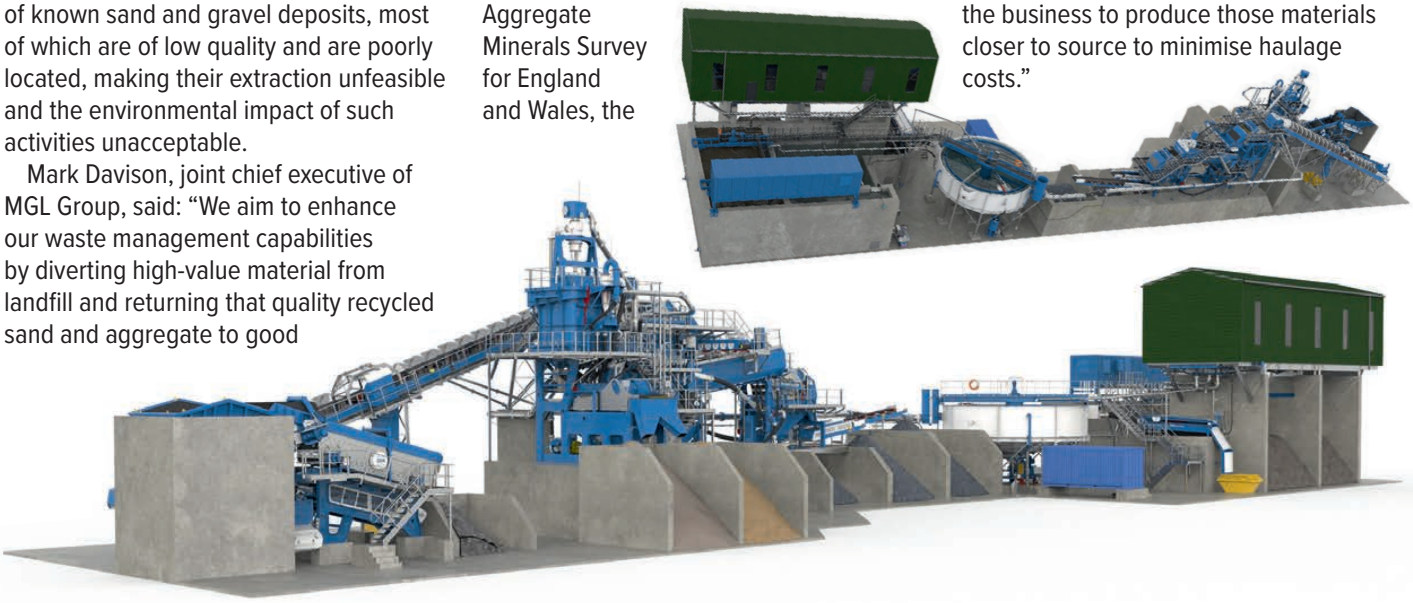


Between 2019 and 2021, sales of recycled aggregates rose by approximately 21% across Tyne and Wear, with a three-year average of 324,000 tonnes.

Mark added: "Recycling and reusing materials will achieve significant carbon savings. It will help us greatly reduce our overall carbon footprint and play an instrumental role in achieving net zero emissions by 2050."

According to data from the 2019 Aggregate Minerals Survey for England and Wales, the North East consumed 7.5 million tonnes of primary aggregate compared to sales totalling 7.3 million tonnes, making the region a net importer of mineral resources.

CDE business development manager, Mike Bibby *(pictured)*, said: "In a region where the availability of natural reserves is in decline, it is becoming increasingly evident that we need to adopt a circular approach to C&D waste to channel back into the industry as much available material as possible. Yes, that means having to process more and more challenging material. However, CDE's proven waste recycling solutions are up to the task. The solution we have engineered for MGL Group will support the business to reduce its reliance on virgin sand and aggregate while ensuring a steady supply of materials to the industry, and it will help the business to produce those materials closer to source to minimise haulage costs."



JCB's new USA plant to double in size in wake of Trump's tariffs

JCB is set to double the size of a new factory currently under construction in Texas as the company confirmed that newly announced tariffs will impact its business in the short term.

JCB has been manufacturing in the USA for 50 years, and last year bought 400 acres of land in San Antonio after recognising the need to produce even more machines in North America, where the company's existing manufacturing plant in Savannah, Georgia, has operated for 25 years and employs around 1,000 people.

The original plan for a 500,000 sq ft factory in San Antonio has now been revised and JCB is forging ahead with plans to double its size to one million square feet. The new $500 million plant will start production next year, employ up to 1,500 people and build on JCB's growth in North America.

JCB Chairman Anthony Bamford said: "JCB has been in business for 80 years this year and we are well accustomed to change. The United States is the largest market for construction equipment in the world and President Trump has galvanised us into evaluating how we can make even more products in the USA, which has been an important market for JCB since we sold our first machine there in 1964."

JCB CEO Graeme Macdonald said: "In the short term, the imposition of tariffs will have a significant impact on our business. However, in the medium term, our planned factory in San Antonio will help to mitigate the impact."

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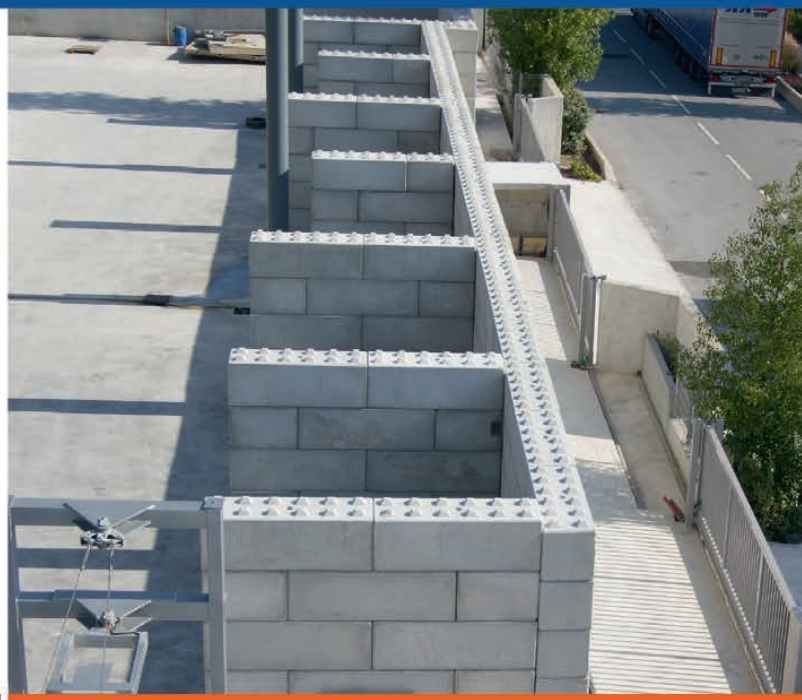

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Kiverco: Building Scotland's strongest waste management partnerships

Collaborative partnerships are crucial in an industry like waste management, where complex challenges require joined-up thinking and innovation. Kiverco has shown how forging strong partnerships can lead to smarter, more sustainable waste solutions.

Kiverco Ltd, a leading manufacturer of recycling solutions based in Co Tyrone, Northern Ireland, is a scaling business, enjoying year-on-year growth over the past 30 years. Kiverco is renowned for designing and manufacturing the world's toughest recycling plants, with installations operating in some of the most demanding conditions globally.

From high-capacity construction and demolition (C&D) recycling systems to custom-engineered sorting lines, Kiverco has become a trusted name in the industry.

The company's impressive success has been well-documented within the industry, and there is no doubting the company's commitment to designing the most technologically advanced, robust, recycling solutions. But according to Kiverco, the key to their success is much more deeply rooted than that.

Aidan McKiver, owner and founder of Kiverco, is very clear about the impact of building long-term partnerships on his business and the recycling industry.

"When I first started out in business, it was vital for me to understand what customers really wanted. I didn't want to just sell recycling plant - I wanted to solve problems. I wanted to build long-standing relationships with customers and fully understand their constraints. It is my job as a business owner and engineer to find solutions. I know it sounds straightforward, but only by understanding a customer's business can you really find the right solutions. Kiverco has been operating this model now for over 30 years, and there is no doubt that this has led to the success we are enjoying as a business today.

"This isn't straightforward - it takes a long time, and the right people in the business to build these trusting relationships - but it is worth it. Kiverco has benefited from long-term partnerships with many customers over the years, and it is a privilege to provide solutions that help them achieve success."

Partnerships in action: Success stories in Scotland

Nowhere is this approach more evident than in Kiverco's long-standing partnerships with Scottish waste management businesses like **Grays Recycling** and **Binn Group.**

Grays Recycling, Fochabers

Grays Recycling, a family-owned business founded in 1994 by Kenny and Lorna Gray in Fochabers, first invested in a Kiverco recycling plant in 2017, following a strategic decision to expand their recycling capabilities to meet the demands of a rapidly evolving industry.

Impressed by the strength and reliability of Kiverco plant, Lorna and Kenny, supported by sons Andy, Robbie and Chris, continued their expansion plans in 2019. By 2023, the company was ready to upscale again, and Kiverco worked

Grays Recycling, Fochabers

Andy and Kenny Gray, with Marcus McAlinden

Brothers Chris and Andy Gray, with Marcus McAlinden

closely with the Grays to reimagine and futureproof their facility, resulting in a major plant upgrade installed in early 2024.

Kiverco Sales Manager Marcus McAlinden has been an integral part of the partnership between the two companies since they first started working together. *"At Kiverco, we have a unique way of working with customers. For us, it's not just about selling recycling plant - it is about providing the best service to each of our customers to ensure we help them succeed. That's why they trust us - they know we are in this for the long term.*

"After selling the first recycling equipment to Grays, I continued to support them in any way I could. In 2022, I could see their business growing and knew they would eventually struggle to keep up with demand. Together with the engineering team at Kiverco, we started thinking strategically about how to future-proof the Grays business.

"By restructuring the old plant and incorporating new technology, Grays facility has transformed, doubling its capacity to tackle today's new waste processing challenges, futureproofing Grays facility for many years to come."

