

## 1. FELLOWS ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS UPDATE – 22<sup>ND</sup> AUGUST 2012

### 1.1 Schemes

#### Green Deal Registration

The Green Deal opened for registration on 8 August allowing organisations wishing to be classed as Green Deal Providers, Assessors and Installers to commence the Green Deal authorisation process and make sure they meet the Green Deal Quality Mark and get added to the Green Deal Authorised List to protect consumers from rogue traders.

To mark this occasion, The Green Deal Finance Company (GDFC) has received a cheque for £7m from the Department of Energy and Climate Change to allow the GDFC to offer low cost finance, for Green Deal Providers, to be ready in early 2013. An additional outcome of the last month is that HM Treasury has announced the Green Deal is being considered for the use of infrastructure guarantees. These are to provide guarantees of around £40b to major UK infrastructure works and demonstrate Government's commitment to provide finance at a low but sustainable cost to Green Deal customers.

### 1.2 Documents Released

#### ROC Banding Review

DECC released the ROC Banding Review stating the changes to subsidies for renewable energy technologies. Support is better than expected for EfW with CHP, standard Gasification and standard Pyrolysis with higher ROC bandings of 1, 2 and 2ROCs respectively which are higher than the initial bandings under consultation. Landfill Gas also gets an improved array of bands providing for greater overall support than was initially proposed.

However, the support for Anaerobic Digestion has unexpectedly taken something of a hit. Some thought that AD should receive a 0.5ROC top-up if it utilised CHP but this has not been included in the new Review. Also, it has been proposed that support for new facilities of less than 5MW should be totally removed from 1 April 2013 onwards. Seeing as the AD Strategy and Action Plan released last year targeted large numbers of small local AD plants, and that the majority of AD plants are <5MW, this new Banding Review seems to contradict the Government's original aims and is likely to undermine investor confidence once again.

#### Guidance on Legal Definition of Waste

Defra has released [Guidance](#) on the Legal Definition of Waste to clarify for businesses and organisations when a material is or is not classified as waste and hence, when discarded substances require treatment in line with waste management controls. A number of criteria have been laid which address the nature and potential uses of substances and by-products, for which case-by-case decisions can be made. The criteria consider the purpose for which the material was initially produced, the value of the material and suitability for re-use amongst a host of other things.

#### End of Waste Criteria for Glass

The European Commission has agreed to roll-out End-of-Waste criteria for glass to specify when glass ceases to be a waste and becomes a product once more. The criteria states that glass cullet must be of a high enough standard for remelting and use in bottle or other product manufacture whereas any glass used for aggregate will remain classified as waste. The criteria for cullet-remelt includes restrictions on quantities of contaminants such as stones, metals and organics. The restriction of End-of-Waste for remelt material should promote the installation of remelt applications and first predictions estimate that ~80% of UK glass collected across Europe could meet the criteria.

#### WRAP Gate-Fees Report

The annual Gate-Fee [report](#) has been released by WRAP comparing current charges with those of previous years and including opinions on potential influences on future fees. The report shows the



average MRF gate-fee is down to £9 per tonne (from £15/t last year) with AD fees ranging from £35 to £60 at an average of £41/t which is down from £43 in last year's report.

### WEEE Recast

The European Commission has formally recast the [WEEE Directive](#) and has placed more strenuous targets on Member States for the collection of WEEE. Currently, only 4kg of WEEE has to be collected per person per year and the UK has met this target easily. However, Member States have 18 months to update WEEE Regulations, by 2016, to include collection targets of 45t for every 100t of WEEE put on the market in the preceding three years. The figure will rise to 65t by 2019. The Commission ruling will also force Electrical retailers with floor space of >400m<sup>2</sup> having to provide a free return facility for small WEEE (<25cm).

### RHI Consultation

DECC has published a [consultation](#) document regarding the RHI for non-domestic users with specific focus on budget-management. The consultation document also introduces a standard for Biomass Sustainability, in line with the UK Bioenergy Strategy 2012, and details of how the air-quality regime will work. Alterations to the metering system to be used in a bid to reduce the administrative burden on participants are also discussed. The consultation period closes on 14 September 2012.

