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Your Company

- Skip Hire** - From 2m to 12m skips. Skip Hire.
- Grab Hire** - For rubble, debris & mixed waste. Grab Hire.
- Waste Bags** - 250 Litre bags. Waste Bags.
- General Waste** - General waste. General Waste.
- Building Aggregate** - Building aggregate. Building Aggregate.
- Decorative Aggregate** - Decorative aggregate. Decorative Aggregate.
- Timber and Fencing** - Timber and fencing. Timber and Fencing.
- Recycled Aggregate** - Recycled aggregate. Recycled Aggregate.

Waste Categories:

- Plasterboard** - Plasterboard and gypsum plasterboard only.
- Wood** - Clean untreated timber, trunks, logs, firewood, pallets, etc. Wood.
- Hardcore and Rubble** - Non-hazardous bricks, concrete, tiles, rubble, broken kerbs etc. Hardcore and Rubble.
- Soil and Stone** - Non-hazardous mixed soils and stone only. Soil and Stone.
- General Mixed/Builder's Waste** - Non-hazardous general builders' DIY and commercial waste. General Mixed/Builder's Waste.

License required?

- 2 Yard Skip** - 2.0m x 1.0m x 0.8m. This is our smallest skip, ideal for home spring cleaning. £204.00
- 4 Yard Skip** - 2.0m x 1.0m x 1.0m. For those slightly larger home jobs. £306.00
- 6 Yard Skip** - 2.0m x 1.0m x 1.2m. Our most popular skip size. £336.00

ORDERING SYSTEMS REVOLUTIONISED

SEE INSIDE: **PAGES 22-25**

WASTE (LOGICS)

AUTOMATION AND EFFICIENCY: YOUR PATH TO A PROFITABLE AND SUSTAINABLE WASTE MANAGEMENT BUSINESS

✓ Skip Hire

✓ Tipper & Grabs

✓ Aggregate Suppliers

✓ Waste Brokers

✓ Trade Waste

✓ Commodity Traders

✓ MRF & Waste Transfer Stations

INCREASE CUSTOMER SATISFACTION

- Automate proactive customer communication
- Improved service success
- Customers self-serve 24/7
- Real time recycling and CO2 reports

AUTOMATED INSIGHTS FOR DATA DRIVEN DECISIONS

- Visualise KPIs and detailed drill-throughs in real time
- Saves teams 100's of hours
- Real time syncs between accounts and operations
- Minimise business risks

YOUR FAVOURITE TOOLS, CONNECTED TO WORK TOGETHER

- Accounting solutions
- Weighbridges
- On-board weighing
- ESG reporting
- Asset tracking

FLEET OPERATIONS

- Automate changes to drivers work
- Paperless - eliminate tickets
- Access to live job statuses
- Seamless sync between office & drivers
- Optimised routes for drivers
- Guided truck specific navigation and real-time road conditions
- Boost revenue with optimised asset use

CLOUD BASED - EFFORTLESS FOR YOU

- 99.9%+ uptime
- Real-time back ups
- Regular product updates
- Monitored security
- No additional infrastructure costs

MATERIAL CYCLING FACILITIES

- Evidence non compliance easily
- Capture detailed waste breakdowns
- Automate legislative documentation and returns

24/7 CUSTOMER SUPPORT INCLUDED

- Supported by waste industry professionals
- Contactable via phone, online helpdesk, screenshare
- Large knowledge base and video hub

BROKERING & OUTSOURCING

- Outsource jobs effortlessly
- Automate data exchange between brokers and suppliers
- Profit per job reporting

OPTIMISED WORKFLOWS

- Instant enquiry to quote
- Fast quote to order conversion
- Automate orders from online carts

WHY?
WASTE (LOGICS)



Want to see what we can do for your business?
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Working harder, earning less: The ‘behind the scenes’ crisis for waste management companies

By Henry Butcher, Waste Logics Software Ltd.

Margins are being squeezed from every direction, and many operators don't realise how much it's costing them until it's too late, when the damage is already done, rather than having real-time insight to make changes in the moment. Rising costs are only part of the story. There's a deeper shift happening - one that's reshaping how waste businesses need to think, operate, and deliver.

At Waste Logics, we speak to hundreds of skip hire and waste operators every week - customers who are using our system to tackle these challenges head-on. Their insight gives us a unique, real-time view of what's driving the pressure - and what's working to fight back. If you've felt the strain or seen margins slip, this article breaks down what's really happening and how the most forward-thinking operators are staying one step ahead.

Why margins are under more pressure than ever

The UK waste and skip hire sector is feeling the squeeze. Margins are shrinking, costs are rising, and customer expectations are shifting faster than many operators can keep up with. Whether you're running a local skip business or managing operations at an enterprise level, the challenges are stacking up and relying on the same old ways of working just won't cut it anymore.

The cost crunch is real

Labour shortages, rising wages, and escalating disposal costs are creating the perfect storm for waste operators. Labour costs are surging - minimum wage increases, higher National Insurance contributions, and ongoing driver shortages are pushing payrolls up across the board.

Then there's insurance. With more lithium batteries and vapes slipping into general waste streams, the risk of fires and accidents is rising, and insurers are responding with steep premium hikes. Some waste businesses are now facing double-digit percentage increases just to maintain cover. When your overheads are rising on every front, protecting margin becomes a daily battle.

Gate fees and disposal costs are surging

Disposal costs are another major contributor to the pressure. Landfill tax has jumped by over 22%, now costing operators an extra £22.45 per tonne. Anaerobic digestion (AD) gate fees have risen from

£16 to £26 per tonne. MRF gate fees? Up again, now approaching a 40% increase per tonne. Incineration (waste-to-energy) is also expected to climb in price as carbon-related levies come into force.

These aren't minor fluctuations - they are systemic cost increases that cut directly into margins. When you're moving hundreds of tonnes a day, these shifts add up fast.

And yet, investment demands keep growing

At the same time, there's more pressure than ever to invest in infrastructure. Many companies are looking to electrify fleets, implement automation in materials recovery facilities, and invest in fire prevention equipment. These are beneficial, but they come with heavy upfront costs.

It's a painful paradox: you need to invest to stay competitive, but rising costs are already eating into the capital you need to grow.

This is the new normal. However, rather than simply absorbing these pressures, the most forward-thinking operators are transforming their businesses from the inside out - with data, automation, and smarter customer journeys.

Continued on page 4

The hidden operational blind spots that cost you - ££££

Waste management is a margin game. Every mile driven, every tonne tipped, and every skip delivered contributes to either profit or loss. And yet, too many businesses still don't have the visibility to track performance across the board.

Skips sitting idle = revenue standing still

If a skip is sitting on a customer's site for days or weeks longer than planned, it's not earning. It's a sunk cost - diesel, driver

time, and admin hours all tied up with no return. Even worse, during busy periods, you're short of skips and may end up turning away new business or scrambling to buy more stock at inflated prices.

This isn't just an operations issue - it's a strategic one. Poor skip turnaround hits margin, cash flow, and customer satisfaction. With visibility and alerts in place, these issues become manageable. Without them, they go unnoticed-until they hit the P&L.

Are you making money on every job?

Most companies don't know which jobs are profitable. Why? Because tracking job profitability requires pulling together data from multiple sources, such as distance driven, driver time, tipping costs, wait times, and the final invoice value. Without this, it's impossible to understand which customers are worth keeping and which jobs are eating margin.

It's not just about collecting the data - it's about making it usable. One late driver or contaminated load can flip a profitable job into a loss. That level of visibility can't be achieved on paper or through outdated systems or processes.

Driver and vehicle performance - the silent margin killers

Your fleet is one of your biggest costs. But do you know which drivers are consistently running behind? Which vehicles are least efficient? Which rounds or customers are generating the most complaints or the longest wait times?

Better planning and real-time monitoring can uncover inefficiencies that are slowly eroding your bottom line. In an industry with tight margins, plugging even small gaps in performance adds up quickly.

Visibility isn't just a nice-to-have anymore - it's a competitive advantage.

Orders Drilldown

Job Date	Vehicle No	Vehicle Registration	Owner	Driver	Order ref	Grade	Service Source	Source Location	Source/Address	Destination/Address	Weight	Source Invoiced	Destination Invoiced	Net Income
13 Mar 24	0463 8P	NLS	NLS	Chris Reddy	125555	HULLAGE	HRU	026	CARL REPTCE, 027	W2 BULDER	140.00	0.00	140.00	
					125626	CLASS 18 SA	HRU	026	CARL REPTCE, 026	EGU SWIFT B	18.470	155.76	240.24	80.48
					125767	JOHN STONE	HRU	026	CARL REPTCE, 027	POLSK COUL	0.00	363.00	363.00	
					125870	20-0000 88	HRU	026	W2 BULDER, 026	DATA LANDSC	18.000	022.00	403.00	239.00
					125870	20-0000 88	HRU	026	DATA LANDSC, 026	POLSK COUL	18.000	022.00	403.00	239.00
					125880	20-0000 88	HRU	026	CARL REPTCE, 026	WACHOK LTD	18.000	022.00	403.00	239.00
					125880	20-0000 88	HRU	026	CARL REPTCE, 026	1 D METALS S	17.290	020.00	353.40	129.40
					125870	20-0000 88	HRU	026	DATA LANDSC, 026	WACHOK LTD	17.290	020.00	353.40	129.40
					125847	20-0000 88	HRU	027	CARL REPTCE, 026	WACHOK LTD	18.000	020.00	359.97	133.04
					125880	JOHN STONE	HRU	026	CARL REPTCE, 026	WACHOK LTD	18.000	200.28	363.00	279.72
					125880	JOHN STONE	HRU	026	W2 BULDER, 026	WACHOK LTD	18.000	026.00	363.00	149.73
					124030	SHARP SAND	HRU	026	W2 BULDER, 026	EGU SWIFT B	18.000	187.78	363.00	175.22
					125777	HIGH SAND	HRU	026	ENVIRONMENT, 027	POLSK COUL	18.000	96.00	256.00	256.00
					125836	HULLAGE	HRU	027	WACHOK LTD, 027	DATA LANDSC	140.00	0.00	140.00	
					125854	20-0000 88	HRU	027	W2 BULDER, 026	POLSK COUL	18.000	010.00	84.24	230.76
					125856	20-0000 88	HRU	027	DATA LANDSC, 026	WACHOK LTD	18.000	010.00	84.24	230.76
					125856	20-0000 88	HRU	027	DATA LANDSC, 026	1 D METALS S	18.000	010.00	84.24	230.76
					125836	HULLAGE	HRU	027	WACHOK LTD, 027	WACHOK LTD	140.00	0.00	140.00	
					125768	JOHN STONE	HRU	026	DATA LANDSC, 027	WACHOK LTD	18.000	200.00	359.97	133.04
					125846	20-0000 88	HRU	027	ENVIRONMENT, 026	WACHOK LTD	18.000	020.00	359.97	133.04
					125850	CLASS 18 SA	HRU	026	ENVIRONMENT, 026	W2 BULDER	17.840	142.76	275.00	80.24
					125850	SHARP SAND	HRU	026	ENVIRONMENT, 026	EGU SWIFT B	18.000	188.00	343.00	143.00
					125837	HULLAGE	HRU	026	ENVIRONMENT, 027	POLSK COUL	140.00	0.00	140.00	
					125845	20-0000 88	HRU	027	ENVIRONMENT, 026	DATA LANDSC	18.000	200.00	359.97	133.04
					125860	SHARP SAND	HRU	026	WACHOK LTD, 026	POLSK COUL	18.000	187.83	325.63	128.73
					125860	CLASS 18 SA	HRU	026	WACHOK LTD, 027	WACHOK LTD	18.400	155.62	243.63	87.73
					125851	SHARP SAND	HRU	026	W2 BULDER, 026	1 D METALS S	18.000	187.78	363.00	175.22
					125856	20-0000 88	HRU	027	WACHOK LTD, 026	WACHOK LTD	18.000	100.00	84.24	230.76

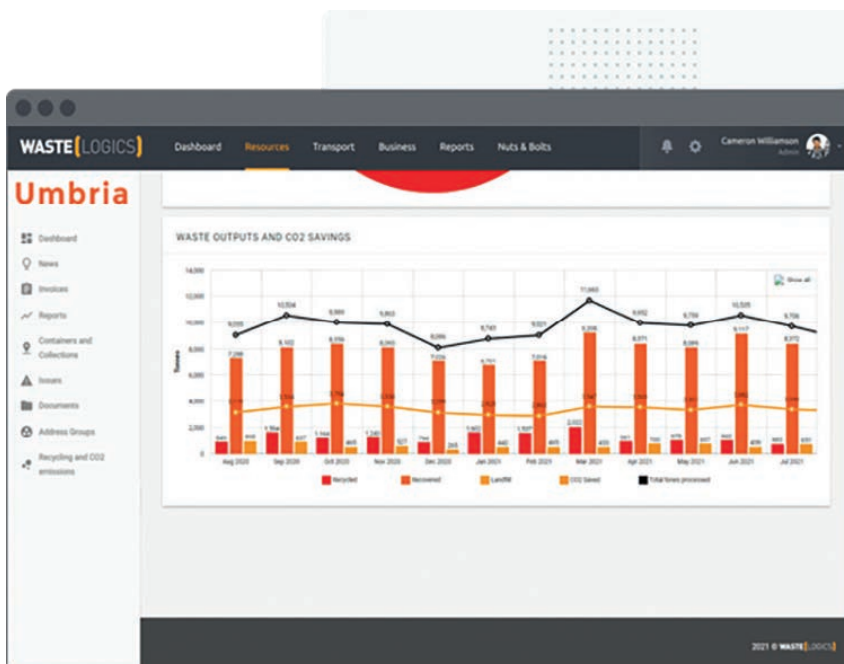
The new customer experience (and why you can't ignore it)

Your customers aren't just comparing you to other skip companies - they're comparing you to Amazon. Today's expectations have changed: people want instant answers, online ordering, and real-time communication. Waste operators who don't adapt risk falling behind.

Digital expectations are now the norm

Customers want to:

- Order skips online at any time of day.



- *Get instant and professional quotes via phone or email.*
- *Receive automated updates when their skip will be delivered or collected, or is overdue*
- *Access tickets and invoices 24/7 without calling the office.*
- *View their recycling/waste data and what happened to it, broken down by site, material type, or job.*

This isn't a wishlist, it's the baseline expectation for 2025.

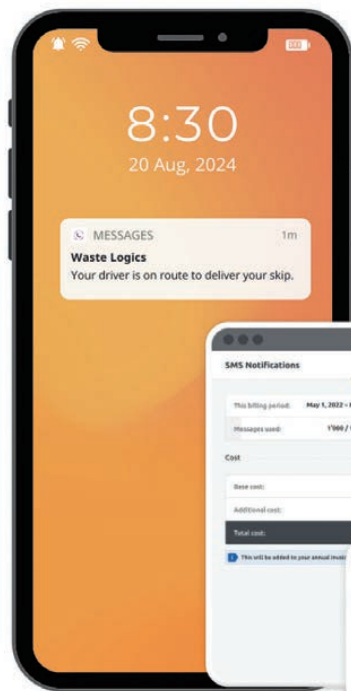
Every missed email or delayed quote is a lost opportunity

If a customer requests a quote and you can't respond quickly - or track what was sent, when, or whether it converted - you're setting yourself up to lose business. Even worse, when they call back days later and you can't find their details, the conversation starts from zero. It's not just inefficient - it's frustrating for the customer and a fast track to losing them to a competitor who's easier to deal with.

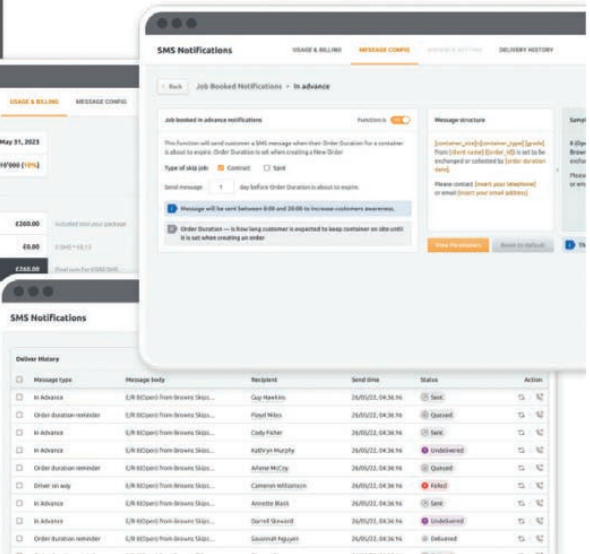
Real-time communication builds trust

When a skip is en route, the customer expects to be kept informed. If they've forgotten it's due for collection, they want a timely reminder. Without automated alerts and real-time tracking, you're relying on people to remember - and that's where service starts to slip. If the customer isn't prepared when your driver arrives, it leads to delays, which then ripple through the rest of the day's schedule, impacting other jobs, other customers, and your ability to stay on track.

In an era of heightened environmental scrutiny, customers also expect recycling reports and proof of sustainability, not just monthly, but instantly. And they want it broken down in meaningful ways, not buried in spreadsheets.



We're exhibiting at this year's RWM Expo at the NEC Birmingham on 17th-18th September. Come and meet the team for a chat at Stand Number: **CT-F220**.



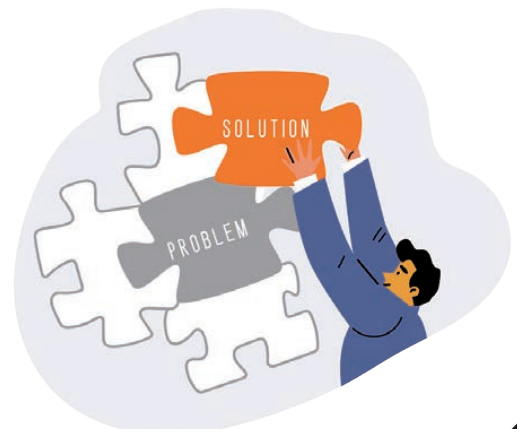
Turn these challenges into your advantages with Waste Logics!

Let's face it - challenges in business aren't going anywhere.

But the companies that win are the ones that stop firefighting and start gaining from the chaos. Waste Logics is helping waste management businesses across the UK and Ireland do exactly that - saving hours across the team, boosting revenue, reducing costs, and keeping customers happier with every job.

Don't wait for the next problem to slow you down. Scan the QR code below now and see how Waste Logics can help you turn today's headaches into tomorrow's wins.

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CONTENTS

JULY 2025

REGULARS

- 08 INDUSTRY NEWS
- 17 WASTE MANAGEMENT & SKIPS
- 38 WASTE & RECYCLING
- 62 JOHN CRAWFORD

BUSINESS CLINIC

- 12 LISA GILLESPIE
- 44 DR ANNA WILLETTTS
- 48 TRACEY WESTBURY
- 52 JESSICA MORGAN-SMITH
- 54 MARCO MUIA

14 YARD Deliver [1st Driver]

A W Jenkinson Transport Ltd
44 North Walls Stafford Staffordshire ST

8 Cu Yd Deliver [android35]

A2 Design Services
J Watson Sons Common Road Stafford Staf

14 Cu Yd Enclosed Deliver [1s]

AAJ CONSTRUCTION LTD
North Walls Stafford Stafford

Open Collect [Ar]

IE LTD
SIDE

28

32

16

36

58

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

16 AID WORK

CIWM experts recently visited The Gambia to support WasteAid's Operation Sanity, focusing on improving local sanitation. The week-long visit aimed to strengthen local capacity and share effective practices for sustainable solutions

26 INTERVIEW

Paul Byrne, CEO and Co-Founder of PIN, speaks with *Skip & Waste* magazine about digital tracking in the fast-paced skip hire industry

28 INPUT THE DATA ONCE, USE IT MANY TIMES

Midsoft explains how a waste management system can save you and your team countless hours each week in administrative time and costs

32 CASE STUDY

Joe Barnes talks to Christine Heaver, Systems Manager at Ellgia Ltd, about whether PurGo, the ERP software from VWS Software Solutions, has effectively managed their waste operations since signing up

36 STICKY PROBLEM

Chewing gum is a type of plastic pollution that is often overlooked. Dr David Jones from the University of Portsmouth explains why we need to treat it as a serious environmental issue

58 LOW-CARBON CREDENTIALS

Imagine transforming waste into energy to power a massive greenhouse - sounds intriguing, right? This innovation, in the form of a new project in Bradwell, Essex, tackles not only the issue of waste disposal but also offers a sustainable solution for growing food



EDITORIAL VIEWPOINT

By **Brendan Gilligan**

**Are your bins smelling bad, and do you want to eliminate that odour?
I read about an effective hack online that costs just 65p.**

With the warmer summer months, higher temperatures can lead to increased smells and attract pests to our bins. Bad odours can be frustrating not only for homeowners but also for neighbours.

