

## Environmental and Waste Management Group



### September 2019 Newsletter

#### **LEGISLATION, REGULATORS, GUIDANCE & CONSULTATIONS**

##### **Worker absence rates can be reduced when using wheeled bins**

New research by Dr David Thomas from Environmental and Waste Management Group and the University of Greenwich has examined the relationship between the use of recycling and waste management systems and absence rates among Local Authority waste collection workers due to musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs).

The research, published in the [Resources, Conservation and Recycling journal](#), shows that the use of wheeled bins is linked to lower sickness absence rates among council waste collection workers and that changing waste collection systems used by councils in the UK could reduce staff absences due to MSDs. (Read more: [iosh.com](#))

##### **What organisations should be doing now in response to climate change**

BSI have published the first ever British standard on climate adaptation, the new standard – ISO 14090 Adaptation to climate change – is a decision-making framework that enables organisations to prevent or minimise climate change impacts and take advantage of opportunities, the standard builds on processes already existing within the organisation. (Read more: [bsigroup.com](#))

##### **Waste sector to shape research on bin sleeper safety**

The Chartered Institution of Wastes Management, Biffa and the Open University have asked the industry to contribute to a forthcoming report that will identify the scale of people sleeping in waste containers and offer preventative measures. (Read more: [ioshmagazine.com](#))

##### **Using unbound municipal incinerator bottom ash aggregate (IBAA) in construction activities**

Regulatory position statement (RPS) 206 has been updated by the Environment Agency (EA); compliance with its conditions may normally remove the need to apply for an environmental permit to use unbound IBAA. The RPS applies if you use unbound municipal IBAA in certain construction activities. It also covers the storage of the IBAA that relates to its use. (Read more: [gov.uk](#))

## **Carbon dioxide from disused mine workings**

The Scottish Government has published research into the 'Prevalence of Carbon Dioxide from Disused Mineral Mines and the Implications for Residential Buildings'. (Read more: [gov.scot](#))

## **INCIDENTS AND PROSECUTIONS**

### **Spot check crackdown on waste carriers**

Illegal waste crime in Hertfordshire's Broxbourne borough was the target of a crackdown in August with crime officers from the EA supporting a day of vehicle checks with Hertfordshire Police (Eastern Region Special Operations Unit) and the Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA) in a bid to reduce and disrupt waste crime.

During the day of action, EA officers carried out waste-carrier checks on seven vehicles; two were seized by the police for having no road tax and another vehicle, that did not have a valid waste carrier licence and was illegally carrying scrap metal waste, was taken off the road by the DVSA. (Read more: [gov.uk](#))

Whilst later in the month officers from the EA's Environmental Crime Team, along with Warwickshire police officers, seized 5 vehicles from a farm field near Stratford-upon-Avon. Area Environment Manager for Warwickshire with the EA, David Hudson, said "this sends out a strong message that we will use all our powers possible to stop waste crime which harms the environment, wildlife and the community, as well as undermining the work of companies that operate legitimately." (Read more: [gov.uk](#))

### **Directors found guilty of waste crimes**

The EA has successfully brought those responsible to account for abandoning nearly 2,000 tonnes of waste at Shaw Road, Dudley in 2016. The site was abandoned in 2016 following intervention by EA following the operator's failure to comply with permit conditions, with a significant amount of waste left in situ. EA officers worked with the new landowners and the waste was removed in March 2018.

Rowanoak Waste Services Limited and its director were found guilty on all counts relating to the illegal waste activities at Shaw Road. The company was fined £25,000 and the director, who showed no remorse for his actions during the trial, received 12 months' imprisonment suspended for 12 months, was ordered to complete 100 hours' unpaid work, ordered to pay £40,000 towards the prosecution costs and disqualified from acting as a company director for three years.

Mak Waste Ltd and its director, had previously admitted their part in the failure to comply with the conditions of the permit on the site and the continual failure to action requests for compliance made by EA officers. Mak Waste was fined £18,000 and the director received 10 months' imprisonment suspended for 12 months, ordered to complete 150 hours' unpaid work, pay £1,200 towards the prosecution costs and disqualified from being a director for five years.

A third person was found guilty of deliberately failing to comply with a revocation notice and ordered to complete 100 hours' unpaid work and pay £1,000 towards prosecution costs. (Read more: [gov.uk](#))

### **South West Water to pay charity £350,000 after polluting stream**

The money from South West Water will benefit watercourses in Plymouth as an alternative to prosecution by the EA. (Read more: [gov.uk](#))

### **Convicted waste fraudster has jail sentence increased**

A convicted waste criminal has had over 9 years added to their current 7 ½ year fraud sentence. The defendant will now serve a total of 16 years. The individual was originally sentenced after being found guilty of defrauding the electrical waste recycling industry of £2.2 million in 2016 following an EA investigation.

