

1. FELLOWS ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS UPDATE – 23 NOVEMBER 2012

1.1 Schemes

Waste Reduction Challenge

Working in association with the Cabinet Office, independent charity Nesta has set up a prize fund of £50,000 to promote innovative ideas that enable communities to come together and make use of the “givers’s” skills, time and resources to produce radical waste reductions. However, the Waste Reduction Challenge goes a step further than usual *idea* competitions and will reward ideas that can show the potential for measurable benefits when put into practice. A large part of the assessment criteria, is to show potential for measurable reductions in waste reductions as well as potential for up-scaling, sustainability and other social benefits. The deadline for the first round of initial ideas is 14 September 2012 with further rounds taking place up until September 2013. Click [here](#) for more info.

Zero Waste Scotland Fund to Help Recycling

Zero Waste Scotland will deliver a £1.2million fund to help councils meet the recycling target of 50% of household waste by the end of 2013. The Fund was announced on 3 October 2012 by Richard Lochhead, Scottish Environment Secretary, and is aimed at improvements to Household Waste & Recycling Centres and the collection of glass from households. The fund is in addition to the 2012 £5million already available through ZWS for the improvement of household food waste collections.

European Week for Waste

17-25 November will see Europe concentrate on waste management as part of the “Week for Waste”. It will aim to raise awareness about the simple actions people can take in everyday life to contribute to the overall waste reduction efforts. Merseyside Recycling and Waste authority has already pledged its support to promote the week-long event.

1.2 Documents Released

Red Tape Challenge – Environment Theme Implementation Plan

Defra has released a [timetable](#) of plans to reduce the legislative red-tape associated with waste, setting out the Department’s timetable for delivering proposals set out in March 2012. Consultations are planned for early in 2013 to discuss the need to complete Waste Transfer Notes and the producer responsibility regimes for packaging and batteries, whilst additional proposals suggest removing the site Waste Management Plan Regulations in 12 months’ time, removing the LATS Scheme in January, introducing an electronic waste Duty of Care recording system, reducing the turnaround time for environmental permitting decisions to 13 weeks and helping LAs improve access to civic amenity sites and kerbside collections for SMEs.

Waste Crime Report 2011-12

The Environment Agency released the first ever evidence-based report on waste crimes showing the progress that has been made in attempting to prevent illegal activities. During the year under scrutiny, 759 illegal waste sites were closed, 262 incidents of serious dumping were dealt with, 335 prosecutions were made, and £1.7million worth of fines were handed out with £2m worth of assets confiscated.

Scottish Recyclate Quality Action Plan

All municipal waste handling MRFs in Scotland will be obliged to measure the quality of their recyclate material from 2014 onwards if new proposals from the Scottish Government are passed. The Recyclate Quality Action Plan aims to improve the quality of collected and sorted recyclables and precedes the release of an English version of the consultation which is expected in the next few weeks. Compliance with a MRF Code of Practice would become compulsory if a company wishes to hold a waste management license or PPC Permit. Results of input and output measurements (of 25kg



samples taken twice weekly or for every 200t) would have to be made available to SEPA on a quarterly basis with the overall aim of the proposals to provide material reprocessors a greater confidence in the materials they purchase.

WRAP HWRC Guide

WRAP has released a [guide](#) on managing efficient and effective household waste and recycling services. It provides examples of good practice, an overview of relevant legislation, up to date statistics on HWRC Provision and evidence-based approaches to assessing and improving HWRC performance. WRAP aim to help the managers and operators of HWRC meet the ever-higher standards required of them by the public and by law.

1.3 Waste and Recycling News

Noise Risk for Glass Collections

WRAP has published findings that organisation using kerbside-type vehicles for glass collections are at a 'significant risk' of exceeding the noise limits allowed under health and safety regulations. Commingled and wheeled-bin refuse collections were found to be within noise levels.

Under the Noise at Work Regulations, the lower exposure action values are a daily or weekly exposure to up to 80 decibels (dB) with a peak sound pressure of 135dB, whilst the higher values are a daily or weekly exposure to 85dB with a peak sound pressure of 137dB.

