

**From:** [NetRegs Update](#)  
**To:** [Parnell, Alan](#)  
**Subject:** Get up to £5000 towards training, VIBES Awards and much more...  
**Date:** 29 April 2016 07:01:42

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April 2016

## In this month's update...

### **NEW Legislation:**

### **The Air Quality (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2016**

These Regulations amend the Air Quality (Scotland) Regulations 2000, by defining and setting air quality objectives for the substance PM2.5. (particulate matter with a diameter of 2.5 microns or less). These Regulations also prescribe the relevant period for the purposes of Part 4 of the Environment Act 1995, relating to Air quality review.



The Regulations came into force on 1 April 2016

Further details on the Air Quality (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2016 are available from the [NetRegs website.](#)

# The Producer Responsibility Obligations (Packaging Waste) (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2016

The Producer Responsibility Obligations (Packaging Waste) (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2016 amend the existing instruments establishing the system of packaging waste producer responsibility in Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

The amendments include:

- removal of the requirement to provide operational plans
- transfer of the approvals process from the appropriate authority to the appropriate agency;
- allowing an “approved person” to delegate the responsibility for signing off reports; and
- providing operators of schemes based in both Great Britain and Northern Ireland with the right to apply for approval from one approving body rather than two.

The Regulations came into force on 14 February 2016

For more information view the [Packaging and packaging waste guidance on the NetRegs website](#)

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## Consultations:

### Consultation on Scottish Landfill Tax- Loss on Ignition Testing – Analysis of Responses



Analysis of consultation responses following the Scottish Government's consultation exercise looking at loss on ignition testing and the application of the lower rate of Scottish Landfill tax to fine waste particles produced through waste treatment processes.

The intention of the consultation was to help ensure that waste fines are taxed at the correct rate when landfilled, including understanding the impacts a proposed mandatory testing system will have on the waste management industry, corresponding waste streams and to identify ways to prevent the potential for tax evasion and avoidance.

The consultation ran from 13 November to 29 December 2015.

To view the analysis of responses document follow the link below:

[Consultation on Scottish Landfill Tax- Loss on Ignition Testing - Analysis of Responses](#)

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## Updates:

### Ofgem Renewable Obligation (RO) Guidance

The Renewables Obligation (RO) is one of the main support mechanisms for renewable electricity projects in the UK. Smaller scale generation is mainly supported through the [Feed-In Tariff \(FITs\)](#).

Ofgem, the administrators of the RO scheme have recently produced the following FAQ guidance documents:



#### Renewables Obligation (RO) FAQ

This document answers some of the most frequently asked questions around the Renewables Obligations (RO) scheme. This includes advice on what the RO is, account functions, applying for accreditation, submitting output data and receiving Renewables Obligations Certificates (ROCs).

[Renewables Obligation \(RO\) FAQ](#)

#### Renewable Obligation (RO) Output Data FAQ

This document answers some of the most frequently asked questions around output data submissions

under the Renewables Obligations (RO) scheme.

[Renewables Obligation \(RO\) Output Data FAQ](#)

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## VIBES Awards Good Practice Videos (2015 Winners Stories)

VIBES have recently released video case studies of the winners at the VIBES Awards 2015, showcasing best environmental practice in Scottish businesses.

The videos include:

- [The City Car Club – Transport Award](#)
- [Bridge Biotechnology – Hydro Nation Award](#)
- [CMS Window Systems – Management SME Award](#)
- [Taylor Wimpey and C&D Associates – Co-operation Award](#)
- [Clyde Shopping Centre – Management SME Award](#)
- [Emtelle – Management Large Award](#)
- [Lobster Pod – Best Micro Business Award](#)
- [Aberdeen Heat and Power – Environmental Product or Service Award](#)
- [Better World Books – Circular Economy Award](#)



**Inspired? Do you have what it takes to be a sustainable business Champion?** Add Vision In Business for the Environment of Scotland (VIBES) launch events to your diary to learn more about the 2016 VIBES Awards:

- 21st April in Edinburgh
- 28th April in Dunfermline
- 3rd May in Inverness
- 10th May in Cumbernauld
- 11th May in Aberdeen
- 18th May in Duns

For information visit <http://www.vibes.org.uk/> or email: [vibes@sepa.org.uk](mailto:vibes@sepa.org.uk)

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## Get up to £5,000 towards training with the Low Carbon Skills Fund

The Low Carbon Skills Fund, from Skills Development Scotland, enables employers to access up to £5,000 worth of funding to undertake training and to support sustainable development and growth.