A waste management expert has shared a simple solution: adding bicarbonate of soda (baking soda) to the bottom of your bin. This inexpensive product, which costs only 65p at Tesco, helps neutralise unpleasant smells.

Bad odours from bins are often caused by acidic substances released as food waste decomposes. Bicarbonate of soda is alkaline, which helps counteract these smells by creating a chemical reaction that neutralises odours. It can also absorb excess moisture, known as 'bin juice', creating a less favourable environment for bacteria that contribute to bad smells.

The expert also provided additional tips to keep your bins smelling fresh:

- *Store your bin in a cool, dry place, out of direct sunlight, such as under shelter or in a garage.*
- *Always keep the lid closed. This reduces the amount of oxygen reaching the waste and prevents pests, such as insects and rats from getting inside.*
- *Dispose of food waste properly. Compost it or place it in a separate food waste bin. If that's not an option, seal food scraps in biodegradable bags or wrap them tightly before putting them in the bin.*

To be honest, I usually just clean our wheelie bin by lying it on its side, adding some washing-up liquid and using a hose or pressure washer to blast away the dirt, pouring the residue down the drain. I then leave it to dry (*job done*).

While it may not be the most glamorous task, spending time to clean your bins every couple of months is a great way to prevent insects like flies and maggots from taking over.

I'm going to try the baking soda trick next time; I just need to remember to add it to my shopping list for when I'm at Tesco!



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Spending Review overlooks waste resources sector as Defra faces significant budget cuts

The UK Government's Spending Review 2025 reveals significant budget cuts for waste management and the circular economy.

Chancellor Rachel Reeves (pictured right) announced a 2.3% increase in total government spending during this period, but the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) will face substantial reductions. Its resource spending will decrease from £4.8 billion in 2025-26 to £4.7 billion by 2028-29, averaging an annual real-terms cut of 2.7%. Only the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office and the Department for Transport will see deeper cuts.

The Spending Review includes limited references to waste management or circular economy initiatives. Its main commitment is to assist local authorities in reforming waste collection, specifically through funding for Simpler Recycling, in alignment with reforms for collection and Packaging waste. However, a specific budget for these changes has not been provided, which raises concerns for local authorities needing to adjust their collection systems.

Local councils will continue to earn additional income through the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) scheme, but there are uncertainties regarding the management of these funds.

While Defra will receive £16 billion in



capital funding during this review, much of it will be allocated to farming, nature recovery and flood defences, leaving waste management infrastructure and circular economy programmes without similar commitments.

Budget cuts may hinder Defra's ability to develop effective policies and support local authorities, particularly as they prepare for significant changes in waste management, such as Deposit Return Schemes (DRS) and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR).

Defra aims for "at least 5% savings and efficiencies," including £144 million in technical efficiencies by 2028-29 and plans to enhance its digital expertise.

While the Government continues to

invest heavily in clean energy - such as £14.2 billion for Sizewell C nuclear power and £9.4 billion for Carbon Capture, Usage and Storage - these investments do not focus on waste-to-energy or the circular economy.

Local authorities will receive an extra £3.4 billion in grant funding by 2028-29 compared to 2024-25, resulting in an average annual increase of 3.1% in spending power. However, it is uncertain whether this will cover the costs of implementing Simpler Recycling due to a lack of specific funding.

The Local Government Association warns that councils reforming waste services will face serious financial challenges. Cllr Louise Gittins, Chair of the LGA, stated that many councils will raise council tax bills to protect services but will still need to make further cuts.

Although the Spending Review has some positive aspects related to industry and energy, environmental policy experts remain sceptical.

The absence of dedicated funding for waste infrastructure and cuts to Defra may impede the UK's transition to a circular economy.

Many in the sector are calling for clear guidance on how to implement these changes, especially for local authorities expected to make system-wide adjustments without assured support.

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CIWM report highlights six critical materials wasted by UK economy

Before his inauguration as the CIWM President last month, Dr David Greenfield (pictured) launched the CIWM Presidential Report 2025. This report, authored by Dr Ryan Woodard, is titled *Lost Opportunities? Winning Back Materials to Drive the UK's Circular Economy*. It calls for action to capture and derive value from resources that are currently being lost to the UK's economy.



Focusing on the urgent need - and real opportunity - for the UK to lead the transition to a more circular, inclusive, and resource-efficient economy, the report highlights six commonly overlooked materials that are currently lost to the economy both in the UK and internationally. The same approach could be applied to many other material streams.

The report examines both cycles (renewable and finite) of the circular economy and explores three everyday renewable organic materials - cooking oil, seafood shells and wool - and three essential finite mineral resources in the form of lithium, gallium and tin. It provides an assessment of how much waste of each

type is generated, why it is lost to the economy, and explores current and future management pathways.

It makes a series of recommendations for unlocking the potential of these resources and acknowledges that a co-ordinated, cross-sector approach is essential. The findings make clear that government, policymakers,

business and the resource management sector have a real opportunity to:

- **Align UK policies to capture 'lost' resources;**
- **Develop business cases to capitalise on these opportunities;**
- **Align public sector procurement policies to support resource recovery;**
- **Foster cross-sector collaboration;**
- **Implement a National Material Data System;**
- **Establish a cross-organisational, open-access research repository.**

Commenting on the launch, Dr Greenfield said: "The UK uses more than 15 tonnes of virgin materials per person per year - most of which is imported. Our circularity rate is just 7.5%. Over half of our household and municipal business waste

ends up in residual streams. Globally, things are no better - circularity plateauing.

"We cannot afford to waste what the planet and economy cannot easily replace. My report highlights both the challenges and opportunities we face, reinforcing the importance of rethinking not just how we manage 'waste', but how we define and prevent it.

"During my year as CIWM President, I am committed to championing the development of a more sustainable and circular economy and facilitating the cross-sector collaboration needed to make this a reality.

"Through improved design, collection systems, policy interventions, lifecycle thinking and circular innovation, there are significant opportunities to harness many of the currently lost materials beyond and including the six highlighted here, for the benefit of the environment, society and the UK economy."

Sarah Poulter, CEO of CIWM, welcomed the appointment: "We are excited to welcome David as President. He brings extensive expertise in waste management and circular economy innovation."

For more information or to download the Presidential Report Summary, scan the QR code.



UK used textile sector needs support to avoid collapse

According to WRAP, the decline of the UK's used textile sector could cost local governments an extra £64 million in disposal fees each year. This is in addition to the £73 million that councils already spend on processing textiles thrown away by residents.

There would also be immediate environmental effects, with an estimated increase of about 2.5 million tonnes of CO₂ each year due to more landfilling and burning of discarded clothes.

Currently, local authorities spend around £88 million annually on collecting and sorting end-of-life textiles, including home goods. The report warns that if local councils have to take on the responsibility

for collecting and disposing of unwanted clothing without enough funding, the costs could rise to £200 million per year by 2035.

WRAP's CEO, Catherine David, said: "The charity sector has played an important role in promoting a circular economy for fashion in the UK for over a hundred years. However, the sector is now in crisis, with storage spaces overflowing with unsellable items that collectors refuse to take. This situation has serious consequences, as charities are struggling for income, which in turn slows down the circular economy for clothing.

"There is a way to solve this problem. We urge the sector to join us in achieving the vision outlined in this report and work together to create a circular economy for

textiles through ACT UK (the Automatic-Sorting for Circularity in Textiles project)."

ACT UK included 18 partners from different parts of the textile supply chain. The goal of the project was to create a plan for advanced sorting and pre-processing facilities in the UK that can help recycle textiles and keep resources valuable.

During trials, collection rates increased by up to 46% when the public could donate alongside reusable items.

Building 14 advanced sorting and pre-processing facilities in the UK, each capable of handling 25,000 tonnes per year, could potentially cut the cost of collecting and sorting worn-out clothes in half by 2035.

ESA outlines 'vision' for UK circular economy by 2040

The Environmental Services Association (ESA) has released a position paper that shares its vision for a circular economy in the UK by 2040.

The release took place on the 4th June at the National Portrait Gallery during an evening event attended by Defra Minister Mary Creagh and Professor Paul Ekins, who is the Deputy Chair of the Government's Circular Economy Task Force.

The ESA aims to double the efficiency with which resources are used and eliminate all avoidable waste by 2040. This goal is a decade ahead of the Government's plans. The ESA also seeks to achieve a national average recycling rate of 75% for municipal waste.

By 2040, the current system of disposing of waste in landfills will be outdated. Instead, most discarded materials will be reused in a closed loop.

The ESA believes that if policies and regulations are designed correctly to encourage investment, its members could invest up to £15 billion in circular economy infrastructure over the next ten years. This investment could create 40,000 jobs in re-use, repair, reprocessing and production across the UK.

To reach these goals, the ESA outlines the need for various policy, regulatory and societal changes through five main themes.

Reduce waste arisings

To create a more circular economy, we need to reduce the extraction of raw materials and utilise them more efficiently. This means we must change how society consumes products and increase the reuse of items and packaging before they are thrown away. We also need to design products and packaging with their entire life cycle in mind, which will help us reduce waste.

Maximise the recyclability and recoverability of waste that cannot be avoided

All products sold should support a circular economy and meet specific end-of-waste criteria, such as being products, construction materials, or low-carbon fuels, with a market available for them. This requires us to consider what happens to materials after use, possibly changing the types of materials or using single-material designs, especially for packaging.

Increase participation across the value chain

A circular economy requires everyone across the value chain to participate. Consistent and comprehensive recycling services across the UK, combined with effective communication, will support this.

Improve recycling and waste treatment processes

Reducing residues from post-consumer waste is crucial for achieving zero avoidable waste. This involves minimising process losses, improving sorting efficiency, standardising outputs from waste materials, and leveraging technological advancements.

Prevent waste from leaving the closed loop

The final piece of the puzzle is to prevent waste material from leaking out of the loop once it has been closed, which means eradicating waste crime and ensuring that exported waste has undergone domestic processing to achieve an end-of-waste specification.

The ESA stated that the report's interventions will be based on strategic policies aimed at unlocking investment, incentivising desired behaviours and aligning the economic value chain with circular economy outcomes.

The full document is available to view and download by scanning the QR code.



SFS to share public sector expertise at event

Specialist Fleet Services Ltd (SFS), a company that manages contract hire, fleet and workshops, will share over 30 years of knowledge with attendees at the Municipal Fleet & Plant Procurement Event (MFPEE) on 16th July. This event is hosted by JCB and The Procurement Partnership Limited (TPPL).

SFS is a top supplier in several TPPL frameworks and is a trusted fleet partner for many councils in the UK. Their technical experts will be available to provide

information on flexible contract hire, fleet management, vehicle maintenance and workshop outsourcing solutions. SFS will also showcase a food waste collection vehicle from their rental division, CTS Hire.

The event will include a conference, exhibition, and live demonstrations at JCB World Headquarters and JCB Kevin Quarry. It will give local authority fleet and plant operators a chance to learn how innovative procurement can help them be more sustainable.

Bob Sweetland, Managing Director of SFS Ltd, said: "We are happy to support this event. It's a great chance to hear about the challenges attendees are facing and discuss how our solutions can improve and prepare their fleet and workshop operations for the future."

Fleet Vision International is supporting and promoting the event.

James Brennan, MD of the Procurement



Partnership, stated: "We are excited to work with JCB and Fleet Vision International to launch this event for TPPL public-sector customers. Leading suppliers will discuss and showcase products and services that can support local authorities in their decarbonisation efforts. Keynote speakers will share insights into current fleet, plant and procurement initiatives to help local authorities make their fleets more sustainable."

"Attendees will also tour JCB's headquarters and the JCB Experience Museum for a memorable experience."



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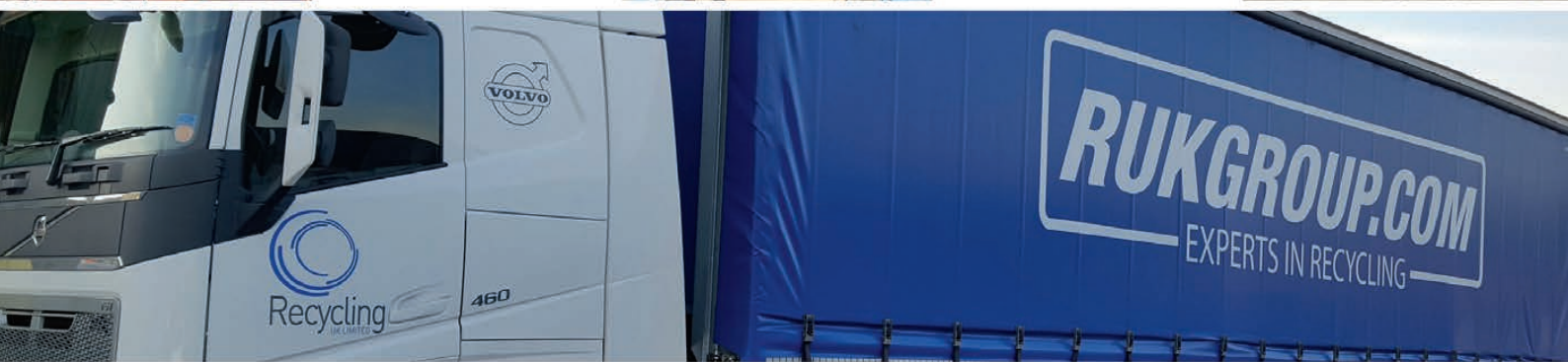
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**LISA GILLESPIE****Managing Director, Meliora HR**

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.

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Providing an objective view

I spend a lot of my time undertaking investigations on behalf of employers and usually they are really complex or so sensitive that it is better to outsource the work to consultants like me, who can be impartial, thorough and aren't emotionally attached to the outcome. Nonetheless, often if the person I have investigated does not like the outcome, they complain about me! You get used to it eventually; however, I was glad to see that some clarity was recently handed down by the courts.

In the case of *Handa v The Station Hotel (Newcastle) Ltd and Others 2025*, the Employment Appeal Tribunal (EAT) provided guidance on the responsibility of HR consultants in employment tribunal cases.

The Claimant was a director at The Station Hotel (the Respondent) and made several complaints about alleged financial wrongdoing, claiming they were acts of whistleblowing.

However, several staff members filed complaints against the Claimant, accusing him of bullying and harassment. The Respondent hired an external HR consultant, known as 'Mr D', to look into these complaints. Mr D found merit in two of the grievances and suggested that the Claimant should face a disciplinary hearing.

The Respondent then hired another external HR consultant, 'Ms McD', to conduct the disciplinary hearing. After the hearing, Ms McD wrote a report stating that the Respondent would be justified in dismissing the Claimant for gross misconduct. The Claimant was suspended and then dismissed a few weeks later.

The Claimant appealed the decision but was unsuccessful. The decision to dismiss the Claimant was taken by the Respondent itself and not the HR consultants.

The Claimant issued claims in the Employment Tribunal against the Respondent and the two HR consultants. The Claimant argued that they were

liable as agents of the Respondent for his dismissal as detrimental treatment on the grounds of whistleblowing.

The Employment Tribunal struck out the Claimant's claims against the HR consultants on the basis that they had no reasonable prospects of success.

The Claimant appealed to the EAT, which held that whilst the Tribunal had been mistaken in concluding that the HR consultants could not be acting as agents of the Respondent, someone who is instructed to carry out employment-related procedures like grievance investigations and disciplinary hearings could be classed as the employer's agent. The fact that they were external HR consultants did not preclude them from being agents of the employer.

The Judge stated that the HR consultants could be regarded as agents, but that they were not liable for the Claimant's dismissal.

It was the Respondent who made the dismissal decision and not the HR consultants. The fact that the Respondent had relied on the consultants' work did not establish liability. Accordingly, the strike out was upheld.

The EAT's decision is reassuring to employers and external HR consultants, as it confirms that even if external HR consultants' work influences the employer's decisions, this does not override the employer's right to make decisions. For the HR Consultants, it will not be enough to establish liability.

This accords with what I said at the outset, external consultants aren't emotionally attached to the outcome. How could we be? I think of myself as *The Littlest Hobo* - someone needs help, I come into town, get to the bottom of the situation, and then move on to the next job.

What happens after I've gone is not my decision. Everybody, sing... *'Maybe tomorrow, I'll wanna settle down. Until tomorrow, I'll just keep moving oooooonnnnn!'*

WEEE regulations amended to include online marketplaces

New regulations requiring online marketplaces to finance the recycling of electrical waste have been published.

If approved, these regulations will mandate that online marketplaces report all household electrical items from non-UK suppliers that fall under the existing Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) regulations. As a result, online marketplaces will incur additional WEEE costs over the next year, with full cost allocations beginning in 2027.

The Draft Statutory Instruments: The Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (Amendments) Regulations will need to pass through both houses of Parliament.

Recolight, a WEEE compliance scheme for the lighting industry, noted that a survey conducted by the UK WEEE Scheme Forum revealed that 76% of LED lamps offered for sale on a major online marketplace were not registered for WEEE compliance.

Nigel Harvey, Chief Executive of Recolight, stated that online marketplaces have facilitated the sale of non-compliant WEEE products on an industrial scale for over a decade, resulting in detrimental effects on legitimate UK businesses.

"The sellers of non-compliant products have gained an unfair advantage because they do not pay their share of recycling costs," said Harvey. "But to add insult to injury, that has in turn meant that WEEE costs to compliant businesses have been higher than needed."

He emphasised that Recolight has advocated strongly for this change on behalf of its members.

"The mechanism that the Government has chosen to implement the change is particularly efficient: rather than requiring many tens of thousands of non-UK companies to register for WEEE, they have instead placed that obligation on the small number of online marketplaces. That makes enforcement by the UK environment agencies much more straightforward."

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EA map reveals West Midlands as waste crime hotspot

The Environment Agency (EA) has released new maps showing where 16,773 suspected waste crimes occurred across England in 2023 and 2024.

The West Midlands reported the most illegal waste activities, with 2,008 cases. Yorkshire followed with 1,791 reports and East Anglia had 1,678 reports.

These maps are part of a government effort to crack down on illegal waste operators, who cost the economy about £1 billion each year. The EA estimates that around 34 million tonnes of waste are managed illegally every year.

A survey from the EA indicates that only 25% of waste crime incidents are reported, suggesting that the actual number is likely much higher.

Emma Viner, the Enforcement & Investigations Manager at the EA, said: "Waste crime is toxic. Criminals hurt legitimate businesses, damage communities, harm the environment and avoid paying taxes that support public services."

Under the Government's 'Plan for Change', illegal waste operators caught transporting waste could face up to five years in prison if new laws are passed. The plan also allows councils to crush vehicles used in waste crimes and increases prison sentences for these offenders.

Mary Creagh, the Circular Economy Minister, stated: "This government will crack down on waste criminals, seize and crush fly-tippers' vans and clean up Britain. We won't allow organised crime to profit from the rubbish harming our communities and undercutting honest businesses."

Jacob Hayler, who is the Executive Director of the Environmental Services Association, added: "Waste crime harms the environment, damages communities and threatens legal



waste services. We all have a responsibility to keep our waste out of the wrong hands and report illegal dumping when we see it. This helps authorities catch those responsible."

The problem of waste crime is increasing in England. Government statistics released in February show that fly-tipping rose by 6% in 2023/24. Local authorities spent over £13 million clearing large-scale incidents.