The WRAP study found the entire range of tested kerbside-type vehicles to show significant risk of exceeding Upper Exposure Action levels with several found likely to exceed the Exposure Limit Value.

Recipients of £250m Weekly Collection Fund Announced

85 separate Councils are to receive support from DCLG in order to improve the services they provide for weekly waste collections. The improved or introduced services are set to cover over 6 million households throughout the country in a range of ways from increasing the number of materials that have service provisions, to increasing the frequency of collections, to setting up rewards schemes. Birmingham will receive the largest grant of almost £30 million for an area covering 440,000 households whereas Blackburn with Darwen will receive the smallest funding, roughly £20,000 to provide customer-specific information via a smartphone application.

Coca Cola to Adopt On-Pack Recycling Label (OPRL) logo

Coca Cola has pledged its allegiance to a nationwide recycling label packaging scheme to educate consumers about the recyclability of its plastic bottles. Initially it will post the British Retail Consortium (BRC) administered recycling logo on its 500ml bottles of drink before rolling it out to cover the whole range of produce. The reason for the nationwide scheme is to improve the public's knowledge of what can be recycled so that council's facilities to recycle plastic bottles are used

Malaysia Bans Import of Plastics from EU

The UK plastics industry fears for a heavy reduction in the value of recycled plastics following the banning by the Malaysian Government the import of solid plastic waste from the EU. The reason/s behind the ban is not known but is thought not to be due to the quality of recycled plastics exported from Europe. The ban will stand until it has a review, the schedule for which is currently unknown.

Recycling Landmark

Defra announced on 08 November that in the tax year 2011-12, for the first time since records began, England recycled, composted or reused more waste than it landfilled for a 12 month period. The final statistics also show a 43% household waste recycling rate, which is the highest rate ever recorded.

Waste Management Carbon Metric Data

November will see the launch of carbon impact data for the waste treatment of municipal waste. The carbon report will be launched alongside Local Authority waste management data and will provide details of the national, and perhaps regional, carbon performance of recycling and waste activities in



England. The use of a carbon metric such as this was first mentioned in the Waste Review 2011 which wanted to use a carbon metric to measure the impact of different waste treatments nationwide. It is hoped the metric will shift authorities' focus from maximising material tonnage to maximising carbon benefit.

AWC Survey

According to a survey of over 2,000 adults, conducted by ICM on behalf of May Gurney, less than 1 in 10 people would support a return to weekly collection services, contradicting claims by Communities Secretary Eric Pickles who has fought for, and made funding available for, weekly waste collections.

rPET Now a Permitted Source of PRNs

Changes to the PRN system means that recycled PET plastics may now qualify for Packaging Recovery Notes so long as the process meets End of Waste criteria.

Wales' Plastic Bag Levy Update

The first year of Wales's introduced 5p levy on single-use plastic bags has produced over £800,000 to be donated to charities and nont-for-profit organisations focussed on the environment or other good causes with the main benefactors being Keep Wales Tidy and the RSPB. The £800,000 has come from the sale of around 16million plastic bags which, in some retail sectors, has shown a 96% reduction in single-use bag usage. The scheme now has a 70% support rate throughout Wales.

1.4 Energy News

RHI Consultation for EfW

DECC has released a consultation which could see the scope of the Renewable Heat Incentive scheme extended to include more CHP incinerators and AD plants eligible for the subsidy. The consultation focuses on the inclusion of additional types of waste. Currently, the generation of heat from the processing of biomass in municipal solid waste by CHP incinerators is supported under the Biomass Tariff within the scheme, but the consultation is looking to include biomass from Commercial and Industrial waste as well. DECC believe there are currently very few CHP incinerators fed solely by MSW and so, by broadening the feedstock allowances, more facilities across the UK would become eligible for the subsidy.

Support for AD plants is set to increase as well. The current subsidy is only available to small scale facilities producing less than 200kWth (*per year?*) but the consultation is proposing to allow plants producing more Thermal energy than this to be rewarded for the biogas they produce. DECC will also launch a call for evidence for the inclusion of heat capture technology from landfill gas and will look to include air-to-water heat pumps.