Speaking of the partnership, Andy Gray said: *"Key to the success of this project was the advice built on 30 years of experience from the Kiverco team. We have invested significantly in our business over the past eight years, and to know we are working with a partner we can trust makes everything so much easier. We know Kiverco will always have our business interests at heart - and that is what makes this a true partnership."*

Binn Group, Perth

An even longer partnership exists between Kiverco and **Binn Group**, a leading recycling and resource management company in central Scotland. Established over 20 years ago by Allan MacGregor, Binn Group is a family-run business committed to sustainable waste management. It has grown significantly, now employing 140 people and processing over 200,000 tonnes of material annually. Kiverco is proud to support Binn's growth, including the recent installation of a bespoke static plant that processes over 50 tonnes of waste per hour.

Speaking about the recent Kiverco installation, Head of Operations Stewart Smith said: *"We are so impressed with this plant - it meets, even surpasses our expectations. Our business has been steadily growing for many years, and we knew we would eventually need to increase our capacity. We have a long-established relationship with Kiverco, and when it came to this significant investment, they were our only partner of choice. Kiverco's reputation for building robust, tough plant is renowned within the industry."*

Binn Group, Glenfarg

Stewart Smith with Marcus McAlinden and Kris Greg

Allan MacGregor added: *"Kiverco has been there throughout the years to support our business. In 2013, a fire devastated our business, and Kiverco supported us during that really difficult time - and that's something, as a business owner, you don't forget. We know that Kiverco will always put our business needs first, and our investment is in safe hands with them."*

McAlinden has similar to say: *"When a customer buys a Kiverco plant, they become a partner for the lifespan of that plant - and beyond. It is important for us that the plant continues to perform at optimal levels, that the customer sees the outputs they expect from the plant, and that the downtime is minimal.*

"We are a team at Kiverco - when we sell a new plant, everyone within the business will support that customer in whatever way they can, from project management, through to installations and training, and after-sales support. It's fantastic to see our customers growing, and the partnership is crucial to support them through that journey."

With a proven track record across Scotland and beyond, Kiverco is redefining what it means to be a manufacturer in the recycling sector - not just delivering machinery, but delivering **confidence, continuity** and **collaboration.**

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Gary Bowater (left) pictured with Brian Foster

An ideal combination for two Lancashire firms

Gary Bowater from Vale Recycling Group explains to **SANDRA DICK** how acquiring Waste Equipment Supplies will combine the strengths of both companies, making a formidable player in the waste and recycling industries.

When two well-matched family firms in the waste and recycling world agreed to join hands, it wasn't numbers on a spreadsheet or a fast track to growth that occupied the owners' minds.

Nor was this to be a whirlwind romance or marriage of convenience between two Lancashire neighbours, both family firms and with similar interests in supplying equipment to the sector.

Even though Blackburn-based Waste Equipment Supplies (WES) and Vale Recycling Group are less than a mile apart as the crow flies, this was a slow, thoughtful courtship shaped by decades of experience, with strong family foundations, loyal teams at both, and an unwavering commitment to the waste and recycling industry and their customers.

For over 40 years, Brian Foster's Waste Equipment Supplies has provided refurbished and, in more recent years, high-quality brand-new equipment to the recycling sector, all supported by a highly skilled engineering team.

Nearby Vale Recycling Group, set up by Gary Bowater almost 25 years ago, served the same sector with its full package solutions, collecting paper, cardboard, plastic, metal and wood for recycling, but also offering refurbished equipment and its own engineering services.

With Brian reaching his seventh decade and ready to step aside, months of gentle discussion came to a head. Vale took the final step to acquire WES in January.

It was, says Vale's Gary Bowater: "The right fit for both businesses."

"Brian wanted to make sure that the business he had put a lot of time and effort into building up was not going to just be swallowed up," he adds.

"He wanted a fit that was right for him, and someone to do a sympathetic acquisition.

"His son-in-law, Andy, is in the business on the sales side, and my son is in our business," he continues.

"It's very much about family. There's a lot of passion. It's not just a business; it's a family business."

A coming together of the two family firms could scarcely be more natural or have been less disruptive.

WES remains its own brand, operating from its own unit and with Brian's presence still in the background.

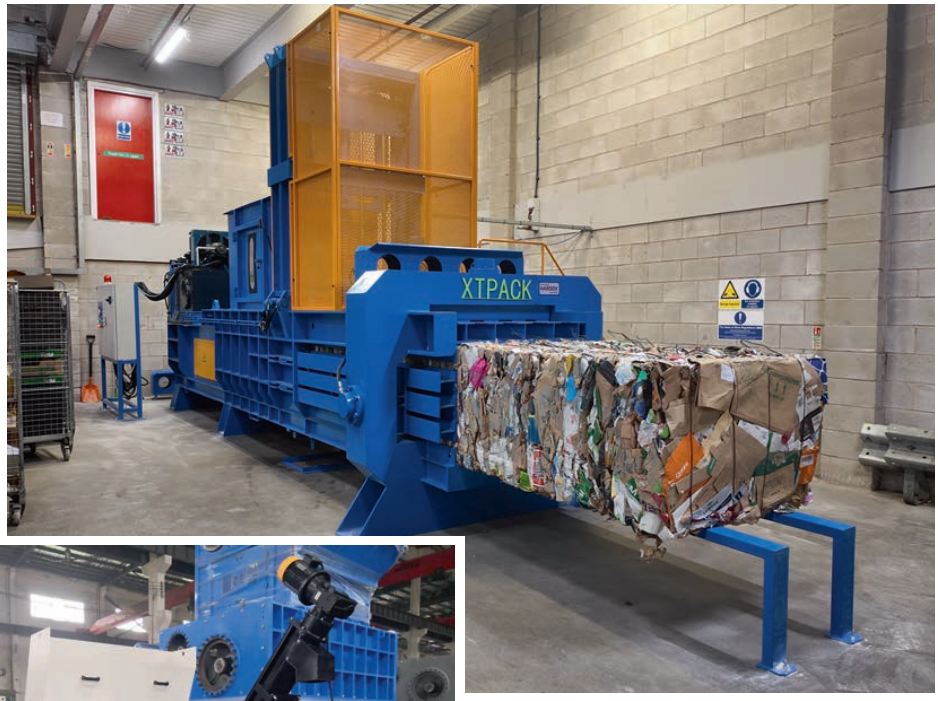
"I have known him for around 30 years," explains Gary. "He has a lot of knowledge and to have had him disappear from the business would have been a mistake.

"He has a lot to offer and still has a hunger for the business - he just wants some younger legs to do a bit of the running!"

The two firms' similarities and subtle differences make them an ideal combination.

"There is a perfect symmetry," Gary reflects.

"WES has agencies to supply new equipment, whereas Vale was only supplying refurbished. It has expanded the range of services Vale can offer.



"Also, WES have never done total waste management like Vale has. So, they would get that to offer to their customers.

"They were sending engineers to the same places we were sending engineers, so the merger means we can be far more efficient with that side of things.

"It's allowed us to expand the operation much quicker rather than if we were trying to do it organically, and to combine the good bits of WES and good bits of Vale."

It's a marriage totalling 65 years in the making, but the two bosses come from very different beginnings.

Like many in the industry, Brian's journey began with boots on the ground and grease on his hands.

He started working alongside his father collecting scrap before working for a company that operated vehicles. There, he learned his trade in fabrication and hydraulics before moving on to a baler manufacturer.

As the sector expanded in the early 1980s, Brian launched what would become Waste Equipment Supplies, beginning by manufacturing and supplying car engine crushers and breakers before relocating to larger premises where he started manufacturing and refurbing balers and compactors.

Gary, meanwhile, took a very different route.

"I was a tailor making suits at 17 years old, sitting in a little workshop," he recalls. "I worked in retail, and I wanted my weekends back."

After a spell in sales with a waste specialist, he realised demand for recycling services and equipment was only growing.

He learned the trade with another waste business, then set up a firm first selling balers, which complemented a nearby wastepaper firm and then expanded to offer more refurbished equipment and total waste management services.

Back at WES, meanwhile, Brian was not sitting still.

Ten years ago, he began to explore partnerships with overseas manufacturers of new equipment, from semi-automatic vertical balers to state-of-the-art shredders and sorting systems.

Determined to ensure the highest quality, he sent WES engineers to China to work side-by-side with manufacturers to ensure every bolt and circuit met British safety and performance standards.

Chinese baler specialists XTPack's horizontal and vertical balers are key products in WES's portfolio of new equipment.

It was the same when WES decided to expand and offer new shredders. Working with Chinese manufacturers SOYU, the firm sent its own engineers to ensure the state-of-the-art equipment would be the right fit for their UK customers.

Likewise, when it came to becoming agents for Keson, another China-based manufacturer specialising in separating and sorting equipment.

The China connection has impressed Gary: "The set-up over there is very good; the technical and backup support is unbelievable," he says.

"The equipment is developed for the UK market. It's not just built on cost. There has been much involvement in ensuring it meets the right specifications."

He believes that WES and Vale have standout credentials.

"There are others out there doing similar to us, but I think the benefits we have are the costs of the equipment - which are very reasonable - the quality, because we've been involved in the specification of the machines we know they meet the spec that we want to sell, the backup of our engineers that install it and our long term support."

With a combined team numbering 16 and the two firms now on the same page, there are already moves to develop their strengths and to highlight the range of services and products both now offer.

That includes making the most of their engineering teams, including an engineering service with the skills to manufacture and create tailored solutions for customers.

While another agency deal may be on the horizon, bringing in more specialist kit.

To raise more awareness of their coming together, Gary and his team will be at the RWM Expo in Birmingham in September, and Recycling Expo 2025 in London in October.

While this marriage is new, he is already considering what lies well ahead, which could mean more acquisitions, much further down the line and future-proofing the business.

"In this industry, things come at you very quickly," he adds.

"Vale and WES have been in business for a long time. We have guys here with 20 or more years' experience - it's a fantastic team.

"But I'm also trying to build a young team to help ensure the operation keeps moving forward.

"This merger has been good for us," he sums up. "And we want to do everything correctly."