Polytag calls for UK recycling industry collaboration

Polytag has called on the UK recycling sector to come together in a collaborative effort to revamp the country's struggling plastics recycling system. The company has released a new whitepaper that presents a practical blueprint for transforming the circular economy.

At a recent industry event attended by prominent players in the sector, the London-based recycling innovator, which specialises in packaging tagging and tracing technology, made its appeal for action.

The whitepaper outlines four key recommendations aimed at future-proofing the recycling system. It highlights the necessity for barcode-level traceability and the adoption of next-generation sorting infrastructure using currently available technology.

"It's time to move from rhetoric to reality," said Alice Rackley (pictured), CEO of Polytag. "For too long, the industry has relied on estimates,

assumptions, and outdated systems that do not deliver results, often leading to the widespread downcycling of valuable plastics. We have demonstrated that item-level traceability is achievable now."

Polytag's recommendations include:

1. *Prioritising item-level traceability to eliminate estimates and provide real-time, barcode-level data on packaging.*
2. *Scaling collaborative infrastructure through co-investment in detection technology and data sharing across the value chain.*
3. *Adopting next-generation sorting technologies that sort plastic by food-grade status, polymer type and brand ownership, which minimises contamination and enables closed-loop recycling.*
4. *Embedding continuous innovation to adapt to evolving policies and material streams.*



This initiative coincides with the implementation of Extended

Producer Responsibility (EPR), the Plastic Packaging Tax and new recyclability assessment methodologies that increasingly require robust, verifiable data and measurable environmental outcomes.

The effective enforcement of these frameworks relies on accurate, granular data that can only be achieved through comprehensive lifecycle traceability of plastic packaging.

"With regulations tightening and the pressure to demonstrate impact increasing, the sector faces a clear choice: continue with guesswork or commit to serious data, collaboration, and tangible results," Rackley added. "The technology is ready. The infrastructure is being developed. What we need now is collective action to scale these solutions together."

Polytag is currently collaborating with organisations, including Biffa, to establish a network of material recovery facilities aimed at creating a closed-loop recycling system for single-use plastics.



Ocean-bound plastic bottle waste 54% lower in countries with DRS

A new analysis by Reloop has highlighted a significant reduction in beach litter from drinks bottles in areas where a Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) is implemented.

Published last month, the analysis draws on data from the International Coastal Cleanup, covering over 80 countries. Titled *Littered with Evidence*, the report found that the proportion of drinks items in the litter stream was 54% lower in countries with a DRS.

In European countries with DRS, plastic

bottles made up an average of only 0.5% of total litter in 2023, compared to 3.2% in countries without such a scheme.

A DRS is set to be introduced in England, Scotland and Northern Ireland in October 2027. The scheme will involve a small additional charge on drinks bottles and cans as an incentive for consumers to return them for recycling. Wales is also developing its own scheme after opting out of the UK-wide initiative.

Similar programmes are already functioning in countries like Germany,

Norway, and Finland, where plastic bottle recycling rates exceed 90%. In contrast, the UK's bottle recycling rate currently stands at about 70%.

Commenting on the findings, Sarah Horner, UK and Ireland director at Reloop, stated: "This new global analysis provides clear and compelling evidence that well-designed deposit return schemes can play a vital role in reducing plastic pollution at its source by helping to prevent plastic bottles from reaching our seas."

Catherine Gemmell, policy and advocacy manager at the Marine Conservation Society, praised Reloop for producing one of the "most comprehensive international analyses to date," affirming the connection between DRS and reduced drinks litter.

"We know that deposit return schemes are effective in tackling litter. They help prevent bottles and cans from ending up in our seas, which poses a threat to precious marine life such as seals and seabirds," Gemmell remarked.

"We are delighted that the scheme is progressing in England, Scotland and Northern Ireland ahead of the 2027 launch date, while Wales is yet to confirm its plans. We look forward to witnessing a reduction in this type of litter on our beaches, which cannot come soon enough."

Food waste charities to share £13.6m in Government funding

The Government has chosen 12 charities in England to receive £13.6 million to help redistribute surplus food from farms. Charities like City Harvest, FareShare and Food in Community will be part of this effort to reduce food waste.

This funding will help redistribute about 19,000 tonnes of unsold food from farms, which supports the Government's 'Plan for Change' to improve living standards and tackle food poverty.

The Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra) stated that community kitchens, food banks, shelters and cooking programmes are expected to receive this food. Much of the produce that would otherwise go to waste is often discarded because it does not meet retailers' standards, even though it is safe to eat.

The grants include £9.2 million for a project led by FareShare UK, which includes the Felix Project charity. City Harvest will also receive £303,000 to help recover surplus food for around 130,000 people each week.

Waste Minister Mary Creagh said the

charities will work closely with farmers to reduce food waste. She said: "This Government's 'Plan for Change' is tackling food poverty and reducing waste, ensuring good food is eaten instead of thrown away."

Sarah Calcutt, chief executive of City Harvest, said they will use this funding to collect more surplus food from farms. She noted that the UK grows a wide variety of fruits and vegetables, but a large amount goes to waste because it does not meet the size and shape standards of retailers.

The environmental NGO WRAP welcomed the funding. Catherine David, the company's CEO said that food waste occurs throughout the supply chain, from production to consumption. She hopes farmers will work with retailers and manufacturers to manage surplus food better.

David remarked that redistributing food from stores and manufacturers is a success story that prevents thousands of tonnes of food waste each year. In 2023, 191,000 tonnes of food, valued at £764 million, was redistributed, providing enough for 456 million meals. However, farm redistribution

is less advanced.

She added that these Government grants will enhance charity networks to collect some of the estimated 330,000 tonnes of food that could be redistributed from UK farms each year, helping communities across the country. An independent Circular Economy Taskforce is also working to reduce waste in supply chains, including food waste.

The Government stated the taskforce will focus on five sectors, including agri-food, to create roadmaps for better material use. A Circular Economy Strategy will be published in the autumn.

David Gudgeon, from Reconomy Connect, which provides waste management services, said the grants will help focus on food redistribution. This will ensure quality surplus food reaches charities that can manage it effectively.

Gudgeon stated: "Initiatives like this not only support families facing food insecurity but also make sure we keep as much value as possible in our food system, preventing fresh, nutritious food from being wasted."

UK's first waste-to-hydrogen plant proposed for Kent

Hydrogen Transition Energy (HTE) wants to build the UK's first waste-to-hydrogen plant near Ramsgate, Kent.

If Kent County Council approves the plan, this £120 million plant will create at least 100 full-time jobs by the end of 2027.

The 10-acre site at Manston will turn household and commercial waste into hydrogen. This will help reduce the amount of waste going to landfills and incinerators.

HTE plans to use a new heating process to break down the waste and convert it into clean hydrogen gas. The plant aims for very low emissions and will recover about 70% of its energy needs.

Jobs at the plant will include skilled, unskilled and graduate positions. There will also be 30 additional roles to support a training and education centre that will showcase hydrogen projects.

The energy produced will initially help commercial vehicle fleet operators and local waste management services move away from fossil fuels to meet government goals for reducing carbon emissions.

Michael Engsted, the Managing Director of HTE, says: "This area of Kent has lost many jobs over the past few decades,



Picture credit: Hydrogen Transition Energy

which has forced skilled workers and graduates to leave. We want to help rebuild the local community by offering talented individuals a reason to stay. We will focus on hiring local candidates for jobs in finance, engineering, and science."

Michael added that HTE will work with local schools, colleges and universities to inspire young people to consider careers in this field. The company will also support local charities and sports groups.

"Our technology is clean, safe and innovative. We need the community's support because they will be our first choice for employment. Hydrogen fuel cells are the future, and we want to help make them a common energy source."

HTE plans to submit its application to Kent County Council next month.

WRA welcomes launch of RPS 352 'in principle'

The Wood Recyclers' Association (WRA) has welcomed 'in principle' the launch of a Regulatory Position Statement (RPS) allowing sites in England to temporarily exceed their permitted storage limits for certain wastes.

Last month, the Environment Agency (EA) launched the RPS in response to requests from the WRA and the broader waste industry for more flexible storage solutions amid ongoing challenges with waste material off-take, particularly concerning waste wood.

In the waste wood market, problems have arisen due to a mix of scheduled and unscheduled shutdowns at plants that process this material, including biomass plants and panel board manufacturers. Additionally, there has been a drop in demand from the export market, leading to an oversupply of waste wood.

While the WRA is collaborating with the EA to address several concerns regarding the current form of the RPS, they aim to prevent it from being overly restrictive.

Currently, the RPS applies only to waste wood intended for incineration, as well as refuse-derived fuel and municipal solid waste.

This exclusion affects wood recycling sites that supply the panel board industry, which are also facing challenges due to the surplus of waste wood and the recent closure of a UK panel board manufacturing site, coupled with a decline in demand caused by the economic situation.

Alastair Kerr, Director General of the Wood Panel Industries Federation (WPIF), emphasised the need to broaden the RPS to include wood for panel board production, noting that the panel board sector provides stable demand, unlike the more variable bioenergy market.

The RPS also limits the time allowed for extra storage without accommodating the lengthy shutdowns of biomass plants, which can start months in advance. Additionally, storage sites must prove that their receiving plants have stopped operating, which may not accurately reflect the reduced tonnages many are experiencing.

Vicki Hughes, a technical lead on the WRA Board, stated: "While we welcome the RPS, it is crucial that it is not too restrictive and reflects the realities of the waste wood sector. We look forward to collaborating with the EA to address these concerns."

See also Marco's column on page 54.

Renewables workforce to grow to 42,000 in the next five years

Research from the Engineering Construction Industry Training Board (ECITB) indicates that the engineering construction workforce in renewables, hydrogen and carbon capture and storage could surpass 42,000 by the end of the decade.

By 2030, the offshore wind workforce is projected to exceed 28,000, a 48% increase, while carbon capture and storage could grow by 144% to over 3,750 workers. The hydrogen workforce is projected to rise to more than 4,500, a 195% increase, and other renewable sectors could see a 20% increase, totalling over 5,800 workers.

Key roles in demand will include design engineers, project managers, commissioning technicians and other technical positions.

This analysis comes from ECITB's Labour Forecasting Tool (LFT), updated with data from the 2024 Workforce Census and timelines for 3,000 ECI projects across Great Britain.

The LFT forecasts the most significant growth in the carbon capture and hydrogen sectors in the next five years.

Andrew Hockey, ECITB Chief Executive, stated: "The Census response allowed us to provide more accurate data, highlighting the challenges the industry faces. With 81% of renewables employers experiencing hiring difficulties, collaboration among employers, governments and training providers is essential.

"By investing in our workforce, we can close the skills gap and ensure we have the necessary skilled workers for the future."

CIWM members support WasteAid to improve waste management practices in The Gambia



WasteAid is a UK-based non-governmental organisation working with communities and policymakers in low and middle-income countries to implement waste management and recycling programmes.

A team of waste management experts from the Chartered Institution of Wastes Management (CIWM) recently visited The Gambia to join WasteAid's support of Operation Sanity - a local environmental initiative. The seven-day technical support visit aimed to bolster local capacity, share best practices, and develop sustainable solutions to pressing sanitation challenges in the region.

Operation Sanity is a collaborative project with Kanifing Municipal Council (KMC), focused on reducing littering, improper waste disposal and improving public sanitation through education and community engagement. The initiative seeks to foster a circular economy by encouraging responsible waste management practices among residents and local authorities.

During their visit, CIWM members joined the WasteAid team in conducting site assessments, facilitating workshops with council waste management teams, and engaged in networking with the Dennakuwo Circular Economy Network, which is supported by funding from CIWM.



A key highlight was the team's visit to the Bakoteh Dumpsite (landfill), which handles 300-400 tonnes of waste daily and has long been a concern due to environmental, social, and public health issues. Here, the team observed recycling efforts carried out by informal scavengers working on-site, many of whom recover valuable materials such as metals, plastics and cardboard to make a modest living. While these efforts are somewhat effective, there are still huge challenges to overcome, particularly regarding the health and safety conditions of those working within Bakoteh.

The delegation was hosted by Kanifing Municipal Council for a series of discussions and workshops. During these workshops, the team from CIWM presented on behaviour change campaigns, standard operating procedures, community engagement, stakeholder mapping and much more.

CIWM CEO, Sarah Poulter, reflected on the visit saying: "Sustainable waste management is a shared global responsibility, and through harnessing our extensive network of waste management professionals, CIWM is committed to informing and empowering local professionals to develop waste management models that are not only safe and effective but also prioritise resource recovery. In doing so, we can help to develop a more circular economy and move towards a world beyond waste."

Ceris Turner-Bailes, Chief Executive of WasteAid, also commented: "This visit marks a significant milestone in our ongoing partnership with CIWM. Operation Sanity is about more than waste - it's about dignity, health, and opportunity. By combining technical expertise with local insights, we are working together to build a cleaner, safer future for the people of the Greater Banjul Area."

The delegation included several highly experienced waste management professionals such as Sarah Burns, Sustainability & Engagement Manager at Bristol Waste Company; Neil Thompson, Senior Associate in Waste and Resource Management at Mott MacDonald; John Paterson, CEO of Scottish Canals; and Bonni Jee, Principal Advisor for Waste and Recycling at the Association for Public Service Excellence (APSE).

This collaboration exemplifies the power of international partnership and shared expertise in addressing waste management challenges and promoting sustainable development worldwide.



Waste management firm begins multi-million pound investment programme

Gaskells Waste Services has embarked on an ambitious £3.2 million investment programme aimed at further modernising its operations and improving service capabilities.

The Liverpool-based company, led by Managing Director Jonathan Gaskell (*pictured below*), has added 12 new vehicles to its fleet, bringing the total to 45. Additionally, it has undertaken a comprehensive workshop upgrade, enabling all maintenance work to be carried out in-house at the main depot in Bootle.

Jonathan Gaskell said: "This will mean an even more reliable service for all Gaskells' thousands of customers across Merseyside, the North West and UK regions."

The additions to the fleet include three Mercedes Econic trucks and nine new Scania L280 models. As with the rest of Gaskells' fleet, the Scania trucks are equipped with VWS Software Solutions (*see pages 32-33*) technology and the Cyclear cyclist sensor system.

The upgraded workshop features a 20-metre pit lane with pit jacks, brake tester, shaker plates and headlight aim adjuster, plus a 12-metre pit with a two-poster column lift and eight mobile column lifts.

Gaskell added: "Being able to carry out maintenance on-site allows a quicker response time to mechanical issues, which, in turn, means vehicle downtime is reduced, ensuring that waste collection schedules remain uninterrupted."

"Gaskells' on-site technicians can conduct regular inspections, preventive maintenance, and emergency repairs more efficiently, which helps extend the lifespan of the fleet and reduce costly breakdowns."

In addition, Gaskells has introduced a fully digital workshop operation in partnership with supplier Freeway Fleet Systems as part of the expansion.

Freeway Fleet Systems is a digital platform designed to streamline the maintenance and management of vehicle fleets.

It provides real-time data on vehicle condition, service schedules, compliance, and repair history, allowing Gaskells to monitor and manage its fleet more efficiently.

Gaskell added: "Our £3.2m investment demonstrates our commitment to building a future-ready operation, innovation, environmental responsibility, and to continue delivering the highest standards of service to our customers."



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Council begins green initiative with solar mats installed on waste and recycling trucks

Solar mats have been installed on 20 refuse and recycling trucks across the Warwick district.

This technology aims to reduce energy consumption and could cut carbon emissions by approximately 1.3 tonnes per vehicle each year, according to Warwick District Council.

The solar mats power electrical components and equipment in the vehicles, including air conditioning and radios.

Councillor Will Roberts stated that the council is committed to further decreasing carbon emissions from its fleet of waste collection vehicles. He said: "These solar mats will provide a useful solution while we utilise the existing fleet of diesel vehicles. Once they reach the end of their lifespan, we will aim to replace them with low or zero-emission alternatives."

The project has been funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, with the solar mats installed by the transport company TRAILAR.

Adam Buckley Mays, the chief technology officer, noted that the "ultra-thin" solar panels have been placed on the roofs of the vehicles and will actively reduce emissions by lowering fuel consumption. "The early data captured through the dedicated TRAILAR telematics is impressive and enables Warwick District Council to monitor and report how much fuel and CO₂ each vehicle saves daily," he explained.



Pictured L-R: Darren McKinstry, Managing Director of McKinstry Group and JP Devlin, Sales Manager at Kiverco

New £16m facility sets benchmark for UK and Ireland's recycling future

McKinstry Group, a waste management company based in Co. Antrim, Northern Ireland, has awarded Co. Tyrone-based Kiverco Ltd. a contract to design, manufacture and install a new recycling plant at their main facility in Co. Antrim. This is the largest and most advanced facility of its kind in the UK and Ireland, representing a transformational change for the waste management sector in the region.

This announcement marks a significant new era for the McKinstry Group, which has grown from a small family business into one of the largest waste processing operations in Northern Ireland. The project, valued at around £16 million, will include substantial investments in groundworks and the construction of a new building to house the recycling plant.

For McKinstry Group, the key to the project's success was finding a trusted partner to help design and develop a

cutting-edge, future-proof facility that aligned with the company's aspirations. Having carried out extensive research across the UK and Ireland, they found the perfect partner right on their doorstep, in Northern Ireland. Kiverco is a leading recycling solutions provider, based in Dungannon, and is renowned worldwide for manufacturing the world's toughest recycling plant.

Both companies are family-owned businesses, with a culture of innovation and sustainability at their core. Having already worked together on previous projects over a 10-year period, McKinstry and Kiverco embarked on a two-year collaboration on this project with a goal to ensure their new Construction, Demolition and & Industrial (C, D&I) facility was the best of its kind. This involved extensive research into new technological advancements in the industry, site visits across Europe to identify best-practice

facilities, materials testing and numerous design layouts. The result is a future-proof, state-of-the-art recycling plant that will undoubtedly become the flagship facility of its kind in the UK and Ireland.

Speaking about the new project, Darren McKinstry, Managing Director of McKinstry Group, said: "We have been working on this project for several years now and are confident that we have found the right partner to deliver a class-leading materials recycling plant fit for the future. Kiverco's reputation within the recycling industry is unsurpassed, they are industry-renowned for manufacturing robust plant that is tough and built to last.

"Bank of Ireland has shown great dedication to this project, and with their support, we have been able to commit to a £16 million investment, which will provide capacity for major growth alongside making a positive environmental impact on the region's waste management sector."

According to Kiverco Sales Manager, JP Devlin, who has been committed to the project since initial discussions began nearly five years ago. "McKinstry and Kiverco share the same values - we take pride in our work, and honesty and respect are the core of everything we do. Kiverco wholeheartedly embraced this project. We considered every aspect of the plant design to ensure it was the best, most technologically advanced plant of its kind. Many of the technologies integrated into this plant design have never been used before in the UK and Ireland. In addition, we incorporated some of the digital technologies we have been advancing within our business, such as remote plant performance management and automated maintenance alerts - it really is the first of its kind."

The preparation works are already underway for the new plant, with groundworks and the construction of the new shed already taking place. Installation of the plant is scheduled to commence in September this year, with final commissioning planned for December.

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Skip Art event inspires the next generation for a greener future

By Ethan Blackman, Marketing Manager at Budget Waste

Sustainability isn't just a target - it's a core value that shapes everything we do. As a waste management company, we understand our responsibility to lead by example, not just in diverting waste from landfill but in engaging our communities in conversations about the environment. That's why we launched a creative and educational Skip Art event in Stratford-upon-Avon, designed to inspire young minds and showcase the role we all play in building a greener tomorrow.

The initiative kicked off with a visit to St Gregory's Primary School, where our team spoke to Year 6 pupils about the foundations of sustainability. We introduced them to concepts such as renewable vs. non-renewable resources, the environmental costs associated with fossil fuels and the importance of adopting greener alternatives. We discussed the power of recycling, how it supports a circular economy, and why sustainable

choices matter - not just for today, but for future generations. The enthusiasm, curiosity and insight from the pupils reminded us that education is key to driving long-term environmental change.

