

NetRegs updates straight to your mailbox



# NetRegs update

Understand your  
environmental  
regulations and learn  
about best practice



June 2016

## In this month's update...

### Referendum Result:

It's business as usual, NetRegs do not expect any imminent dramatic changes in environmental legislation any time soon.

We will endeavour to keep our subscribers up to date as things unfold.

### NEW Legislation:

#### Assessment of Energy Performance of Non-domestic Buildings (Scotland) Regulations

The main aim of the instrument is to reduce emissions and energy use in existing non-domestic buildings.

In summary the regulations impose the following:

- Owners of specified existing non-domestic buildings (those over 1,000 m<sup>2</sup> in area) must take action to assess and improve the building performance to reduce energy use and greenhouse gas emissions
- Where the building is to be sold or let, the regulations impose a duty on the owner to make an action plan available to prospective buyers or tenants.
- The owner can choose to defer the implementation process by producing an annual Display Energy Certificate.



The regulations come into force on 01 September 2016.

To view the full text of the Regulations, click the following link:

[Assessment of Energy Performance of Non-domestic Buildings \(Scotland\) Regulations](#)

## Updates:

### Are you complying with your legal duty to separate materials for recycling?

A new SEPA campaign will target waste producers to raise awareness of how to stay within the law when it comes to the duty to recycle. This campaign is supported by SEPA's new enforcement measures, which include the potential to issue a £300 fixed monetary penalty (FMP), for persistent failure to comply with the duty to segregate material for recycling.

FMPs won't be used in isolation. They will work alongside SEPA's existing enforcement actions (e.g. advice and guidance, final warning letters, enforcement notices and reports to the Procurator Fiscal) to change the behaviour of offenders and drive them towards full compliance.



For more information about waste regulation please visit the [SEPA website](#), contact SEPA via [zerowaste@sepa.org.uk](mailto:zerowaste@sepa.org.uk) or call 03000 99 66 99

### NetRegs website refresh - Same content, NEW design

We are very excited to announce that we are in the process of launching a new NetRegs website. The website has been refreshed and redesigned to improve user friendliness, usability and visual appeal. Although much of the content on the site remains the same, a new design makes the site faster and easier to navigate. Other key developments include:

- a fresh, modern user interface, optimised for user navigation
- integrated additional resource buttons for video clips, e-learning tools, self-assessment tools and more..
- an updated video library, showcasing all of our video clips



Keep an eye on the [website](#) or [NetRegs update](#) for more information!

### Applications for Green Business funding now open - up to £10k capital contribution available

Small and medium sized businesses looking to replace old, power-guzzling equipment can now apply to the **Carbon Trust Green Business Fund** for a capital contribution for energy saving technology. Launched at the beginning of June, first applications are being processed now.

The Carbon Trust Green Business Fund also offers expert advice to boost the efficiency and productivity of businesses. An energy opportunity assessment, equipment procurement support, and a financial contribution towards energy saving equipment are available for businesses with fewer than 250 employees in England, Scotland and Wales.



Implementation advice is available to companies with 1,000 employees or fewer. These services are paid for by the Green Business Fund for a limited period - apply now to make sure your business doesn't miss out.

[Read more & apply >](#)

## Have you signed up for the BIG Biodiversity Challenge 2016?

Now in its third year, this free to enter Challenge invites leaders from across construction, infrastructure, retail, transport and Government to "do one thing" for biodiversity.

Organisations are invited to add one new biodiversity enhancement to a construction site, development or existing building, however large or small, permanent or temporary as well as adding creativity in biodiversity enhancements.

[Sponsor an Award](#) and [take the Challenge...](#)



## Guidance:

### Valuing Your Soils – Guidance for farmers

It can take 500 years to replace 25 mm (1 inch) of topsoil, yet in the UK it is estimated that 2.9 million tonnes of soil are eroded each year, and soil quality is diminished by poor practices. "Valuing Your Soils", is newly published guidance, which will help Scottish farmers, crofters and land managers protect and improve their most valuable resources.

The guidance includes useful information about Scotland's agricultural soils and practical advice outlining the upfront financial savings and business benefits of better soil management and the efficient use of resources. Action and problem-specific 'field-sheets' are designed for busy farmers with limited time for reading.



The appendix contains more detailed technical information and research case studies highlighting evidence from current investigations of Scottish farm soils.