For more, visit Waste Equipment Supplies at ***www.wasteequipmentsupplies.com*** *and Vale Recycling Group at* ***www.valerecycling.co.uk***

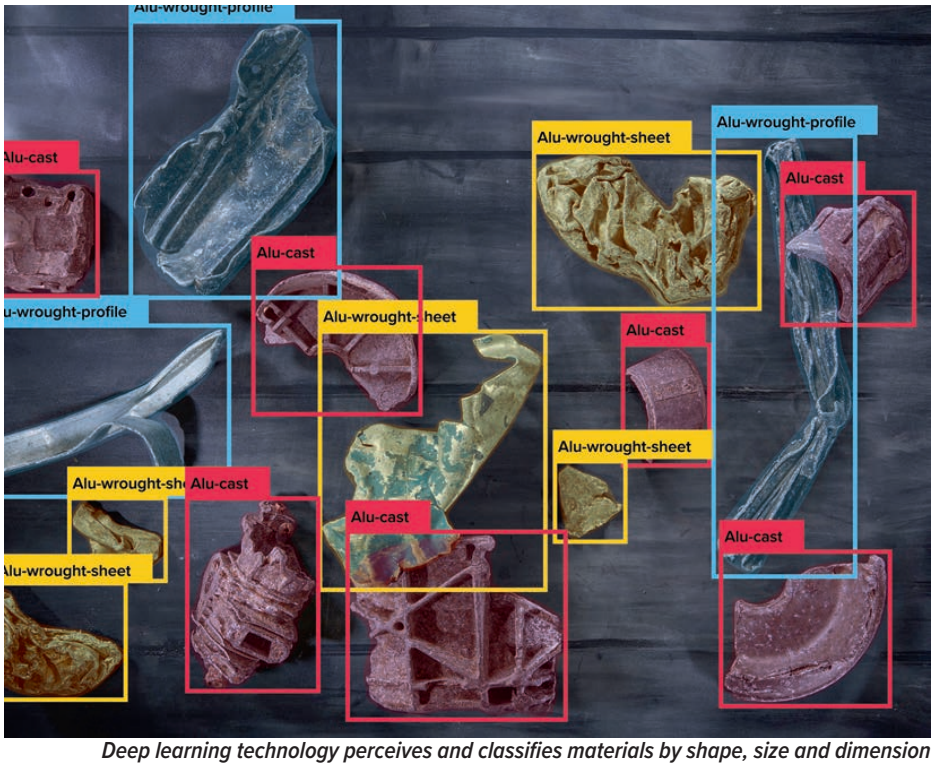
TOMRA pioneers a new deep learning-based solution to upgrade wrought aluminum scrap

TOMRA Recycling, a global leader in sensor-based sorting solutions, has expanded its advanced metal recycling portfolio with a groundbreaking AI-based solution to upgrade wrought aluminium scrap

This development represents the first application of GAINnext™ - TOMRA's revolutionary deep learning-based sorting technology - in the metals industry. This AI innovation enables aluminium scrap processors and recyclers to upgrade their wrought aluminium scrap and produce exceptionally high-purity fractions by instantly recovering low-alloy cast from the wrought fraction and reducing alloying elements such as silicon. GAINnext™ complements TOMRA's X-TRACT™, which separates based on atomic density.

TOMRA's X-TRACT™, featuring X-ray Transmission (XRT) technology, is the industry standard for sorting aluminium from heavy metals based on atomic density. X-TRACT™ initially sorts shredded mixed non-ferrous metals (Zorba) to produce high-purity aluminium scrap (Twitch), then removes high-alloy aluminium cast and high-density wrought aluminium to further refine the Twitch. This process yields a high-quality fraction, containing both wrought aluminium and minor amounts of low-alloy cast, which other currently available sorting methods cannot fully separate.

Now, by integrating GAINnext™ into the sorting process after X-TRACT™, a pure wrought fraction can be achieved. GAINnext™ leverages the power of deep learning and artificial neural networks. Using RGB cameras, it rapidly processes tens to hundreds of thousands of images per millisecond, 'perceiving' and 'classifying' materials by shape, size and dimension with exceptional accuracy. This advanced system, trained over the years by TOMRA's experts, mimics human vision but with superior speed, facilitating high-throughput sorting of up to 2,000 ejections per minute. In its first metals industry application, by precisely detecting and removing low-alloy cast from the wrought fraction that TOMRA's X-TRACT™ produces, GAINnext™ delivers an exceptionally high-purity



Deep learning technology perceives and classifies materials by shape, size and dimension

TOMRA has launched a groundbreaking AI-based solution to enhance wrought aluminium purity

wrought product that commands premium market prices.

For TOMRA customers seeking to achieve even higher granularity levels in aluminium sorting, the wrought fraction recovered by GAINnext™ can be further refined using TOMRA's AUTOSORT™ PULSE system, which employs dynamic laser-induced plasma spectroscopy (Dynamic LIBS) for precise identification and sorting of different alloy types. Launched in 2023, AUTOSORT™ PULSE, TOMRA's breakthrough innovation, leverages precise elemental composition analysis and advanced dynamic laser detection to accurately distinguish between different alloy types, e.g. 5xxx and 6xxx aluminium.

This combination of X-TRACT™, GAINnext™ and AUTOSORT™ PULSE represents the pinnacle of sorting innovation, delivering the highest levels of material separation available on the market today.

Tom Jansen *(pictured)*, Head of the Metals Segment, Sales at TOMRA Recycling, comments: *"We are excited to launch this new deep learning-based application to upgrade wrought aluminium. Deep learning is a powerful addition to our traditional sensor-based technology, and expanding our GAINnext™ ecosystem aligns with our broader AI strategy. Building on our proven success and the significant results our customers have achieved with GAINnext™ in the waste segment, we are confident in delivering similar value to our metals customers.*

"This latest application enhances dry mechanical sorting of mixed metals, offering a cost-effective solution with a low cost per tonne thanks to its high-throughput and significantly reduced manual sorting requirements.

"Our customers will be able to consistently produce smelter-ready, premium-grade aluminium with exceptional purity levels. This is a significant enhancement to our metal recycling solutions portfolio, and we anticipate wide adoption by recyclers seeking to refine scrap and generate high-quality feedstock for circular manufacturing."

TOMRA pioneered deep learning technology in 2019, and GAINnext™ has been proven across various complex recycling streams, including waste, plastics, paper, metals and wood. In 2024, TOMRA introduced a groundbreaking GAINnext™ application to separate food-grade from non-food-grade plastics for PET, PP and HDPE. This latest expansion of the GAINnext™ ecosystem is part of TOMRA's broader AI strategy. Further GAINnext™ applications are due to be announced during this year.

S Norton Group's Manchester site offers a thorough recycling solution

Site Manager at S Norton Group's Manchester site, **James Craig,** explains how their flagship facility offers a comprehensive recycling service both locally and throughout the North West.

As leaders in recycling, our operations at Manchester are setting a benchmark in comprehensive waste management. We pride ourselves on offering a fully integrated service that not only recycles metals but also processes non-metallic residues through our advanced Shredder Waste Advanced Processing Plant (SWAPP). This holistic approach ensures that we are addressing our customers' needs and making a significant positive impact on the environment.

Our bespoke recycling technologies allow us to handle all grades of ferrous and non-ferrous metals from varied sources, including end-of-life vehicles, waste electrical products and general light iron. These materials are meticulously processed to maximise resource recovery. When vehicles arrive at our site, they undergo thorough depollution processes, ensuring that tyres, batteries and catalytic converters are removed and sent for recycling. Even fuel recovered from these vehicles is reused, further supporting our environmental goals and reducing waste.

At the core of our operation is our world-class shredder installation, designed by our in-house engineering team in collaboration with Lindemann. This powerful 3000 hp shredder has not only increased throughput by around 50% but also stands as the sole metals shredder in the Greater Manchester area. The shredder represents a significant technological advancement, capable of processing vast amounts of material quickly and efficiently. This investment, part of a recent £20 million project, has significantly boosted both capacity and output quality, ensuring we remain at the forefront of efficient recycling.

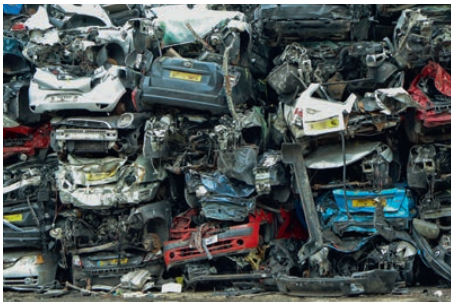
Our commitment to comprehensive service extends beyond metals. Our unique SWAPP plant is designed to recover additional materials like plastics, aggregates, glass and wood. These materials are carefully sorted and processed to ensure that they can be repurposed effectively. Metals and plastics are suitable replacements for virgin raw materials in manufacturing, while residual materials become aggregates for construction and alternative fuels for waste-to-energy plants.

Ongoing investment at the Manchester site is a cornerstone of our success. The shredder investment represents a significant upgrade to the facilities on site and is a testament to our dedication to improving recycling efficiency and environmental performance. The more metal we can process, the more value we can extract, and the more resources we can divert from landfill, driving us towards our long-term goal of repurposing 100% of materials legally eligible for recycling. This ambitious goal reflects our commitment to sustainability and our belief in the importance of responsible waste management.

S. Norton consistently achieves over 95% landfill diversion, a figure we are constantly working to improve. This high level of efficiency is a testament to the effectiveness of our processes and the dedication of our team. Our advanced technologies and comprehensive services ensure we provide a complete recycling solution for our customers, reflecting our commitment to sustainability and innovation in waste management. By continually investing in new technologies and refining our processes, we strive to set new standards in the recycling industry.

To conclude, the S. Norton Manchester site offers a fully integrated process, not just for metals but a variety of other materials through our cutting-edge processes and continuous investment. Our long-term goals drive us forward, ensuring we extract more value and divert more resources from landfill, paving the way for a more sustainable future.

For more information on the S. Norton Group, visit the website at ***www.s-norton.com***



EARN MORE FOR YOUR SCRAP METAL

S. Norton purchases all grades of ferrous and non-ferrous metals including end-of-life vehicles, waste electronic equipment, aluminium, copper, iron and steel. We'll collect or you deliver to our world class shredding facility, the only one of its kind in Manchester.

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AI scheduling: The secret weapon for skip hire efficiency

Managing the job schedules for drivers with rules about skip sizes, stacking, time slots and vehicles is a full-time job in itself. But what if a bit of smart technology could make the whole thing simpler, smoother and, crucially, more profitable?

We sat down with **George Postlethwaite**, co-founder at Dayjob and Deliveroo alumni, to hear how AI is set to transform skip hire operations and why companies that move early will win.