Armed with their new knowledge, the pupils then put their creativity to the test. Working in groups, they designed vibrant, thought-provoking artwork to decorate our skips. The themes ranged from the impact of ocean pollution on marine life to imagery of the Earth surrounded by people working together - a symbol of unity in tackling climate change. Many of the designs were deeply emotive, demonstrating just how clearly the next generation understands the gravity of environmental issues and how passionate they are about finding solutions.

Seeing our skips transformed into colourful canvases of environmental messaging was more than just an artistic display - it was a call to action. These young pupils showed remarkable insight and optimism, turning complex issues into powerful visual stories.

We're incredibly proud to have hosted



this event and to support the next generation of eco-champions. Because sustainability isn't a solo effort - it's a community movement and with bright minds like these leading the way, the future looks green.

We look forward to using their creations in our future projects!

CSG colleagues celebrate NVQ success

Eight employees at leading waste management specialist CSG have enhanced their knowledge by completing an industry-specific NVQ qualification.

Darren Sherwood, Joe Brickhill, Lee MacDonald, Luke Crossley, Daniel Life, Jack Rowland, Jake Bennett and Daniel Southgate - who are all based at CSG's Cadishead base - signed up to the Waste Resource Operative Level 2 certification.

Keen to further improve their knowledge of the waste industry, the colleagues participated in monthly tutor sessions, followed by an online exam, as well as an observation and practical exam.

They were also given a workbook to complete each month by the examining board, CIWM, and were expected to log the hours spent working on site outside of

their usual roles.

Luke Crossley received a distinction for his work throughout the course.

Darren Sherwood, an aluminium operator with CSG, said: "I feel like it's massively benefitted me. You visit different areas of the business, which gives you a clearer idea of what you're looking at. It helps you understand the 'how' and the 'why'."

CSG has always held apprenticeships in high regard and understands the importance of staff continuing to develop their knowledge and skills. CSG Managing Director Neil Richards began his career as an apprentice and has ensured self-improvement is deeply embedded in the business's culture.

Darren added: "I'd definitely volunteer



Jake Bennett

for a course like this again. It expands your knowledge and skillset on site and it opens doors to other roles you might want to pursue in the future."

The qualification covered a wide range of topics, from the hierarchy of waste management to a deeper understanding of health and safety.

For career opportunities at CSG, visit www.csq.co.uk/about/careers



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Skip hire businesses warned of theft surges costing up to £6K

Waste management experts at BusinessWaste.co.uk are warning business owners about the increasing need to protect their commercial waste, as thefts of skips and roll-on roll-offs (RoRos) are on the rise.

Why are thefts increasing?

The rise in global steel and aluminium prices is one reason for this trend, influenced by tariffs set by Donald Trump. Although the UK is currently exempt from these tariffs, we still feel their effects through market changes.

As a result, thieves see large metal containers as valuable, aiming to sell them for scrap metal or on the secondhand market.

What costs do business owners face?

Typically, businesses are responsible for any theft on their property. Contracts usually state that skips and RoRos belong to the hirer while they are on site. This means you might have to pay for the stolen container, which can cost up to £6,000, depending on its size and whether you

need to replace it with a new or used one.

You may be able to claim this loss through your insurance, but you will likely only be covered if you can show that you took reasonable security measures. Be aware that making a claim could lead to higher insurance costs.

How can businesses protect themselves against skip theft?

First, secure your business property. Install gates and fencing to keep thieves out. If fencing is hard to set up, consider using bollards to block vehicles and make it difficult for thieves to approach without being noticed.

Use CCTV and clear signs to deter thieves. However, keep in mind that many criminals cover their identities and use fake license plates, making CCTV alone not always effective. Consider security products that can lock skips and RoRos in place.

You might also install tracking devices to improve the chances of recovering stolen items. It's best to consult an expert to find what works for your needs.

Finally, train your staff to check the identity of anyone entering your property. Many thefts occur because thieves use tactics to appear legitimate. Often, they wear high-visibility clothing and act confidently to avoid suspicion.

Mark Hall, a waste management expert at BusinessWaste.co.uk, comments: "We've been alarmed by the spike in skip and RoRo thefts affecting some of our customers. In the past, we've encountered people stealing from skips or other waste containers, but it's a new trend to see entire containers being stolen.

"The size and materials used in these containers come with a high price tag, resulting in significant impacts on waste companies and business owners. We're actively seeking solutions to address this growing issue and ensuring we are equipped with the necessary tools and advice to help prevent losses for the businesses we collaborate with."

Businesses that want to discuss their waste security needs can visit www.businesswaste.co.uk for more information.

Take your waste bookings online

Software to make selling your waste services as easy as taking out the trash.

About us

Kodawaste is an online sales and booking platform built for the waste management industry. It aims to boost business potential and give companies the competitive edge.

24/7 Online Webstore

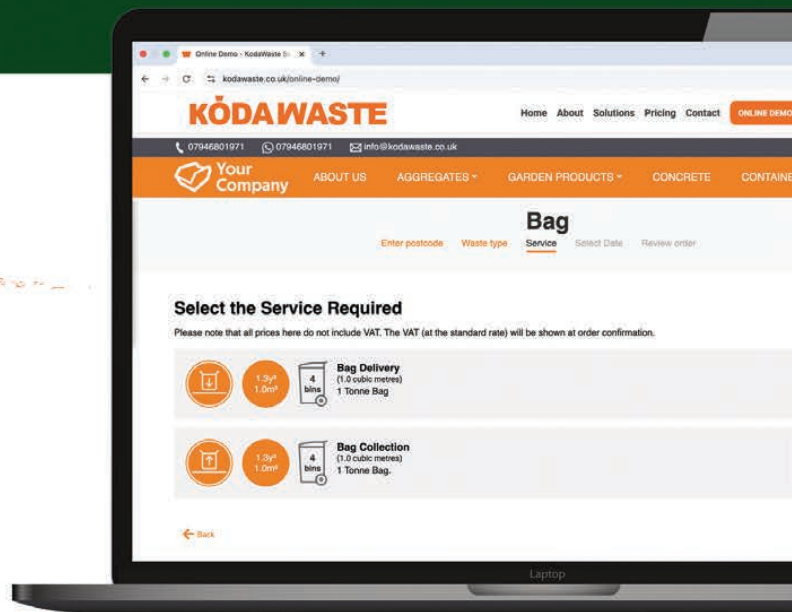
KodaWaste serves as a powerful tool that ensures your waste services are available 24/7 to your customers, enhancing accessibility and boosting sales potential.

No Technical Skills Required

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

30 DAY FREE TRIAL

Join the future of waste management and transform your business with KodaWaste.



Increasing revenue through better customer experience and scalability

The software includes advanced tools for customer account management, allowing users to easily reorder services, manage project sites, and track their transactions. KodaWaste's integrated cross-selling and upselling features help businesses maximise revenue opportunities with minimal effort. A robust full reporting suite provides essential business insights, helping companies make informed decisions with real-time data. Additionally, KodaWaste facilitates efficient skip permit management and seasonal price revisions.

Improving Operational Efficiency

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



All your services in one place.

SHORTS

Waste

Hire

Demolition

Enjoy 10% off skip hire this Spring
Limited-time offer — book now



Grab Lorry
Waste Collection

Portable Toilet Hire

- Scheduled restocking
- Scheduled cleaning
- Priority delivery

Ready-Mixed Concrete

- Volume calculator
- Extras

Aggregates

- Quantity calculator
- Split loads
- Delivery based pricing
- Categorisation

Analysis

- Report generator
- Live statistics

Resource Management

- Inventory and availability control
- Lead time management
- Priority delivery

Skip & Container Hire

- Skip permits
- Skip exchange
- Premium waste items
- Prohibited waste
- Extras

Waste Clearance

- Load based pricing
- Premium waste items
- Prohibited waste

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What does KODAWASTE mean DEPENDABLE ONLINE SALES for your business?



1 Customer Satisfaction



Typical Scenario: Poor customer experience due to manual order taking, unclear pricing, and slow service can lead to lost customers and refunds.

KodaWaste Saving: By providing a clear, user-friendly platform with 24/7 availability and transparent pricing, KodaWaste helps reduce customer complaints and increase repeat business, improving customer retention by up to 10%.

Example: If a business generates £500,000 annually, a 10% improvement in customer retention could translate into an additional £50,000 in revenue from repeat business.

2 Future Proof

Typical Scenario: Inefficient processes, such as managing customer orders manually or tracking waste services via paper systems can lead to delays, errors, and additional labour costs.



KodaWaste Saving: With an integrated system that handles orders, scheduling, invoicing, and customer service, KodaWaste boosts operational efficiency by up to 30%.

Example: For a business with annual operational costs of £200,000, improving efficiency by 30% could lead to savings of £60,000 per year in time and reduced errors.

3 Boost Growth

Typical Scenario: Manual administrative tasks, such as processing orders, generating invoices, and handling customer queries, can take several hours a week, often involving multiple staff members.

KodaWaste Saving: Automating these tasks can save up to 10-15 hours per week per employee. With a wage of £12 per hour for administrative tasks, this could save £120-£180 per week and free up man hours for more meaningful tasks.

10-15 HRS



Example: If a company saves an average of £300 per week, the total savings in administrative time would be approximately £15,600 annually for the business.

Our pricing
structure benefits the
**BIG AND THE
not-yet-big**

After each month, you are invoiced 3% of revenue taken through the KodaWaste online webstore. A maximum cap is applied dependent on size of business.

74%

of consumers say they're more likely to use a company that offers online bookings. (Source: GetApp)

What has it meant for others?



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



Other clients we work with



New Forest Aggregate Ltd



AXE SKIPS



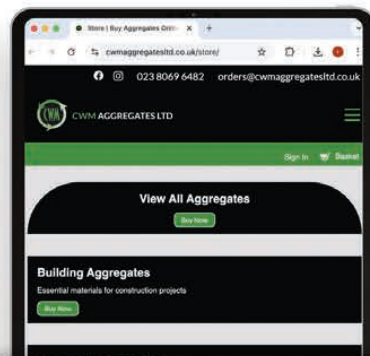
"We've had an awesome experience with KodaWaste! They built our website and helped with all the technical stuff, sitting down with us to get everything set up-which was super helpful. The online shop has made life so much easier-fewer phone calls and everything runs quicker. We get a ping on our phone when an order comes in, so we can jump on it straight away."



"KodaWaste's expertise and tailored solutions made all the difference for our business."



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Digital Skip Tracking: The Low Down

In this issue we speak to **Paul Byrne, CEO and Co-Founder of PIN**, about all things skip tracking.



Q: Paul, what does PIN do?

Paul: "We call PIN a digital tracking system. In basic terms we track skips, and their vehicles. Our software enables customers to optimise their operations, for both planning and delivery – ensuring that skips are available, in the right locations and in good condition to service customer demand, and also for sales and account management. We do this by visualising customer operations – showing skips on-site, the contracts and waste streams they are associated with and how frequently they are serviced."

Q: What inspired you to start the business?

Paul: "We were introduced to the waste & recycling industry from the world of logistics and retail, where we helped companies track assets like roll cages and stillages. We were challenged to develop a way to trace and recover stolen RoRos, which opened our eyes to the much more important challenge the industry has of knowing where its skips are in the first place. We founded PIN with a mission to solve the problem. We are inspired by the industry, which has such an important role to play in the future of our society. It needs innovation and new technology to support its circular, carbon-efficient vision. Seven years in and we have loved every minute."

Q: Can you tell us more about the skip visibility problem?

Paul: "Skip hire is a fast-paced and dynamic business. Most services are unscheduled, the phone is constantly ringing, the daily plan is constantly changing. The data on where skips are and how they move is captured manually, and over time it just gets out of sync with the real world. We now know that waste operators don't know how many skips they have or where up to half of them are located."

Our data shows that 40% of skips aren't collected for at least a month, often for more than a year, usually without generating any revenue at all. This is the 'slow movers' problem – impossible to manage when the skips aren't visible.

This leads to shortages of stock and purchasing new skips that shouldn't be needed. Along with knock-on effects on transport planning and efficiency.

It is a much bigger problem than the industry realises - impacting sales, operational costs, capital investment, customer service and sustainability."

Q: How does PIN solve these problems?

Paul: "PIN delivers an accurate, real-world view of customer operations, synchronised with existing ERP system data. Every skip is individually tracked and located. Depot inventory across every container type and storage location is visible in real time. Skips at customer are matched to contracts and waste streams."

Every skip movement, vehicle journey and job is automatically captured. Slow movers and under-performing contracts are identified. Inventory analytics predict container requirements based on actual usage and seasonality. Our damage and repair module digitises the container maintenance process."

CUSTOMER: PRO BUILD
CONTAINER TYPE: 35 YARD
CONTAINER ID: 10017 DPN
WASTE: WOOD
DAYS ON SITE: 38



Q: What actual results do customers see?

Paul: "Customers target under-performing contracts to increase collections, speed up invoicing, adjust skip sizes and quantities and apply rental payments to slow movers. Enva have increased sales from existing customers by 7%."

They also create 30% surplus skip capacity which means no more skip purchases for several years, and the ability to respond more quickly to customer demand.

So we see a powerful combination of increased sales, reduced costs and improved service to customers. Value that repays the investment in PIN many times over.

Q: Final thought for any potential customers?

Paul: "We make it easy to get started. Most customers begin with a small-scale trial where we demonstrate the value before you commit."



hello@pin-iot.com



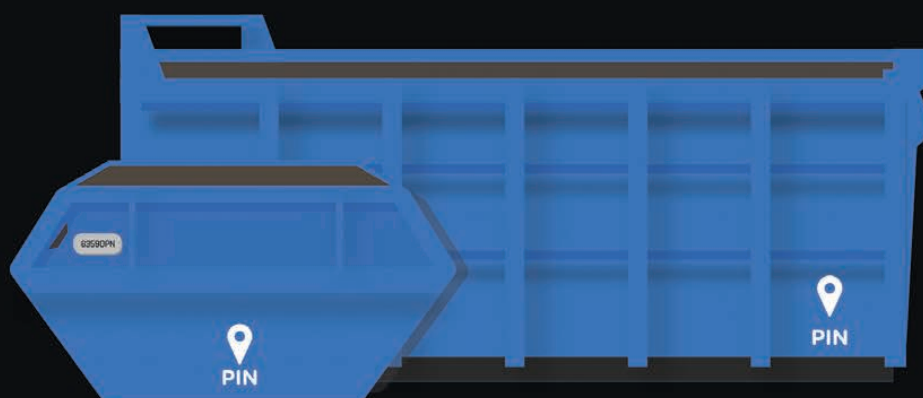
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Digital Tracking System, Built For Skip Operations



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Duplication. Duplication. Duplication!



Why a waste management system will save you and your team countless hours each week in administration time and cost



As you're well aware, the waste industry - including skip hire, recycling and waste haulage - is no longer just about delivering or collecting skips. With increasing pressure from government regulations, demanding clients, and a growing need for accountability, waste management has become a far more sophisticated process.

Customers now expect faster access to detailed information, which places more administrative strain on your business, translating into increased

man-hours and higher operational costs.

One of the most common and costly issues we see in waste businesses is the duplication of information. Many of our clients were manually handling the same data multiple times - often handwritten at each stage.

Here's an example of how that plays out:

- The initial order is handwritten in a book or diary;
- A separate job ticket is manually created for the driver;
- A run sheet is typed up;
- Details are then entered into a spreadsheet for internal reporting;
- Finally, the same data is entered again during invoicing;
- On top of that, details may be retyped to respond to customer requests.

That's the same data being handled

five or six times - a huge waste of time and resources.

And when mandatory Digital Waste Tracking arrives? The workload will increase even more - unless you're already set up with the right system.

Our Motto: "Input the data once, use it many times."

How does a waste management system actually help?

The process starts with the customer's order being entered directly into the system. The address is pulled using their postcode, and once stored, it can be reused indefinitely. In our experience, most customer activity involves collections or exchanges - so repeat jobs are just a few clicks away.

Driver tickets can be printed from the system - or better yet, sent directly to handheld devices. Run sheets are also generated automatically when needed. No more typing weighbridge data into spreadsheets - the system holds all the information and can generate reports instantly.

And invoicing?

That's where the time savings really add up.

Instead of manually typing invoices, collating tickets, scanning them, and sending emails, our software



generates **up to 200 invoices per minute** and can batch-send them to customers automatically. These invoices also sync with your accounting software - whether you're using Sage, Xero, QuickBooks, or another platform.

What about digital waste tracking?

Without a robust system in place - or one that doesn't support Digital Waste Tracking - you could face a mountain of extra work. Government regulations will soon require waste companies to log job information for each filled skip through a central website.

MidSoft has been part of the development discussions, and we're building a direct integration - so your data flows automatically, with no double entry required.

Why choose MidSoft?

With over 20 years of experience in the waste industry, and a strategic partnership with Reconomy - the UK's largest service provider - we're ideally placed to guide your digital transition. Our software is already trusted by over **700 Skip Hire, Recycling, and Waste Brokerage companies** across the UK.



We understand the challenges smaller and mid-sized businesses face - and we know how to help you overcome them with smart, time-saving solutions.

Plus, with our mobile app, you can perform essential tasks while you're out on the road or on-site.

Customer access to their own information

In industries like waste and recycling and construction, clients are increasingly expecting immediate access to key documentation, including Waste Transfer Notes, Weighbridge Tickets, Invoices, and Waste Reports.

MidSoft's optional **Customer Web Portal** provides a seamless, user-friendly way for your clients to view and download their own data, reducing the number of information requests your team has to handle and further streamlining your operations.

Cloud-based application

Moving to the cloud means you no longer need to rely on expensive servers or complex network setups at your office. With a cloud-based system, you can simply log in and access the application from anywhere - with nothing more than an internet connection.

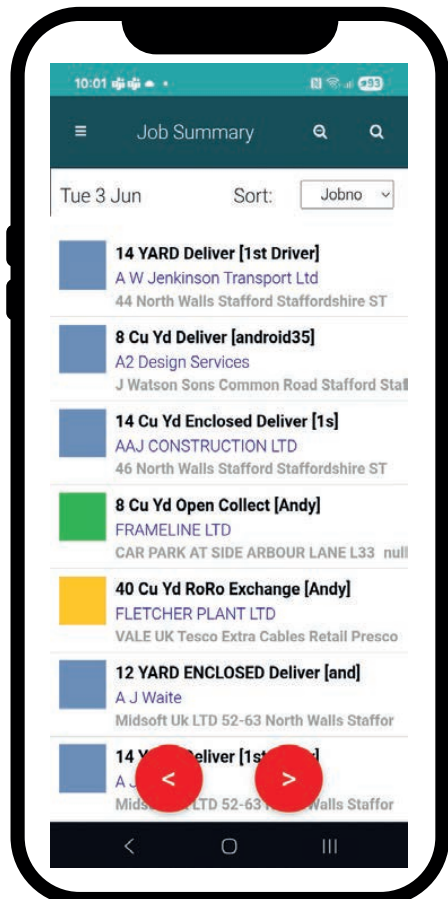
Your data is securely stored in a reputable, UK-based data centre and backed up multiple times a day for maximum protection and peace of mind.

Get in touch

If you think we can help streamline your operations and reduce admin time, we'd love to hear from you.

Visit www.midsoft.co.uk or scan the QR code below to learn more, request a free demonstration and access our user videos to see the system in action.

Let's simplify your waste management - together.



Modernising software for waste management and skip hire companies

Routeware's new connected, easy-to-use software platform is helping skip hire and waste management companies overcome the issues created by disjointed technology systems.

With the launch of its latest waste and skip management software platform at the end of last year, Routeware has created the opportunity for companies to build a more connected technology environment for their teams, and in doing so, make it easier for staff to use systems and integrate data across their business operations.

The new solution has been developed to better connect components for managing contracts, billing, payments, route planning, dispatch, inventory and customer service on a single platform.

