



## E4e-Manager Newsletter March 2011

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Dear Deb,

Well, spring is on its way at last with British Summertime starting on Sunday and with temperatures set to reach 15°C, it certainly does feel very spring-like here today. Talking of heat, the government has published its proposals for a Renewable Heat Incentive, which sees a world first and will encourage the use of natural resources in order to generate heating for our homes and offices. We also bring you articles about plastic bags, making 'green' claims and our usual legislation and prosecution updates.

Remember to put your clocks forward by one hour on Sunday morning!

Mandy Stoker



### *Free 'Carbon Management' Events*

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We are holding a free 'Carbon Management / Calculating your Carbon Footprint' breakfast workshop on Wednesday 13th April, 8.00am - 10.30am at E4environment offices in Shrewsbury. For more information about booking a place please ring 01743 343403 or email [kj@e4environment.co.uk](mailto:kj@e4environment.co.uk) Alternatively, if you're not local to Shrewsbury, Mandy Stoker, Director of E4environment, will be working alongside Barbour EHS, to co-present a free webinar - 'An introduction to BS EN16001 and an appraisal of Carbon Management methodologies' on 12th May, 11.00am - 12.00pm. For more information please contact Elaine Boorman on 01344 899298 or email [barbour-marketing@ubm.com](mailto:barbour-marketing@ubm.com)

### **Study on Carbon Footprint of Carrier Bags**

A report commissioned by the Environment Agency has found that plastic 'bags for life' have a lower carbon footprint if used four or more times than single use carrier bags.

Heavyweight plastic, paper and cotton bags use more resources and energy to produce than lightweight 'single use' plastic bags, however the key issue is the amount of times the bags are reused.

The 'bags for life' commonly supplied by supermarkets need only be used four times to ensure they have a lower carbon footprint than single use bags. The more durable heavyweight woven plastic bags need to be used 11 times in order to use fewer resources than lightweight plastic bags.

An Environment Agency spokesperson said: 'A significant part of the environmental impact of these bags is associated with the resources used in their production. All multi-use bags need to be reused as much as possible to reduce their relative environmental impact and be responsibly recycled at the end of their life.'

'Plastic "bags for life" only need to be used a few times to have a lower environmental impact than single-use carrier bags.'

Defra has published new guidance on how companies can promote their green credentials without making misleading claims, which could be picked up by the Advertising Standards Authority (ASA). Clear language is the key when making environmental claims and companies are encouraged to follow three steps -

- Ensure the content of the claim is relevant and reflects a genuine benefit to the environment.
- Present the claim clearly and accurately.
- Ensure the claim can be substantiated.

The guidance should not only make it clearer to companies as to what environmental claims they can make but also enable the public to make informed decisions based on this information and restore their faith in environmental advertising. The decision to update the guidance was made following an increase in complaints regarding environmental advertising.



## World's First Renewable Heat Incentive

On 10th March the Government published its proposals for the [Renewable Heat Incentive](#) (RHI). The £860m Scheme is the world's first financial incentive of its kind and aims to reduce the UK's reliance on fossil fuels and cut greenhouse gas emissions.

It will encourage installation of equipment such as biomass boilers, solar thermal panels and ground source heat pumps in domestic and commercial properties and could have real benefits for many businesses.

The RHI will provide eligible claimants with index-linked quarterly payments for the renewable heat produced from qualifying technologies (ie. solid and gaseous biomass, solar thermal (up to 200kWth), ground and water source heat pumps, on-site biogas (up to 200kWth), deep geothermal, energy from waste and biomethane injection to gas grid). These "tariffs" will be paid for 20 years from joining the scheme, provided claimants demonstrate a use for the heat produced. The RHI will also be available to anyone who has installed eligible equipment since 15 July 2009.

Proposed payment rates for different technologies will be based on metered heat output (current figures are subject to parliamentary approval and could change).

### Phased introduction

The government plans to introduce the RHI in two phases. Phase one will begin this July and will focus long-term tariff support on the industrial, business and public sector. This initial phase could be targeted at those off the gas grid.

As part of the first phase, Renewable Heat Premium Payments will also be introduced for the domestic sector. About £15m has been set aside for these direct payments to subsidise the cost of installing qualifying renewable heating systems.

In phase two, tariff support will be extended to domestic properties in October 2012.