Q: *George, what's the big problem you're solving with Dayjob?*

George: "When I talk with customers, the first thing I say is: skip hire is one of the hardest scheduling problems out there. People think it's just dropping and collecting skips, but it's way more complicated - stacking, materials, drivers, tight time slots and returning back to the yard multiple times a day. It's messy, and it changes all the time.

"Before Dayjob, planners had to handle all of that manually. It's stressful, so they can't always focus on live operations, like making sure drivers are happy, or live customer issues are sorted quickly. That's where AI comes in."

Q: *What makes Dayjob different from other routing software?*

George: "A lot of other systems out there were built for parcel delivery, like Amazon-style parcel drops you may receive at home.

"But skips work very differently. You return to the depot multiple times a day, and what you collect is hugely variable because it depends entirely on what a customer has put in the skip. Waste is inherently a more complicated logistics challenge than finished products because you constantly deal with more variables.

"Dayjob isn't a retrofitted parcel delivery system. It's built specifically for waste management. It knows skips aren't parcels, drivers aren't just delivery vans and plans aren't fixed. It's been designed from the ground up for how skip hire actually works."

Q: *How does AI make a real difference to a skip hire business?*

George: "We're seeing companies increase the number of paid jobs they can do by 5% to 10%. So if someone was doing 100 jobs a day, they're now doing 108 - without buying more trucks or hiring more drivers.

"At the same time, fuel costs go down because routes are smarter, and planning costs drop because the AI takes the heavy lifting off the planner's plate. It all adds up to a bigger profit margin. The companies we work with are seeing real improvements in profitability month after month."

Q: *What about the role of the transport team? Does AI replace them?*

George: "Not at all. The transport team are vital and has other more important things to focus on. They're the ones making sure the operation runs smoothly in real time by checking in with drivers, keeping everything compliant and managing vehicle service checks.

"What Dayjob does is free the transport team up. Instead of manually building a schedule from scratch every morning, they're more like conductors of an orchestra, overseeing the big picture while the AI handles the complex back-end stuff."

Q: *You mentioned that early adopters will have an advantage. Why is that?*

George: "At Deliveroo, we had an algorithm called Frank that helped us get way more deliveries per driver than the competition. It worked by understanding how long drivers spent at restaurants and how long their journeys took, balancing the work across these two variables. That was part of the reason why the business grew so fast. It's the same thing here.

"The companies that invest in AI scheduling early will get a big head start. It's inevitable that this technology is going to be more commonly used; it's just a question of when. And the sooner you adopt it, the further ahead you'll be. If you wait until everyone else has it, you'll play catch-up."

Q: *Final thoughts for skip hire businesses thinking about tech like this?*

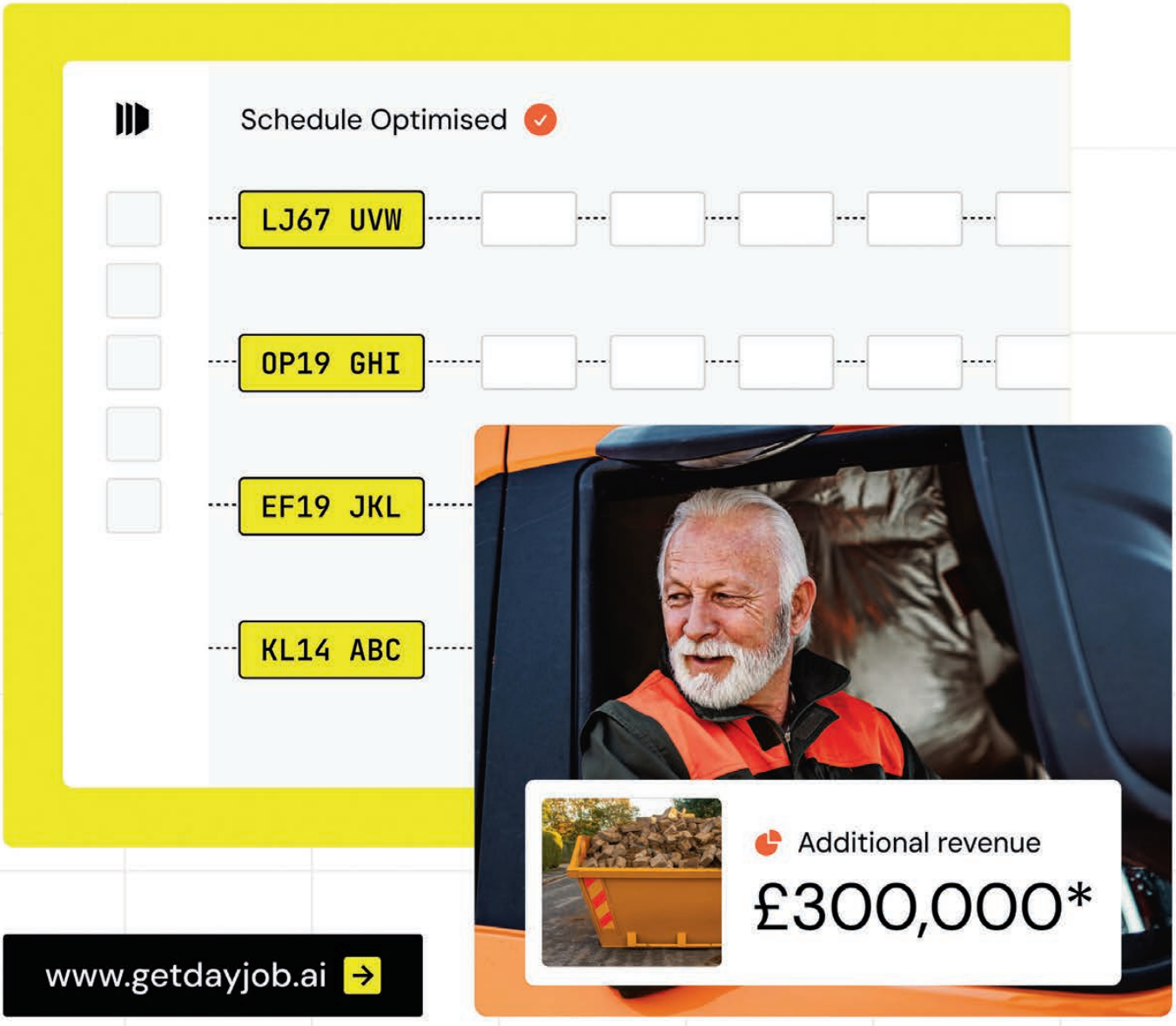
George: "When I talk to customers I always say: you already know how to run an excellent skip business. We're just giving you a secret weapon to make it even better.

"This isn't some tech company trying to shoehorn in a parcel delivery system. It's built for waste and built for skips."

Dayjob

Take the guesswork out of skip scheduling with AI

Optimise routes, reduce costs, and get more done every day with predictive intelligence that works as hard as you do.



www.getdayjob.ai

+44 7441 346 343 | info@getdayjob.ai

*Based on comparison exercises conducted with leading UK skip hire companies

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

BUSINESS CLINIC CONSULTANCY

Waste transfer station environmental permits – a deep dive

And yet again, I write about the new Standard Rules Sets for permits for waste transfer/recycling stations (SR2022 N0. 4 and 5). Why again? Well, there are a number of aspects of these permits that could have a significant impact on your waste transfer station that may not be obvious. So let me tell you what these are:

If you read my last article, you may have requested confirmation from the regulators as to whether your site meets the location requirements to be able to keep the Std Rules Set. If so, and the response was 'no', then you may be considering applying for a bespoke permit. However, the 'no' may actually mean 'yes'! Of course that's obvious - they are not trying to make this easy for you. You could keep the Std Rules Set if you do not store or treat construction/demolition type wastes outside. Or if there is an area within your permit boundary that is outside of the required distances from protected species and habitats listed in the Std Rules Set. So, it is worth checking again since you don't want to be paying for a Bespoke Permit application if you don't need to.

If you only transfer and not treat construction/demolition type wastes, then you can keep the Std Rules Set if you are located in an Air Quality Management Area designated for particulate matter.

If you are able to keep the Std Rules Set, then there are a number of 'Techniques' that you must implement on your site to ensure compliance. Most of these require proper storage and handling of specific wastes and emission controls, which are typically good practice. The regulators will expect to see evidence of the implementation of these, along with written procedures within your Environmental Management System.

For waste recycling stations (SR2022 no.4), conditions regarding food waste storage and dust suppression must be complied with by 19th December, 2025. These may require some infrastructure/process changes, so check to ensure you can comply.

And as a final note, do be aware of the Improvement Condition that requires your building to be 'enclosed' by June 2026. And by enclosed, they mean it is enclosed on all sides, and doorways must be as small as possible.

I can see that this will be a significant undertaking for some sites. The alternative will be to apply for a bespoke permit. However, that application will need to demonstrate that an open building can adequately mitigate the risks from emissions (noise, dust, odour, etc.). It is not possible to say, at this time, how the regulators will determine such applications. Since permit application queues are so long, it will be a while yet before we see the fallout of this situation.

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

WESTBURY ENVIRONMENTAL

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

GOT A QUESTION **ASK THE EXPERTS**

Veolia opens 25k-tonne hazardous waste facility

Veolia, the UK's leading resource management company, has launched a new 25,000-tonnes-per-annum Hazardous Waste Transfer Station in Newcastle upon Tyne.

Designed for the chemical, agrochemical, pharmaceutical, and petrochemical sectors, this facility will provide comprehensive recycling and treatment options for hazardous waste.

This expansion adds to Veolia's seven hazardous waste transfer stations in the UK, aligning with the Group's GreenUp strategy to enhance decarbonisation and resource regeneration.

The secure site will serve as a hub for analysing and classifying waste, ensuring compliance with local regulations, and facilitating appropriate treatment options such as solvent recycling and high-temperature incineration.

Supporting the facility is Veolia's mobile chemist service, Chempac, which offers safe waste handling and compliance. Waste streams will be tracked via Veolia's cloud-based system, ensuring traceability throughout the treatment process.

Nicola Henshaw, Managing Director Hazardous at Veolia UK, stated that this new facility represents a significant milestone in enhancing waste management expertise in the North East, contributing to environmental protection and sustainability.