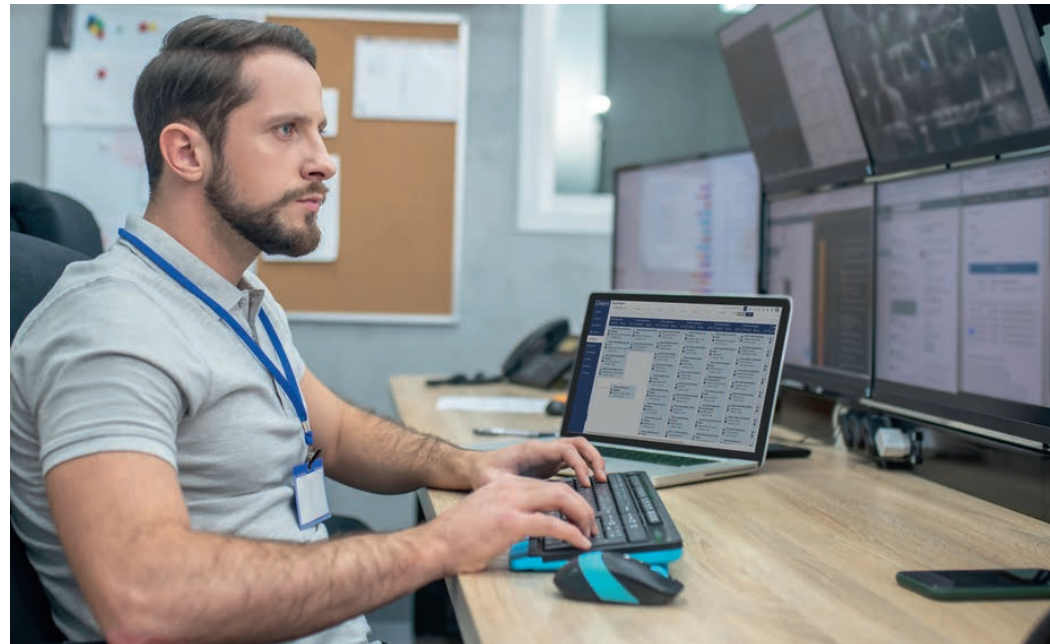
In addition, the solution includes a mobile app for drivers which replaces printed orders and route sheets with a job list on the drivers' phone or a tablet and allows drivers to send back live service information to scheduling and customer service teams.

By connecting components effectively within an integrated solution, Routeware says operators can deliver a range of business benefits, including increased productivity and joined-up data and analysis.

Disconnected systems force staff to spend excessive time switching between applications. By connecting workflows across their solution, staff can get greater visibility into how they can be more productive.

Billing and customer management

Modern customer management features enable operators to view all key account information, including who pays the

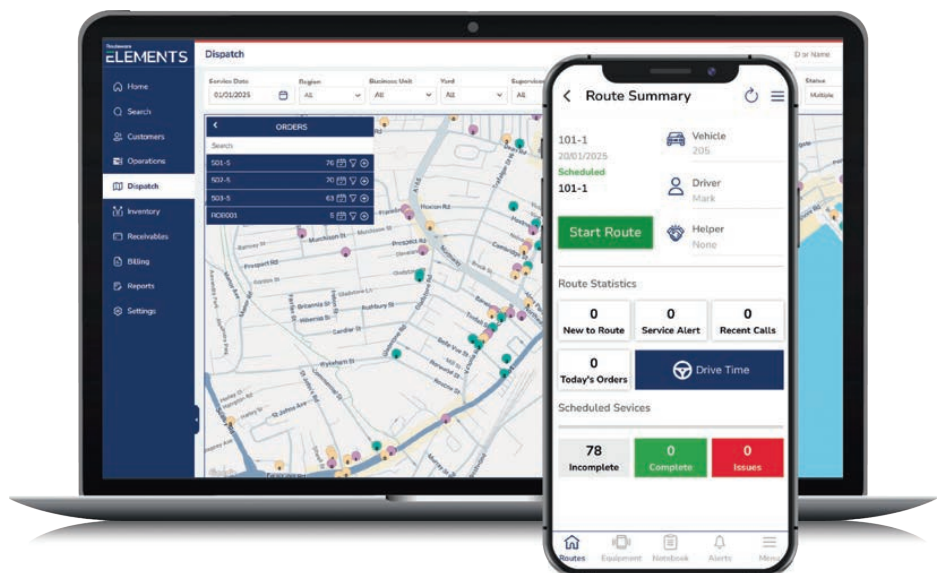


bill and payment terms, as well as categorising service locations for the customer. Under each service location customers can record the different services provided.

Operations management

Operations features enable users to

easily view orders and quickly filter them to those of interest. Within the pricing engine, users can set up recurring charges for a service, including specialist billing cycles for service rentals, and automatically send invoice reminders to customers as their due date approaches.



In-Cab tablets

Routeware's new platform provides a range of in-cab options, including mobile apps on the driver's phone or fixed tablet computers and connected camera systems.

The In-Cab module receives daily route scheduling from the back office, and once rounds are underway, it transmits GPS location and event data every few seconds.

The user interface displays the customer's pickup information in an easy-to-understand, driver-friendly format, with maps and turn-by-turn directions if needed.

Inventory management

The new solution provides not only an exact unit count for assets, but also lets operators know where every piece of equipment is, what condition it is in, and when it is scheduled next for service. A mobile app enables drivers or depot staff to assign tags to equipment in the field or yard and create inventory records to track deliveries, removals, damage and status from the mobile application or in the back office.

AI-based cameras

In partnership with WasteVision AI, Routeware has started to deploy AI-based cameras to track overfilled or contaminated bins.

With this solution, vehicle-mounted cameras are used to capture images from around the vehicle as well as a view into the hopper. Pictures are captured automatically without the need for manual driver input. Captured images are then processed using an AI model to identify issues such as contamination (the wrong materials in



the container) or overfilled bins that breach rules and regulations.

Route optimisation

Routeware's route optimisation module is the UK's No.1 route optimisation software for waste collection.

Designed specifically for waste and environmental service rounds, the software helps plan routes with the minimum number of vehicles needed, reduce the miles they travel and the amount of overtime operators pay.

The software uses real-world data, not estimates, to design accurate, achievable routes before they're run in real life. This helps reduce customer disruption and complaints when routes change and when new collections are added.

Customer self-service

With over 75% of customer interactions now being digital, it's crucial that waste and skip companies engage with their customers online and on mobile. There's nothing more frustrating to customers than having to repeat conversations with different members of the team because they're using different systems.

To overcome this, Routeware provides quick and convenient ways to pay bills with email invoices that include a click-to-pay link, as well as online customer portals and mobile apps for viewing invoices, statements, making payments, updating contact preferences, reporting, and more.

With customers able to self-serve online, operators can improve customer experience and satisfaction, while reducing call handling costs, complaints and contract cancellations.

Education and engagement

Routeware also provides communication tools for customer education and engagement, such as the Collection Calendar, which helps reduce missed collections by allowing customers to view their collection schedule online and subscribe to collection day reminders.

Routeware's Waste Wizard tool gives customers a quick and easy way to check what goes in what bin using their smartphone. This directory has a best-in-class search tool with predictive search and synonym detection, and the information in the directory can be configured to represent specific guidance.

Increased security

In addition to increasing efficiency and productivity, a connected waste management solution also increases system security and lowers risk. By minimising the number of systems staff log in to, an all-in-one solution reduces the risk of unauthorised access and addresses some of the common data risks associated with manual data entry and file sharing.



For more information
Visit our website at
www.routeware.co.uk
or scan the QR code



There's nothing artificial about PurGo's intelligence

Joe Barnes, Sales Director at VWS Software Solutions Ltd: People expect us to say great things about PurGo, the VWS Software Solutions state-of-the-art, next-generation ERP software system that effectively manages the entire process for waste management, recycling and skip hire.

But it's what our clients say about us that really matters.

Our clients' feedback not only shapes our continuous improvement efforts but also underscores the impact PurGo has on their operations and customer satisfaction.

I recently spoke with **Christine Heaver, Systems Manager at Ellgia Limited.**

Ellgia currently operate over 90 HGV vehicles with several permitted locations, employing more than 160 local people and servicing over 4,000 customers. They are one of the largest independent waste and recycling management companies across the East of England. Since 2017, Ellgia has been collaborating with VWS Software Solutions, experiencing significant growth during this period.



Joe Barnes, Sales Director at VWS Software Solutions Ltd

Joe Barnes: Thank you for taking the time to talk with me. It's always a pleasure to hear if we have delivered on our promise when you signed up with VWS Software Solutions.

Rest assured, I'm not going to use this interview as an opportunity to list every feature and function of PurGo - I've done that often enough - and I guess most people in the industry are already aware of what we do, who we do it for and why our customers are experiencing more streamlined operations, greater profitability and most importantly, a happier workforce.

I am, however, going to ask that you tell us about the tangible 'real world' examples of how we have helped Ellgia (assuming we have been of assistance).

So, over to you - tell us a little bit about your experience with using PurGo.

Christine Heaver: No problem, Joe, this is an easy one to answer. Quite simply, PurGo provides our transport planners with a clear picture of the work to be completed each day by our fleet.

The ease of having disposal points identified in Job allocation map is



ELLGIA™
Waste Management • Recycling Solutions • Skip Hire

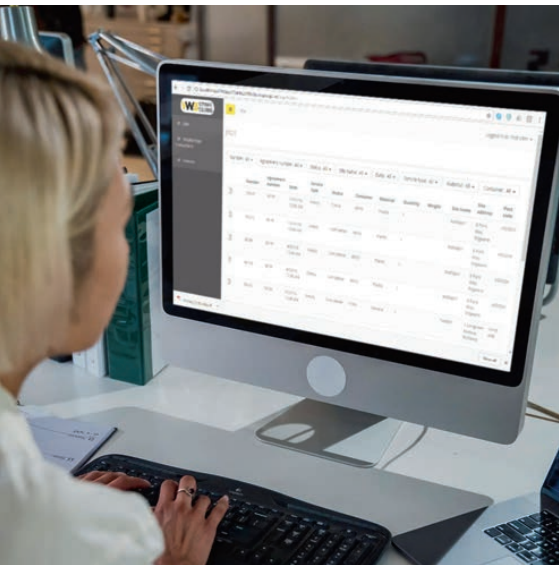
invaluable when it comes to our need for a quick turnaround for skips in the summer weather.

The Instant notification from the driver via the driver app, of starting and finishing a job, allows us to continue to monitor same-day availability. This helps us serve our customers as effectively as possible.

Working in rural areas, the use of Co-pilot within the Driver App gives comfort to our drivers that they won't end up down a lane that is not suitable for their vehicle.

Co-pilot also allows for texts to be sent to the customer advising of an estimated time of arrival (ETA), meaning the driver can drop and go in most situations.

The ability to view previous Jobs for a customer and a specific site(s) helps our Customer Services team engage effectively with our customers and offer



advice and guidance based on our previous experience. PurGo allows us to keep track of all information gathered on every visit.

Joe Barnes: *That's great to hear. It's always nice to hear that the software technology is performing as it should do - but PurGo is much more than that. When you sign up for PurGo, you're also signing up for its customer service and support. How are you finding this?*

Christine Heaver: Working with the team at VWS has been great. We are also creating a link from our website to create the new booking directly into PurGo, meaning our transport planners just need to accept the job and allocate it to a vehicle.

Joe Barnes: *Yes, the planning functionality has always received*

significant positive feedback from our clients.

Christine Heaver: Our treatment and transfer stations are very busy places to be. The use of planned transactions for incoming and outgoing loads means we can identify peak traffic times and take proactive steps to ensure people at our sites remain safe during these times.

Material management, supported by the Banksman app, enables us to monitor waste throughout our sites and helps us plan effectively.

If I can go back to the customer service and support again, we have identified several innovations we would like to see within the Banksman App. Our team are working with VWS experts to help make these possible.

We now have instant access to create the required quarterly returns to our legislative body (The Environment

Agency), which takes away the manual administrative process that we would otherwise have to complete to meet this compliance need.

We also track Waste Carrier Licences for third-party hauliers and permits for disposal facilities via PurGo, which enables us to meet our legal responsibilities with ease.

In summary, the management of disposal costs and revenues is imperative to our business. The Reporting in PurGo allows us to clearly see, by load and by material, the details that enable us to make informed decisions.

Joe Barnes: *Thanks again Christine. It's great to hear that we're meeting your expectations and delivering exactly what we said we would do.*

Thank you also for helping us to further develop the functionality of PurGo by letting us know exactly what you require from your waste management software.

If you would like to learn more about how PurGo can help improve your business, then contact VWS Software Solutions.

T: **0151 909 2009**

E: **sales@vwssoftware.com** - or meet the team for a chat at the RWM Expo at the NEC Birmingham on 17th-18th September. Stand Number: **CT-I220**.



For more information, please visit **www.vwssoftware.com** - details are also available on the back page of this edition.



Fleetclear promises assurance with new DVR Health Report

Fleet technology provider Fleetclear is promising assurance to fleet operators with its new DVR Health Report. This report gives visibility across the fleet to identify and fix camera issues before drivers notice them.

Every fleet operator knows the frustration of a camera not working when an incident happens, leaving no footage to verify the event. Keeping all equipment working is crucial for safety and is often required by insurance policies. However, checking every camera and device in a large fleet can be time-consuming.

The Fleetclear DVR Health Report automates this process. It detects any problems across the entire fleet and highlights only the areas that need attention. Think of it as a regular check-up for the vehicle's black box. It ensures that all cameras are online, running well, files are saved correctly, and there's enough storage.

Chris Waller, Chief Technical Officer of Fleetclear, said: "The health report turns the DVR system into a proactive safety tool and saves a huge amount of time by automating equipment checks. During this process, a snapshot is taken from each camera to check alignment and identify any blocked views. The system can also address occasional faults or crashes with certain cameras."

Each time the DVR powers up, it performs a full health check. It saves snapshots of every camera, records any past issues, and marks them for analysis on the Fleetclear Connect web app. Users can choose between a self-service option or a fully automated system, which includes automatic failure notifications, manual camera alignment checks, scheduling engineers and receipt of weekly email reports.

With qualified in-house engineers and strong after-sales support, Fleetclear is your partner for fleet safety.



J Ryan Group leads the way with paperless docketing from Eureka

One of Ireland's best-known and long-established hauliers reports major time savings, faster reporting, improved transparency and reduced admin since switching from a paper-based transport management system.

J Ryan Group is a family-run business, established in the 1970s in Ballywilliam, Wexford, by founders Jerry and John Ryan. From its main office in Kill, Co. Kildare, the company specialises in bulk excavations, demolition, asbestos removal and aqueous waste handling for customers throughout Ireland.

"We recognised the need to introduce a digital fleet management system," says Office Manager, Aoifa Hughes, "which could match our specific operational needs and be developed in line with our expanding business. Eureka came well recommended, so back in 2018, we embarked on a programme working together to produce a number of tailored software solutions."

To this end, explains Aoifa, J Ryan quickly became one of the first hauliers in the industry to introduce a paperless docketing system and soon began seeing the benefits of digital reporting and record-keeping.

"The Eureka MoveIT system gives us instant access to live data, which means we can plan, monitor, control and verify all jobs, while keeping customers fully informed at all times," says Aoifa. "For example, with the drivers' web portal, the management team can book jobs the

night before using pre-made templates, then add weights, signatures, tip docket images, etc., all connected to the actual type of work being carried out."

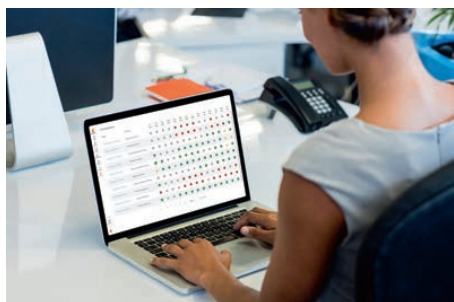
According to Aoifa, because the digital system has removed the need for each of their 70-plus drivers to use conventional docket books, many hours are saved through faster processing, human error is greatly reduced and paperwork is no longer at risk of going astray.

"We are saving at least 10% on work and invoice processing while greatly improving accountability and accuracy surrounding every job," says Aoifa. "Moreover, the EPOD (electronic proof of delivery) App enables drivers to collect a digital signature for each collection and delivery, which minimises any potential disputes, cuts out the paper chain and once the job is complete, allows us to invoice the customer right away."

AER (annual environmental reporting) is another area where J Ryan Group has been able to reduce admin time, mainly through instant access and retrieval of digitally stored data.

"This is certainly a major annual task, and calls on a great deal of our time," adds Aoifa.

"However, the Eureka system has brought significant benefits, and we are looking for further development in this area. It's reflective of our close working relationship and the excellent ongoing support which we receive from the team at Eureka."



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Chewing gum is plastic pollution, not a litter issue

The reality is that chewing gum is just another form of plastic pollution, but it is not treated as such

DR DAVID JONES

Sessional Teaching Fellow, School of the Environment and Life Sciences, University of Portsmouth



Thousands of tonnes of plastic pollution could be escaping into the environment every year ... from our mouths. Most chewing gum on sale is made from a variety of oil-based synthetic rubbers - similar to the plastic material used in car tyres.

If you find that thought slightly unsettling, you are not alone. I have been researching and speaking about the plastic pollution problem for 15 years. The

people I talk to are always surprised, and disgusted, when they find out they've been chewing on a lump of malleable plastic. Most manufacturers just don't advertise what gum is actually made of - they dodge around the detail by listing 'gum base' in the ingredients.

There's no strict definition of synthetic gum base. Chewing gum brand Wrigley Extra partners with dental professionals around the world to promote the use of sugar-free chewing gum to improve oral health.

The brand's Wrigley Oral Health Program states that: "Gum base puts the 'chew' in chewing gum, binding all the ingredients together for a smooth, soft texture. We use synthetic gum base materials for a consistent and safe base that provides longer-lasting flavour, improved texture, and reduced tackiness."

It almost sounds harmless. But chemical

analysis shows that gum contains styrene-butadiene (the durable synthetic chemical used to make car tyres), polyethylene (the plastic used to make carrier bags and bottles) and polyvinyl acetate (wood glue) as well as some sweetener and flavouring.

The chewing gum industry is big business, worth an estimated £37.7 billion in 2025. Three companies own 75% of the market share, with the largest being Wm Wrigley, which holds an estimated 35%. There are few reliable statistics available regarding the amount of gum being produced, but one peer-reviewed global estimate states that 1.74 trillion pieces are made per year.

I examined several types of gum and found that the most common weight of an individual piece of gum is 1.4g - that means that globally, a staggering 2.436 million tonnes of gum are produced each year. About a third (30%) of that weight, or just over 730,000 tonnes, is synthetic gum base.

If the idea of chewing plastic isn't disturbing enough, consider what happens after you spit it out. Most people have experienced discarded gum under bench seats, school desks and on street pavements. But, like other plastics, synthetic chewing gum does not biodegrade and can persist in the environment for many years.

In the environment, it will harden, crack and break down into microplastics, but this process can take decades. Cleaning it up is not cheap because it is labour-intensive. The average cost is £1.50 per square metre and estimates suggest that the annual clean-up cost for chewing gum pollution for councils in the UK is around £7 million.

There have been some efforts to address the problem. In many public locations around the UK, gum collection pots supplied by Dutch company Gumdrops Ltd have been installed to collect and recycle used gum. Signage provided by councils encouraging responsible disposal is also now a regular feature in some UK high streets, and there is a growing number of small producers offering plant-based alternatives.

In the UK, the environmental charity Keep Britain Tidy launched the Chewing Gum Task Force in 2021. This collaboration involves three major manufacturers who have committed to investing up to £10 million in order to clean up 'historic gum staining and changing behaviour so that more people bin their gum'.

But here lies the crux of the issue.

The first objective implies that cleaning up gum is a solution to this form of plastic pollution; it isn't. Manufacturers making a financial contribution to clean-up efforts is like plastic manufacturers paying for litter pickers and bin bags at volunteer beach cleans. Neither addresses the root cause of the problem.

Binning gum is not the solution either. Addressing gum as a plastic pollutant dictates that the prevention of gum pollution should include the well-known tenets, like all plastic pollution, of reduce, reuse recycle and redesign. It is not only a disposal issue.

