

**WEEE ADVISORY BODY
(WAB) TO CLOSE
PLANNING FOR "ZERO
WASTE" - the possibility of
competitive advantage
PROSECUTIONS**

Dear Deb,

Well even if this is the August newsletter it feels more like autumn outside - it's cold, wet and the leaves are falling already. So what's the good news we can bring you on the environmental front? Well it's not a good news subject but it is interesting that while studying the oil pollution from the Deepwater Horizon leak scientists have discovered a new type of oil-eating microbe that works without significantly depleting oxygen in the water. Scientists had been concerned that oil-eating activity by microbes would consume large amounts of oxygen in the water, creating a "dead zone" dangerous to other life. But the new study has found that oxygen saturation outside the oil plume was 67-percent while within the plume it was 59-percent. Follow us on Twitter to get regular updates This month we are bringing you more information on the Waste debate, the implications and opportunities for business of 'zero waste' and letting you know about the closure of one advisory body. Happy autumn all.

Mandy Stoker



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The Business Secretary Vince Cable has announced the planned closure of WAB next year. Mitchell Leimon, a BIS officer responsible for WEEE, said that the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) would now take "direct leadership" of work on WEEE, working with former WAB members and

other stakeholders in a "committee or task group structure".

The WEEE Advisory Body was originally formed in December 2007 - just six months after the UK's system of producer responsibility for WEEE recycling formally kicked in - with a remit to provide independent advice on the implementation of the WEEE Directive in the UK, as well as its role in

helping to steer future policy. The board's chairman, Peter Calliafas, said: "The WAB has a number of important initiatives underway (Reuse PAS 141, IPR and Making the UK Recast Ready) and I am in touch with my colleagues within BIS to ensure a smooth transition of the management of these". One of the members, the general manager of WEEE compliance scheme ERP, Scott Butler, said: "I'd hope to see that experts are still able to feed into policy-making process", noting that "it's an important part of making regulation and policy".

Green Achiever Scheme will keep you up to date on the latest advice with regard to WEEE as these changes take place.

PLANNING FOR "ZERO WASTE" - the possibility of competitive advantage



Last month we did an article on the latest DEFRA consultation on how to implement the revised EU Waste Framework Directive in England and Wales. This is on the back of Scotland and Wales publishing their national strategic waste plans - Zero Waste Plan and Towards Zero Waste respectively. Both plans have far-reaching implications across all sectors such as food, retail, waste management, energy, clean tech, procurement, construction and design.

For business, not only will progressive landfill bans have an impact on disposal but in Scotland, the proposed use of powers to introduce regulatory reporting on resource use should create greater scrutiny. The possibility of comparisons of commercial competitors in waste and resource performance leagues may become increasingly feasible.

Both governments will be considering options for extended producer responsibility and take-back schemes necessitating a review of design, packaging and components. All sectors should expect increased scrutiny and regulation but also opportunities for competitive advantage for those who explore the commercial implications of "zero waste" before their peers.

PROSECUTIONS



Linked companies fined for Packaging Regs Failures Two Suffolk subsidiaries of the same holding company have been fined for failing to join a compliance scheme. Hatcher Components Ltd and Broadwater Mouldings Ltd were each ordered to pay £3,500 in fines and costs when it was found they should each have registered as producers. The companies handled in excess of 50 tonnes of packaging a year and had an annual turnover of more than £2m and thus are obligated to register with the Regulator or join a scheme. Where companies are linked through holding companies or as subsidiaries their aggregate turnovers and amounts of packaging handled are considered together. Both companies pleaded guilty to failing to Register during 2008 and 2009 but said that they were unaware of the Regulations.

Firm banned from carrying waste and told to clean up site Easy Skips (NE) Limited has been told it is not allowed to transport any more rubbish, after its waste carriers licence was revoked by the Environment Agency. Its permit to run its waste transfer station at Thomlinson Road in Hartlepool has also been taken away and the company must clear all the rubbish from the site. The company was sentenced in August 2009 - after an investigation to confiscate any profits it made from the crimes - when company directors Kevin Brough and Andrew Benson were ordered to hand over £234,393. The Environment Agency is warning anyone who gives their waste to Easy Skips (NE) Ltd that they could be breaking the law. Householders and businesses have a 'duty of care' to take reasonable steps to check that people removing waste are legally allowed to do so. Reasonable steps include: ♣ Asking the waste carrier to provide you with their full address and telephone number; ♣ Taking a note of the registration number of the vehicle taking the waste away;

♣ Asking to see a waste carrier licence issued by the Environment Agency; ♣ Contacting the Environment Agency directly on 08708 506 506 to ask for a free instant Waste Carrier Validation Check. Alternatively, you can check online on the Environment Agency website, at www.environment-agency.gov.uk

Company fined after waste is buried in grounds of Hampshire motel A Hampshire motel company has been ordered to pay £3,700 in fines and costs for failing to remove waste that included old fridges, televisions, gas canisters, plastic, bricks and rubble that had been illegally deposited and buried on their land near the New Forest. 'Old fridges and TV's contain hazardous and potentially toxic substances that can harm the environment. It is therefore illegal to dispose of them by burial. The defendants were given every opportunity to remove and safely dispose of these wastes, but chose to ignore the Agency's advice even after a notice had been served. We were left with no choice other than to prosecute,' said Claire McClumpha for the Environment Agency.

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