Enva opens fridge and SDA recycling facility in Scotland

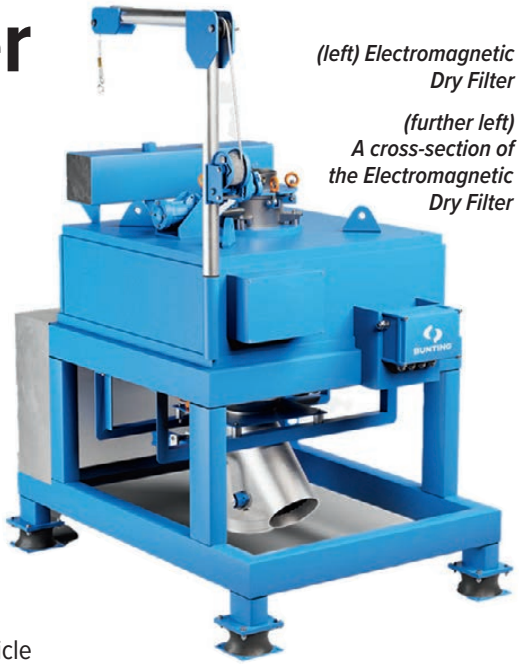
Enva, one of the UK and Ireland's leading recycling and resource recovery specialists, has officially opened a new fridge and Small Domestic Appliances (SDA) recycling facility in Perth, Scotland. This multi-million pound investment has delivered a flagship facility capable of achieving the highest possible recycling standards.

The state-of-the-art facility, the only dedicated fridge and SDA recycling plant in Scotland, has the capacity to process 4,000 fridges and 300 tonnes of SDA per week, providing Scottish residents with the ability to sustainably recycle all their waste fridges and small electrical appliances such as kettles, toasters, vacuum cleaners and coffee machines.

Equipment installed on-site includes the latest degassing, shredding and recycling technologies, ensuring that over 98% of the fridges' components will be recovered for further processing. By doing so, the Enva facility will create significant customer value and play an important role in supporting the development of a more circular Scottish economy.

Enva's Managing Director, Barry Phillips, stated that the new facility will enhance recycling in Scotland, create local jobs, reduce reliance on virgin materials, and provide resilience for other UK regions when necessary.

Bunting develops high-intensity Electromagnetic Dry Filter



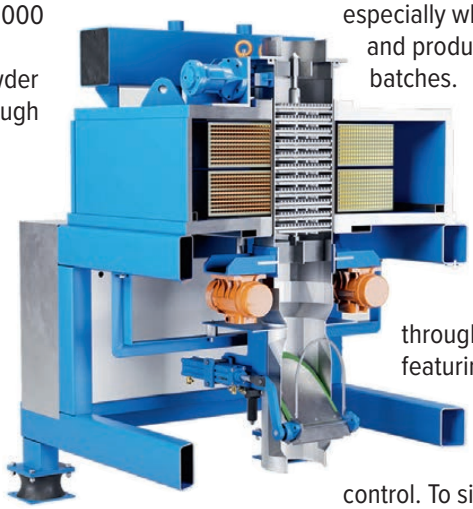
(left) Electromagnetic Dry Filter

(further left) A cross-section of the Electromagnetic Dry Filter

Bunting has developed a new Electromagnetic Dry Filter to remove free fine iron from powders. The high-intensity magnetic separator generates ultra-strong magnetic fields to capture ferrous particles present in difficult-to-process fine materials. The new technology enhances magnetic separation in various applications found in mineral processing, chemical and pharmaceutical production, ceramics and recycling.

The Electromagnetic Dry Filter features a centrally-located vibrating canister inside a specially designed electromagnetic coil. The coil generates between 3,500 and 5,000 gauss in the canister, which is then concentrated on the points of the matrix to reach peaks of up to 12,000 gauss.

In operation, fine powder flows under gravity through the vibrating canister, which is packed with magnetic stainless-steel matrix. Magnetic particles are attracted to the magnetically induced matrix and held until the batch feed is stopped. The electromagnet is then turned off, releasing the magnetic particles into a separate waste collection area, before processing is resumed.



The ultra-high magnetic fields and multiple magnetic capture points on the matrix enable enhanced separation of magnetically susceptible particles. The separation efficiency is far higher than permanent magnetic separators utilising permanent neodymium rare earth tube magnets. Many rare earth magnetic separators experience difficulties with bridging, ratholing and poor flowability due to particle size and shape, electrostatic charges and environmental factors such as humidity.

The Electromagnetic Dry Filter is particularly suited for the magnetic particle purification of high-value fine powders, especially when processed and produced in controlled batches.

The process times and integration of the Electromagnetic Dry Filter into a production line is conducted through a separate control featuring a Siemens S7-1200 PLC and Human Machine Interface (HMI) control. To simplify maintenance and reduce production downtime, the Electromagnetic Dry Filter is fitted with a built-in jig crane to remove the centrally located matrix canister for inspection or cleaning.

"The development of the Electromagnetic Dry Filter has been customer-driven," explained Adrian Coleman, Bunting's Technical Director. *"Processing powders is often challenging due to the way in which the materials behave. Our design engineers considered these challenges when designing the Electromagnetic Dry Filter, focusing on good powder flow, whilst maximising magnetic separation."*

www.bunting-redditch.com

Electric toothbrushes adding to e-waste mountain, warns In2tec

A sustainable electronics leader warns that the increasing popularity of electric toothbrushes is contributing significantly to global e-waste.

Experts from UK-based In2tec highlight that inexpensive models and consumer upgrades to new, feature-rich versions unnecessarily add to landfill.

In 2022, around 34 million people in the UK used electric toothbrushes, leading to an annual waste of 2,266 tonnes, which includes 212 million discarded toothbrush heads and manual brushes.

These throwaway electronics pose serious ecological threats and health risks for waste pickers in developing countries while depleting essential materials like lithium, aluminium, copper and steel.

Emma Armstrong of In2tec asserts that many electric toothbrushes are cheaply made, encouraging disposability. Modern designs often lack reuse or recycling potential, emphasising the need for modular technology that allows for component reuse.

Research from Trinity College Dublin indicates that electric toothbrushes have a harmful environmental impact.

Dr Brett Duane, Associate Professor in Public Dental Health and lead researcher, advocates for a system where plastic toothbrushes can be recycled continuously, rather than ending up in landfill.

In2tec aims to combat e-waste with their ReUSE® and ReCYCLE™ systems, allowing for the sustainable recovery and reuse of electronic components, significantly reducing the energy needed for manufacturing and processing.

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Storm Plus is a dedicated 50,000ft² repair and refurbishment facility for steel-bodied waste and recycling bins, backed by rigorous quality assurance and competitive pricing for reliable, cost-effective solutions. With fast pickup and return, all new EN840 parts are fitted on the UK's first computer-controlled washing, drying and painting line.

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DR ANNA WILLETTS

Anna is an environmental criminal lawyer, specialising in defence work in the waste and recycling industry. She is dual-qualified, having completed a PhD in geochemistry and worked as an environmental consultant for 5 years before qualifying as a lawyer.

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

BUSINESS CLINIC

The tax collector returns

I deal with a lot of HMRC matters where waste operators are investigated by HMRC for landfill tax due, where HMRC says that waste has been deposited illegally, i.e. without a permit or exemption.

A recent matter, however, had a different slant and involved HMRC investigating our client for landfill tax compliance at a permitted landfill site. HMRC had decided that the site did not qualify for exempt status under the Finance Act 1996 and HMRC's Excise Notice LFT1. This was on the basis that, because the environmental permit includes the EWC Code 19 12 12, regardless of whether the site actually accepts that material or not, it will not qualify for the exemption. Its position was that EWC code 19 12 12 is written in such a way that it may include non-qualifying material, whether or not an operator accepts that material. We were also told that 'recent policy advice has confirmed that if a permit includes 191212 code, the site will not qualify for exemption.'

This was odd, as previous advice from a different HRMC officer a few years previously contradicted this. Our client believed they had been advised by a regulator and were entitled to rely on it. Had they been given different advice then, they would have acted on that and operated the business quite differently. Our client also had written into its operating paperwork what materials within 19 12 12 would be accepted, and it was clear that no non-qualifying wastes would be accepted or ever had been.

We challenged the matter with HMRC via its independent review procedure, which was upheld. We made the point that operators are and should be fully entitled to rely on advice given by government officers and should not be penalised millions of pounds a few years later when a different officer forms a different opinion. This was not accepted, however, and the position was maintained.

This left us with having to resort to the Tax Tribunal. In the background, our client applied to vary its environmental permit to remove the code, as this appeared to be a simple way around the matter. Whilst it didn't think it ought to have to do that, and it does preclude it from accepting some qualifying material, the amount of tax HMRC sought was so eye-watering that this appeared to be a sensible commercial decision on balance.

HMRC finally agreed with our position, and the tax position has been resolved for a short period between the date of the permit variation application and the varied permit being received. Which fortunately did not take the standard (in my experience) two years.....

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

CIRQLR launches as new £150m UK commercial recycling brand

A new commercial waste company called CIRQLR launched last month after acquiring eight regional recycling specialists. The company aims to support circular economy strategies.

David Palmer-Jones OBE *(pictured)*, who has decades of experience in the recycling industry with organisations such as Suez, will lead CIRQLR.

CIRQLR was formed through several acquisitions over the past two years, creating a network of recycling service providers in South East England, London, and up to the Humber. The group will operate 19 recycling sites in England, including the recent acquisition of the Chambers Group in Surrey in March.

CIRQLR currently serves about 15,000 customers nationwide and handles around 600,000 tonnes of recycling materials.

A key focus for the company, backed by the iCON Infrastructure investment group, is to help businesses prepare for new waste and recycling regulations.

Palmer-Jones emphasised that CIRQLR aims for ongoing growth in commercial recycling. He said: "A major change in how we manage business waste is happening, supported by positive regulatory changes over the next five years."

The company plans to double its revenue and expand its geographical coverage by investing in current facilities and new operations. This growth will rely on the shared experience of the regional brands that make up CIRQLR, which has about 600 employees.

CIRQLR noted the recent implementation of the Government's 'simpler recycling reforms' that took effect for businesses with 10 or more employees on 31st March, marking a significant change in the industry.

A statement from CIRQLR explained that its combined operations aim to improve how different waste types are managed, in line with new laws. This includes the Extended Producer Responsibility for Packaging (pEPR) and a planned deposit return scheme for single-use drink containers, set to begin in England and Northern Ireland in 2027.