Another issue that I have uncovered is definition. In the two annual reports published by the gum litter task force since its inception, there is no mention of the word pollution. The distinction between litter and pollution is important. By calling it chewing gum pollution, the narrative shifts from an individual negligence issue to a corporate one. That places an onus for accountability onto the producers rather than the consumers.

Single-use solutions

Like single-use plastic items, chewing gum pollution needs to be tackled from all angles - education, reduction, alternatives, innovation, producer responsibility and legislation.

Educating people about the contents of gum and the environmental consequences those ingredients have will reduce consumption and encourage better disposal habits. More transparent labelling on packaging would empower shoppers to make informed choices. Stricter regulations can hold manufacturers accountable - a levy tax on synthetic gum can help pay for clean-ups. In turn, this would incentivise more investment in plant-based gums and other sustainable alternatives.

We can all reduce the environmental

consequences of this plastic pollution by kicking the gum habit, calling on councils to enforce stricter pollution penalties and encouraging governments to impose a tax levy on manufacturers to fund clean-ups and force them to list the contents of gum base.

Throwing away any non-disposable, inorganic products is unsustainable. Chewing gum pollution is just another form of plastic pollution. It's time we start treating it as such.

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



Over £1 million for towns and cities to clean up chewing gum stains

More than 50 councils across the UK will receive a share of £1.2 million to tackle the issue of chewing gum litter on the country's high streets. This funding comes from grants awarded last month by the Government and the charity Keep Britain Tidy.

Residents in Glasgow, Fermanagh and Omagh, Bradford and Cardiff will benefit from the fourth round of funding from the Chewing Gum Taskforce, which supports the Government's 'Plan for Change' aimed at creating safer and cleaner streets.

Chewing gum not only creates an unsightly mess but also incurs significant clean-up costs. Launched in 2021, this partnership among the industry, government, and gum producers aims to reduce anti-social littering and assist local councils in acquiring state-of-the-art cleaning equipment to enhance their street cleaning efforts.

The latest round of grants will fund

innovative plans. For example, Bradford Metropolitan District Council plans to use specialised steam cleaners with the latest technology, while Cheshire Council will hire new specialists to conduct intensive cleaning in high footfall areas.

This initiative not only boosts community pride by improving the cleanliness and appearance of local high streets but also fosters regional growth by creating more welcoming spaces for residents. Cleaner streets contribute to safer environments and are vital for supporting hospitality businesses and restoring pride in our communities.

Environment Minister Mary Creagh said: "Chewing gum litter is a stain on our communities. These grants, funded by gum producers, will empower local councils to tackle this issue head-on, delivering cleaner streets for all."

"This Government is committed to ending our throwaway society. That is why

we have already banned single-use vapes and announced a crackdown on waste crime."

Allison Ogden-Newton OBE, Keep Britain Tidy's chief executive, added: "Chewing gum continues to be an unsightly form of litter in our public spaces - though thankfully the scheme is leading to significant reductions. People need to remember that disposing of their gum irresponsibly causes harm to our environment as it takes years to decompose naturally - and, ultimately, costs the public purse to clean it up."

This latest funding marks further momentum by the Chewing Gum Task Force, with the previous three rounds of funding awarding grants worth a total of £4.88 million to 122 councils.

Last year alone, more than 3.4 million square metres of pavements were scrubbed free of chewing gum due to funding from the grant scheme.

ESS Expo 2025 registration opens with expanded show features

Environmental Services & Solutions Expo (ESS), the UK's largest event for the environmental services industry, has announced that registration is now open. The event will take place at the NEC, Birmingham, from 17th-18th September, combining key industry events spanning all areas of the environmental sector.

This year, the expo will debut three new events: the Complete Auto Recycling Show (CARS), Metals Recycling Event (MRE) and Geotechnical Engineering and Operations Expo (GEO). The expanded Water, Wastewater & Environmental Management Expo (WWEM), formerly known as WRM, will also join the ESS portfolio, along with the expanded Air Quality & Emissions Expo (AQE), formerly known as APC.

These new additions will sit alongside the well-established Resource & Waste Management Expo (RWM), Contamination & Land Remediation Expo (CLR) and Energy, Fuels & Decarbonisation Expo (EFD), making ESS Expo 2025 the UK's largest and most comprehensive environmental event. At the heart of its success is its unique co-located format, where seven distinct shows come together under one roof, creating a diverse yet cohesive platform that empowers attendees to explore multiple sectors, form meaningful connections, and discover cross-industry synergies.

Known as the 'ultimate platform for sustainable innovation and technologies,' the show will welcome over 15,000 industry leaders, policymakers, founders and professionals, alongside more than 7,000 companies from 58 different countries, all driving progress in the circular economy, net zero emissions, sustainability and biodiversity conservation. Attendees can expect a comprehensive educational programme with over 198 live demonstrations and 240+ presentations across 24 stages from 400+ expert speakers.

Visitors can also expect heavy input from the Environment Agency, the show's Lead Partner for 2025. Expect keynote talks, expert panels and hands-on guidance from their stand; all aimed at helping you navigate environmental policy, compliance, and sustainability goals with confidence.



A closer look

The 2025 event will provide targeted experiences for professionals across various sectors within the entire environmental services industry. Each area of the expo will feature leading exhibitors plus dedicated keynote speaker sessions, panel discussions, live demos, workshops, AGMs and networking opportunities, ensuring attendees can focus on the areas that are most relevant to their day-to-day sector.

Focusing on waste and recycling, RWM will address current and emerging trends in waste and resource management, organised in partnership with leading organisations, including the Chartered Institution of Wastes Management (CIWM) and the Environmental Services Association (ESA). This long-anticipated event offers need-to-know insights and networking opportunities over two action-packed days, with key exhibitors including Grundon, LARAC, RECOUP, TOMRA sorting, Environment Agency, Valpak and many more leading names.

CARS and MRE will offer never-before-seen insights, products, services and demos into end-of-life vehicle processing, metal recovery and recycling technologies, sustainable dismantling practices, the future of automotive recycling, and supply chain and market dynamics. Here, visitors will have the chance to connect with over 90 brand-new exhibitors from these sectors.

AQE will introduce leading exhibitors covering topics on air quality and emissions, reduction technologies, odour and noise control, dust management, emissions reporting, market trading, health and safety and indoor air quality for businesses.

EFD will focus on sustainable energy and resource management with this year's key themes including Carbon Capture, Utilisation and Storage (CCUS), energy from secondary materials, hydrogen fuel and bioenergy. Long-time exhibitors in this space include Enfinium, Thalia Waste Management and Geminor.

Rob Mowat, Event Director of ESS Expo, said: "Environmental professionals hold the key to the certain challenges faced by businesses and organisations around the world, making the need for collaboration more important than ever. And as more sectors come under the spotlight for their environmental impact and credentials, it's important that innovation is encouraged and shared across these growing areas. That's why we're very pleased to welcome new elements like MRE, CARS and GEO to the ESS portfolio."

"ESS Expo continues to grow each year, and in 2025, we're excited to expand into these new sectors and welcome new faces alongside familiar ones. This edition will offer even more opportunities to connect with decision-makers and leaders, discover the latest technologies and drive progress toward a greener future. We can't wait to welcome everyone this September."



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Scotland's waste capacity crisis: Why innovation can't wait



DR STEPHEN WISE

*Chief Strategic
Development
Officer,
Advetec*

The BBC's recent reporting on Scotland's waste management issues has brought to national attention what many in the sector have known for some time: there is a critical capacity gap facing the Scottish waste industry – one that's already putting pressure on England's infrastructure.

With landfill tax and gate fees increasing sharply, and the cost of refuse-derived fuel (RDF) rising, the industry is on the brink of crisis. This is more than just a logistical headache; it's a clear indication that traditional waste treatment and disposal methods are no longer fit for purpose.

Scotland's distinctive geography intensifies the challenge. As a nation of rural towns, remote communities, and often hard-to-access areas, it cannot depend solely on centralised, large-scale waste infrastructure. The solution must be local, adaptable, scalable, innovative and delivered quickly to achieve both environmental objectives and the practical needs of its people.

Currently, a proportion of Scotland's non-recyclable waste is being shipped across the border to England or overseas for energy-from-waste (EfW) treatment. However, this practice comes with a high carbon footprint and an even higher cost. Waste handlers I've spoken to in Scotland report gate fees for EfW as high as £150 per tonne, with transportation costs adding up to £50. For small to medium-sized waste



Landfill sites can be used for biodegradable municipal waste in Scotland until 31st December

operators, these figures are simply impossible to manage. More importantly, this approach does little to tackle the fundamental issue of managing non-recyclable waste more sustainably.

It's time we accept that relying on conventional disposal routes - landfill or exporting for EfW - is both economically and environmentally unsustainable. Scotland's biodegradable municipal waste ban is imminent, and without a radical shift in approach, it's difficult to see how compliance can be achieved.

This is where innovation needs to come into play.

At Advetec, we've long advocated for the power of science and technology to reshape how we manage waste. Advanced aerobic digestion, for example, can drastically reduce the volume of waste sent to landfill or incineration. It offers clear emissions savings, delivers measurable ESG outcomes, and accelerates the move towards a circular economy. Most

crucially for Scotland, it provides a genuinely local treatment option - eliminating the need for costly, carbon-intensive transportation and enabling waste to be dealt with at or near the point of generation.

Too often, innovation has been perceived as risky or optional. But in today's rapidly changing regulatory and environmental landscape, it is neither. It is essential - for survival, sustainability, and legal compliance. The Scottish waste sector must now act boldly, urgently, and collaboratively to adopt next-generation technologies that deliver both immediate and long-term benefits.

The time for incremental change is over. To close the capacity gap, meet legislative requirements, and reduce the economic burden on waste operators, Scotland must lead with innovation. Only then can we create a system that is not just compliant, but truly sustainable for the future.

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

Enva places equipment order for new fridge recycling facility

Enva, one of the leading recycling and resource recovery specialists in the UK and Ireland, is pleased to announce that it has placed an order with the international technology group ANDRITZ. This order is for the equipment needed for a new fridge recycling facility serving customers in London and the South East.

The facility will utilise proven ANDRITZ technology, which is already in use at Enva's locations in Perth, Scotland; Toomebridge, Northern Ireland and Grantham, England. The equipment will incorporate the latest degassing, shredding, and recycling technologies, ensuring that over 98% of fridge components are recovered for further processing.

Commenting on the announcement, Enva's Managing Director, Barry Phillips, said: "We look forward to continuing what has been a highly successful partnership with ANDRITZ. This facility will provide much-needed additional recycling capacity in London and the South East. The state-of-the-art equipment specification will ensure



Enva's Toomebridge facility in Northern Ireland

that we create significant environmental and commercial value for our customers and support the development of a more resource-efficient and circular economy."

Tom Cortaville, as representative of ANDRITZ Recycling in the United Kingdom, echoed Mr Phillips' comments, saying: "We are delighted to continue the growth of our partnership with Enva and to provide the latest generation of recycling technology for this exciting and much-

needed installation. The equipment will now go into production for a planned delivery in June 2026 and installed in good time for the opening of the facility late next year."

The facility, when opened, will have the capacity to process 35,000 tonnes per year, further strengthening Enva's position as one of the UK and Ireland's largest fridge and small domestic appliances (SDA) recyclers.



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Biffa on way to completing hazardous waste removal project



Industrial services experts from Biffa's Specialist Services division have passed the halfway point of a 12-month project to safely remove hazardous waste from Uniper's Ratcliffe-on-Soar power station site near Nottingham.

The iconic power station closed in September 2024 after generating electricity for UK homes and businesses for nearly 60 years.

Since November 2024, a team of over

20 Biffa specialists, including industrial chemists and dangerous goods safety advisors, has been supporting the decommissioning of the power station's water treatment plant and fuel oil system.

Utilising advanced high-pressure water systems, DISAB vacuum systems and industrial tankers, the team often works at heights or in confined spaces while wearing breathing equipment.

To date, 450 tonnes of hazardous

materials have been responsibly removed, including high-concentration sulfuric acid and fuel oil, both of which can be reused, as well as effluent and both anionic and cationic resins.

The next phase of decommissioning will involve the Biffa team dismantling and disposing of the power station's catalyst bed.

James Bissell, Biffa's Head of Tankers & Industrial Services, said: "Our expertise in industrial services, hazardous waste management and our commitment to health and safety have been critical in supporting the successful ongoing decommissioning of Ratcliffe-on-Soar Power Station.

"Rigorous safety protocols, the use of specialist equipment, and the strategic handling of hazardous materials have ensured the highest standards of compliance and environmental protection.

"From decommissioning the UK's old power stations to supporting the construction of its newest nuclear plant, Biffa is playing a critical role in the UK's journey to net zero."

Saica Pack Hartlepool receives first-ever Zero Waste to Landfill certificate in UK

Saica Group, a leader in sustainable packaging in Europe, has announced that its Hartlepool facility is the first site in the UK to earn the Saica Zero to Landfill Certificate. This award highlights the company's commitment to environmental responsibility and the principles of a circular economy. This is also the first time a Saica Pack plant has received this recognition, marking a significant achievement for the company.

The Saica Zero to Landfill recognition is developed by Saica Natur, Saica Group's division for waste management and environmental services. It awards sites that successfully divert at least 95% of their waste from landfill through re-use, recycling or energy recovery. All waste must also comply with relevant regulations. TÜV SÜD independently verifies this certification, which is known for its high standards.

At Saica Pack Hartlepool, the process involved a six-month audit, during which nearly 4,000 tonnes of waste were examined. The TÜV SÜD audit confirmed

a 97% diversion rate with no major issues. The review included checking waste management practices, compliance with the latest UK waste laws and the support provided by Saica Natur.

This achievement resulted from the teamwork between Simon McLeod, HSE Manager at Saica Pack Hartlepool, and Colesia Pryse, National Account Manager at Saica Natur. They conducted a detailed review of waste sorting and handling practices and compiled the necessary documents for independent verification.

Simon Banks, UK & Ireland Saica Pack Country Manager, comments: "We are delighted that Saica Hartlepool has been honoured with the Saica Natur Zero to Landfill recognition. This demonstrates Saica Group's commitment to not just delivering sustainable solutions and exceptional service, but also to leading by example."

"With evolving waste regulations in the UK, Saica Pack Hartlepool is setting a benchmark for industry best practice," said Jim Malone, UK Saica Natur Country



Riccardo Tonelli, Simon McLeod and Colesia Pryse at Saica Group Hartlepool

Manager. "At Saica Natur, we support businesses to reduce operational costs, improve efficiencies, and minimise their environmental footprint."

The recognition also requires annual performance reviews and a full review every three years, ensuring long-term accountability and continuous improvement.

As the UK moves towards its net zero targets, Saica Group demonstrates that sustainable practices and profitable manufacturing can thrive together.

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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

LEGAL

Have you got the right permit?

A few recent cases (both mine and others of which I am aware) have led to this article.

The importance of having the right permit: It might sound like I am stating the obvious, but it seems that it can be easily overlooked, inadvertently leading to the wrong permit, i.e., a permit that does not cover the activities you intend it to cover. Or expected it to cover.

It can be very difficult once you have a permit to alter it later on, unless it's anything other than a minor administrative variation. Any application to vary also carries the risk of refusal.

Take the example of an operator who, some years down the line, has realised that its permit does not fully cover the activities which it undertakes. This may

have come down to a number of reasons, activities slightly changing over time, missed information on the application, schedule 5 questions not being quite right and so on. Sadly, it's not just a case of a quick amendment and the implications of what can seem like minor errors at the time can be huge later on. Not only is it difficult to apply for a full variation to add a 'new' activity, but it also faces the risk of enforcement action for operating illegally. It can also mean a variation is not applicable, and an entirely different permit is required (even if, on the face of it, the activities are not actually that different).

Conversely, the issue of having a permit that is not required causes different problems. I recently reflected on this in a LinkedIn post regarding a case I

handled in the High Court a few years ago. An operator had a waste permit for a large-scale waste activity and was also in possession of a local authority Part B mobile plant permit for crushing and screening bricks, tiles and concrete (activities which were already covered by the fixed EA waste permit). The operator was prosecuted by the local authority (which regulates those permits) for dust and mud issues, which it said had arisen from activities being undertaken using the plant, which it said fell under that permit.

We argued that it should never have been granted that permit, as it was unnecessary and the EA waste permit, which included those activities and that plant (albeit fixed at that location when used here), among others, governed the operation.

You cannot have two regulators regulating the same activity, we said, as it leads to complete uncertainty in regulation (the EA had no issues with mud or dust emissions under the wider waste permit) and potential conflicting regulation. Three High Court judges agreed with us and this clarified the law on dual regulation of waste activities. i.e. you can't have it.

So, it's always worth checking that you have the right permit for your activities and that you don't have a bonus permit thrown in. As it's not a bonus....!

Anna is '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**

Approval given for aggregate recycling centre at former quarry

Members of Bridgend Council in Wales have given the go-ahead on plans for the development of an aggregates recycling facility in the county borough. The plant, which would be built and operated by Nolan Recycling, will be developed on land at Stormy Down at a former quarry in Heol-y-Splot, Bridgend, near an existing waste transfer station operated by the company.

The planning committee approved the project in May. The facility will be able to process 205,000 tonnes of non-hazardous waste each year, up from the current 45,000 tonnes.

This development will help improve recycling rates in the area and create 10 full-time jobs when it is fully operational. The construction of the site is expected to take 30 months. Workers will need to create a level surface on the old quarry site

and build the new plant.

The report read: "The facility will receive and process inert waste and soils (non-hazardous), sourced from off-site excavation, construction and demolition activities within the locality of Bridgend and neighbouring areas.

"The site would potentially receive and process up to 205,000 tonnes per annum of inert construction and demolition waste.

"This includes the 5,000 tonnes per annum of waste wood and 40,000 tonnes of aggregate and inert construction and demolition waste permitted to be received under the existing extant consent."

Some local residents and the Merthyr Mawr Community Council objected to the plans. They were concerned about increased traffic at the A48 and Heol y Splott junction.

They also worried about noise and dust

from the site impacting nearby homes. However, council officers stated that with revised conditions and shorter operating hours, the plan was acceptable. Highway officers raised no safety concerns about the area.

A condition was added to prevent vehicles from turning right onto the A48 when leaving the site.

The plans received unanimous approval from all council members present.



The facility will be run by Nolan Recycling based nearby (Image: Google Maps)

Lancaster prepares for 'simpler recycling' with reforms to its waste collection system

Lancaster City Council is taking a significant step forward by replacing recycling boxes with 240-litre wheelie bins, a move designed to enhance its operations in line with the upcoming 'simpler recycling' requirements.

This transition will also prepare the council to implement weekly collections of household food waste, set to begin in March 2026.

Additionally, the council will adopt a three-weekly recycling collection schedule, replacing the current bi-weekly service. This change is made possible by the increased capacity of the larger bins, which will improve overall efficiency.

The Government is supporting this initiative with £1.46 million in funding, aimed at helping the council procure new vehicles for the collection of these bins and providing free food waste containers to residents.

To ensure a smooth transition and address any concerns from the community, the council is establishing a cross-party working group to actively engage with residents.

Paul Hart, the cabinet member for environmental services, highlighted the importance of this group in gathering diverse perspectives on the new services being introduced. He stated: "Since the proposals have been shared, we've received valuable questions about how the new system might impact residents, especially those living in flats or other housing types that might lack adequate space for the new bins.

"While we are required to implement weekly food waste collections, we are committed to doing so in a way that meets the needs of our community and reflects the unique characteristics of our district."

The establishment of the working group will also provide a platform to discuss the benefits of larger-capacity wheelie bins, designed to facilitate less frequent collections.

Overall, the council aims to reform waste services and collection frequencies to not only reduce overall household waste but also to significantly boost recycling rates, contributing to a more sustainable community.



