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# NetRegs

For Northern Ireland and Scotland  
[www.netregs.org.uk](http://www.netregs.org.uk)

## NetRegs update

Understand your  
environmental  
regulations and learn  
about best practice



**SEPA**  
Scottish Environment  
Protection Agency

**NIEA** Northern Ireland  
Environment  
Agency  
[www.doeni.gov.uk/niea](http://www.doeni.gov.uk/niea)

April 2016

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## In this month's update...

### NEW Legislation:

#### The Waste (Amendment) Regulations Northern Ireland 2016

These Regulations amend a number of pieces of legislation to bring into effect the changes introduced by the EU Directive 2015/1127/EU Annex II of the Waste Framework Directive.



The purpose of Directive 2015/1127 is to apply a climate correction factor to the R1 formula on the recovery of energy from waste. In order for an incinerator to be formally classed as a waste recovery facility, it needs to obtain R1 status by meeting the threshold set out in the energy efficiency formula (R1

formula) in Annex II of the Waste Framework Directive (WFD).

The Regulations come into force on 15 July 2016

You can view the full text of the Regulations here:

[The Waste \(Amendment\) Regulations Northern Ireland 2016](#)

## **The Renewables Obligation Closure Order (Northern Ireland) 2016**

This Order closes the Northern Ireland Renewables Obligation (NIRO) to new large scale (i.e. above 5 megawatts (MW) installed capacity) onshore wind generation and existing large scale generating stations adding additional capacity from 1 April 2016 and introduces exceptions to closure in the form of limited defined grace periods.

The Order does not have effect in relation to electricity generated from small scale onshore wind (i.e. up to and including 5MW installed capacity).

This Order came into force on 17 March 2016

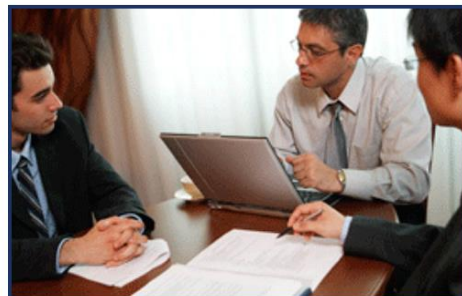
You can view the full text of the Order here:

[The Renewables Obligation Closure Order \(Northern Ireland\) 2016](#)

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## **Consultation:**

### **Consultation on the implementation of Regulation (EU) 1143/2014 in Northern Ireland**



The Department of the Environment Northern Ireland (DOENI) is seeking views on the proposed penalties it is required to put in place to assist implement Regulation (EU) 1143/2014 on the prevention and management of the introduction and spread of invasive alien species.

The closing date for responses to the consultation is Wednesday 18 May.

For details on how to respond and to view the consultation document click the link below:

[Consultation on the implementation of Regulation \(EU\) 1143/2014](#)

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## **Position Statement:**

### **Regulatory Position Statement – Utilising additional quality protocols in place in England**

The quality protocols set out how to fully recover wastes and turn them into quality products.

It defines the point at which waste ceases to be waste and can be used as a product without the requirement for waste management controls. By following quality protocols, producers can create sustainable resources in which end users can have confidence.

You can read the Regulatory Position Statement here:



[Regulatory Position Statement – Utilising additional quality protocols in place in England](#)

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## Update:

### Northern Ireland Departments are changing from 8 MAY 2016

What will this mean to you?

- Business should continue as usual.
- Functions will remain the same:
  - For agriculture, environment, marine, fisheries, sustainability and rural affairs issues, your new Department will be the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA).
  - For drainage and flooding issues, contact the Rivers Agency in the Department of Infrastructure (DfI) ([www.dfi-ni.gov.uk](http://www.dfi-ni.gov.uk)).
  - For built heritage issues, contact the Department for Communities (DfC) ([www.dfc-ni.gov.uk](http://www.dfc-ni.gov.uk)).
  - Staff contacts and telephone numbers will remain the same, but there will be a new website -[www.daera-ni.gov.uk](http://www.daera-ni.gov.uk) - and new e-mail addresses for staff: e.g. [joanne.smith@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:joanne.smith@daera-ni.gov.uk)



For more information on the responsibilities of the nine future Departments go to: [www.nidirect.gov.uk](http://www.nidirect.gov.uk)

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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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## 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 guidance documents:



### **Submitting data for the Northern Ireland Renewables Obligation: a step-by-step guide**

This step-by-step guide will help you to claim annual support under the Northern Ireland Renewables Obligation (NIRO) scheme for your Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS) certified solar photovoltaic (PV) or wind installation. This guidance is intended for micro-generators not using an agent.

[Submitting data for the Northern Ireland Renewables Obligation: a step-by-step guide](#)

### **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](#)

### **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](#)

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

## Legislation:

### The Groundwater (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016

The Groundwater (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016 amends the Groundwater Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009 in order to transpose the provisions of the EU Groundwater Directive 2014/80/EU/.

The Regulations make a small technical amendment to a threshold value to bring it in line with the rest of the UK and EU water quality standards.

The Regulations come into force on 20 June 2016

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

[The Groundwater \(Amendment\) Regulations \(Northern Ireland\) 2016](#)

### 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

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

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

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## Consultation:

### 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](#)

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## Guidance:

### Best Practice Management Guidelines: Japanese Knotweed

The 'Best Practice Management Guidelines: Japanese Knotweed' guidance document, produced by Invasive Species Ireland, provides best practice management guidance on the control of Japanese Knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*).

To view the guidance document click the link below:

[Best Practice Management Guidelines: Japanese Knotweed](#)



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## Update:

### Watch New Good Practice Video Clips

NetRegs has recently added more videos to its collection of good practice video clips.

Our new videos include:

1. [Antrim Castle Gardens](#)
2. [Linden Foods](#)
3. [Broughgammon Farm](#)
4. [City Hotel](#)
5. [Paul McAlister Architects and Energy Consultants](#)



The NetRegs good practice videos showcase how real businesses comply with the regulations and what they do to reduce their impacts on the environment.

All businesses featured have experienced business benefits from their actions, demonstrating that what is good for the environment can also be good for business.

[To view all of the video clips available visit the NetRegs Video Clips webpage.](#)

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