

Editorial



The 2011 RWM exhibition was held at the NEC Birmingham earlier this month, in partnership with CIWM it was the biggest event held in the UK for the recycling, waste and resource efficiency sectors ever. This was the first time that Emap's RWM Exhibition and CIWM's Futuresource event had joined forces in one place (Futuresource previously being held in London). J&B Recycling's MD Vikki Jackson-Smith and I contributed to the 13,000 visitors that saw over 650 exhibitors and 100 speakers at the event, as part of our continual drive to ensure the development of best practice for all our customers.

The exhibition was vast, perhaps even too large, but we were able to view the latest technologies plus network with our industry peers, material buyers such as plastic reprocessors, and suppliers whilst we rested our weary feet, thanks to all that provided us with refreshments to keep us going over the two days we attended!

Two of the most significant areas of growth in terms of exhibitors over the 2010 event related to Anaerobic Digestion (AD) and the use of Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF). The latter has seen an increase over the last 12 months, particularly in the export of waste to Western Europe that has an overcapacity of plants that burn waste to create energy, whereas there a far fewer such outlets in the UK often due to planning complications and the NIMBY effect. It might surprise readers to know that, according to letsrecycle.com, between September 2010 and September 2011, over one million tonnes of waste material was approved for export, with 14 companies permitted to send RDF overseas, compared to 3 companies the year before www.letsrecycle.com/news/latest-news/waste-management/exporting-waste-fuel-from-uk-2010a-retrograde-step2010 With waste high in plastic content (apart from PVC) being particularly attractive to Energy from Waste (EFW) plants is this a backwards step or is there no current alternative other than landfill for some plastic wastes? Hence our first article considers this in more depth. Mark Penny mark@jbrecovery.com.

Is All Plastic Packaging Recyclable?

J&B Recycling handles significant volumes of comingled and pre-sorted recyclables from all over the UK in our state of the art Material Recycling Facility. The plant uses a combination of sophisticated equipment to recover plastic bottles, tubs, pots and polythene film for reprocessing; however we believe that there is significant confusion over what constitutes recyclable plastic. We often find a considerable amount of the following unrecyclable items in the "recyclable" material received at our plant.

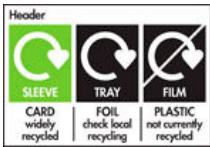


Photo of optical plastic sorter in action at J&B plant

- Crisp packets.
- Chocolate bar and biscuit wrappers.
- Cereal box inners.
- Cooked meat packets (film top, plastic bottom).
- Other flexible film type packaging often referred to as cellophane but more often than not made from polypropylene, such as those used for bakery products, pre-packed fresh vegetables, confectionary box overwrap, CD overwrap etc. These should not to be confused however with "stretchable" LDPE film and bags (polythene) that **can** be recycled and may have the number 4 recycling symbol on it.
- Cling film from raw meat and fish.
- Expanded polystyrene.
- DVD cases.
- Video cassettes (a particular problem as the tape itself ends up wrapping round our conveyors and clogging the plant during processing).
- All black trays, such as ready meal trays, even those that might still have the number 1 recyclable symbol on them. This is because they cannot be sorted from other types of plastics by the optical devices for reprocessing even using sophisticated equipment because of they black , plus they are often low grade versions, or a mixture of materials (laminates) which cannot be recycled at all.
- Foam such as meat trays, fast food boxes, soft fruit trays, pizza disks. *(continued overleaf)*



Some examples of non recyclable flexible packaging



Some of the items above may be recyclable or re-useable such as expanded polystyrene or video tapes but only if collected separately from other materials.

A lot of the materials in question will have a local authority non recyclable logo on it, but not all such packaging is labeled.

See [www.recyclenow.com/what can i do today/can it be recycled](http://www.recyclenow.com/what_can_i_do_today/can_it_be_recycled) for more information on what not, what can and how a variety of items can be recycled.

