



## GREEN ACHIEVER NEWSLETTER

October 2013

Greetings!

This month, we bring you updates on waste materials and recycling with insights into the food, packaging and DIY industries. From simply knowing which recycling box is which, to complying with complex environmental regulations, the decisions we make concerning

waste materials have a significant impact on the environment and the way we do business.

I hope you enjoy this issue - if you have any questions do not hesitate to get in touch.

Best Wishes,

Hannah

### **How much packaging do you handle?**

Changes have been made to the Packaging Directive regarding the range of items that are considered packaging. This reassessment is aimed at achieving harmonisation between EU countries on which materials are included under the regulations.

For more details, we recommend that you visit the [National Packaging Waste Database](#) and take note of the information provided by DEFRA.

### **One-Third of World's Food Wasted Annually**

According to a UN report, 1.3bn tonnes of food goes to waste every year resulting in an estimated \$750bn economic loss. Damage to the environment is also evident, with significant consequences for the climate, land use, biodiversity and water.

One of the key findings of the report explains how the water used to produce uneaten produce is equal to the annual flow of the Volga River, Russia. Not only this, but 1.4bn hectares of farmed land needn't be used - it's food is lost or wasted.

To read the report *Food Wastage Footprint: Impacts on Natural Resources*, [click here](#).

For ways you can prevent food waste, take a look at the [Love Food Hate Waste](#) website which provides recipe ideas for leftovers, as well as a portion planner tool.

THIS HALLOWEEN - If you're carving out a pumpkin, [here's some ideas](#) for what you can do with the seeds and flesh, courtesy of [Earth 911](#).

### **DIY Sector Surpasses Waste Targets**

A HISC report shows the DIY sector has surpassed waste targets by reducing packaging and sending less waste to landfill. These positive improvements come as part of the Home Improvement Sector Commitment (HISC) Voluntary Agreement.

Retail outlets including Argos, B&Q, Homebase and Wickes are all signatories to the commitment.

A full article about this can be found on the WRAP website via [this link](#).

### **Dates for Your Diary**

**World Rainforest Week** - 7th-13th October

**International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction** - 9th October

**World Planting Day** - 22nd October

**International Day of Climate Action** - 24th October

**Halloween** - 31st October

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