Benefit to your business:

- learning and training to improve resource and energy efficiency
- adopt innovative technologies or new sustainable practices and processes and identify new market opportunities
- PR benefits from green credentials.



The fund gives any Scottish business with fewer than 100 employees the opportunity to apply for up to £5000 towards employee training costs in areas such as renewable energy and low-carbon technologies, energy efficiency, waste management and reuse, and reducing carbon in supply and energy management.

Find out more and apply at <https://www.ourskillsforce.co.uk/funding-and-support/low-carbon-skills-fund/>

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## Carbon Trust launches Green Business Fund to cut costs and save energy for British businesses

The Carbon Trust is launching a new fund providing vital capital for smaller businesses to replace old, power-guzzling equipment, together with expert advice to boost the efficiency and productivity of businesses in England, Scotland and Wales.

[Read more >](#)

### **ESOS: what have we learned about the current energy efficiency opportunities for large UK businesses?**

The Carbon Trust has now helped hundreds of organisations to comply with the Energy Savings Opportunity Scheme regulations. Here are some of the insights from an analysis of our experience so far.

[Read more >](#)

### **Green Business Directory**

Looking to install energy efficiency or renewable energy technology? Find your ideal supplier and installer in our directory of Carbon Trust accredited businesses.

[Read more >](#)

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## **New Report on Nutrient Recovery and Reuse (NRR) in European agriculture**

The RISE Foundation has now launched its new report on **Nutrient Recovery and Reuse: a review of the issues, opportunities, and actions.**

The study engages a multi-disciplinary approach to bring together in a more integrated way, knowledge and expertise which is found in the separate worlds of agricultural science and farming, the food industry, water and sewage treatment industries and environmental and waste regulation. Specifically, it aims to provide greater clarity on the following questions:



- What is the scope for nutrient recovery and reuse in Europe?
- What are the issues and opportunities that this involves?
- What are the actions that could support the development of nutrient recovery and reuse in Europe?

To view the report, click the following link:

[Nutrient Recovery and Reuse: a review of the issues, opportunities, and actions.](#)

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## **Events:**

### **Hydronation Event - Business Growth Agenda and Innovation Service**

**When:** 11 May 2016, 10am - 4:30pm

**Where:** Kings Mills Hotel, Inverness

This event will provide an insight to the opportunities business have to benefit from innovations in the fast growing water and wastewater sectors.



Presentations will be heard on International Market Opportunities; Hydro Nation – an accelerating growth sector and specialist development centres; Case Studies and Innovation Support.

If you have any interest in the following subjects, come along on the 11 May to discuss your ideas or how we can help you benefit from the domestic and international growth in this important sector: Water and waste water infrastructure – Effluents-Engineering – Nutrient Recovery – Fresh and marine water chemistry and Pollution (pharma and priority chemicals) – Soil remediation- Emerging contaminants – Energy efficiency- Environmental sensors.

If you are interested in attending this event please email: [vanessa.jones@hnwis.scot](mailto:vanessa.jones@hnwis.scot) to confirm your attendance

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## Re-use and Repair Seminar

**When:** Thursday 12th May 2016, 10:00 – 15:00  
Registration and coffee will be available from 09:30  
A networking lunch will be provided from 12:15 – 13:00

**Where:** Albert Halls, Albert Place, Dumbarton Road, Stirling, FK8 2QL



Zero Waste Scotland invites you to a free re-use and repair seminar packed with information and opportunities.

Developing a flourishing circular economy is the focus for 2016 and in this seminar speakers will be exploring exciting opportunities available now and in the near future, and presenting successful re-use and repair models from across Scotland and the wider European Union.