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SCAN ME



Eco-friendly education and visitors' centre opens in north London

EcoPark House, North London Waste Authority's (NLWA) new education and visitors' centre built as part of North London Heat and Power Project (NLHPP), officially opened last month with representatives from Enfield, Islington and Waltham Forest councils and the Edmonton Sea Cadets marking the occasion with a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Enfield Council's cabinet member for Transport and Waste, Cllr Rick Jewell, said: "It's extremely exciting that Enfield residents now have a bright new space dedicated to learning about their carbon footprint, which aligns with our collective efforts toward addressing climate change and becoming a cleaner, greener borough."

EcoPark House offers a vibrant and flexible space for north London residents, schools and community groups to learn more about recycling and waste management. Through an innovative value engineering plan, contractor Taylor Woodrow designed and installed systems that enabled the building to operate entirely off-grid. Built with sustainability in mind, it is powered by solar panels on the roof of adjacent recycling facilities and heated by ground-source heat pumps. Since January, more than 600 children and community members have visited EcoPark as the final elements of the building were completed, sharing overwhelmingly positive feedback.

The new centre builds on North London

Waste Authority's in-school education offering. Through hands-on workshops and practical activities, students learn about waste management, the circular economy and waste prevention. The programme caters to both younger and older children, offering education sessions on waste prevention to primary schools and site tours and educational sessions to secondary schools. Pre-arranged EcoPark tours are also available for north London community groups, providing residents with the opportunity to see how bulky waste and public recycling are managed at the site.

Chair of NLWA, Councillor Clyde Loakes MBE, said: "EcoPark House is a long-awaited, exciting new space to continue our vital work of educating young people and the community about the journey of their waste, recycling, waste reduction and supporting a circular economy. From its innovative technologies and eco-friendly design features, the centre further demonstrates our commitment to minimising our own environmental impact."

EcoPark House is the final building at Edmonton EcoPark. Construction of a new energy recovery facility at the north of the site is underway, set to replace the 53-year-old energy from waste plant. The NLHPP will transform Edmonton EcoPark into a modern, sustainable waste hub, serving over two million residents in north London.

Recycled coffee cups inspire children's book

James Cropper, a manufacturer of paper and packaging, has contributed to the release of the first published children's book printed on paper made from recycled coffee cups.

The book, titled *Little Coffee Cup and the Big Surprise*, is the debut title from author and sustainability advocate Hayley Slack.

The story follows Little Coffee Cup as it leaves the comfort of a café to explore the wider world. It is designed to spark conversations about waste, reuse and the concept of a circular economy.

Each copy of the book is produced using materials from James Cropper's CupCycling process, which upcycles used coffee cups into premium paper at their Burnside Mill in the Lake District. In a poetic twist, the story concludes at the very same mill.

Each physical book is made from 13 recycled coffee cups collected from across the UK. According to James Cropper, 58 million coffee cups have been diverted from landfills through the CupCycling initiative in just the past year.

Author Hayley Slack, who also works for Biffa, says: "As a mum of two and someone who works in the waste industry, I wanted to create something meaningful that would make kids and parents think differently about what we throw away."

"If we can demonstrate how recycled coffee cup waste can become new books, we can promote greater rates of recycling, less imports and reduce the number of trees being used solely for new books. Why can't we give our billions of used coffee cups in the UK the chance to be turned into children's books?"

"Every child reading this story is literally holding a piece of that journey in their hands. That's how we make sustainability feel real."

Little Coffee Cup and the Big Surprise is due to be publicly released soon and will be available from all good retailers including Waterstones.



Picture credit: Hayley Slack

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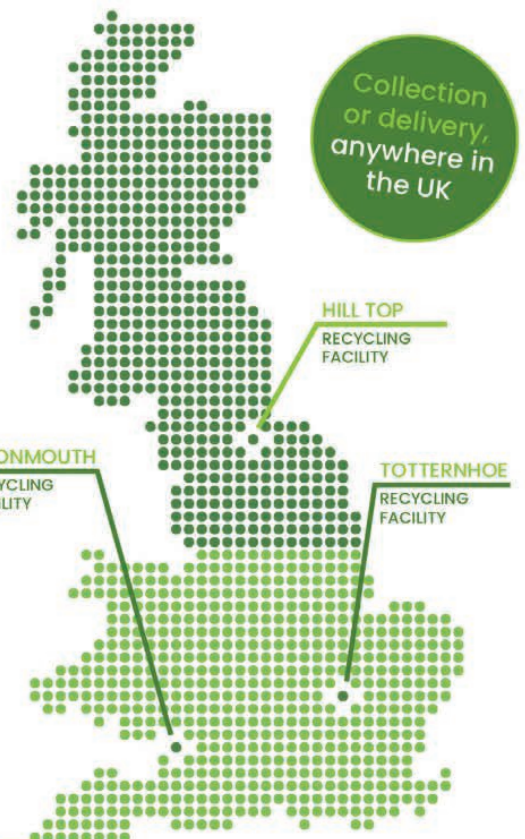
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TRACEY WESTBURY**Director – Westbury Environmental Limited**

Tracey has worked in the waste industry for over 35 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

Standard Rules permits - confusion, compliance and cost: What to know

Since the Environment Agency (EA) issued its revised Standard Rules permits to operators on 19th December, 2024, we've seen a significant uptake in regulatory activity - and an increase in confusion.

During recent site inspections, EA officers have been requesting that operators confirm in writing, whether or not they intend to comply with the new conditions set out in the updated rules. These requests are appearing in inspection follow-up emails and are also being recorded in Compliance Assessment Reports (CAR forms). In some cases, operators are being asked to formally explain how they plan to meet the revised requirements - or, when they cannot, what action they will take.

At the time of writing this article, the 27th June deadline for applying for a bespoke permit (if you cannot comply with the new standard rules) will have just passed. But the reality is that many operators may still be unsure whether they should have applied for a bespoke permit

- and whether the decision they made was the right one.

One of the main problems we've seen is that it's not always obvious to an operator whether they can keep their new Standard Rules permit. For example, several rule sets now include location-based restrictions that apply if your site is within 50 metres of a BAP (Biodiversity Action Plan) habitat or species. From our own reviews, many sites fall within this category - meaning that, legally, they can no longer operate under the standard rules and must instead apply for a bespoke permit.

And it's not just about habitats. If you're operating under SR2022 No. 4 or No. 5 and can't (or don't want to) meet the requirement to carry out operations inside an enclosed building, you'll also need to go down the bespoke route - but in these cases, the 27th June deadline doesn't necessarily apply. That said, if the Agency is inspecting your site and asking questions, you need to have a clear and considered position, backed up with evidence and a documented rationale.

The truth is, this situation is difficult for operators - and it's potentially expensive. It can be unclear whether you can or can't comply; the new rules themselves are detailed and technical, and now the EA is actively checking who's done what and when. We expect to see a wave of non-compliance scores and enforcement action coming through on CAR forms in the coming months if operators haven't taken steps to review their situation properly.

So what's the best course of action? In our view, the only way to approach this is with a proper, professional assessment. That means:

- *Reviewing the conditions in your new SR permit.*
- *Comparing them to the restrictions listed in the latest EA permit application form B1.*
- *Carrying out a location and compliance review to understand whether your site meets the new requirements.*
- *And then making an informed decision on whether to retain the new SR permit or apply for a bespoke permit.*

This is not a time for guesswork. With inspections underway and deadlines passed, the cost of inaction could be significantly greater than the cost of obtaining the right advice upfront.

If you're unsure where you stand - or if you just want a second opinion to confirm your approach - please get in touch. We've been helping operators across the sector make sense of this change and work out the most sensible (and cost-effective) path forward.

Getting this wrong could lead to compliance issues that drag on for years. Let's avoid that.

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



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**GOT A QUESTION
ASK THE EXPERTS**

Samuel Lloyd now offers a complete range of plastic lids for skips and wheeled bins

Samuel Lloyd's production plant is based in Worcestershire, and with the recent addition of a highly efficient and flexible shuttle machine, the company now has two of the largest and most efficient rotational moulding machines in Europe.



Their annual production of lids will be considerably increased with the new production capacity.

Until recently, the company has concentrated on moulding lids for four-wheeled bins. However, after investing heavily in special aluminium tooling moulds, it can now manufacture and supply the full range of skip lids used in the UK.

Currently, the supplier options open to purchasers of skip lids in the UK are very limited. Samuel Lloyd's new capacity will help by offering buyers an alternative supply route, improving both delivery times

and pricing competitiveness.

FEL lids, also known as Front End Loader lids, are for top-hinged and side-hinged bins and are available in all sizes. REL lids, also known as Rear End Loader lids, can be supplied as sets or individual pieces and are also available with all the ironwork needed for safe operation. A full range of supporting lids, such as sliding lids for side openings in box-style FELs, are also produced.

Black remains the most popular colour, offering excellent UV protection and the ability to specify recycled material. In addition, a complete range of standard

RAL colours is carried in stock, with special colours also available to order.

Our in-house design and development studio - staffed by engineers with extensive experience in container and skip design - is available for consultation if new ideas or concepts are being explored. This service is offered free of charge to all Samuel Lloyd customers.

Please get in touch at **01562 777100** or email help@samuellloyd mouldings.co.uk

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SUEZ amps up sustainability with the Volvo L25 Electric from SMT GB

SUEZ and SMT GB are driving sustainability forward by introducing a Volvo L25 Electric compact wheel loader at SUEZ's Bodmin materials recycling facility in Cornwall. This collaboration is a step toward revolutionising the company's waste and recycling sites across Great Britain. SUEZ aims to go beyond net zero to become carbon positive by 2040, eliminating more carbon than it produces. Integrating electric plant and fleet vehicles into daily operations is one of many initiatives propelling the company towards this ambitious goal.

During a major site redevelopment, SUEZ identified the L25 Electric as a potential asset, allowing ample time for a comprehensive quoting and order process with SMT GB. This process, typically taking 3-6 months, was supported by SMT GB's Craig Howard from the initial quote to final delivery. During this period, additional consultancy was provided to SUEZ to advise the team on the most suitable charging solution for their operational requirements.

Following a successful trial at the sister site in Redruth, confidence in the L25 Electric's performance grew, ensuring its seamless integration at the Bodmin facility. The loader has now been in operation for eight months, efficiently handling tasks such as pushing loose soft mixed paper onto feed conveyors, fluffing materials and preparing them for baling.

Recycling facilities are often noisy and odorous environments, making the L25 Electric a welcome addition. Its minimal noise and zero tailpipe emissions contribute to a quieter, safer and cleaner workspace for site personnel.



The L25 Electric pushes a recent delivery of cardboard onto the conveyor feeding the baler

To accommodate the L25 Electric, the site required only minor infrastructure changes, including upgrading an existing 3-Phase 400V socket to a 32A connector for the external 17kw fast charging. Shaun Sisterson, SMT GB's Electromobility Business Manager, played a vital role in supporting both SUEZ and internal teams to facilitate a smooth transition to electric machinery.

Site Manager Ian Broad praised the L25 Electric's integration, stating: "The electric machine has seamlessly fitted into our operations. As we operate in two shifts, we run the machine in the morning, fast charge it during the lunch break and then continue operations until the end of the shift. We then slow charge it overnight."

The Volvo CE L25 Electric also increases operator safety through excellent all-around visibility from its spacious cab and minimal noise production, which mitigates

noise pollution on site, facilitating clearer communication. In addition to this, utilising an electric machine on site, in comparison to a fuel-powered machine, benefits operator health thanks to zero harmful fumes being released into the workspace.

The handover process was well-coordinated, ensuring operators smoothly transitioned from diesel to electric with guidance from Shaun Geer of SMT GB. The Volvo L25 Electric has notably improved efficiency by reducing downtime related to refuelling and AdBlue usage. Operators have also found pre-start checks quicker and simpler, leading to a more streamlined shift start.

Following the successful deployment at Bodmin, SUEZ is now exploring further electric machine integrations at other facilities, including a request for a similar machine at a sister site under redevelopment.

Newcastle City Council launches waste and recycling app

Newcastle City Council has launched a mobile app named NCL Bins, designed to assist residents with their recycling and bin collection needs.

This app features a calendar that allows users to view their scheduled bin collection days and set reminders for them. Users can also stay informed about service disruptions and access a detailed A-Z guide for recycling and reusing various items.

In addition to these practical features, NCL Bins includes an engaging element known as the *Waste Game*, which allows users to test their knowledge of recycling practices.

The app is available in six different languages and can be downloaded on both iOS and Android platforms.

Cllr Alex Hay, Newcastle's deputy leader and cabinet member for neighbourhood

services, said: "We're proud to launch the Newcastle Bins app as part of our ongoing commitment to making Newcastle a cleaner, greener, and more connected city.

"The app puts the power of information directly into residents' hands, making it easier than ever to stay on top of bin collections, recycle right and reduce waste. It's a smart step forward for our city and the environment."

New waste and recycling kit for Develon DL-7 wheel loaders

Develon has introduced a new updated Waste and Recycling Kit for the company's award-winning DL-7 range of wheel loaders. It is designed to help



operators work safely in the hazardous conditions that often accompany waste handling and recycling applications, including contending with airborne dust, dirt and other dangerous particulates and materials. The kit is available for all Develon wheel loader models, ranging from the DL200-7 to the DL480-7, which is the segment of the Develon range most widely used in this type of environment.

The main features of the Waste and Recycling kit include:

- Windshield guards
- Rim covers
- Road light protection (Front + Rear)
- Arm cylinder cover
- Articulation guard
- Front frame cover
- Belly protection (Front + Centre + Rear)
- Air intake mesh

There are many safety features provided in the kit, including the windshield guards, rim covers, road light protection and other protective covers, a fine mesh air intake cover and solid tyres. Several of

these features are available as options, so customers can choose a kit of their choice to tailor their wheel loaders for their specific applications. Develon also offers an aftermarket version of the kit for those customers who decide to install the kit at a later date.

With the Waste and Recycling kit, operators will be able to work more safely and confidently on these job sites. Additionally, Develon provides a wider fin radiator and air conditioner condenser as standard, in combination with a reversible fan, to facilitate easy cleaning and maintenance.

The Waste and Recycling kit perfectly complements other features of the DL-7 range, such as the air compressor, high-lift arm, quick coupler, Transparent bucket and more. For maximum performance and versatility, all DL-7 wheel loaders are equipped as standard with a 3rd spool valve with settable flow and detent function, providing a constant flow for hydraulically driven attachments.

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

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WATA: The voice of washed aggregates in a changing landscape

JESSICA MORGAN-SMITH

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



As the resource management and circularity landscape continues to evolve under increasing environmental and regulatory scrutiny, the Washed Aggregates Trade Association (WATA UK) is positioning itself as a vital player in the journey toward a circular economy. Founded by Andy Hill and James Verlaque to promote and support the recycled and washed aggregates sector, WATA has quickly become the industry's trusted voice, advocating for sustainable practices, clearer regulations and increased governmental recognition.

I was delighted to have attended WATA's March members meeting, where industry leaders, technical experts and regulators gathered to discuss progress and the challenges ahead in navigating industry hurdles. With membership growing and industry momentum building, the meeting really highlighted WATA's mission to promote the environmental benefits of washed aggregates and ensure their key role in construction, recycling and the circular economy.

WATA is focused on advocacy as its core priority. A market study now estimates that the UK produces over 20 million tonnes of washed, recycled aggregates annually, which is a clear sign of the sector's significance. However, awareness and support of this at the government level remain limited.

To address this, WATA is advocating for increased government recognition of the contribution of washed aggregates to carbon reduction, material supply, and infrastructure development, as well as improved environmental standards. Ongoing political engagement includes mapping key stakeholders, meeting with MPs and contributing to consultations aimed at modernising the permitting processes and waste categorisation.

WATA is also working closely with other industry bodies, including the British

Aggregates Association, to challenge outdated interpretations of waste codes and respond to the Government on subjects such as the recent Landfill Tax consultation. This collaboration has led to the formation of technical, legal and educational working groups to engage with regulators such as HMRC and the Environment Agency (EA).

One of the sector's most pressing technical challenges is the classification and treatment of filtercake. WATA's Technical Committee is exploring the rebranding of this material as 'Residual Mineral Product' to move away from the waste stigma. Trials are underway to evaluate its potential as an alternative raw material in cement production. A shift (and consistency) in terminology and classification could unlock new avenues for reuse and reduce regulatory burdens.

Meanwhile, the Environment Agency's recent stance treating filtercake as effluent sludge poses serious operational and financial questions for many operators. WATA is advocating for a more

proportionate, evidence-based approach that aligns with the actual material characteristics and reuse potential.

WATA members were also briefed on the recent changes to Standard Rules Environmental Permits and upcoming changes to waste exemptions. Operators are urged to assess their permits now, as by 27th June, those not complying with the new Standard Rules will need to apply for bespoke permits. This evolving landscape highlights the importance of WATA's role in guiding its members through complex compliance processes.

With confirmed participation at this year's RWM Expo, a growing list of members from across the UK and a busy schedule of stakeholder meetings, WATA is steadily amplifying the much-overlooked voice of recycled aggregate producers. For an industry poised to support net zero goals and circular economy ambitions, WATA is proving essential in providing a voice for the recycled aggregates industry.

To learn more or become a member, visit www.watauk.co.uk

Jessica has a wide experience of planning, permitting, operations, compliance, management systems and enforcement support.

If you have any queries about planning, permitting or compliance, please contact jessica@mpgyorks.co.uk or 07936359662.



**GOT A QUESTION
ASK THE EXPERTS**

New SunAggregates' press turns silt to solid in 90 mins

SunAggregates has unveiled a major upgrade to its Thetford site with the installation of an advanced, high-capacity silt press - dramatically enhancing the plant's ability to process waste sustainably and efficiently.

The state-of-the-art filter press can transform up to 40 tonnes of liquid silt slurry into dry, pressed cake in just 90 minutes, reducing waste handling challenges while reclaiming and recycling valuable water. The innovation not only streamlines operations but also

significantly boosts SunAggregates' efforts to divert waste from landfill and support a circular economy in the East of England.

"This investment is about more than operational efficiency; it's about taking responsibility for how we manage resources," said Mat Stewart, managing director of parent company SunEnviro.

"By transforming silt into a sustainable product quickly and to strict quality standards, we're making huge strides both in terms of water preservation and being

Continues on the opposite page



Bob Borthwick (left) and Peter Scott with a modified 10-micron filter that enables the company's £6 million wash plant to operate entirely using recycled water

Scott Bros delivers 'world-first' wash plant which recycles 100% of its water

Recycling specialist Scott Bros has invested in a pioneering water filtration system that enables its £6m wash plant to operate entirely using recycled water - believed to be a world first.

Its £6m wash plant, based at South Bank, Middlesbrough, is one of the UK's largest 'urban quarries' and uses water to extract high-quality aggregates from construction and excavation waste, diverting thousands of tonnes from landfill each year.

The plant previously operated using a mix of site water and rainwater, topped up with mains water. Now, following an in-house modification of the filtration system, that reliance has been eliminated.

Scott Bros installed ultra-fine 10-micron filters, allowing the system to recycle rainwater more efficiently by preventing suspended solids from clogging jet nozzles. The upgrade makes it possible to process up to 300 tonnes of material per hour using only recycled water.

It now only requires mains water in exceptional circumstances, such as a period of prolonged drought, significantly reducing both environmental impact and operating costs.

Peter Scott, a director at Scott Bros, said: "To the best of our knowledge, this is the first wash plant in the world to run entirely on recycled water, a remarkable achievement for a family-run business. Water is an increasingly precious resource, and by harvesting rainwater and recycling every drop on site, we're setting a new standard for sustainable aggregate production."

Scott Bros is also involved in several innovative sustainability projects based on a by-one of the wash plant's byproducts, a fine-grained clay known as 'filter cake'.

Backed by Innovate UK and in partnership with Teesside University, Scott Bros has installed a £1m low-carbon concrete plant that replaces up to 25% of Ordinary Portland Cement with the recycled filter cake, cutting carbon emissions. It is also developing prototype bricks from the same material and supporting research into its use for carbon capture, with trials suggesting it could sequester up to 1.6 million tonnes of CO₂ annually in the North East while enriching soil quality.

