

Environmental and Waste Management Group

March 2017 Newsletter



LEGISLATION

Lucas urges Brexit green legislation

Green Party co-leader Caroline Lucas has called on the Government to introduce legislation to maintain Britain's environmental laws when the UK leaves the EU. A report by Lucas lists all main European environmental legislation that affects Defra, 16 of which focus on the waste sector.

Lucas quoted House of Commons Library research that more than 1,100 environmental laws would have to be transposed into UK legislation, but she said the Government had yet to identify all of the relevant legislation. (Read more: mrw.co.uk)

"Snoopers Charter" to allow HSE to access suspects' browsing history

Health and Safety Executive (HSE) investigators will soon gain new powers under the so-called "Snoopers' Charter" and be allowed to access suspects' browsing history in the preceding 12 months as well as telephone usage data under the Investigatory Powers Act 2016. (Read more: cedrec.com)

GUIDANCE & CONSULTATIONS

WRAP announced as new partner for Resourcing the Future

WRAP, the not-for-profit circular economy and resource efficiency experts, are joining CIWM, the Environmental Services Association and the Resource Association to deliver the Resourcing the Future (RTF) conference this year.

This year's conference, which will take place on 27 and 28 June 2017 in London, will bring together waste and resource management sector professionals, opinion formers, government ministers and policy experts, from the UK and overseas. (Read more: ciwm-journal.co.uk)

Petition over Defra hazardous waste U-turn

Tetronics International has set up a government petition in response to a recent U-turn by Defra that will see hazardous materials sent to UK landfill sites.

Defra was criticised by the Environmental Services Association (ESA) for the decision not to withdraw the derogation that allows Air Pollution Control Residues (APCRs) that do not meet Waste Acceptance Criteria to go to hazardous waste landfill (known as "the 3xWAC derogation"). (Read more: ciwm-journal.co.uk)

Waste industry consults on revised fire risk guidance

As highlighted in the IOSH magazine 'the Waste Industry Safety and Health Forum (WISH) has launched a consultation today on revised fire guidance in the sector. The month-long consultation, which closes on 24 March, seeks comments on the latest measures to minimise the risk of fires at waste and recycling plants and prevent a repeat of incidents like the Smethwick recycling plant blaze in July 2013'. (Read more: [ioshmagazine](#))

INCIDENTS AND PROSECUTIONS

Jail sentence for director after fireball burned worker

The director of a Pontypridd construction firm has been handed an eight-month prison sentence and disqualified for seven years after his actions nearly resulted in the death of a worker, who was left with life-threatening injuries caused by a fireball ignited by burning waste. (Read more: [ioshmagazine.com](#))

Fire breaks out at Milton Plastics Recycling Centre

50 firefighters were deployed to tackle a fire that broke out at a plastics recycling facility in Stoke-on-Trent on 5 February. The fire broke out at Hanbury Plastic Recycling on Redhills Road, Milton, at 8.21am in the morning. The incident involved a building approximately 100 metres by 60 metres that contains recycled plastics. (Read more: [ciwm-journal.co.uk](#))

Recycling company fined after worker crushed

A Welsh recycling firm has been fined £50,000 after a worker suffered crush injuries, including cracked ribs and damage to his spleen, from an inadequately maintained roller shutter door. (Read more: [HSE](#))

West Midlands waste firm director disqualified

A former director of a West Midlands waste firm has been banned from running a company and fined after pleading guilty to operating an illegal waste facility. At Wolverhampton Magistrates' Court on 16 February, Jaskaran Bhandal, director of Oakham Environmental Waste & Recycling Ltd, pleaded guilty to one count of operating a waste site without an authorised environmental permit and failing to remove waste from the site. (Read more: [letsrecycle.com](#))

London scrap metal fire brought under control

An investigation has been launched following a large blaze at a scrap metal yard in East London on 17 February. The London Fire Brigade was called to T&N Hill Waste Services Ltd on Ives Road in Canning Town shortly before 3pm. A total of 58 firefighters from crews at Plaistow, Poplar, Millwall, Shadwell and Whitechapel attended the scene, as well as eight fire engines. (Read more: [letsrecycle.com](#))

Suez fined over landfill pollution incident

A pollution incident involving 'sewage fungus' at Suez's Connon Bridge landfill site in Cornwall has cost the waste business over £500,000 in fines and fees. Suez has said that the incident occurred due to 'exceptionally wet weather conditions' which led to a permit breach at the site near Liskeard four years ago – with leachate polluting two local streams. (Read more: [letsrecycle.com](https://www.letsrecycle.com))

UPM has reported a fatality at Shotton paper plant

In a statement, the company said the incident was in the recovered fibre warehouse at 11.30am on 6 February.

"The emergency services were called immediately, however the person was declared dead at the scene by paramedics. UPM Shotton's emergency response team was on-site including a first aid responder." David Ingham, general manager, said the incident was being investigated and the company was working with the Health and Safety Executive (HSE). (Read more: [mrw.co.uk](https://www.mrw.co.uk))

Fly-tipper advertised on Facebook fined over £1,700

A Yorkshireman who advertises 'Man with a Van' services on social media has been ordered to pay more than £1,700 for illegally dumping waste on a country lane. Christopher Brennan of Eastwood Drive, Swarcliffe, Leeds, was fined £692 for illegally depositing waste for profit, and carrying waste illegally.

He was also ordered to pay a £69 victim surcharge and £975 costs after pleading guilty at a hearing at Leeds magistrates on 17 February. (Read more: [mrw.co.uk](https://www.mrw.co.uk))

Spate of illegal waste dumps across North East

More than 600 bales of general household waste have been found dumped at a former foundry in North-East England with the Environment Agency (EA) reporting a series of similar cases in the region. Officers from Durham Police and the EA visited the site on Tow Law on 10 February after being alerted to illegal activities there.

The agency said it was the latest in a recent "spate of illegal waste dumping" as it currently had three investigations ongoing relating to eight sites where baled waste had been dumped over the last six months. (Read more: [mrw.co.uk](https://www.mrw.co.uk))