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**November 2019**

## **In this month's update...**

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## New on NetRegs



### NetRegs Environmental Checklist for Smallholders

NetRegs has produced a checklist for smallholders in Northern Ireland and Scotland.

You can complete it online, or print it out and fill it in as a hard copy.

[Smallholder's Environmental Checklist](#)

## Legislation



### The Waterways (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019

These Regulations come into operation on the 1<sup>st</sup> December 2019. The purpose of the Regulations is to ensure that Council Directive 2014/52/EU, which amended Council Directive 2011/92/EU, is implemented in Northern Ireland in respect of canal schemes and certain marina works. The 2014 Directive made the amendment in order to strengthen the quality of the environmental impact assessment procedure and to simplify that procedure with a view to improving resource efficiency, ensure the objectivity of the competent authority and enhance coherence with other EU legislation.

You can read the legislation in full here <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/nisr/2019/209/contents/made>

## Environment Bill

On the 15 October 2019 the Government introduced the Environment Bill to Parliament, to tackle the biggest environmental priorities of our time. While the Bill applies only to England, more than half of its measures – such as those designed to drive up recycling rates – are designed to apply across the UK, with the consent of the devolved administrations, helping the nation deal with the major environmental challenges together.

### Key areas include:

- creating a new governance framework for the environment;
- a new independent public body – the Office of Environmental Protection
- setting legally binding environmental targets;
- a new direction for resources and waste management, moving towards a more circular economy, crackdown on litter and tackling waste crime;
- improving air quality;
- delivering sustainable water resources;
- restoring and enhancing nature and green spaces;
- updating laws on chemicals (REACH).

You can read more about the Environment Bill here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-introduces-ground-breaking-environment-bill>

**Consultations**



## **Consultation on the Waste Management Plan for Northern Ireland**

The Department of Agriculture and Rural Affairs is seeking views on a draft Waste Management Plan for Northern Ireland (WMPNI). There are waste management policies in Northern Ireland which taken together deliver the objectives of the revised Waste Framework Directive 2008 (rWFD): to protect the environment and human health by preventing or reducing the adverse impacts of the generation and management of waste and by reducing overall impacts of resource use and improving the efficiency of such use. It is not, therefore, the intention of the WMPNI to introduce new policies or to change how waste is managed in Northern Ireland. Its core aim is to bring current waste management policies under the umbrella of one national plan. Views are sought on whether the WMPNI when combined with waste planning policy will fulfil the obligations of the rWFD especially Article 28 (mandatory requirements), as far as Northern Ireland is concerned.

The consultation will close at 4.00pm on Wednesday 11 December 2019.

You can read the consultation in full and how to respond here <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/consultations/Waste-Management-Plan-for-Northern-Ireland>

## **Environment Strategy for Northern Ireland – Public Discussion Document**

The Department of Agriculture, Environment & Rural Affairs (DAERA) is seeking views on the potential scope, scale and ambition of Northern Ireland's first environment strategy. Northern Ireland has never had an overarching environment strategy but the Department believes one is now needed to develop an effective and holistic approach that will deliver real improvements for many decades to come.

The consultation closes on the 23 December 2019. All of the responses received will be carefully analysed and will be used to inform a future Minister's deliberations on the content of the Environment Strategy for Northern Ireland.

You can read the consultation, associated documents and ways to respond here <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/consultations/esni-public-discussion-document>

## Updates

### The 2020 refrigeration F-gas ban

From 01 January 2020 the refrigeration F-gas ban comes into force.

The ban will affect small to medium sized shop premises who use or own some commercial refrigeration units that contain F-gases. F-gases are commonly used as the coolant in fridges and freezers.

[Read the guidance on NetRegs to check if you are affected >>>](#)



### £1million funding launched to accelerate waste-reduction innovation and research

Environmental compliance scheme Ecosurety will today launch a £1million innovation and research fund for projects that seek to reduce the impact of packaging, batteries or WEEE (electronic waste) on the environment. The fund will be spread across three years with individual grant applications of up to £150,000 being accepted.

Applications to the Ecosurety Exploration Fund can be made via the Ecosurety website from Thursday 28th November 2019 at [www.ecosurety.com/impact/exploration-fund](http://www.ecosurety.com/impact/exploration-fund) where more details on eligibility can be found. Deadline for submission is 11.59pm, Tuesday 10th March 2020. Winners will be announced at a special event in May 2020.

#### Business Support Organisations

For details of the organisations that support businesses through advice, training, networking events, online resources and support



in the form of loans and grants, [Go to the NetRegs Business Support page.](#)

## Waste management: smart tracking of waste (GovTech Catalyst)

The governments and regulators across England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, are looking at how we can digitise waste tracking processes. In particular, how we record what happens to waste as it moves from production to recovery or disposal.

GovTech Catalyst is a £20 million fund to help tech firms deliver innovative solutions to public sector challenges. It encourages small, emerging technology businesses to create and develop innovative solutions to public services, that once proven can move to scale both to the advantage of markets and society.



[Read more here >>>](#)

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