### Who should attend?

- Private and Third Sector waste management companies
- Businesses considering circular economy developments
- IT or WEEE brokers who arrange movements of electrical waste
- Companies specialising in manufacturing or remanufacturing
- Trade associations representing members in the re-use and repair industry

Register for this free event [here](#).

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## From last month's update in case you missed it...

### Legislation:

## The Producer Responsibility Obligations (Packaging Waste) (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2016

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The amendments include:

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- allowing an “approved person” to delegate the responsibility for signing off reports; and
- providing operators of schemes based in both Great Britain and Northern Ireland with the right to apply for approval from one approving body rather than two.

The Regulations came into force on 14 February 2016

To view the full text of the Regulations click the link below:

[The Producer Responsibility Obligations \(Packaging Waste\) \(Miscellaneous Amendments\) Regulations 2016](#)

## The Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme and Domestic Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme (Amendment) Regulations 2016

The Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme and Domestic Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme (Amendment) Regulations 2016 amends the Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme Regulations 2011 and Domestic Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme Regulations 2014 to introduce a number of amendments applying to both schemes or that apply to each scheme separately.

The amendments include:

- change the annual tariff uplift from Retail Price Index (RPI) to Consumer Price Index (CPI)
- set the degression triggers for all technologies for degressions for the financial year 2016/17
- amendments to the land criteria
- provide clarity on the criteria which schemes must satisfy in order to demonstrate equivalence to the Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS)
- provide clarity on what is meant when a tariff is required to be rounded to a specified number of decimal places
- clarification of Ofgem's ability to request a new Energy Performance Certificate (EPC), and amend payments in line with new information
- removal of the need for a Green Deal Assessment report
- removal of the 183 days of occupation requirement for new build properties
- clarification that solar thermal collectors must not have been used before the plant's first commissioning date.
- cross-referencing the Renewables Obligations (RO) Order 2015

The Regulations came into force on 24 February 2016

To view the full text of the regulations click the link below:

[The Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme and Domestic Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme \(Amendment\) Regulations 2016](#)

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## Consultations:

### Consultation on the regulatory fitness of chemicals legislation (excluding REACH)

This is a public consultation on the regulatory fitness of chemicals legislation (excluding REACH). Its objective is to obtain stakeholder views on the functioning of the legislative framework for chemicals. This includes legislation governing the hazard identification and classification of chemicals and legislation governing risk management measures for chemicals (excluding REACH), including chemical-related provisions in worker safety legislation, transport legislation, environmental protection legislation, product control legislation, as well as supporting legislation.

The closing date for responses to the consultation is 27 May 2016

To view the consultation documents visit the [European Commission Public consultation webpage](#)

### A consultation on a Scottish replacement to Air Passenger Duty and Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening and Scoping Report

**Air Passenger Duty** - The Air Passenger Duty (APD) consultation paper seeks views on how a Scottish replacement to Air Passenger Duty should be structured and operated in order to help generate sustainable growth by boosting Scotland's international air connectivity.

The Scottish Government wants to seek views from a wide range of stakeholders on how a Scottish replacement to APD should be structured and operated in order to help achieve the strategic objective of sustainable growth through improving air connectivity in Scotland.

**Strategic Environmental Assessment** - As well as consulting on the structure and operation of a Scottish replacement to APD, the Scottish Government is also consulting and seeking views on the initial findings and proposed scope and methodology of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) that it is undertaking.

Views are being sought at this early stage ensure that the assessment proceeds with an effective evidence base that has been informed by key stakeholders and organisations. In order to help structure responses, a number of questions have been set out within the Screening and Scoping Report. However, additional views are also welcomed.

The closing date for responses to both consultations is 3 Jun 2016

To view the consultation documents visit the [Scottish Government Consultation Hub](#)

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## Updates:

### NEW SEPA Charging Scheme

SEPA's new charging scheme will start on 1 April 2016. The Environmental Regulation (Scotland) Charging Scheme 2016 will replace five existing schemes with a single risk-based scheme.