Earlier this year they were ordered to pay back more than £1.3 million of the £2.2 million acquired through illegal activity, on top of over £79,000 from a previous EA prosecution for exporting hazardous waste to Nigeria in 2011 and over £17,000 from a VAT fraud in 2015. So far, a total of approximately £46,000 has been made towards an earlier order and the courts have now ruled that there is little prospect of the outstanding amount being paid and accordingly increased the jail term. (Read more: [gov.uk](#))

### **Trio fined for fly-tipping waste in Havant**

Three men have been convicted at Portsmouth magistrates' court for dumping waste illegally in Havant - including rubbish from a Portsmouth church. Each was sentenced to 12 weeks imprisonment, suspended for 12 months and ordered to pay between £1,000 and £1,500 compensation. (Read more: [gov.uk](#))

### **Company admits polluting Fenland watercourses**

Pretoria Energy Company (Arable) Limited, which produces feedstock for a sister company's anaerobic digestion plants has been ordered to pay a total of £45,648.50 in fines, costs and compensation after it polluted 2 Fenland watercourses in 2017. (Read more: [gov.uk](#))

### **OTHER TOPICS OF INTEREST**

#### **Poor reporting of contaminated land of 'public health concern'**

Only a quarter of Scotland's 32 local authorities have entries on their contaminated land registers. A Freedom of Information request has established that the cities of Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dundee and Aberdeen and areas including Fife, Ayrshire, Renfrewshire and West Lothian have no entries, with a total of just 21 in the entire country. (Read more: [environment-analyst.com](#))

#### **Major campaign launched to encourage the nation to 'Love Water'**

The British public are being asked to help the country protect water resources for future generations as part of a major campaign launched today by more than 40 environmental groups, charities, water companies and regulators. (Read more: [gov.uk](#))

### **Unite launches silica register**

The union Unite has launched an online silica register to allow workers who have been exposed to silica dust to register their exposure, to assist with potential future legal cases. The silica register is to track silica dust (respirable crystalline silica) which is created when crushing, cutting, grinding, drilling or polishing, natural substances such as rocks and sand or bricks, tiles, concrete and similar materials. Inhaling large amounts of silica dust over a long period can cause silicosis a serious respiratory disease; it can also lead to other potentially fatal illnesses including lung cancer, tuberculosis and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. The silica register can be found [online](#).

### **Rubber asphalt used for first time on motorway network**

A section of the M1 between junctions 23 and 22 near Leicester has been laid with a new surface developed by Tarmac containing recycled tyres added as granulated rubber to the mix. Trials of the new material were first held on local roads in Coventry earlier this year and it has now been used on motorways for the first time under trials funded by Highways England.

Around 40 million waste tyres are produced every year in the UK and over 500,000 disused tyres shipped out of the UK each year to be landfilled. Tarmac estimates that up to 750 waste tyres could be used in every kilometre of road surfaced with the new material. (Read more: [constructionenquirer.com](http://constructionenquirer.com))

### **...and Balfour Beatty save millions of plastic bags from landfill**

For the first time on a UK cycle lane, traditional asphalt has been replaced with a greener alternative. Balfour Beatty, working in partnership with Thames Water, has saved over one million plastic bags from landfill by utilising a waste plastic asphalt on a key London cycle lane in Stratford, through the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. The new material, provided by MacRebur, a plastic asphalt developer, uses waste plastic which would otherwise have gone to landfill or incineration to replace part of the bitumen used in asphalt production. (Read more: [pbctoday.co.uk](http://pbctoday.co.uk))

### **...and Asda do likewise**

Asda has used unrecyclable plastic waste equivalent to 90,000 water bottles to resurface the car park of its store in Wakefield. The work was carried out by MacRebur, supplier to Balfour Beatty above. (Read more: [energylivenews.com](http://energylivenews.com))

### **Catholic churches and schools put their faith in renewable energy**

More than 4,500 Catholic churches and schools across England and Wales have engaged British Gas Business to supply of renewable energy. The deal between the energy giant and Catholic Church's energy procurement group, Inter-diocesan Fuel Management (IFM), is said to be one of the largest combined green energy contracts in the UK. Under the contract, which covers 20 of the 22 Catholic dioceses, landmarks such as Westminster, Nottingham and Plymouth Cathedrals will be powered by renewable energy. (Read more: [energylivenews.com](http://energylivenews.com))

## **Scottish Resources Conference 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2019, Perth**

The Scottish Resources Conference is Scotland's largest and most important event for anyone in Scotland with an interest in, and responsibility for delivering a circular economy; described as a must-attend event for sustainability, resource and waste management professionals. (Read more: [scottish-resources.com](http://scottish-resources.com))

## **HSE Innovation in Battery Technology**

HSE Training and Events will be hosting 'Innovation in Battery Technology – Safely Enabling the Industrial Strategy' on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2019 in central London. This one-day event will bring together industry, academia, government and regulators to share knowledge, experience and insight into current lithium ion battery safety research and to discuss how the latest evidence base can be used to overcome the health and safety challenges of innovating and regulating this growing area of technology. (Read more: [hsl.gov.uk](http://hsl.gov.uk))

## **Health and Safety Worker Engagement and Leadership in the Waste and Recycling industry**

Described as an event for managers, supervisors, safety representatives and operatives from all areas of the industry this free to attend WISH event will include speakers from the industry and the Health and Safety Executive. The event will be held in Manchester on 21<sup>st</sup> November.

At the heart of the event will be facilitated table discussions, where delegates can talk freely about their experiences of leadership and worker engagement in their workplace, explore good practices and discuss barriers to effective implementation. (Read more: [eventbrite.co.uk](http://eventbrite.co.uk))