The company stated: "We will see a clear increase in the volume and quality of materials returned to the supply chain."

Sharing technology and analysing recycling patterns across the group has helped integrate and grow local recycling businesses while strengthening their established local relationships.

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BUSINESS CLINIC CONSULTANCY

2022 No.1 Standard Rule Permit overview

Treatment of waste to produce soil, soil substitutes and aggregates

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

The new Standard Rules 2022 No. 1 (SR2022 No. 1) permit, introduced by the Environment Agency on the 18th December 2024, covers the *treatment of waste to produce soil, soil substitutes and aggregates.* It replaces several earlier standard rule permits, including SR2008 No. 11 and SR2010 No. 12 and 2009 No.6, as part of a wider Government initiative to review and streamline environmental permitting.

Existing permit holders have a transition period until 27th June, 2025, to adapt to the new requirements. This period allows operators to implement any necessary changes and ensure compliance with the updated standards.

The transition period is also relevant for those operators who cannot comply with the new 2022 No.1 standard rules permit (for example, their site doesn't meet the new location criteria or they can't operate using the required techniques). Those operators will need to apply for a bespoke permit by 27th June, 2025, and adhere to the old permit until the new variation is determined.

To assist with the transition to SR 2022 No.1, we have highlighted below the two areas of key differences between the old and new permits:

Generic Rules:
The new rules permit:

- *Up to 75,000 tonnes or 250,000 tonnes of certain wastes to be accepted at the site per year, depending on EWC code;*
- *Up to 10,000 or 50,000 tonnes of certain waste to be stored on site at any time, depending on EWC code;*
- *If the site is within 200 metres of a workplace or residential property, treatment must be carried out either within a building or in accordance with the specified rules (see below);*
- *Certain wastes are required to be stored, treated and handled on an impermeable surface with a sealed drainage system when located within a groundwater source protection zone 2.*

The main changes to note here are the increased tonnage allowance up to 250,000 tonnes per year (for EWC codes specified within certain tables within the permit) and the new rule if the site is within 200 metres of a workplace or building. This rule requires treatment to be carried out within a building unless specific measures can be adhered to that relate to the reduction and control of emissions from operations, i.e. enclosures or hoods on feed hoppers and the requirement for dust suppression.

The new rules also provide absolute clarity that 2022 No.1 does not allow the washing of soils/aggregates.

Location criteria:
The new permit includes additional location criteria that are intended to improve environmental and amenity protection. For instance, operations under SR2022 No. 1 must not be within:

- *50 metres of a site that has species or habitats protected under the Biodiversity Action Plan that the Environment Agency considers at risk from this activity;*
- *10 metres of a watercourse;*
- *a groundwater source protection zone 1.*

The upshot of the new location criteria is that many sites with the replaced standard rules permits will no longer be able to meet the new rules due to their location.

Overall, SR2022 No. 1 is intended to reflect the Environment Agency's commitment to reviewing and updating waste regulations, improve environmental and amenity protection, and to simplify the environmental permitting process.

If you have any queries about the new standard rules, you can contact the EA directly ***(enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk)*** or your Environmental Consultant for advice on how to achieve compliance.

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

MPG

GOT A QUESTION **ASK THE EXPERTS**

Coat of arms mosaic created from old glass bottles

A Coventry artist has redesigned the city's coat of arms using shards from old glass bottles.

Scott Duffin created his own mosaic version of the historic coat using approximately 6,000 pieces of recycled materials.

Duffin, an enthusiastic collector of Coventry memorabilia, mainly used Milk of Magnesia bottles that he collected from the city's rivers.

He mentioned that it took him five months to gather all the materials and that he spent "hundreds of hours" assembling his design. Using these materials also allowed him to represent the local football team, as Coventry City plays in sky blue.

In addition, Duffin incorporated symbols from the official coat of arms, such as an eagle and a phoenix, to reflect the area's history.

He expressed that being creative has helped him manage his mental health, sharing: "I've been diagnosed with anxiety and depression, and I suffer from panic attacks that come from nowhere. This helps me discover myself as I age and understand my thoughts."

Duffin also noted that he has always been "a bit of a collector," and that people often offer him memorabilia from the city. "If it has Coventry on it, or it's part of our history, I can't turn it down," he said.

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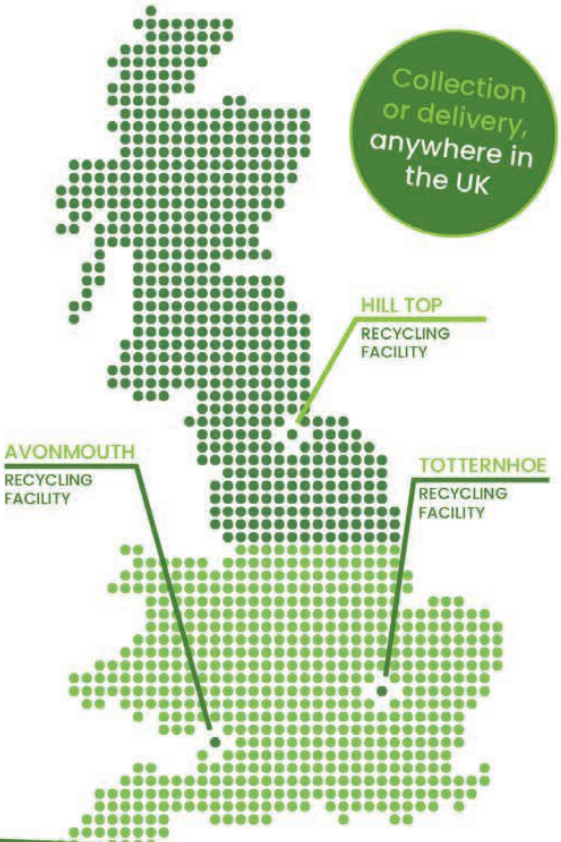

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(Pictured L-R) Ahmed Detta, CEO, Enviroo; Julie Green, non-executive chairwoman, Enviroo; Sarah-Sanpher McDowell, operations director, Clearpoint Recycling; Mark Garrett, managing director, Clearpoint Recycling; Hariette Shave, head of commercial, Clearpoint Recycling; Beth Green, COO, Enviroo; Chris Brown, board advisor, Enviroo.

Clearpoint Recycling, Enviroo sign landmark PET supply contract

Clearpoint Recycling, an independent recycling and waste management company based in Yorkshire, has announced a landmark partnership with Enviroo, a Cheshire-based polyethylene terephthalate (PET) recycler.

This exclusive agreement will see Clearpoint Recycling responsible for supplying material to Enviroo's new waste plastics recycling plant at Protos Park in Ellesmere Port.

Once the facility opens in 2027, Clearpoint Recycling will deliver over 30,000 tonnes of recyclable PET material each year. The plant will convert waste plastics into certified food-grade recycled PET (rPET), addressing the growing demand in the global market for sustainable materials.

The partnership enables Clearpoint Recycling to utilise its extensive UK network to create a supply chain solution focused on a truly circular economy. This will allow Enviroo to continuously produce the highest quality recycled polymers, meeting the legislative requirements faced by all packaging producers.

Mark Garrett, managing director at Clearpoint Recycling, stated: "The plant provides a much-needed outlet for PET to be converted into certified food-grade rPET, which is in high demand in the UK market. It aligns with the UK's plans to implement a deposit return scheme on PET bottles in 2027, positioning us strongly to secure market materials.

"We look forward to collaborating with our existing partners and invite offers from other suppliers to contribute to the plant's feedstock. This facility will be one of only three food-grade rPET plants in the UK. With Clearpoint responsible for supplying feedstock to the facility and managing sales, we are positioned at the centre of the circular economy. This enables us to remain independent while investing in high-skilled roles across all business units."

Ahmed Detta, Enviroo's CEO, commented on the partnership, saying: "This landmark agreement with Clearpoint Recycling is a significant step forward in strengthening the UK's circular economy. By securing a consistent, high-quality supply of PET material, we are ensuring our facility at Ellesmere Port will play a crucial role in transforming waste into valuable, certified food-grade recycled PET.

"This partnership highlights our commitment to sustainability, contributes to job creation in the community and promotes innovation in the recycling sector. Together, we are driving a more sustainable future for the UK and beyond."

The scale of this deal marks a significant milestone for Clearpoint Recycling and reinforces the vital role of supply chain specialists in facilitating the supply and sale of materials throughout the recycling industry.

Battery recycling scheme aims to reduce fire risk

A battery recycling scheme has been launched to help reduce the risk of fires in bin lorries and waste sites.

Starting last month, bin crews in Herefordshire are now collecting batteries and small electrical items during their regular rounds. However, these items must be kept separate from other waste and placed on top of the bin.

The National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) warns that batteries disposed of in household rubbish or recycling bins can cause contamination or fires. In the year leading up to May 2024, the improper disposal of lithium-ion batteries resulted in over 1,200 fires, compared to 700 in the previous year.

Herefordshire Council advises that small electrical items, such as kettles, hairdryers, irons, clocks and radios, should be placed on top of the bin with the batteries removed. Batteries should be placed in a small plastic bag and also set on top of the bin on waste or recycling collection days. These items will be collected for recycling.

Elissa Swinglehurst, the council's cabinet member for the environment, stated: "Small electric items and batteries pose a significant challenge when placed in household bins, as they can cause contamination and increase the risk of fire in collection vehicles or at waste sites. I encourage all residents to support this new service to ensure that more of our waste is recycled correctly."

Recently, a fire believed to be caused by a vape broke out in Doncaster, and a blaze in Essex in March affected 35 tonnes of waste.