### Review of rates

Speaking at the launch of the RHI last Thursday (10 March), energy secretary Chris Huhne said he wanted to "kick start" the uptake of renewable heat technology in the UK. But he warned that if uptake exceeded expectations and tariffs were deemed too attractive, there would be a stepped reduction in tariff levels in the future. Details of this "deployment-based depression" will be published later this year.

### Summary RHI timetable

- 10 March 2011 Renewable Heat Incentive and draft tariff rates published
- May 2011 Details of domestic Premium Payments announced
- July 2011 "Phase one" launched - tariff support for non-domestic installations and RHI Premium Payment for households

- October 2011 Proposals for automatic degression (stepped reduction) of tariff rates published
- October 2012 RHI tariff for households introduced
- January 2014 First review of RHI scheme

For more information please see

[http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/news/PN2011\\_023/PN2011\\_023.aspx](http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/news/PN2011_023/PN2011_023.aspx)



## LEGISLATION UPDATES

### Scotland

The Scottish Government have introduced the new Animal By-Products (Enforcement) (Scotland) Regulations 2011 in Scotland with effect from 4 March 2011, to replace the current Animal By-Products (Scotland) regulations 2003 ( SSI 2003 No. 411).

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ssi/2011/171/made>

The Waste Information (Scotland) Regulations 2010 introduce a statutory obligation for organisations that produce or manage waste to provide the Scottish Environment Protection Agency with waste data. <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ssi/2010/435/contents/made>

The Home Energy Assistance Scheme (Scotland) Amendments Regulations 2011 amend the 2009 Regulations to extend eligibility. <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ssi/2011/56/regulation/1/made>

### Northern Ireland

The Control of Pollution (Oil Storage) Regulations (NI) aim to ensure the objectives of the EU Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) are met by reducing and preventing pollution from inadequate above-ground oil-storage facilities. <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/nisr/2010/412/regulation/1/made>

The Solvent Emissions (Amendment) Regulations (NI) 2011 transpose amendments made to the EU Directive on solvent emissions (1999/13/EC) and replace the 2010 Regulations.

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/nisr/2011/2/introduction/made>

The Nitrates Action Programme Regulations (NI) 2010 introduces an action programme for all farmers in NI to protect waters against pollution caused by nitrates from agricultural sources.

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/nisr/2010/411/contents/made>

The Waste and Contaminated Land (Amendment) Act 2011 amends the Waste and Contaminated Land (NI) Order 1997 and Producer Responsibility Obligations (NI) Order 1998.

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/nia/2011/5/introduction/enacted>



## Prosecutions

### Doughnut company fined for waste offences

A Surrey based doughnut company was fined pay more than £12,000 for failing to comply with Producer Responsibility Obligations (Packaging Waste) Regulations 2005 and 2007.

Krispy Kreme UK Ltd was ordered to pay a total of £12,608 for failing to recover and recycle packaging waste between 2006 and 2009 by purchasing Packaging

Recovery Notes as detailed in the regulations.

Krispy Kreme products are sold throughout the UK in coffee bars and kiosks. They joined a Compliance Scheme in April 2010 but avoided costs of £6,710 by failing to register and purchase Packaging Recovery Notes prior to this date.

### **Garden centre owner fined for burning waste**

The owner of a garden centre in Somerset has been fined more than £15,700 for illegally burning waste.

Mr Terence Bailey, owner of Rocky Mountain Garden Centre near Wells, was unable to produce waste transfer notes for waste removed from the site, which would establish whether waste had been disposed of correctly.

Evidence was found of materials being burnt on land opposite the site, also owned by the garden centre owner. The ash contained electrical appliances, burnt batteries, mouse poison, holly wreaths, a shop display unit, barbeque tools, garden tools plus some household waste and paperwork from the garden centre.

'The illegal burning of commercial waste on this site posed a serious risk of contamination to soils and groundwater. The defendant continued to dispose of waste by burning despite being warned, on a number of occasions, that his actions were unlawful. The offences were deliberate and took place over a prolonged period of time. The defendant denied he was motivated by financial gain, although he would have saved a considerable amount of money in waste disposal costs,' said Rebecca Bomers for the Environment Agency.

### *Quick Links...*

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- [Last Month's Newsletter](#)

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