



West of Scotland
Branch

Environment and Waste Management Group Report

Thursday 25th November 2021

by **Susannah McIntosh**

Legal update:

Environment Act 2021 (England and Wales)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/world-leading-environment-act-becomes-law>

Press release: World-leading Environment Act becomes law

Legislation that will protect and enhance our environment for future generations has now passed into UK law: area it covers are country's air, restore natural habitats, increase biodiversity, reduce waste and make better use of our resources.

Legislation will improve air and water quality, tackle waste, increase recycling, halt the decline of species, and improve our natural environment. Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs, Forestry Commission, Environment Agency, Natural England, and The Rt Hon George Eustice MP Published 10 November 2021

It will halt the decline in species by 2030, require new developments to improve or create habitats for nature, and tackle deforestation overseas. It supports transition to a more circular economy, incentivising people to recycle more, encouraging businesses to create sustainable packaging, making household recycling easier and stopping the export of polluting plastic waste to developing countries. These changes will be driven by new legally binding environmental targets, and enforced by a new, independent Office for Environmental Protection (OEP) which will hold government and public bodies to account on their environmental obligations.

It will aim to halt the decline of species by 2030, clean up our air and protect the health of our rivers, reform the way in which we deal with waste and tackle deforestation overseas. We are setting an example for the rest of the world to follow. The Environment Act includes a new legally binding target on species abundance for 2030, which will help to reverse declines of iconic British species like the hedgehog, red squirrel and water vole.

The Act will crack down on water companies that discharge sewage into rivers, waterways and coastlines. It will see a duty enshrined in law to ensure water companies secure a progressive reduction in the adverse

impacts of discharges from storm overflows. New duties will also require the government to publish a plan to reduce sewage discharges from storm overflows by September 2022 and report to Parliament on the progress towards implementing the plan.

EWMG Webinars across IOSH recommendations:

Climate change – opportunities for the OSH professional

21 October 2021: With 49% of IOSH members having environmental management duties and responsibilities and 83% of IOSH members having other duties outside of OSH (Respondent's to IOSH Member Survey 2021) its fully recognised that our members are multidisciplinary and valued members of their organisations. This webinar event was designed to open the lid on the challenges and opportunities that the UNSDG present to us, both within the provision of health and safety assistance but also in terms of broader challenges of a multidisciplinary profession.

The IOSH Environmental and Waste Management Group welcomed three excellent speakers:

- Scott Gunderson, from Oregon OSHA, who will discuss how climate change can affect the world of work
- Alan Asbury from CLS Consulting, will explain the challenges obtaining carbon-zero fleet management
- Veronica Scarano, IOSH Environmental and Waste Management Group committee member an insight into the challenges of the circular economy.

With 49% of IOSH members having environmental management duties and sustainability identified as one of our Technical Competencies in our new competency framework, the event discussed the challenges and opportunities for OSH professional arising out of the climate change agenda.

EMEC Green Hydrogen Projects

On the 11th November OSH Highlands and Islands Branch hosted a webinar about the European Marine Energy Centre "EMEC Green Hydrogen Projects" COP26 delegate and Operations and Technology Director of EMEC updated us on the various projects they are working on.

SWITCH Dangers of Batteries : On 25th November 10.00-11.00 The webinar will focus on the dangers caused by batteries being disposed of incorrectly, the causes of the current situation and the potential solutions.

SWITCH Forum webinar on "Dangers of Batteries" with John Twitchen, Environmental Scientist. Please contact admin@switchforum.org.uk. This is not an IOSH event, so please contact SWITCH for registration and any queries