



E4e-Manager Newsletter January 2011

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Dear Deb,

Welcome to the first Green Achiever / E4e-manager technical briefing of 2011. This briefing sees some summary updates from December's global climate change summit in Cancun plus some more local good news about a reduction in commercial and industrial waste in England. Defra and the Environment Agency have published useful guidance papers and factsheets to support some regulation changes which came into force in 2010 and we highlight and direct you to these below. Also, we are highlighting some ongoing consultations on environmental regulation and renewable energy benefits in Scotland and then there is the usual round-up of recent prosecutions. Here's to a successful, prosperous and environmentally progressive year to you all.

Mandy Stoker



Cancun Agreements

No legally binding global treaty to reduce greenhouse-gas (GHG) emissions was agreed at the COP 16 Summit in Cancun in December. A number of measures were agreed however that lay foundations for a new deal to be made in Durban this year that may extend the Kyoto Protocol beyond 2010 when the first commitment period ends. At a glance the Cancun Agreements are:-

- Acknowledgement (the first time in an official UN document) that global warming must be kept below 2oC.
- Developed countries to report their progress annually and developing countries to publish progress reports every two years.
- Industrialised countries need to reduce GHG emissions between 25% - 40% below 1990 levels by 2020.
- Reduction of deforestation and degradation (REDD+) mechanism established.

Concerns remain of how to reduce the gap between keeping global warming below 2oC and the current emissions reduction pledges and this is detail which will have to be worked through at Durban in December.



Commercial Waste Recycling Increases

Research has shown that the total commercial and industrial (C&I) waste generation in England has fallen by 29% over a 6 year period. This in a period where the number of businesses has risen by 10%. Recycling rates have also improved within that increasing from 42% in 2002-03 to 52% in 2009. And the last aspect of good news - whereas 41% of C&I waste was sent to landfill in 2002-03, only 23% went to landfill in 2009.

Regulation Changes Guidance

DEFRA and the Environment Agency have recently published 3 sets of guidance documents:-

- Environmental permitting guidance on [water discharge activities](#) and [groundwater activities](#) following the introduction of the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2010 which came into force on 6th April 2010; and
- A new [Packaging Regs factsheet](#) explaining the changes to the Producer Responsibility Obligations (Packaging Waste) (Amendment) Regulations 2010 that came into force on 26th November 2010.

Consultations

- The Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) is consulting on proposals for a new simpler and [stronger model for environmental regulation](#) with the aim of reducing bureaucracy and duplication whilst ensuring stronger action can be taken where necessary. Closing date - 14th February 2011.
- The Scottish government is consulting on proposals to ensure Scotland as a whole and its local communities benefit from [renewable and low-carbon energy developments](#). Closing date - 18th February.

Prosecutions



Concrete firm neglects to comply with packaging regulations

A Leicestershire concrete manufacturer has been fined over £50,000 for failing to register and recycle packaging waste. Anderton Concrete Products Ltd pleaded guilty to 18 offences under the Packaging Regulations and asked for a further 12 offences to be taken into account. The company is obliged to recover and recycle

packaging waste and should have been registered with the Environment Agency or a compliance scheme since the year 2000. The company registered with a compliance scheme in 2010 and by failing to register had avoided costs of £23,615.

The regulations help to reduce the amount of packaging used by businesses and increase the amount of packaging waste recycled. The company stated they were not aware of the need to comply with the regulations.

Arrests made after tyres illegally exported to Asia

Three men suspected of illegally exporting waste tyres to Hong Kong and Vietnam have been

arrested. The three men were arrested on suspicion of a number of fraud offences. The UK uses 49 million tyres each year. It is illegal to send these to landfill and they must be recycled. Illegal operators in the UK are charging companies to recycle old tyres and then illegally exporting them overseas for dumping to avoid recycling costs. Waste tyres can be exported for recovery and recycling but operators must check with the country of destination that this is the case. Waste tyres do not decompose and can be a major fire risk. They are a valuable resource and can be used for a number of industrial processes.

Gravel firm fined for taking too much water

Gravel processor Lafarge Aggregates Ltd was fined £14,000 at Norwich Magistrates' Court for taking too much water from the River Yare. The company is licensed to take water from the river in order to process gravel at its site. The court heard that up to 900% more water was taken than it is licensed to abstract. The over abstraction of water from the river can have impacts on the environment and also human uses of water.

Lafarge Aggregates Ltd was warned in 2006 for taking too much water.

Meter readings were recorded as the water was taken but no calculations were made to ascertain the cubic meters taken. The company has since put in place a better recording system with automatic cut-offs on abstraction pumps.

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