Fellow director, Bob Borthwick, added: "This is what the circular economy should look like, local businesses creating practical, scalable solutions that deliver environmental, economic and social benefits. We're proud to be leading the way from right here on Teesside."

an integral part of the circular economy across the East of England."

The SunAggregates plant in Thetford is a cornerstone of SunEnviro's growing network of recycling and resource recovery operations. The facility currently handles over 100,000 tonnes of construction and demolition (C&D) waste every year, processing materials into high-quality, recycled aggregates used in local construction, landscaping and infrastructure projects.

With a zero-to-landfill policy, SunAggregates combines cutting-edge technology, traditional recycling methods and energy-from-waste strategies to keep more resources in use and out of the ground.

The newly installed silt press employs advanced filter press technology to separate solids and liquids in slurry waste, a by-product of the aggregate washing process. Slurry is pumped into a series of sealed chambers created by recessed filter plates, which are lined with specialised cloths.

As high-pressure pumps force the slurry into these chambers, solids are trapped and compacted into dry cakes, while clean water filters through and is collected for reuse. Once the chambers are full, the plates open automatically, and the cakes drop into a bay below, ready to be repurposed in landscaping and construction.

This closed-loop water system significantly reduces the plant's freshwater consumption and enhances its environmental performance.

The pressed silt cakes produced by the filter press can be reused in a variety of ways, including road sub-base layers and pond lining, turning what was once a waste stream into a valuable material.



The pressed silt cakes produced by SunAggregates' new filter press at their site in Thetford

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.



ENVIRONMENTAL



Take a moment to review that RPS

Over the years I've reviewed many **Regulatory Position Statements or RPS** as they are commonly known. The RPS sit alongside the permitting and exemption regime for regulated activities, including waste sites, for which there are currently **105 RPS** relating to waste storage, treatment and disposal. Of those, which ones are of the most immediate benefit to waste operators? Well, not **RPS338 - Storing and dismantling waste domestic gas meters**. However, I can think of ten areas that are well worth looking at. However, please note that, as always, conditions apply to all of them and may require written agreement from the Environment Agency.

- **RPS 352 - Exceeding waste storage limits at permitted sites.** *This would apply where there is an unplanned closure of destination sites. The waste types involved are baled and securely wrapped refuse derived fuel (RDF) (19 12 10), mixed municipal waste (20 03 01) and waste wood destined for incineration (19 12 07 and 20 01 38).*
- **Carrying out research or trials with waste at sites without an environmental**

permit. *Suppose you have a proposal that involves new ideas, technologies, and processes. In that case, you may be able to agree on a local enforcement position for up to six months to research the feasibility and effectiveness of the proposal before applying for a permit.*

- **RPS 326 - Technical competence qualifications for standard rules permits.**

If you are affected by the new standard rules changes and need to upgrade your qualification for the new rules set, you will have until 13th March 2026 to achieve the new qualification.

- **RPS190 - Use of manufactured topsoil made from waste.** Manufacture has to be in accordance with BS 3882:2015 - Specification for topsoil. Most importantly, it can be manufactured from EWCs 17 05 04 and 20 02 02 - soil and stones. One thousand tonnes can be used per site for landscaping. Useful when registering a U1 is not wanted by the site owner.

- **RPS 299 - Storing and managing excavated waste from street works.** *Applies to accepting and storing the mirror-hazardous versions of the certain*

waste types that are already in your permit, such as EWCs 17 03 02, 17 05 04 and 17 09 04. This is linked to RPS 298 - Classify excavated waste from street and utility works.

- **RPS 112 - Heat treating waste plastics for reuse.** *If you use a T4 or U9 exemption for processing or using plastics, then 100 tonnes of plastic can be heated and treated per week as part of an extrusion process.*

- **RPS 276 - Storing and treating hazardous waste cable (excluding WEEE cable).** *EW 17 04 10* from construction sites or 16 01 21* from end-of-life vehicles can be accepted and treated if you have the equivalent non-hazardous code in your permit.*

- **RPS 91 - Use of clay in slurry lagoons or irrigation reservoirs.** *If you have a source of good-quality clay, up to 6,000 tonnes can be used for a single project as long as it is from a construction or excavation site.*

• *Don't forget the dozens of low-risk positions as well, including - storage of waste plasterboard (LRWP 6), storage of waste uPVC window frames (LRWP 41) and manual treatment of waste windows and doors (LRWP 71).*

- *There are also the Non-Waste Framework Directive (NWF) exemptions, which would be useful to your construction customers who want to bring their waste arisings back to a depot to store in a skip or container for collection (limited sorting also allowed), with a limit of 50 cubic metres for solid waste.*

All of these position statements are reviewed and updated regularly, so check them out as there will be one or two that benefit most waste operations.

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**

Recycling company continues to 'Impact' market as it raises £3.3m

Impact Recycling, based in Scotland, has successfully secured a £3.3 million follow-on investment from IW Capital to expand its operations in both existing and new markets.

The company specialises in plastic recycling and has developed patented technology to recover high-purity recycled polymers from post-consumer waste.

Impact Recycling has plants in Glasgow and Peterlee, serving clients in the UK and Europe in the healthcare, packaging and waste management sectors. The Glasgow

plant recycles medical plastic waste from the NHS, while the Peterlee facility can now also recycle flexible film packaging.

In November 2023, Impact Recycling received a grant from Innovate UK and a £7 million loan from Nestlé to help build its new recycling facility. The company will use the new investment to develop its business further.

"This investment marks a significant milestone in our journey," said David Walsh, CEO of Impact Recycling. "With strong demand from global partners and

our licensing model gaining traction, we're well-positioned to scale our operations.

"We are thrilled to have IW Capital's support as a partner as we develop the business and our market presence."

Alan Armstrong, chairman of IW Capital, added: "Impact Recycling is the kind of innovative and successful business we want to support. Their unique BOSS technology and strong customer support make them a great opportunity in a market that is changing quickly due to regulations and consumer preferences."



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Picture credit:
Bristol Waste

Bristol Waste opens new £5m materials recycling facility

Bristol has further solidified its reputation as the country's recycling capital with the official opening of a new £5 million processing plant.

The state-of-the-art materials recycling facility, located at the Avonmouth site of Bristol Waste, will significantly enhance the city's recycling capabilities and those of the wider region. It has the capacity to handle six tonnes of plastics, cans and cardboard each hour.

Bristol Waste, which is operated by Bristol City Council, stated that this new facility is set to improve recycling efforts not only for the city but also for the South West, leading to a reduction in waste and an increase in the number of items made from recycled materials.

This development will reduce reliance on virgin raw materials and lower carbon emissions, further establishing Bristol as the UK's leader in sustainable innovation.

The new building covers 23,250 square feet - approximately one-and-a-half times the size of the SS Great Britain - and will process both business waste and household refuse from across the South West.

Bristol Waste also noted that the facility's location in the northern part of the city will cut the daily mileage of its waste and recycling vehicles by around 120 miles, leading to a reduction in the environmental impact of household collection services by approximately 31,000 miles each year.

Richard Williams, Managing Director of Bristol Waste, described the opening as a momentous occasion that marks the beginning of enhanced recycling capabilities for the city.

"Bristol has long been a leader in recycling. We've maintained the top spot for recycling among comparable English cities for eight years," he said.

"While we're already achieving great things, this investment allows our city and region to reach even greater heights. The new facility will provide a significant increase in capacity for processing, including sorting and baling."

Dan Kelly, Operations Director at Bristol Waste, also expressed enthusiasm about the opening, emphasising its positive impact on the region's recycling efforts.

The Avonmouth facility boasts several key features:

- **Sorting technology:** *Equipped with machinery, the facility efficiently sorts a wide variety of recyclable materials, leading to increased recovery of valuable resources such as plastic, metal and cardboard.*

- **Increased processing capacity:** *The significantly enhanced processing capacity allows Bristol Waste Company to handle a much larger volume of recyclables, diverting more valuable materials from going to waste and reducing the reliance on virgin resources.*

- **Business opportunities:** *The availability of processing capabilities in Avonmouth provides new opportunities for businesses to efficiently manage their recyclable waste streams, reducing transportation costs and environmental impact.*

Currently 85% of Bristol Waste's recycling stays in the UK - 20% remains in Bristol and 38% in the South West, including Bristol.

Turmec to build one of UK's most advanced recycling plants in Glasgow

Glasgow City Council's Contracts and Property Committee has approved a £15 million design and build contract with Turmec, an international provider of materials handling and recovery solutions for the waste processing sector. This contract is for the construction of a new materials recovery facility (MRF) at the Easter Queenslie depot in Glasgow.

This major infrastructure project is a key part of the city's renewed commitment to sustainability and modern waste processing. The new facility is expected to handle up to 50,000 tonnes of household recyclable materials each year.

The MRF is designed in accordance with the Charter for Household Recycling, which is already changing how the council collects dry mixed recyclables (DMR). The new facility will work in conjunction with the ongoing rollout of a collection service across Glasgow, which provides separate bins for fibres (such as paper and cardboard) and containers (including cans, tins and plastics). This approach aims to improve both the quality and quantity of recyclables collected.

The MRF will process these fibre and container materials and will also have the flexibility to handle co-mingled DMR if needed.

It will utilise advanced technology, featuring automation tools like robotic sorters and AI-driven optical sorting technology, to achieve high recovery and purity rates for recyclables.

The redevelopment of the Easter Queenslie depot, including the new MRF, represents a significant investment in the city's waste collection and processing infrastructure. The project is being supported by approximately £17 million in grant funding from the Scottish Government's Recycling Improvement Fund, administered by Zero Waste Scotland.

Expected to be completed by early 2027, the new facility is projected to deliver substantial environmental benefits, including a reduction of 5,802 tonnes of CO₂ emissions annually. It will also create a range of job opportunities in Glasgow's green economy.



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Tomatoes could be grown at an industrial scale using heat generated from burning household waste in Essex

Why burning waste to power a giant greenhouse really could be a greener way of growing food

ALEX NEWMAN

Postdoctoral Research Associate, Sustainability Assessment at the Grantham Centre, University of Sheffield



A new project in Bradwell, Essex, aims to change how we grow food and how we deal with our rubbish. Slated to begin operations in 2027, the Rivenhall greenhouse project could become Europe's largest low-carbon horticulture facility.

While smaller-scale applications already exist, primarily in the Netherlands, a proposal of this size is ambitious: to use heat from waste incineration to power and warm a massive 40-hectare greenhouse to produce up to 30,000 tonnes of tomatoes a year (around 6% of the UK's current consumption).

The idea is to close two loops at once. By processing most of Essex's household waste, the region's reliance on landfill can be reduced - this cuts the amount of biodegradable waste decomposing to

release methane (a greenhouse gas far more potent than carbon dioxide). Additionally, by diverting the energy from that waste to grow food locally, less produce will need to be imported from regions that are increasingly vulnerable to climate-related stresses, such as drought and water scarcity.

The giant greenhouse will be situated next to the Rivenhall integrated waste management facility, operated by the waste company Indaver. Household waste will be incinerated on site, producing steam. Some of that steam will drive turbines to generate electricity and power the greenhouse. The rest of the steam will maintain a constant temperature in the greenhouse throughout the year.

To further reduce greenhouse gas emissions, a carbon capture system (separates CO₂ from other gases in exhaust streams) will extract around 20,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide annually from the incinerator's flue gases. Rather than releasing this into the atmosphere, the captured carbon dioxide will be piped into the greenhouse to enhance plant growth.

Still, the scale of carbon capture is modest and not a quick fix. The 20,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide expected to be captured annually represents less than

10% of typical emissions from similar-scale waste facilities.

The facility will include 13 hectares of artificially lit greenhouse space for winter growing and a vertical farm (growing crops in stacked layers) converted from a former RAF hangar to grow leafy greens. In theory, this creates a resilient, year-round food production system largely decoupled from fossil fuels and climate-sensitive imports.

Burning waste to grow tomatoes might sound counterintuitive. Incinerators still release emissions after all. As a method of electricity generation, incineration of waste has a higher carbon footprint than burning coal. However, in the context of current waste management and food import practices, it may be a sensible approach.

According to the UK Government's Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), around 30.8% of England's household waste went to landfill in 2023 (around eight million tonnes). Landfill emissions (primarily methane) are not just large - they're long-lived and hard to capture.

Rivenhall's model claims to reduce total greenhouse gas emissions by approximately 20% compared to landfill disposal. When electricity, heat and

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With the number of cloudy days, long dark winters, and the cost of insulated glass, has there been a cost analysis of different structures with artificial lighting? Lighting could be lowered and raised even between rows, allowing for close control of proximity to the crop, as well as temperature and humidity. They have even done studies on flicker lighting, as plants will continue to grow in the dark. Another factor to consider is the off-peak energy costs associated with nuclear power and the amount of unused tunnels in the UK. As with most ventures, if the setup fee is minimal (free underground space) and the product is close to the market, then the point of failure can be minimal.
<https://www.cam.ac.uk/stories/growingunderground> - **Ted Rethers**

What a great venture. Every waste catchment area could have such a venture. Yes, incinerating waste causes a high level of emissions, but so does importing fruit and vegetables, as does recycling waste, because fossil fuel energy is consumed in their processing. As supply-chain and waste disposal systems are complex, it is challenging to research and calculate the mass balances used to justify different options, as it is easier to overlook a crucial process. - **Jonathan Alltimes**

Breed less, use less. Fewer people, fewer feet to make 'footprints'.

'According to the waste hierarchy, the most sustainable strategy for reducing waste-related emissions is not incineration, but waste prevention and reduction. Energy recovery is better than landfill, but less preferable than eliminating waste altogether.'

Greenhouses are typically made from glass. Glass is made from littoral/maritime sand, although research and development (R&D) are re-adapting desert sand for use in industry, with ongoing efforts. See the documentary 'Sand Wars' - link www.youtube.com/watch?v=0TUErZDyYBO

Optimising carbon capture is key, but nuclear energy also needs to be considered.

Extraction/processing of rare earth minerals (i.e. finite supply) is not 'eco-friendly'. They are used, for example, in the manufacture of microprocessors/CPU, which are used in industry, manufacturing and in the alleged 'green industries'. - **Sally Williams**

When one pumps CO₂ into a greenhouse, it does not magically disappear; it is eventually re-emitted as greenhouse gases. - **Shlomo Dowen**

operations use industrial waste heat. But Rivenhall's scale and its tight integration with waste management infrastructure make it unusual. If it works, it could serve as a blueprint for how regions can simultaneously tackle food security and waste while keeping the environmental cost of consumption closer to home.

Beyond greenhouse gas emissions, there are other environmental considerations. Even modern incinerators produce air-polluting nitrogen oxides and particulates, which must be rigorously controlled to avoid human health problems such as lung disease. To comply with the UK's biodiversity net gain rules, natural habitats and wildlife populations around this site must be enhanced, not degraded.

While delivering on its technical promises, Rivenhall must also prove that its low-carbon credentials are more than just hot air. Even so, projects like this are no substitute for upstream solutions, such as waste prevention, reduced consumption and circular design.

This article first appeared at www.theconversation.com

food outputs are factored in, and carbon capture included, emissions per kilogram of tomato could be substantially lower than those from conventional imports or fossil-powered greenhouses.

But low-carbon status is not a badge that companies claim, it's a result that needs to be verified. In lifecycle assessment (a method for measuring the environmental impacts of a product, service, or system, and the focus of my research), low-carbon status only applies if net emissions per kilogram of tomato are demonstrably lower than those from the realistic baseline.

That baseline, be it landfill, composting, anaerobic digestion, or recycling, must be clearly defined. If incinerated waste includes material better suited to recycling,

the claimed benefits narrow or vanish.

The success of this particular project hinges not only on technical integration but also on accurate emissions accounting and the efficient operation of carbon capture systems.

According to the waste hierarchy, the most sustainable strategy for reducing waste-related emissions is not incineration, but waste prevention and reduction. Energy recovery is better than landfill, but less preferable than eliminating waste altogether.

The bigger picture

In the Netherlands, greenhouses often run on combined heat and power systems. In Canada, some horticultural

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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

A taxing controversy?

We often hear the remark *'there's no such thing as a free lunch'*. It came into my mind many years ago when I was invited to dine with the owner of one of the biggest landfills in the west of Scotland. I wasn't prepared for his opening gambit: *'Do you know you cost me £30 grand the other week?'* He then explained he'd quoted that figure to a Housing Developer for the disposal of topsoil, but they'd afterwards approached my Cleansing Manager, who had offered them free disposal at our wee landfill outside Larkhall near Hamilton. I told him we were finishing off the site; the material had saved us (and the Council taxpayers) a small fortune in reinstatement costs; and that's what I was paid to do, so we agreed to drop the subject and enjoy the meal.

In 1993, I arrived at Inverness and our Longman Landfill had a very large movable net that entirely covered the tipping area. It was designed to keep birds away from the site as we were so close to the Airport. We had plenty of inert waste coming in (there were a lot of new houses being built at the time) and we used it to form the bund walls on which the net support rollers ran, and also as intermediate cover for the waste layers.

But after landfill tax was introduced, the inert stream mostly dried up. To save money, builders had started using the 'cut and fill' approach to landscape their new developments (code for them burying all the site debris and rubbish in the front and rear gardens with a thin layer of turf on top) and it wasn't long before the feasibility of the landfill became precarious as the cost of buying inert and cover material became significant.

Regular readers will know of the concerns that columnists **Anna**, **Jessica** and **Marco** set out in the June issue about the Government's proposal to consolidate Landfill Tax at the higher rate (£126.15) by 2030. Without even considering the adverse impact on the waste disposal industry, this more than 30-fold increase will have significant implications for our quarries and minerals industries if it is implemented.

The proposal is currently out for Consultation and although I have little or no influence in our industry these days, I submitted my views on the Consultation anyway and on completing it, came to the conclusion that many of the 'professional advisers' employed by the Government these days seem to have little concept of what our industry is actually about. I

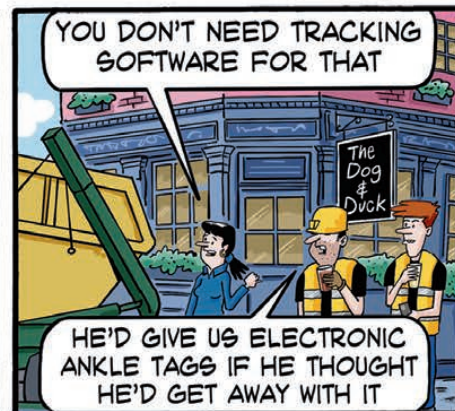
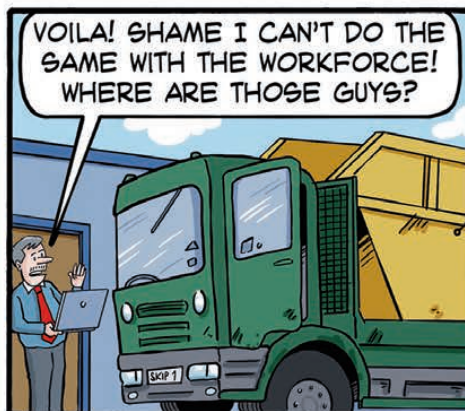
challenge the view that it's acceptable that *'illegal sites should be charged 200% of landfill tax.'* I've argued before that if a site is 'illegal', who is to say how much waste they've been handling? Isn't this proposal simply condoning illegal operators?

Why isn't the Environmental Agency prosecuting the operators of these sites, rather than another Government Department trying to collect taxes from them? If that's beyond the EA's capabilities, shouldn't we be thinking about dismantling it and transferring its powers back to the Councils who are better placed to identify the crooks on their patch?

When they are prosecuted for their involvement in fly-tipping, how often do we hear householders moan: *'We only used the nice man and his van to take away our garden rubble because he was a lot cheaper than the exorbitant rates the Council charges. We are Council tax-payers after all?'* If (as often happens) the current levels of landfill tax are used as an excuse for making fly-tipping lucrative, surely 'levelling it up' will simply compound the problem?

Being a cynical old codger, I wondered if this proposal is simply another attempt to rake in more revenue for a Government that appears to have a major problem with balancing the books. I'm at a loss to see any environmental benefits if it is implemented.

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