### DECC Energy Statistics

DECC have published [Energy Statistics](#) showing positive trends for the year 2011 compared to 2010. Primary energy production fell by a record 13.2% with record falls for oil and gas production due to maintenance and various slowdowns of the Continental Shelf. Primary energy consumption fell 6.9% and electricity produced from renewable sources rose by 33% to provide a UK share of 94%. However, for the first time since 1974, the UK imported more energy than it generated.

## 1.3 Waste and Recycling News

### Community Right to Challenge

From 27 June, communities will be permitted to bid to take over local services if they think they can run them more efficiently, or more in line with the needs of local residents, or better value for money. The Community Right to Challenge has an £11.5m support service run alongside it to provide community groups advice and support and funding opportunities for

### Producer Responsibility Re-Think

As part of the Government's Red Tape Challenge, a consultation is to be released early in 2013 with the aim of aligning the UK's four Producer Responsibility Regulations. The regulations for WEEE, batteries, ELVs and waste packaging have been derived from separate EU Directives and therefore use a mixture of terminologies, fee recovery processes, accreditation processes and lack cross-board de minimise positions for small businesses to avoid regulatory burdens. Defra and BIS are considering a whole range of issues before they publish the consultation.

### UK 8<sup>th</sup> in EU Waste Medal Table

The European Commission has released a [report](#) containing performance levels with regards to waste across Europe, marking countries on a colour-coded scale across the entire waste management sector including prices of disposal, recycled material and infringements of European legislation. The UK was criticised for not introducing landfill restrictions or pay-as-you-throw policies, for the amount of Biodegradable waste sent to landfill and for the low amount of waste it sends for recovery. Austria and Holland topped the table whilst Greece came bottom by a distance.

### England 42.9% Recycling

Defra data suggests England sent 41.9% of its household waste for reuse, recycling or composting during the third quarter of the 2011-12 tax year. This is a rise of 1.8% when compared with the same period twelve months earlier and gives a calendar yearly total of 42.9% for 2011, up 2.1% on 2010. A dramatic fall from 2,554t to 2,164t was seen for the use of landfill during the last two 3<sup>rd</sup> quarters.



## Wales on Target for 2012/13 targets

The Welsh Government has released provisional performance figures for local authority waste managements and, using these figures, it has been calculated that, for the 2011/12 tax year, 48% of Welsh waste was either recycled or composted. This represents a 4% rise from the 2010/11 tax year if this performance is confirmed, likely towards the end of the year and shows that Wales is heading towards its 2012/13 targets to recycle or compost 52% of its waste.

## Agrivert Achieves PAS110

The Cassington AD Facility in Oxfordshire has become the seventh UK facility to achieve PAS110 accreditation. The plant was developed by Agrivert and is used to process Oxfordshire's organic waste to produce a digestate by-product which is used in local agriculture. The facility has a capacity of approximately 45,000tpa of organic waste and provides 2MW of electricity to the National Grid. Silage is not used as a supplementary feedstock, as originally planned, as Agrivert do not have the capability to pasteurise it on site which is a prerequisite for achieving PAS110 status.

## Bulky Waste Re-use Potential

WRAP has released a [document](#) revealing the state of bulky waste taken to HWRC's across the country. Previously, the common misconception was that the majority of bulky waste is not fit for re-use but out of 1.6m tonnes of bulky waste taken to HWRCs or collected at kerbside, WRAP report that 42% HWRC waste is capable of being re-used and around 50% of Kerbside bulky waste can be as well, with both sources of waste needing minimal repair. 42% of bulky wastes consists of furniture.

## Government to Reduce Consultation Periods

The Cabinet Office has announced plans to drastically reduce the amount of time that Government consultations, including issues of waste and recycling, are left open for comment. Currently, consultations are free for stakeholder response for a minimum of 12 weeks but the recent [Guidance Principles](#) suggest a period of 2-12 weeks should be enforced depending on the issue's complexity. The potential change's aim is to make the process of consultation less onerous whilst still giving stakeholders enough time to provide a considered approach.

## 1.4 Energy News

### Renewables Share of the Market Increases

DECC has confirmed that renewable energy's share of the British energy market rose by 36% to 3.8% during the first quarter of the 2012/2013 tax year. This rise accompanies falls of 13% and 14.1% of oil and gas respectively, and a 2.3% overall drop in primary energy consumption.