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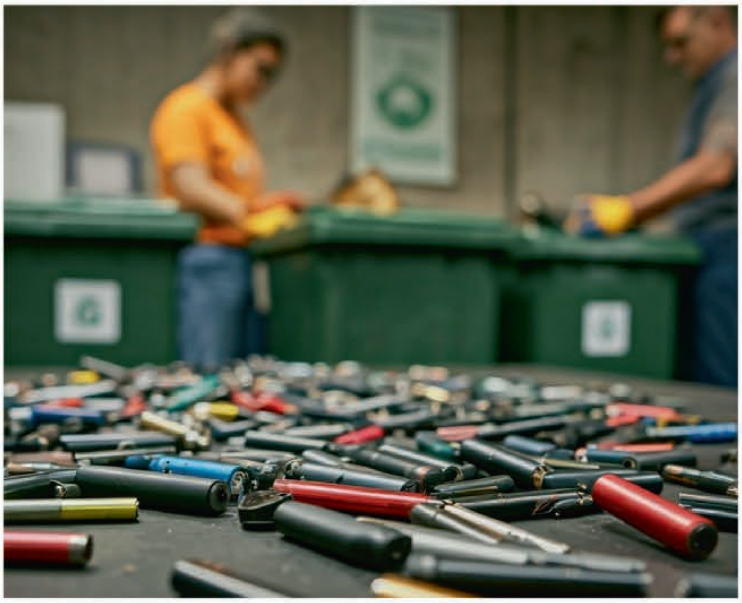

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MARCO MUIA, BSc (Hons) MSc MCIWM,
Managing Director at Oaktree Environmental Limited.

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

BUSINESS CLINIC ENVIRONMENTAL

What does 'secure' mean?

It may seem trivial to write an article on the definition of **secure** when its meaning is obvious. Or is it? We have recently had a number of CAR (Compliance Assessment Report) forms issued by regulators in England and Wales, where the term has been used in reference to the storage of waste and has caused some disagreement between the operator and regulators.

It may seem surprising that the definition is not set out in a particularly obvious place. The first place I look is the *Waste Duty of Care Code of Practice (2018)*, which is where I expect it to be. Paragraph 3.3 in the code refers to storing safely and 'securely' as follows, from which we can determine what **secure** means:

Using containers that are:

- *Clearly and correctly labelled*
- *Suitable for the storage, transport and subsequent management activities by you and the following waste holder*
- *Designed to prevent leakage, contamination or spoiling of waste (spoiled waste is waste that cannot be managed in the way intended)*
- *Limiting access to the waste to only those who are authorised to handle it. This will help prevent accidents, pests, incidents of vandalism and theft. It will also stop unauthorised people adding to the waste and so invalidating the waste description (see section 3.5)*
- *Ensuring vehicles are covered and waste is secured appropriately for transport purposes.*

There is, however, no definition of secure in Regulation 2 (interpretation) of the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016. The definition is set out for the purposes of exempt waste activities in Schedule 3:

(4) When interpreting this Part, a container, lagoon, or other place is secure in relation to waste kept in it if:-
(a) all reasonable precautions are taken to ensure that the waste cannot escape from it, and
(b) members of the public are unable to gain access to the waste.

Whilst the definition is set out for exemptions in the regulations, it has also been used in a number of standard rules and other permits, which gives us a general definition that can reasonably be applied to other permits:

***'secure'** means that all reasonable precautions are taken to ensure that the waste cannot escape and that members of the public are unable to gain access to the waste.*

The Non-Waste Framework Directive (NWFD3) exemption 3 requires that you can "only store waste that you have produced working elsewhere, in a **secure** place that you have control over". It is not defined further.

Whilst there is no common, clear-cut definition that applies in all cases, the detail above makes it clear what is intended when the word secure is used.

It is also worth noting that the definition of **'secure'** does come up as a question in continuing competence tests, as well as the definition of "sealed drainage system" and "impermeable surface", so remember these.

'impermeable surface' means a surface or pavement constructed and maintained to a standard sufficient to prevent the transmission of liquids through and beyond the pavement surface, and should be read in conjunction with the term 'sealed drainage system'.

'sealed drainage system' in relation to an impermeable surface means a drainage system with impermeable components which does not leak and which will ensure that no liquid will run off the surface otherwise than via the system and except where they may lawfully be discharged to foul sewer, all liquids entering the system are collected in a sealed sump.

*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**

Cardiff launches AI-based paper cup recycling scheme

A new AI-based pilot initiative has launched in Cardiff to address paper cup waste.

Keep Wales Tidy is partnering with the National Cup Recycling Scheme and the Bower app for a three-month programme.

Residents and visitors can recycle used paper cups at participating stores like Caffè Nero, Costa Coffee, Greggs, McDonald's and Pret a Manger for a 5p reward. Customers can download the Bower app, scan their cups, and return them for proper recycling.

This collaboration aims to combat landfill waste, as the UK disposes of around 2.5 billion paper cups each year. Most cups, made from high-quality fibre, can be recycled into new products, while the plastic lining is repurposed in Wales.

Owen Derbyshire, CEO of Keep Wales Tidy, emphasised the importance of small actions in creating a significant impact on sustainability.

The National Cup Recycling Scheme, launched in 2018, aims to boost cup recycling in the UK by providing incentives for waste collectors and simplifying the recycling process for businesses and consumers.

The pilot continues until 22nd July.

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Communal bins overflow with rubbish and recycling waste in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets, April 2024

Inner London residents expressed that composting is not a viable solution to their food waste problems

DR SAYED ELHOUSHY
(PhD, BSc, MSc, MRes, FHEA)
Senior Lecturer in Marketing, Queen Mary University of London

***"It's always frustrated me that we can't compost here - even though I get why. Tower blocks just aren't built for it,"* said Alexandra, a 42-year-old Tower Hamlets resident, living on the ninth floor. She gestures toward the tall buildings in her neighbourhood. Her frustration is shared by many, where food waste collection from blocks of flats remains a challenge.**

Tower Hamlets in east London is England's most densely populated borough, with more than 15,000 people per square kilometre. More than 81% of its residents live in high-rise flats, and 30% of its rubbish is food waste.

For residents like Alexandra, the lack of options is disappointing. *"When I first moved here, I looked into food waste disposal, but there weren't many options for people in flats,"* she says. Unfortunately, her experience reflects a wider problem.

According to the UK waste charity WRAP, nearly a quarter of the UK's food production is wasted each year - that's over 6.4 million tonnes of edible food worth £21 billion, enough to feed the country for nearly three months. Households contribute approximately 60% of this waste, which not only costs money but also fuels climate change.

London authorities have introduced reduction and recycling plans (RRPs) to tackle food waste and increase recycling. These efforts align with the mayor's London-wide strategy to halve food waste by 2030. While these targets are ambitious, their implementation in high-rise boroughs such as Tower Hamlets remains challenging.

For many residents, food waste is both an environmental issue and a logistical nightmare. *"We tried compost bins in our building, but rats and foxes loved them more than we did,"* laughed Aisha, a resident I interviewed at a community centre in March 2023.

Limited space makes traditional composting methods, such as wormeries (small-scale systems where worms break down organic waste into compost), unfeasible. The people I interviewed explained that community-led schemes often struggle due to limited participation in the first place, contamination from improper waste disposal and pest control issues, including attracting rats and foxes.

In my work as a sustainability marketing researcher, I'm investigating alternatives and researching how best to maintain sustainable consumer behaviour.

Co-creation - in this case, designing solutions with the residents trying to tackle food waste - is so important, but often overlooked. By talking directly to the people involved, a plan will end up being much more effective because people trust it more and engage with it more willingly.

In 2023, I led a six-month behaviour change research project with East London Garden Society, a community-driven initiative that promoted gardening and environmental sustainability in East London. I interviewed 15 Tower Hamlets residents, listened to numerous community meetings and analysed community discussions to uncover the real barriers to food waste reduction.

My findings were clear: residents don't just want tips - they want a voice.

As 64-year-old Maryam put it: *"I really appreciate that you're taking a resident-*

first approach, gathering feedback and understanding experiences. That's how you'll find what truly works."

By placing residents at the centre, we can ensure that solutions are built to last. But co-creation alone is not enough - residents need systematic changes, such as better infrastructure.

The role of technology

A 2024 study shows how technology is reshaping the food system from production to consumption. Apps such as Olio help consumers share surplus food and reduce waste.

Some composting machines or food waste processors are compact enough for household kitchens, requiring no garden. Residents can use the resulting compost to grow small plants on their balconies or add it to their green waste bin - this process is made easier by reducing volume.

Larger compost machines can turn organic food waste into nutrient-rich soil in just 24 hours, reducing its volume by up to 80%. While these can handle organic waste from multiple high-rise buildings, they need to be installed in a bigger shared community space.

In Tower Hamlets, where space is limited, compact technology offers a convenient solution. But, as we found in our research, it's not without its challenges.

As Frank, a man who lives on a top-floor flat, explained: *"This machine is much quicker than traditional composting, but what about the cost and the electricity it uses?"* While smart technologies offer convenience, some Tower Hamlets residents raised concerns about energy consumption and costs - so there is a trade-off between ease and energy efficiency.

Surprisingly, composting technology, often seen as the eco-friendly solution, may be worsening the food waste crisis. As a marketing expert, I spoke directly with many consumers at Tower Hamlets.

One told me that composting makes them feel *"less guilty"* about throwing out food. When composting serves as a license to waste, it can increase the amount of discarded food.

Making composting easy diverts waste from landfill, but that doesn't address root causes, including simply buying too much food in the first place. Technology must promote behavioural change to reduce food waste, such as better meal planning and monitoring waste. Knowing how much food waste they produce, compared to their neighbours, can encourage people to change their behaviour.

So many cities face the same problems, with densely populated communities living in flats without gardens. Without co-creating practical solutions with residents, achieving waste reduction goals will be tough.

This article first appeared at www.theconversation.com

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AUGUST 2025: ISSUE 235
Sorting and separation

SEPTEMBER 2025: ISSUE 236
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Tesco to give away discounted food for free in new trial

Tesco is set to launch a new trial that will allow customers to pick up free food in its Express stores after 9:30pm.

The supermarket giant will offer items marked "Reduced to Clear" at no cost as part of a trial aimed at reducing food waste.

Under this trial, Tesco will replace its typical 90% discounts with completely free items for late-night shoppers. This change applies to food that would otherwise be discarded at closing time.

As the trial progresses, the company expects to see a reduction in the amount of food thrown away. This initiative is part of Tesco's broader strategy to meet its net zero targets.

A statement on the supermarket's website reads: "We aim to be carbon neutral in our Group operations by 2035 and achieve net zero across our full value chain, in line with a 1.5°C trajectory, by 2050."

Tesco aims to achieve net zero by 2050

Tesco confirmed that it will continue to donate some unsold food to charities in addition to the new giveaway scheme.

