

## Editorial

With the election just round the corner, what will the future hold for the recycling industry and waste producers? One of our articles takes a brief look at what some of the national parties would aim to do with the UK's waste if they were in power. - Mark Penny [mark@jbreycling.co.uk](mailto:mark@jbreycling.co.uk)

## Quality Counts at Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs)

The three HWRCs in Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council and Hartlepool Borough Council have recently achieved ISO9001 and ISO14001 accreditation. The sites are managed and operated by J&B Recycling Ltd as part of a joint tender awarded by the two authorities on Teesside in 2009.

The quality and environmental management procedures employed on the sites, along with the scope of additional materials segregated, by J&B have been instrumental in increasing the recycling rate for the Burn Road Site (Hartlepool) which has improved by 30% since J&B took over the site 12 months ago.

J&B Recycling has provided management, labour and vehicles to service the two Redcar and Cleveland sites in Warrenby and Dunsdale since October 2004. Since taking responsibility of these sites the recycling rate for material handled has increased by 40%. Anthony Smith the Environment Manager for Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council stated "J&B turned around the service provided by the site previously from minimum recovery to levels above the targets set, at no additional cost"



All three sites were recently audited by SGS as part of the ISO accreditation process and the photograph below shows J&B Recycling Site Supervisors Martin Egglestone (left) and Dave Harman (right) receiving the sites ISO certificates from SGS Auditor Lynne Brydon.

In-house training is provided to staff employed to run the sites with regard to the level and type of customer service to be achieved and maintained. Members of the public using the sites are greeted, assisted and educated with placing their waste in the correct receptacle, thus maximising the opportunity for recycling. All of the staff working on the sites have also achieved, or are working towards, a City and Guilds Level 2 NVQ qualification in Recycling Operations.

With the aid of funding through the Business Resource Efficiency and Waste programme (BREW), the Local Enterprise Growth Initiative (LEGI), and formerly Renew Tees Valley, J&B Recycling entered into a partnership with Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council to open the Tees Valley's first "Local Authority" waste transfer and recycling centre for commercial waste. The facility which is next door to the Warrenby HWRC aim is to divert waste produced by Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) away from landfill (see more below). It also compliments the Council's HWRCs by offering a disposal route for commercial waste that is prohibited from the household site.

## BREW Site a Success

The transfer station operated in Redcar on behalf of the local council is seen by the Authority as a massive step forward in offering the local business community a facility to take their commercial waste to for recovery prior to final disposal, last quarter over 400 tonnes of commercial waste was recycled by the site which otherwise may have ended up at landfill.

The site accepts pre-sorted and mixed waste for sorting in any quantity to encourage cost effective disposal and recycling of a variety of materials such as green waste, rubble, soil, wood, cardboard, paper, plastics, and metals.

**To use the facility please contact Mark Penny on 01429 272810**



## Election Manifestos for Waste Management

Our round up in alphabetical order of some of the political parties' "strategies" for managing the waste the UK produces:

The **Conservatives** have pledged a voluntary approach to waste whereby Waste producers would be encouraged to sign up to a voluntary 'Responsibility Deal' to reduce waste and improve its disposal under a new Conservative government, the party also said "Households need new incentives to go green, so we will reward people who do the right thing by encouraging councils to pay people to recycle, while scrapping Labour's plans for new bin taxes on families. To help this happen, we will put a floor under the standard rate of landfill tax until 2020 to encourage alternative forms of waste disposal," Elsewhere, the manifesto details plans to take action on quangos, such as the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) and the Environment Agency, claiming that there are now 700 unelected bodies spending £46 billion every year and that they believe that Ministers should be responsible for government policy, not unelected bureaucrats.

The **Green Party** would almost double spending on recycling and waste disposal if it came to power, It sees triple economic, environmental and social crises facing the country and claims that that the other parties have not done enough to tackle inequality and drive sustainability. They state "we have to recognise that sophisticated waste management costs more than burying it in the ground", stressing that they opposed the incineration of waste. They claim that by doing so an extra 60,000 jobs would be created, helping the economy while also cutting pollution and greenhouse gas emissions.

A new **Labour** government would drive the introduction of on-the-go recycling on streets and in shopping centres and ban recyclable and biodegradable waste from landfill. The party states that the move to a 'zero waste Britain' was one of five key areas, alongside the likes of green job creation and increasing low-carbon electricity generation, where it would take action to ensure the next stage of national renewal, which it dubbed the "green recovery".