Jonathan Short MD of ECO plastics commented in the MRW recently “Part of the reason that people are uncertain about recycling is the multitude of systems in operation across the country. The varying sophistication of our MRF infrastructure makes it difficult to argue that we should have one uniform set of practice for every local authority, but equally there are some ‘absolute’ items. Black plastic food trays, for example, cannot currently be recycled and should not therefore enter the recycling stream, but plastic bottles can and should always be returned to the system”. <http://www.mrw.co.uk/news/increase-in-recycling-demands-an-increase-in-resourcefulness/8620193.article>

Help may be at hand in the future however as a series of trials, funded by WRAP, have for the first time identified methods of recycling black plastics, complex laminated plastics, plastic films, and polypropylene (PP) that are typically destined for energy recovery or landfill only.

WRAP reported on 22nd September http://www.wrap.org.uk/media_centre/press_releases/are_we_approaching.html that “by using non-carbon pigments in the manufacture of black plastics, it is possible to create a material that is almost identical in colour, but can be identified by the optical sorting equipment used by many MRFs” such as J&B Recycling “This could lead to the widespread recycling of the most common plastic used in packaging” as such plastic trays could be recycled into high value single-polymer materials. Feedback from retailers has been encouraging, now it’s down to them and the manufacturers of the trays to put these recoverable versions into the market place.

A further WRAP study has seen the development of a technique that could recycle post-consumer Polypropylene (PP) such as cellophane type food packaging e.g. bakery products, back in to material suitable for food-grade applications. More work is still needed, but WRAP believes this could help to grow high value markets for recycled PP, following a similar path to that developed by HDPE (plastic milk bottles) and PET (pop bottles).

According to Marcus Gover, Director of Closed Loop Economy at WRAP “There have been, and there are still, barriers to overcome and WRAP will continue to work closely with the industry to develop these new methods and technologies” so that, in the future even more of plastic packaging can be recycled.

Legislation News

Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011: Came into force in April 2011 this regulation requires businesses to apply the waste management hierarchy and to demonstrate its use; the waste hierarchy consists of waste reduction, reuse, recycling, recovery or landfill.

As such it will have an impact on Duty of Care and Controlled Waste Transfer Notes (CWTN) because from 28 September 2011 all CWTN must include:

- A description of the waste, any processes the waste has been through, how the waste is contained or packaged and the quantity.
- The place, date and time of transfer.
- The name and address of both parties.
- Details of the permit, licence or exemption of the person receiving the waste.
- The appropriate European Waste Catalogue (EWC) code.
- A declaration that the waste management hierarchy has been applied, which means producers must consider reusing or recycling their waste before deciding to dispose of it.
- The 2007 Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) code of the person transferring the waste.

Refer to <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/classifications/current-standard-classifications/standard-industrial-classification/index.html> for guidance on SIC 2007.

The regulations also affect the use of Hazardous Waste Consignment Notes in that they must also contain a declaration that the waste management hierarchy has been applied, which means producers must consider reusing or recycling their waste before deciding to dispose of it. The matter is confused somewhat however in that for Hazardous Waste Consignment Notes the 2003 Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) code of the person transferring the waste must be used rather than the 2007 version.

Hazardous Waste Regulations Guidance

Regulations for hazardous wastes (HWR) are in place that requires most premises at which hazardous waste are produced to register with the Environment Agency.

What is hazardous waste?

“Hazardous waste” is waste with one or more properties that are hazardous to health or to the environment. The regulations can be viewed at www.defra.gov.uk it includes Televisions, Computer Monitors, Fridges, Fluorescent Tubes, Rechargeable Batteries, Lead Acid Batteries, Liquid Paint, Oil Contaminated Waste, Solvent Contaminated Waste, Uncured Resins, plus many others.



Premises Registration (notification)

Under the regulations, where hazardous waste is to be produced or removed from any premises (other than exempt premises see below), the premises must be notified to the Environment Agency (EA). The movement of hazardous waste from premises that are not either notified or exempt is prohibited.

Exemptions

Premises that produce **less than 500kg** of hazardous waste in any twelve-month period are exempt from the requirement to notify the EA. All hazardous waste however can only be collected from by either a registered waste carrier, such as J&B Recycling, or an exempt carrier (examples of exempt carriers include the waste producer carrying their own waste or a charity /voluntary organisations). In addition hazardous waste consignment notes will be required for hazardous waste removed from **all** non domestic premises.