Expiring food will first be offered to charities and store employees before being made available to customers for free. This initiative comes in response to the growing demand for discounted food across supermarkets.

(Ed.) *"If fights break out, either for hoarding or anger over wasted trips, Tesco may regret this decision. Let's wait and see."*

RTX 2025: A great little pick me up!

If you're in the market for a specialist truck body or the latest fleet equipment, head along to this summer's must-attend tradeshow

If you work in the skip hire and waste management sector, then mark your calendars for this year's Road Transport Expo (RTX) - which is gearing up to be the biggest and boldest to date.

From 24th-26th June, RTX 2025 will take over NAEC Stoneleigh in Warwickshire, showcasing everything from the latest in truck technology and fleet equipment to workshop tools and training specialists.

It's now firmly established as a key business event for anyone in the commercial vehicle industry, and there's no better place to get ahead of the curve and discover what's new and trending when it comes to truck bodies, skiploaders, tippers, trailers, tankers, material handlers and much more.

"We know from our pre-show registrations that a significant number of visitors have listed waste and recycling vehicles/equipment as one of their key priorities at the show," says Vic Bunby, RTX show director.

"We're sure they won't be disappointed with the wide range of stands to explore that are showcasing the next generation of innovative vehicle bodies and technology to drive efficiency and productivity in their businesses."

More than one-third of exhibitors have categorised themselves as relevant to those interested in tippers, tankers, trailers, material handlers and waste/recycling, ensuring that there will be a comprehensive range of equipment to choose from.

Whether you're looking to upgrade your skiploader fleet, explore moving floor systems or perhaps discover the latest in bulk waste vehicle technology, RTX is the perfect platform to keep your operation at the forefront of the industry.

Then, of course, when you add in leading truck manufacturers, tyre specialists, training firms, safety equipment and fleet management experts, you will be spoilt for choice.

Get connected

One of the standout features of RTX 2025 is its relaxed, informal atmosphere, despite remaining firmly focused on business. The event is designed to facilitate networking between industry professionals in a friendly and open environment.

If you're looking to strengthen relationships with existing clients, explore potential partnerships, or simply exchange ideas with peers who understand your challenges, RTX is where those conversations happen.

Some of the companies already registered to attend the show include the likes of: ***Aggregate Industries, Amey Highways, Axe Skip Hire, Balfour Beatty, Biffa Waste Services, Birmingham City Council, CEMEX, The Environment Agency, KPM Plant Services, Leeds City Council, SUEZ, Tarmac, Travis Perkins*** and many more.

Engaging with such a diverse range of businesses provides a unique opportunity to gain fresh perspectives and identify collaborative opportunities that can drive real business growth.

RTX exhibitors will also be pulling out all the stops when it comes to hospitality, so you can be sure of a warm welcome as you browse the stands.

And back again for 2025 will be the popular 'Inn on the Green', where you can take a pit stop and relax with colleagues and new acquaintances with a cool drink in the (hopefully) British sunshine.

Industry insight

RTX 2025 goes beyond just product showcases - it's also a hub for knowledge.

A comprehensive three-day seminar

programme will cover key topics that matter to those working in the industry, including decarbonisation, vehicle technology, future fuels and the latest road transport regulations and compliance updates.

These seminars can keep you ahead of the curve and help ensure your business is prepared for the future.

A varied mix of keynote presentations, lively on-stage discussions and informative presentations will be on offer all three days of the show to keep you engaged.

Our RTX 'Big Debate' panel sessions featuring the leading truck manufacturers will be back once more, with plenty of opportunities to get involved and ask questions relevant to your business.

Up close and personal

At RTX 2025, attendees will have the unique opportunity to participate in a Ride & Drive event, where you can get behind the wheel of the latest trucks, including diesel models, electric variants and those powered by low-carbon fuels.

You can also engage directly with OEMs on their stands to ask key questions about new and emerging technology or chat with industry training specialists to discover what courses are available to help upskill your workforce.

Who might we see there?

The full list of exhibitors can be found over at ***www.roadtransportexpo.co.uk*** and with more than 300 now confirmed and the list growing daily, make sure to check out who you'd like to make a beeline for at RTX:

- **Fruehauf** - durable, high-performance trailers for agriculture, aggregates, waste management and haulage.
- **Gregory's Linings** - provides QuickSilver Linings to increase the efficiency and safety of bulk handling vehicles.
- **Keith Walking Floor Europe** - range of compact and lightweight drives suitable for semi-trailers, hooklift containers, rigid trucks and small trailers.
- **Meiller-Boweld** - manufacturer and fitter of steel tipper bodies and the Meiller hookloader and skiploader.
- **Palfinger UK** - UK distributor for Palfinger lorry cranes, Epsilon construction cranes, and Palfinger hook and skiploaders.
- **Thompsons Group** - major manufacturer with a wide range of specialist truck bodies.
- **Weightlifter/PPG Fabrications** - offering an extensive range of tipping semi-trailers, rigid bodies, moving floors and ancillary equipment.

Heading around the showground, product demonstrations will be galore across the large exhibition halls and vast outside show zones.

"RTX has grown significantly since its launch in 2022 and has quickly become a must-attend event for the road transport sector," says Bunby. *"We are very much looking forward to welcoming visitors to NAEC Stoneleigh this June, including those working in the skip hire and waste management side of the industry."*

Don't miss out on this essential event - make sure to attend and position your business for success in the future of the road transport industry.

Entry and parking for all visitors is completely free and you can book your ticket today at ***www.roadtransportexpo.co.uk*** *or by scanning the QR code.*

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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

Self-preservation?

Whenever my late mother-in-law was embarking on the latest diet craze, her husband would always tell her: *'Do you realise the diet industry in the UK is worth over two and a half billion pounds/annum? If anybody could come up with a diet that actually worked, umpteen businesses would collapse and a lot of people would be unemployed. Anyway, you'd lose weight if you just ate less'.*

I was reminded of his words when I read in March that WRAP's latest survey had highlighted a 21% increase in food items being wasted. It goes into detail explaining the reasons for this situation and lists a raft of recommendations on how things might be changed (e.g. getting rid of 'best before' and 'sell by' dates). It's all logically argued and quite reasonable. Still, the only problem is that it doesn't take any account of the food hygiene implications associated with the sale of pre-packaged food, individual lifestyles or the fact that a generation (perhaps more?) has been reared on the 'best before' and 'sell by' culture.

Before then, the tried and tested approach was *'look, smell, then taste a wee bit'* to check if food was still safe to eat. I fully accept that a lot of media influencers delight in bragging about all the food they've recovered and eaten from the bins outside food premises and good luck to them. But that's their choice: it's far different from the situation where people might become ill after eating food they've bought in a supermarket that didn't have a sell-by date on it.

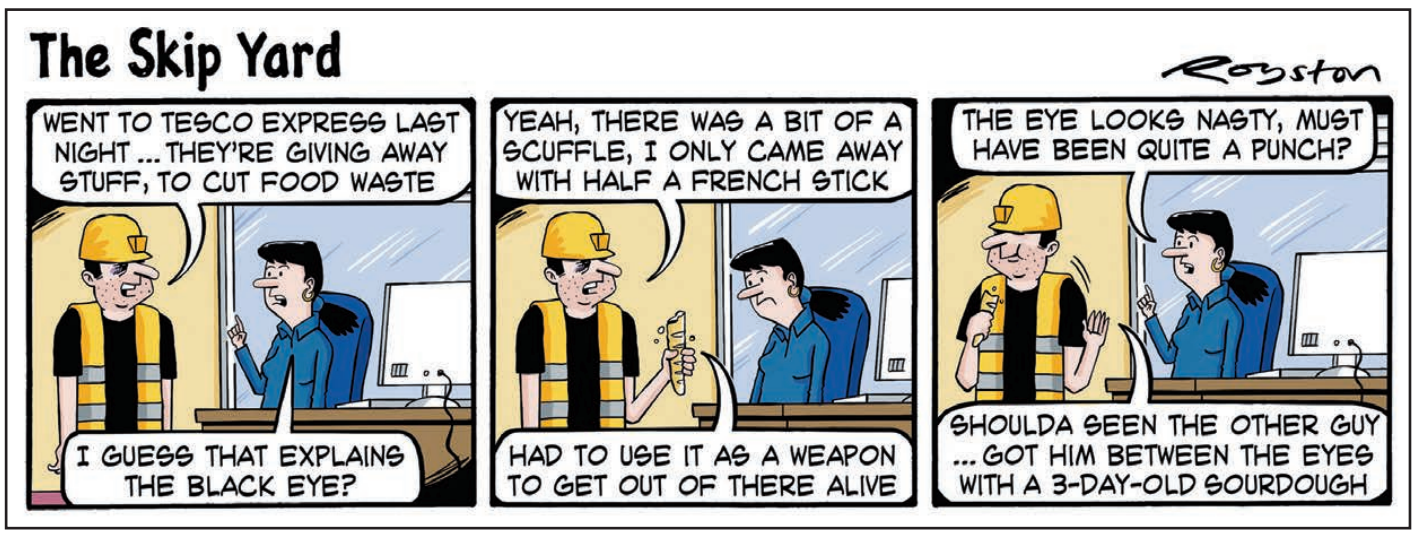
Which brings me back to my father-in-law's opinion.

We've now had a few decades (if not more) of quangos that were set up to address specific waste management issues.

Forty years ago, Keep Scotland Beautiful was more or less a husband and wife team with a few office staff, but today its website carries the photos of just under 50 employees. The charity has spent a fortune trying to educate the Scottish public in acceptable litter behaviour (and to be fair, has had a great track record of success in the primary Schools), but overall, the litter problem is just as bad, if not worse than ever.

In 2003, the Caledonian Environment Centre in Glasgow Caledonian University (CEC) played a pivotal role in liaising with the 32 Scottish Councils to develop individual bespoke kerbside recycling schemes using ring-fenced funding provided by the Scottish Parliament that saw Scotland's waste recycling performances rocket to over 45% by 2006. At its peak CEC never had more than 35 employees (that included a few undergraduate and post-graduate students). Its role was transferred to the new Zero Waste Scotland (ZWS) in 2009. ZWS now has 250 employees, but Scotland's recycling performance is still around 45%.

Have we reached the stage that some quangos are reluctant to admit that they are either incapable of achieving the goals they were originally set or that if they did succeed, they'd then be out of a job?



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