Meanwhile a **Liberal Democrat** government would encourage a huge increase in the use of anaerobic digestion to help end the use of landfill. The party said that the move to a 'zero waste' society would also involve it taking action to reduce packaging and require better design and product durability to reduce waste. It also detailed policies to help increase the UK's renewables capacity, including setting a target for 40% of UK electricity to come from clean sources by 2020, rising to 100% by 2050. The party says setting targets for zero waste "means less packaging, more recycling, and a huge increase in anaerobic digestion to generate energy from food and farm waste".

**UKIP** think that a "mass" of European legislation governing waste meant that councils were no longer in control of their policies". They want to "free local authorities to do what they are best at. It is impossible with the layers of bureaucracy and directives from Europe".

<http://www.letsrecycle.com/go/news/30>

## Card and Paper Recycling Markets Improve

Since the start of the year the demand for recovered paper has improved as two new paper mills opened towards the end of last year in Poland and Hungary. A new mill has also opened in Germany this year which when you combine this growth with proposed rebuilds in Russia in 2010, Spain in 2011, new builds in eastern Germany and England in 2012 and a further new facility in Poland in 2013. The demand by the European recovered packaging paper sector looks more promising than it has done for many years.



Recent freight increases have pushed container charges close to \$2,000 per unit delivered to China. China's own domestic supply of recycled paper and card has increased whilst demand for packaging materials has dropped due to economic downturn and this, combined with the high recovered material prices in Europe, has put real pressure on the Asian mills who have been unable to compete on price with the Europeans.

**The Recycling industry however is bracing itself for significant price drops, which could lead to difficult trading conditions in the next few weeks.** Experts have warned that current prices are unsustainable and could soon plummet due to the changing trading conditions in the export market.

The recent price improvements are a result of European mills buying up large amounts of material. The three new mills alone have a total on-stream capacity of 1.5 million tonnes of cardboard. This has meant they have been buying up huge amounts of material for production and to build up their inventory, which in turn has driven up prices which are currently at unsustainable levels. These have also been influenced by unpredictable factors such as the Chilean earthquake and even the Finnish dock strike, both of which have affected the pulp supply for paper production.

Once these exports recommence and Germany in particular reduces its stock levels there will be a market correction in European prices, plus when China re-enters the market prices will drop even further.

### Legislation News

With little or no legislative activity due to the forthcoming election there is only one major change which will affect a number of organisations including waste producers, waste management companies, and Local Authorities.

The rules on waste exemptions changed recently, if you work with waste you need to check if you're affected by changes to environmental permitting exemptions that came in on 6 April. If your business has an existing registered exemption, you might need to register a new exemption, or apply for an environmental permit. If you haven't registered an exemption before, you may need to now.

[http://www.netregs.gov.uk/netregs/63145.aspx?dm\\_i=2WX.47L0.8LHV2.D2AP.1](http://www.netregs.gov.uk/netregs/63145.aspx?dm_i=2WX.47L0.8LHV2.D2AP.1)

The old list of exempt operations has been changed. Some exemptions have been modified, some added and some no longer exist.

Those who already hold exemptions have an extended period of time, called **the transitional period**, to continue operating under the terms of their existing exemption before moving to the new system. For details of when you will need to transfer to the new system, please see some examples shown in the table of transitional provisions document below. To find out the full list and what you need to do to comply with the new regulations and how **the transitional period** applies to you, please go to the Environment Agency website at <http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/business/topics/permitting/32322.aspx>

Table showing an extract of Transitional Provisions

Old Exemption System Paragraph Number	Old Exemption Title	New Exemption Reference	New Exemption Title	Final Date for Transition to New Exemption
13	Construction and soil materials	T6	Treatment of waste wood by chipping or shredding	06/04/12
17	Storage of waste in a secure place	S2	Storage of waste in a secure place	01/10/12
19	Waste for construction	U1	Use of waste in construction	01/10/11
52	Temporary storage of waste at site where it is produced	Not Applicable	No exemption required	NA

Information on types of environmental and waste legislation can be found on the following websites [www.environment-agency.gov.uk](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk) or [www.netregs.gov.uk](http://www.netregs.gov.uk)



**J&B Recycling, Thomlinson Road, Hartlepool, Tees Valley, TS25 1NS**  
[www.jbrecycling.co.uk](http://www.jbrecycling.co.uk) email: [enquiries@jbrecycling.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@jbrecycling.co.uk)  
 Tel: 01429 272810 Fax: 01429 276614