[Download your free copy.](#)

## SEPA Guidance:

### Financial Provision for Non-Landfill Waste Management Activities

The Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) requires to assess whether applicants for, and holders of, certain licences, consents or permissions are fit and proper persons.

This guidance note describes what is required from applicants. It is only relevant if you are applying for a new waste management licence or pollution prevention and control permit for a specified waste management activity, or for the modification or transfer of such an authorisation, and is only applicable to authorisations for non-landfill activities.



To view the guidance note, click the link below:

[Financial Provision for Non-Landfill Waste Management Activities](#)

### Updated: CAR Practical Guide

The Controlled Activities Regulations (CAR) Practical Guide has been updated to version 7.3. Changes include increased clarification of current requirements for borehole construction and operation in the Abstraction section and two new Registration level activities in the Engineering section.

The two new activities are:

- for the placement of trees or parts of trees in a watercourse to protect eroding banks;
- for operating any vehicle, plant or equipment in the water environment for the purposes of carrying out works to reinstate or replace failed or abandoned structures.

You can view the guidance here:

[CAR Practical Guide](#)

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

### Legislation:

#### Energy Act 2016

The UK's oil and gas industry makes a substantial contribution to the UK's economy, energy security and employment. The Energy Act 2016 aims to maximise the economic recovery from the UK Continental Shelf (UKCS) oil and gas recovery.

In summary the Act will:

- Formally establish the Oil and Gas Authority (OGA) as an independent regulator, responsible for the asset stewardship and regulation of domestic oil and gas recovery.
- Transfer existing regulatory powers in respect of offshore oil and gas licensing to the OGA, excluding environmental powers.
- Give the OGA additional powers including: access to company meetings; data acquisition, retention and transfer; dispute resolution; and sanctions.
- Introduce provisions in relation to charges for the offshore oil and gas environmental regulator's services to the industry.
- Make legislative changes to remove the need for the Secretary of State's consent for large onshore wind farms (over 50 Mega Watt (MW)), acting in tandem with other measures to, in effect, transfer the consenting of onshore wind farms into the planning regime in the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.
- Close the Renewables Obligation early to new onshore wind projects in Great Britain and enable the Secretary of State to make provision to restrict the use of renewables obligation certificates relating to new onshore wind in Northern Ireland.

The Act received Royal assent on 12 May 2016.

To view the full text of the Act, click the following link:

[Energy Act 2016](#)

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### Updates:

#### NetRegs Awareness Survey 2016

NetRegs recently commissioned a survey among SMEs in Scotland, to provide an up to date picture of current attitudes and awareness in relation to the NetRegs website and environmental issues.

Some of the key findings identified during the survey include:

- There has been a significant increase in the awareness of environmental issues amongst Scottish SMEs
- 79% of businesses introduced practical measures to prevent or reduce harm to the environment
- The main driver for businesses to improve environmental performance was to improve reputation.

You can view the full survey report here:

[NetRegs Survey Report 2016 - Scotland](#)

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#### The Sustainability Leadership Development Programme (SLDP)

The University of Stirling Management School interdisciplinary Centre for Sustainable Practice and Living (CSPL) and the University of Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership (CISL) are delighted to announce an innovative programme to support organisations in their efforts to address the challenge of sustainability.

The Sustainability Leadership Development Programme (SLDP) is for business, public and third sector senior leaders and offers an outcome-oriented leadership course helping business and senior leaders address the sustainability agenda.

**When**

- Module 1: 17th and 18th August 2016
- Module 2: 21st and 22nd September 2016

**Where**

Stirling Court Hotel, University of Stirling, Airthrey Rd, Stirling FK9 4LA

**Cost**

Price per delegate is £2,200 (excluding VAT).

**Further Information and Apply**

For further information download the [SLDP leaflet](#) or contact Erik MacEachern on 01786 467373.

To apply contact the Centre for Sustainable Practice and Living (CSPL) at [sustainability@stir.ac.uk](mailto:sustainability@stir.ac.uk)

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## SEPA clamping down on waste crime

If you are involved in the waste industry at any level, you have a responsibility to act within the law. Failure to do so could cost you up to £40,000 or a jail sentence.

The new enforcement measures introduced by the Regulatory Reform (Scotland) Act 2014 will enable SEPA to take a more strategic, proportionate and effective approach to tackling environmental crime.

For more details on your responsibilities download the information leaflet below:

[SEPA clamping down on waste crime leaflet](#)

[forward to a friend](#)

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