



E4e-manager Newsletter September 2012

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Dear Deb,

This month's edition of the Technical Newsletter brings you details of the Government's Carbon Plan, an initiative which outlines strict actions and deadlines for tackling climate change, details of the new WEEE targets, which will come into effect in 2016 and the usual round up of environmental prosecutions.

Mandy Stoker

Carbon Plan sets deadlines for climate change action

The government's Carbon Plan, which was launched last year in the House of Lords and attended by Green Achiever's Mandy Stoker, sets out strict actions and deadlines for a low carbon future.

Helping the government to live up to its claims of being the 'greenest government ever', the Carbon Plan will meet tough domestic carbon targets and encourage greater action internationally. It focuses on jobs and economic opportunities of the low carbon economy and highlights how the UK will work within the European Union and with other countries to promote climate change action.

The Plan highlights three key areas -

- * Electricity generation - where a dramatic shift away from fossil fuels and towards low carbon alternatives is needed. This includes renewable energy, new nuclear power and fossil fuel power stations fitted with carbon capture and storage.
- * Heating for homes and businesses - where a step change is needed in how well homes are insulated and away from gas boilers to low carbon alternatives, such as heat pumps.
- * Travel - more use of public transport and substituting the need for some journeys, but the greatest change will be in road transport, reducing emissions from petrol and diesel engines and moving towards alternative technologies such as electric vehicles.

The Carbon Plan also sets out deadlines that a number of Government departments will have to meet and outlines ways in which local government can take action to tackle climate change.

www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/11/tackling-climate-change/carbon-plan/3702-the-carbon-plan-delivering-our-low-carbon-future.pdf

New WEEE targets from 2016

A revised WEEE (Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment) Directive has been published which sees an increase in the collection targets for electrical waste.

The Directive came into force on 13 August and must be transposed by Member States by February

2014. From 2016, 45% of electrical and electronic goods sold have to be recycled. By 2020, the collection target rises to 85% or 20kg per person within the EU. In addition, retailers with over 400 square metres shop floor space will have to accept small items, such as mobile phones, from customers that are not making a purchase.

The Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) regulations are in place to prevent harmful materials from polluting the environment. It also forces manufacturers to recover rare metals used in computers, laptops, smart phones and other electrical devices.

The new directive also clamps down on illegal waste being exported outside the EU in order to prevent waste being dumped in developing countries.



PROSECUTION

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Lincolnshire egg producers fined £65,000

One of the UK's largest egg producers, L J Fairburn, has been fined £65,000 and ordered to pay costs of £9,500 for failing to be in possession of the correct environmental permits.

The company operated five sites across the county with more than 40,000 birds each without being authorised by an

environmental permit. Any unit with more than 40,000 birds needs to be covered by an environmental permit in order to protect the environment and local communities from the effects of ammonia and methane emissions, which have the potential to cause health problems; and slurries, wash waters, fuels and chemicals that can cause pollution. One of the five sites was known to house 186,810 birds at a given time.

The company were advised in 2010 that they needed to apply for permits but failed to do so. L J Fairburn had also avoided paying subsistence fees of £47,000.

After the hearing, Environment Agency officer Rebecca Tremain said: "We regulate intensive agricultural operations in order to protect human health and the environment. Operating without permits means that these risks were not assessed or regulated."

Recycling directors receive 200 hours of unpaid work

The three directors of a Lincolnshire based plasterboard recycling company have each been ordered to carry out 200 hours of unpaid work for waste offences.

Their company, Recyclet, which is now in liquidation, was founded in 2007 to process and treat waste plasterboard for recycling. The operation used three units at the Sterling Business Park, Scunthorpe but their environmental permit only covered two units. The third unit was used for the deposit and storage of controlled waste.

When questioned, one of the directors admitted that he was aware that the environmental permit did not extend to the storage of plasterboard at the additional unit. He also confirmed that the

Environment Agency was not consulted when the unit was taken on.

Speaking after the case, an Environment Agency officer in charge of the investigation said: "It is the responsibility of a director to ensure that their company complies with environmental regulations. Company directors should take note that the Environment Agency will prosecute where they are responsible for actions that breach regulations and cause pollution."

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E4environment Ltd - Reg No: 3891999 | Canon Court North | Abbey Lawn | Abbey Foregate | Shrewsbury | England | SY2 5DE | England