The following five schemes will be replaced:

1. waste management;
2. pollution prevention and control;
3. the holding/disposal of radioactive substances (Band B and C);
4. water abstraction, impoundment and engineering;
5. discharges to water.

More information about the regulatory charging scheme 2016, is available on SEPAs [Charging scheme development webpage](#).

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## Zero Waste Scotland launches £18m Circular Economy Fund for business

Zero Waste Scotland has launched an £18m fund to help small and medium-sized enterprises explore and pioneer ways to develop a circular economy.

The Circular Economy Investment Fund aims to accelerate the development of business innovation, including support for developing new technologies and the infrastructure needed for a more circular economy.

Interested organisations should go to the [Zero Waste Scotland website](#) for more information and to apply.

The fund will be open for applications from 1st April 2016 and will be a two stage process. More information is available at [www.zerowastescotland.org.uk/circular-economy](http://www.zerowastescotland.org.uk/circular-economy)

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## Saltire Awards for Civil Engineering

The search is on for Scotland's best engineering and construction projects with entries due by end April 2016.

The Awards celebrate excellence in the industry and the people who design, build and maintain Scotland's transport, water, flooding, energy and waste infrastructure. The inclusion of new categories will ensure that projects large and small and their contribution to Scottish life can be showcased more effectively.

The categories include the project that most beneficially impacts the people of Scotland, an 'infrastructure' award and Special Awards, which will shine a light on environmental improvements, buildings and projects designed in Scotland but constructed overseas.

For more information visit [Saltire Awards for Civil Engineering](#)

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## Managing Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material (NORM) in the oil and gas industry

Improve the management of Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material (NORM) with this single point of reference.

This report provides guidance and general information on the management of process streams or equipment contaminated with minor concentrations of Naturally Occurring Radionuclides (NORs). Colloquially streams or installation parts contaminated with NORs are indicated as Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material (NORM) within the oil and gas industry.

To view the guidance click the link below:

[Managing Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material \(NORM\) in the oil and gas industry](#)

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## Events:

### VIBES Awards Launch Events 2016

Do you have what it takes to be a sustainable business Champion? Add Vision In Business for the Environment of Scotland (VIBES) launch events to your diary to learn more about the 2016 VIBES Awards:

- 21st April in Edinburgh
- 28th April in Dunfermline
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For information visit <http://www.vibes.org.uk/> or email: [vibes@sepa.org.uk](mailto:vibes@sepa.org.uk)

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## GreenFleet Scotland

Energy Saving Trust along with Transport Scotland and Scottish Enterprise are again sponsoring GreenFleet Scotland and Evolution at the Royal Highland Centre, Ingliston, Edinburgh on Friday and Saturday 15 and 16 April 2016.

GreenFleet Scotland is the fleet event for Scotland, designed to demonstrate the viability of ultra-low emission, plug-in, hybrid and electric vehicles to organisations that want to improve the efficiency of their fleet and transport operations and to address poor air quality caused by emissions from road transport.

You can register for the events at <http://events.greenfleet.net/scotland> and <http://scotland.evolutionshow.co.uk/>

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## The Natural Step and Circular Economy together: The Natural Step Level 1 - 100% Resilient Food Security and 0% Waste

**When:** Level 1: May 7, from 9am - 6pm  
Circular Economy Workshop: May 8, from 9am - 5pm

**Where:** Transition Town Forres  
Environmental Education Centre c/o The Hub  
20 Tolbooth St.  
Forres IV36 1PH.

For the first time in Scotland, The Natural Step (TNS) and Circular Economy Frameworks are working together to involve food stakeholders to define and explore sustainability and create a Sustainable Food System in the North of Scotland.

This combined TNS Level 1 course and Circular Economy workshop takes place over two consecutive days and builds upon more than 25 years of practical experience and results in coaching sustainability champions who are leading their organisations and communities toward a sustainable future.

For more details including course pricing visit: <http://www.thenaturalstep.org/education/> or send an email to [hello@thenaturalstep.org](mailto:hello@thenaturalstep.org)

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