For your information 500kg equates to approximately:

- Either 30 small TVs or monitors, as shown opposite.
- Or 45 lead acid batteries.
- Or 1500 fluorescent tubes.
- Or 15 small domestic fridges.

Domestic premises

The HWR do not apply to domestic waste except where that waste is:

- Asbestos produced by a contractor. In this case, the contractor may have to notify the place where the waste is collected from (if those premises are not exempt); or
- “Separated domestic fractions” (other than asbestos). In this case, the premises it is collected from will not need to be notified. The place where this waste is taken to must be notified (unless those premises are exempt).

Mobile service operators

Premises may have all of their waste produced during construction, repair or maintenance by one or more mobile services. In this case you do not need to register the premise that generates the waste, providing that the premise will not produce more than 500Kg of hazardous waste in a 12 month period.

A consignment note will still be required unless the waste is domestic hazardous waste e.g. a refrigerator and is from a domestic premise, or is asbestos and is removed from a domestic premise only **without** reward or payment to the service operator removing the waste. For any domestic premises however that will produce greater than the 500Kg pa limit will require consignment notes must be used.

For more information on mobile services please refer to

<http://publications.environment-agency.gov.uk/PDF/GEHO0409BPSM-E-E.pdf>

Procedure for Registration (notification) with the Environment Agency

Producers can register with the EA and pay a nominal annual fee in four ways.

- Via the Internet on www.environment-agency.gov.uk/apps/hazwaste/registrationwelcome.jsp
- Via the telephone on 08708 502858.
- Postal applications to Environment Agency, PO Box 544, Rotherham, S60 1BY.
- Or by contacting J&B Recycling who will register the premises on your behalf as part of our collection service.

Once the Agency has processed the notification, it will issue a premise code that must be used on all consignment notes.

Details Required for Registration

The Agency will require the following information

- Name of organisation and Companies House Number, if applicable.
- Address and postcode of premise(s).
- Contact name, details, email address and telephone.
- Number of employees at premises.
- Standard Industry Classification Code (SIC) number 2003 version.

See http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/static/documents/Business/uk_sic2003_1106867.xls for further details.

Collection of Hazardous Waste

The EA will provide a registration number in the format: **XYZ123**. This number is necessary to show that the premises have been notified and also forms part of the consignment note number when transferring hazardous waste. For J&B customers we will arrange for the provision and completion of the Hazardous Waste Consignment Note as part of our service.

Re-Registration

Registration will only last for 12 months and you will have to apply to renew it annually (keeping the same number)

J&B Recycling can manage the whole process described above safely from beginning to end, thus ensuring that the Producer meets their legal obligations for premise registration, preparation and completion of the consignment note, collection, recycling, recovery or disposal of the waste, and consignee return.

J&B Opens “The Gate” Even Further for Recycling

Following a review of its waste management requirements in conjunction with Origin, the world’s leading shopping centre and retail service provider, J&B Recycling were recently appointed the waste management contractor at Newcastle upon Tyne’s premier entertainment location “the Gate”, which incorporates a wide range of restaurants, cafes, pubs, bars, clubs, a casino, and a cinema, plus “Tiger Tiger” which consists of six bars, a restaurant and a nightclub.



Origin is committed to minimising the environmental impact of all their operations and services. Their distinctive approach has not only helped to maintain their leading position in the industry but also combines a commitment to quality of service and technological progress with real and demonstrable concern for the environment. As they actively evaluate and research new and innovative techniques for waste management, centre collection and recycling facilities J&B Recycling were an ideal fit for their requirements.

Gavin Lish, J&B Recycling’s Business Development Executive devised the solution for Origin to incorporate a more user friendly glass, metal can, and cardboard recycling service that has helped increase the level of recycling of the waste generated by the 130,000 visitors per week, whilst reducing the manual handling and contamination issues of the previous arrangements faced by the site staff.

J&B Recycling also provide an efficient and reliable general waste collection and treatment service from the sites as part of their total waste management solution.

As part of the ongoing account management provided by J&B Recycling and Origin to the Gate further initiatives are in the pipeline to increase even more the types of materials that are recycled.

If you would like the benefit of our expertise in devising a cost effective workable waste management solution too then please contact our office or visit our website www.jbrecycling.co.uk for more details.



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