### Davey Speech at LGA Annual Conference

Energy Minister, Ed Davey, encouraged Local Authorities to take more responsibility for their communities in the fight to change energy-use patterns by stating that they were trusted much more than central Government. He talked about three ways in which he thought LAs could play a major role.

To help change the way we *buy* energy, LAs could get involved with "Collective Switching" where groups of locals (even entire villages/regions) switch energy suppliers together to help residents save time finding the best new deals individually.

To help save energy, Davey believes LAs can help promote the use of the Green Deal when it comes into operation later this year. To help with the problem of generating energy, he promotes a focus on local heat production as heat demand accounts for 50% of UK energy demand and holds low efficiencies on a national Grid system. To remedy this, he wants LAs to help housing associations and other social landlords to apply for the Renewable Heat Premium Payment scheme in which potential recipients bid for funding to install renewable heating systems for their tenants.

### First CCS License Granted

Shell and SSE have secured the UK's first offshore Carbon Storage Licence at the Goldeneye gas field 65km off the east coast of Scotland. The carbon will be produced by the 385MW gas-fired



Peterhead Power Station. The licence (Agreement for Lease – AfL) has been brought in by the Crown Estate this year and has received several other applications which are yet to be granted.

### BP to Trial “Game-Changer” Biofuel at London 2012

BioButanol is to be used, alongside two other advanced biofuels, to power the 5,000-strong fleet of BMW vehicles to be used at the upcoming Olympic Games. BP has explained that it is produced by a microorganism which breaks converts plant sugars into high energy density petrol biofuel and has benefits over gasoline biofuels due to its compatibility with modern vehicle engines and its high mileage. BioButanol has been used at 15-16% concentrations in gasoline blends in Germany, France and USA but this trial uses it at 24% with potential for use at higher without affecting performance.

### SITA Receive AD Planning Approval

Warwickshire Council have approved plans to create a 50,000tpa Anaerobic Digestion plant at Packington, subject to the decision not being recalled by the DCLG. Organic waste from North Warwickshire, Nuneaton & Bedworth, Coventry and Solihull will be processed to create 1.6MW electricity at a site where SITA already operate Landfill and Open Windrow facilities. Work is expected to start in early 2014.

### Co-Operative Energy’s 100% Renewable Energy Provisions

Co-Operative Energy has sourced 100% of its supply to customers from renewable sources within a year of operating. When launched in 2011, it aimed to supply electricity with a carbon footprint half that of the national average, but, after great customers take-up, it has by far exceeded expectations.

## 1.5 Vehicle News

### Low Carbon Vehicle Scheme Funding Boost

A £23m demonstration scheme encourage operators to buy and use low carbon commercial vehicles is set to receive up to £11m in funding from the Government. The £11m will be used to cover the difference in cost between traditional vehicles and their low carbon alternative. Over 300 vehicles are set to be used in trials being run by companies such as Tesco and John Lewis. The funding will also help to fund refuelling points for the use of the vehicles being used in the trials.

### Free of Charge Electric Vehicle Charging Points

Electric and hybrid vehicle charging company POD Point are offering free home and workplace charging units to electric and hybrid vehicle owners in three counties: East Anglia, East and West Midlands. POD Point has teamed up with Source East and Plugged-In Midlands to be able to offer the service through a grant funded by the Government’s Plugged-In Places Scheme. The Low carbon London scheme also offers the same ~£1,000 deal to residents within the M25 circle.

### Pioneering Flight

A 6 –day flight has been planned for later in the year which will be powered entirely from fuel derived from plastics. “On Wings of Waste” will travel from Sydney to London on nothing more than fuel from, Irish plastics-to-diesel specialist, Cynar’s pyrolysis process at Portlaoise. 4,000litres of fuel will be used to power the Cessna 182 light aircraft.

## 1.6 Other News

### Stock Exchange Carbon Emissions Reporting

The Deputy Prime Minister, Nick Clegg, has announced plans for all businesses listed on the London Stock Exchange to compulsorily report their Greenhouse Gas emissions from the start of the next financial year. The announcement, made at the Rio+20 Summit, is the first introduction by any country of legislation to force annual reports of leading companies to include such information and will enable investors to see which companies are efficiently managing the long term carbon emissions. The regulations will run for two years before undergoing review in 2015 so that ministers can decide if the regulations should be spread to all large companies for 2016 onwards.

