

Environmental and Waste Management Group



November 2019 Newsletter

LEGISLATION, REGULATORS, GUIDANCE & CONSULTATIONS

Health and Safety Executive (HSE) inspection initiative

HSE has announced an inspection initiative targeting the waste and recycling sector. HSE has warned businesses working in the sector to pay closer attention to how they manage workplace risks identifying the top three priorities for the waste and recycling sector as

- To reduce the number of people being struck by moving vehicles.
- To reduce the number of workers being caught in moving machinery.
- To reduce the number of ill-health cases.

(Read more: govdelivery.com)

HSE release latest 'Health and safety at work' statistics for 2018/ 2019

HSE has released its annual statistics looking at the UK's injury and ill health figures for 2018/19. The report also looks at the cost implications that ill health and injury has on Great Britain as well as the levels of enforcement action taken. (Read more: hse.gov.uk)

25 Year Environment Plan: ambition to realisation

The Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management (CIWEM) has published a comprehensive report reviewing the responses of various government and non-governmental organisations currently involved in environmental delivery against the UK government's published 25 Year Environment Plan (25 YEP). The report reviewed existing delivery efforts, explored the barriers bodies face and produced a set of six recommendations for government. (Read more: ciwem.org)

Next government must "commit" to EPR reforms

The next government must "commit" to reforms that ensure producers pay "full cost" of recycling packaging if it is serious about improving recycling rates, the Local Government Association (LGA) says. LGA argues that "councils want to increase recycling rates. Clearer labelling and increased charges for hard to recycle products would help councils, manufacturers and the public be part of a vital recycling revolution." (Read more: local.gov.uk)

Recycled Aggregates: Use in Concrete

The Institute of Civil Engineers (ICE) "*Themes Recycled Aggregates: Use in Concrete*" provides coverage of the full spectrum of research that has been undertaken on the use of recycled aggregate as a replacement for commonly used natural aggregate in a wide range of concrete applications, together with selected case studies, implications of standards and specifications. This volume has been sourced from ICE published research and it makes an excellent source of information for researchers working in the area of re-use, recycling and reconstitution of concrete in sustainable construction. (Read more: icevirtuallibrary.com)

Scotland at the forefront of action against climate change

The Scottish government's Climate Change Bill sets a legally-binding "net-zero" target of 2045, meaning any remaining emissions would have to be entirely offset with measures such as increased tree planting and carbon capture and storage technology. (Read more: bbc.co.uk)

To help attainment of the 2045 deadline for achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions a major shake-up in Scottish planning policy is underway, with changes in permitted development set to favour climate-friendly developments. The planning reforms, under the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019, are to be implemented in stages, with the bulk to be in force by early 2021 "except where there are specific reasons for a later timescale", according to the Scottish Government. (Read more: environment-analyst.com)

UK needs to act to prevent "mountain" of electric vehicle battery waste

Recycling technologies for end-of-life lithium ion batteries (LIBs) are not keeping pace with the rapid rise of electric vehicles, storing up a potentially huge waste management problem for the future, according to a new study.

[A review of lithium ion battery recycling](#), published in Nature, led by the University of Birmingham in collaboration with researchers at the universities of Newcastle and Leicester suggests that, while electric vehicles offer a solution for cutting pollution, governments and industry need to act now to develop a robust recycling infrastructure to meet future recycling need. (Read more: circularonline.co.uk)

Environment Bill

On the 15 October 2019 the Government introduced the Environment Bill to Parliament, to tackle the biggest environmental priorities of our time. While the Bill applies only to England, more than half of its measures – such as those designed to drive up recycling rates – are designed to apply across the UK, with the consent of the devolved administrations, helping the nation deal with the major environmental challenges together. (Read more: gov.uk)

INCIDENTS AND PROSECUTIONS

Recycling company heavily fined after employee suffers arm amputation

A Lincolnshire waste recycling company has been fined £1.275 million and ordered to pay circa £45,000 costs after an employee working as a line operator lost part of his arm in a conveyor belt in 2015. On the morning of the incident blockages had occurred and waste had become wrapped around an axle on the conveyor. It was whilst removing waste from this axle that the employee's glove got dragged into the conveyor resulting in the amputation of their arm above the elbow.

