

Environmental and Waste Management Group



August & September 2020 Newsletter

CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) INFORMATION AND ADVICE

Working safely during coronavirus (COVID-19) in the UK

For the latest regional government construction advice please note the following:

- Latest UK Government [Covid-19 advice](#). [Working Safely During COVID-19 – Construction and Other Outdoor Work](#); Public Health England (PHE) guidance on [Social Distancing in the Workplace During COVID-19 - Sector Guidance](#) (different work settings); [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): safer guidance for passengers](#).
- Latest Scottish Government [Covid-19 updates](#).
- Latest Welsh Government [Covid-19 updates](#). guidance on [taking all reasonable measures to maintain physical distancing](#) in the workplace.
- Latest Northern Irish Government [Covid-19 updates](#).

Contact tracing

Use applicable tracing apps if you have a smart phone, to support tracing:

- [England and Wales](#)
- [Scotland](#)
- [Northern Ireland](#)

Local lockdowns

Ensure you are aware of the current 'local lockdown areas' that you may live in, or plan to travel to or through, and what restrictions are in place:

- [England](#)
- [Wales](#)
- [Scotland](#)
- [Northern Ireland](#)

HSE Coronavirus updates and advice

HSE has published a range of coronavirus related guidance and information, which you may find useful. It includes –

- [Social distancing](#)
- [Making your workplace COVID-secure](#)
- [Cleaning, hygiene and handwashing](#)

For all the latest information and advice [visit HSE's coronavirus microsite](#).

We Are Scotland campaign stakeholder toolkit

The We Are Scotland Stakeholder Toolkit will enable your business or organisation to communicate Scottish Government's safety messaging consistently and effectively to your employees and customers. The toolkit includes –

- We Are Scotland Campaign Information and TV Ad
- FACTS Guidance – Including posters and social media assets
- Retail Posters
- Face Covering Posters
- Protection Assets
- Suggested Social Copy
- FACTS Key Messaging
- Face Coverings Q&A

(Read more: [FindBusinessSupport.gov.scot](https://www.findbusinesssupport.gov.scot))

SELECTED INDUSTRY AND SECTOR COVID-19 GUIDANCE AND RELATED NEWS

Local Authorities publish final report into impact of Covid-19 on waste services

The Association of Directors of Environment, Economy, Planning and Transport (ADEPT) has published the findings from its 16th and final waste impacts survey, designed in partnership with key local authority network groups.

Working alongside the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), the Local Authority Recycling Advisory Committee (LARAC), the Local Government Association (LGA) and the National Association of Waste Disposal Officers (NAWDO), ADEPT has been monitoring the continuing impacts of Covid-19 on waste services across England. (Read more: circularonline.co.uk)

LEGISLATION, REGULATORS, GUIDANCE & CONSULTATIONS

England bans plastic straws, stirrers and cotton buds

From 1 October it is illegal for businesses to supply plastic straws, stirrers and cotton buds to customers.

It is estimated 4.7 billion plastic straws, 316 million plastic stirrers, and 1.8 billion plastic-stemmed cotton buds are used in England every year, many of which find their way into the ocean. It is hoped banning the supply of these items will protect marine wildlife and contribute to the goal of eliminating all avoidable plastic waste, as set out in the government's 25 Year Environment Plan. (Read more: circularonline.co.uk)

OTHER NEWS

Sri Lanka returns 'hazardous waste' to UK

Sri Lanka says it is sending 21 containers of waste back to the UK after they were found to contain hazardous material.

Customs officials said hospital waste was discovered in many of the 263 containers imported by a private firm and that the original importation breached international and EU rules and regulations on hazardous waste and its disposal. The shipment was meant to be made up of used mattresses, carpets and rugs for potential recycling. The Environment Agency is in contact with the Sri Lankan authorities and has requested more information to allow it to launch a formal investigation. (Read more: bbc.co.uk)

Glasgow to receive £6.3m for world's largest fleet of hydrogen powered refuse trucks

Glasgow is embracing green hydrogen as the UK takes another big step forward towards its net-zero future, Transport Minister Rachel Maclean announced on 30 September, with the world's largest number of hydrogen-powered refuse vehicles to take to the city's streets.

Through the Government's £23m Hydrogen for Transport Programme, the plans announced include £6.3m funding for a green hydrogen refuelling station and 19 refuse trucks. (Read more: circularonline.co.uk)

...And on the same day the UK's first hydrogen train makes mainline debut

The UK's first hydrogen powered train is began mainline testing on 30 September in Warwickshire.

The HydroFLEX project – developed through a collaboration between Birmingham University and industry partners – has been supported with a £750,000 grant from the Department for Transport. It follows almost two years' development work by the university's Birmingham Centre for Railway Research and Education (BCRRE) and rolling stock firm Porterbrook.

The train used in the trials is a converted Class 319 dual voltage train fitted with a hydrogen fuel cell that enables it to run purely on hydrogen on non-electrified routes. Unlike diesel trains, hydrogen-powered trains do not emit harmful gases, instead using hydrogen and oxygen to produce electricity, water and heat. (Read more: theengineer.co.uk)

Recycling in NI: What does the future look like?

A recent BBC article took on the topic of recycling in Northern Ireland where 65% of waste will need to be recycled by 2035 and waste to landfill will be reduced to 10%. The article notes that recycling currently adds at least £110m a year to the local economy and employs 700 people. (Read more: bbc.co.uk)

FUTURE EVENTS

Environmental & Waste Management Group Webinars

The Environmental & Waste Management Group continues to host fortnightly webinars. These will be promoted in advance by email to all group members. The current schedule includes –

- 21 October Life as a quarry manager
- 11 November Sleep, shift work & jet lag

Environment Analyst's Waste Management 2020 conference

This virtual conference will take place on 2-3 December aimed at providing practical solutions to a variety of brownfield and contaminated land waste management issues, such as landfill development, leaching contaminated material, dealing with asbestos in construction waste, and more; and providing knowledge and tools to ensure that waste practices adhere to new legislation.

(Read more: waste-management.environment-analyst.com)