Plans to Scrap Small-Scale AD ROC Support Scrapped

Following feedback from members of industry, DECC has cancelled its plan to remove ROC-support for small-scale Anaerobic Digestion facilities in a bid to clarify the boundary between ROCs and FITs. The ROC Banding Review, released last quarter, proposed to remove support for new AD facilities less than 5MW from 1 April onwards. This caused an element of shock within the industry which did not want further alterations that might affect investor confidence and seemed to go against the Government's previous announcements, such as in the AD Strategy and Action Plan which stated that it would target large numbers of small & local AD plants. The avoided alteration to subsidies, should avoid any subsequent weakening of investor-confidence with ROC support currently at 2ROCs to be gradually lowered to 1.8ROCs by 2016/17.

Work to Start on EfW Plants

Construction is set to commence for two large-scale Energy-from-Waste facilities, early in 2013, following the approval of planning applications. The first facility, to be run by Tata Chemicals Europe and E.ON Energy from Waste UK Ltd, will be built on the site of a former coal-fired power station in Lostock, Northwich and will have a 600,000tpa capacity to produce 60MW of power from MSW and C&I waste, enough for 80,000 homes by 2017. The Waste Management firm, Viridor, has been



granted permission to amend plans for its £200m EfW facility at Oxwellmains landfill site in East Lothian, Scotland. The plant will process 300,000tpa waste from all over Scotland.

UK Energy Efficiency Strategy

The Energy Efficiency Deployment Office (EEDO) has published the [Energy Efficiency Strategy](#) which sets out a mission to seize EE opportunities nationwide. Four barriers have been identified: embryonic markets, information, misaligned financial incentives and undervaluing energy efficiency.

Driving Innovation in AD Round 1

Round 1 of WRAP's drive to challenge two specific areas of AD, namely optimising processing and product manufacture at all scales and reducing costs at small scale, has selected 19 projects to take forward to Phase II (feasibility studies) of the project.

1.5 Vehicle News

Suffolk HWRCs Open Doors to Small Traders

Suffolk County Council became the first council to allow local traders to tip their waste at Household Waste & Recycling Centres. The decision was taken as a drive to increase business recycling in the area and dispenses with the rule adopted by many other local authorities.

1.6 Other News

Changes at Defra

As part of the Cabinet reshuffle, Caroline Spellman and Lord Taylor of Holbeach have left their posts at Defra. Spellman was Secretary of State at Defra and has been replaced by Owen Paterson, former Northern Ireland Secretary of State, a move which has been met with positivity due to Spellman's inability to help match the assertion that the Coalition would be the greenest Government ever.

Lord Taylor was held in much higher regard by the waste sector in his role as Recycling Minister, a post he has held since September 2011. He has been promoted to a ministerial role in the Home Office and is replaced by Lord De Mauley, who has been appointed as Parliamentary under-secretary of state at Defra. The move lessens the distrust which Defra is held due to Taylor's popularity.

Enpure Placed in Administration

Waste engineering firm, Enpure was placed into administration on 6 September following a 2012 which saw the company experience significant creditor pressure. The company's operations have been put on hold pending discussions with contractors & customers. The 160 company staff are being consulted by administrators. Enpure technology is being used as part of the Greater Manchester PFI project but Viridor has announced confidence that the project will not be affected by events.

CIWM NGG Name Change

The Chartered Institute of Wastes Management New Generation Group has been rebranded as the New Member Network.

Association Merger

Members of Association for Organics Recycling (AfOR) have voted for the organisation to merge with the Renewable Energy Association (REA). The merge will be complete by the end of 2012.

Manchester Praised for Low Carbon

Lord de Mauley has praised the region of Manchester and claimed that it is on its way to becoming recognised as one of the UK's leading low carbon regions. The statement comes following a visit to the region and meeting with local authorities and firms that have shown imagination, creativity and determination in succeeding with low carbon projects and business plans. He later gave a speech at DEPT, an organisation representing Local Authority chief officers.