Speaking after the hearing, HM inspector Scott Wynne said, "This incident could so easily have been avoided had the company ensured that the system designed to keep people away from dangerous machinery was properly maintained." (Read more: [hse.gov.uk](https://www.hse.gov.uk))

Fixed penalty notices issued for fly-tipping in England increases 11%

Figures published by government have highlighted the number of fixed penalty notices issued for fly-tipping in England to have increased by 11% year on year to 76,000 in 2018/19. Between April 2018 and March 2019 local authorities in England dealt with over 1 million (1,072,000) fly-tipping incidents, an increase of 8% from the 998,000 reported in 2017/18, with the most common places for the illegal dumping of waste were pavements and roads. The Local Government Association (LGA) has said fly-tipping cost taxpayers "more than £57m a year to clear up". (Read more: [circularonline.co.uk](https://www.circularonline.co.uk) & [bbc.co.uk](https://www.bbc.co.uk))

Scale of WEEE non-compliance through online marketplaces "disturbing"

The results of an EU-wide, multi-national study into non-compliance of electrical products sold through online marketplaces found an "exceptionally high" level of non-compliance with national WEEE requirements. EucoLight, the European Association for lighting WEEE compliance schemes, undertook a study of over 4,200 products made available for sale through online marketplaces in 10 EU countries, with results showing non-compliance to be evident across a wide range of product groups. (Read more: [circularonline.co.uk](https://www.circularonline.co.uk))

Whistleblowing

The Environment Agency (EA) has published its annual whistleblowing report about environmental malpractice. (Read more: [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk))

OTHER TOPICS OF INTEREST

Trial sees "clear" charges for disposable coffee cups boost reusables by 50%

New trials led by Zero Waste Scotland suggest cafés that replaced discounts for reusable cups with "clear, equivalent charges" for disposable cups significantly increased the proportion of customers switching to reusables for on-the-go coffee and tea. "Behavioural science has shown that people will make more effort to avoid a cost – such as a 25p charge on single use cups – than they will to obtain a gain of equal value – like a 25p reusable cup discount." (Read more: [circularonline.co.uk](https://www.circularonline.co.uk))

Taxi drivers exposed to highest levels of diesel fumes, research finds

A study led by King's College London researchers and funded by IOSH has found that taxi drivers experience the highest exposures to black carbon, an indicator of diesel engine fumes, compared to other professional drivers including couriers, truck drivers, waste removal and emergency service workers. (Read more: ioshmagazine.com)

SEMINARS AND CONFERENCES

Health & Safety in the Waste and Recycling Sector Conference

IOSH EWMG Committee's chair elect **Dave Thomas** and Committee member **Dave West** shall be presenting on '**Kerbside vehicles: combatting the risks**' at the Health & Safety in the Waste and Recycling Sector Conference 2019 in Leicester on 21st November. (Read more: healthandsafetyconf.com)

Battery Safety conferences

Amey will be hosting a summit in February 2020 in Cambridgeshire to discuss ways that government and industry can work together to encourage the right consumer behaviours, review industry safety protocols where necessary, and ultimately prevent further accidents. (Read more: circularonline.co.uk)

If you missed HSE's '**Innovation in Battery Technology – Safely Enabling the Industrial Strategy**' on 14th November it may still be possible to get a recording of live streaming of the event. (Read more: eventbrite.co.uk)

A **Battery Recycling Europe** conference will take place on 19th and 20th February 2020 in London. The event is described as bringing together battery recycling industry experts, collection scheme operators and battery manufacturers to learn, share and discuss the current and emerging topics in the battery recycling industry. (Read more: wplgroup.com)