

Green Achiever Accreditation

Keeping you
up to date.



Green Achiever General Update - February 2015

Increase in Recycling Rates, Decrease in Costs

The amount of waste electrical and electronic equipment being recycled has increased under a new regulatory regime which has also delivered millions of pounds of savings to business, according to [Gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk).

New Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) regulations introduced in 2014 saw a 4% increase in collections compared to 2013 and estimated savings to producers of electrical equipment in excess of £18 million.

More information can be found on the [Gov.uk website](http://www.gov.uk).

ESOS Compliance Update: Environment Agency Steps Up Awareness Efforts

The Environment Agency remains confident that business awareness of the Energy Saving Opportunity Scheme (ESOS) is continuing to rise, as it releases new guidance and prepares to host a series of free compliance workshops ahead of the December deadline.

New guidance out now and workshops coming up in March.



Photo by [ponsulak](http://www.ponsulak.com), courtesy of www.freedigitalphotos.net

More information can be found on the [Edie website](http://www.edie.com). To find out how E4environment can help you comply, give us a call on 01743 343403 or see our website for more information about [ESOS](http://www.esos.gov.uk).

Plastic Waste Dominates Seafloor Litter in Mediterranean and Black Sea Surveys

Researchers have trawled coastal areas of the Eastern Mediterranean and Black Sea for waste and found up to 1211 items of litter per km². Plastic bags and bottles were some of the most commonly found items. They present the results in a recent study, which they say supports Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) implementation, as well as efforts to discourage plastic carrier bag use.

Half of all plastic items (49.6%) were bags. This result provides further support for the [EU decision to reduce the use of plastic bags](#), the study says. Bottles accounted for 17.5% of plastic waste and sheets 13.5%. Fishing debris, such as lines and nets, contributed 6.7% of all plastic litter. After plastic, metals were the most common material, at 8.7%-22%, depending on the area, of items found. Glass and ceramics accounted for 6-22% of litter.

More information can be found on the [Science for Environment Policy February 2015 Newsletter \(Issue 402\)](#).

Single Use Carrier Bags Charges to be introduced in England

The [Draft Single Use Carrier Bags Charges \(England\) Order](#) has been published to stipulate how the charging for the supply of single use carrier bags will operate in England.

It requires sellers to charge a minimum of five pence for each single use carrier bag supplied in a reporting year for certain purposes.

The law stipulates that [local authorities](#) will be the administrator of the charge.

This Draft Order is scheduled to come into force in October 2015 and will continue in force until October 2022, if it is approved.

It comes after Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland have already brought into force similar pieces of legislation with the:

- Single Use Carrier Bags Charge (Wales) Regulations [SI 2010/2880](#);
- Single Use Carrier Bags Charge Regulations (Northern Ireland) [SR 2013/4](#);
- Single Use Carrier Bags Charge (Scotland) Regulations [SSI 2014/161](#).

More information can be found on the [Cedrec Monthly Newsletter February 2015](#) or the [Draft Single Use Carrier Bags Charges \(England\) Order](#).



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Government Green-Lights World's Largest Offshore Wind Farm

Energy Secretary Ed Davey has given the go-ahead for the giant Dogger Bank Creyke Beck offshore wind farm in the North Sea, which is being hailed as one of the most significant infrastructure projects ever undertaken by the wind industry.



Photo by [xedos4](#), courtesy of freedigitalphotos.net

The Dogger Bank Creyke Beck A and B wind project is now the largest consented offshore wind project in the world. It will have a maximum capacity of 2400MW and will generate enough electricity to power almost two million homes once built.

More information can be found on the [Edie website](#).

WRAP Food Waste Statistics

According to [WRAP \(Waste and Resources Action Programme\)](#), one third of all food waste produced globally is wasted, costing consumers £259 billion per year and this cost could increase to as much as £388 billion over the next decade.

For more information, check out the [Business Reporter website](#).

UK Energy Statistics

DECC Statistics for 2014 energy usage show the following results of the breakdown in electrical supply sources:

Wind 10%

Bioenergy 4%

Hydro 1.6%

For more information and statistics, see the [DECC report](#).