May 2020

In this month's update...

Coronavirus (COVID-19) guidance and support
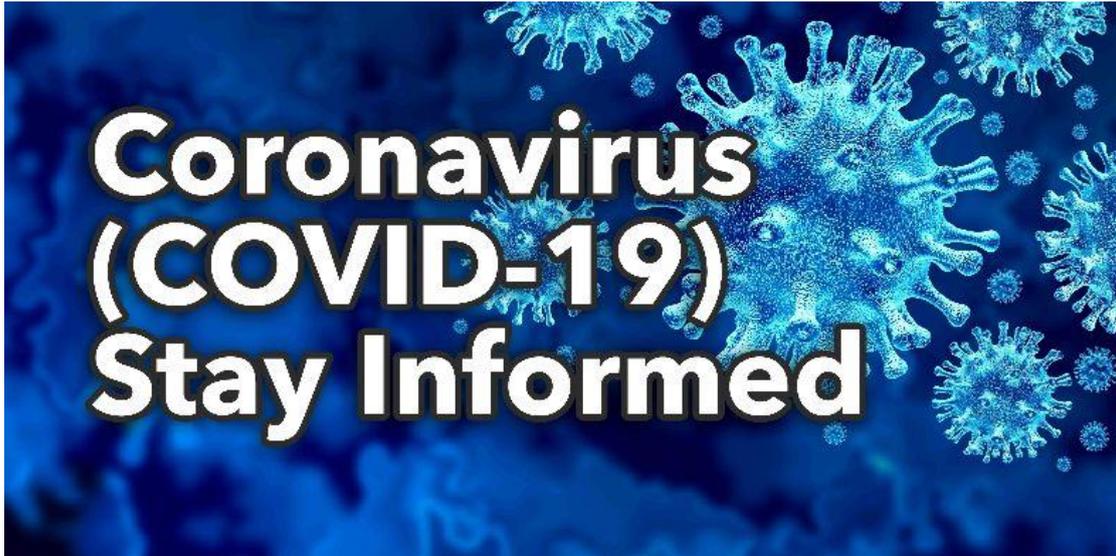
Managing waste during COVID-19

Scotland's environment watchdog, the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), and partners, have launched an information hub to support Scotland's recyclers and waste managers in these difficult times - as part of Scotland's campaign to help manage waste during the current coronavirus restrictions. Hosted on a dedicated section of managingourwaste.scot the resources provide information and signpost to the most up-to-date guidance on a range of topics, including support for businesses, environmental regulations, temporary regulatory positions and health and safety.

The campaign reinforces the legal responsibility to recycle and manage waste properly. There is also a warning to those who are seeking to use the opportunity of disruption to services to their criminal advantage, and a plea to businesses to help SEPA to tackle unscrupulous companies and individuals by reporting suspicious behaviour and making sure they only deal with legitimate waste companies.

Visit [managingourwaste.scot/wastemanagement.](#)

Stay compliant, protect the environment.

Managing waste during COVID-19

Covid-19 guidance and sources of support

There are a number of sources of guidance to assist businesses in Scotlnd with the current COVID-19 situation, including:

Coronavirus (COVID-19) guidance from the UK government: what you need to do
See the UK government instructions and guidance related to the COVID-19 outbreak, here:
https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus

Coronavirus (COVID-19) information from the Scottish government:
See information and guidance from the Scottish Government related to the COVID-19 outbreak, here:
https://www.gov.scot/coronavirus-covid-19/

For Coronavirus advice for businesses in Scotland, visit
https://findbusinesssupport.gov.scot/coronavirus-advice

SEPA Coronavirus (COVID-19) Response
See information from the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) related to the COVID-19 outbreak, here:
https://coronavirus.sepa.org.uk/

Scottish Enterprise Coronavirus (COVID-19) advice and support for businesses

Scottish Enterprise have pulled together sources of support and advice for businesses affected by the spread of Coronavirus. View the support and guidance here: https://www.scottish-enterprise.com/support-for-businesses/coronavirus-covid-19-advice

Business Gateway's virtual & local business support regarding the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic

Business Gateway is being responsive and reactive to the needs and challenges Scottish businesses face due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. See a list of free business resources that may be useful to you at this time, here: Business support - Coronavirus

Federation of Small Business (FSB) coronavirus support hub

The FSB have pulled together relevant support material for smaller businesses and the self-employed. The information is available to both members and non-members. View the support guidance here: FSB Coronavirus advice and guidance

Changes in response to the COVID-19 outbreak

SEPA Temporary Regulatory Position Statements

The Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) is committed to supporting everyone they regulate during the COVID-19 public health emergency, while maintaining protection of the environment. It is recognised that there may be disruption to businesses during this time, and so temporary COVID-19 Regulatory Position Statements to help businesses during this period have been produced.

See the Regulatory Position Statements here >>>

New on NetRegs
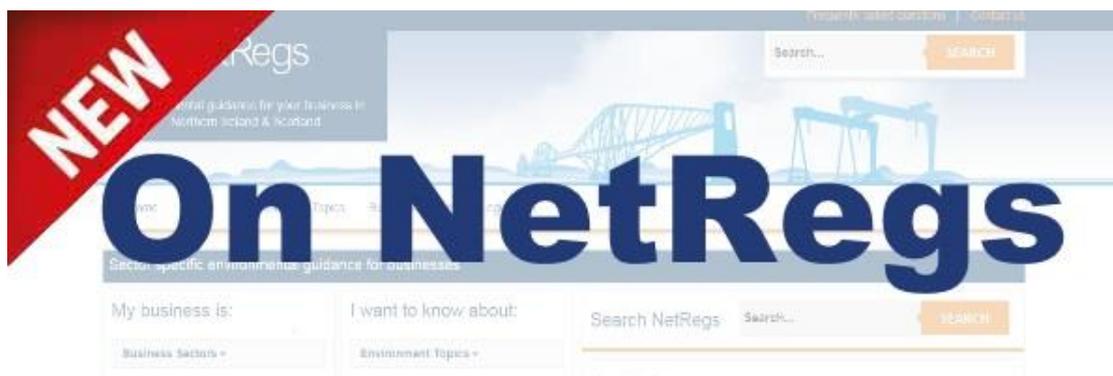
NetRegs e-learning

NetRegs offers FREE online training providing environmental guidance on a range of topics, through interactive learning.

Topics/sectors covered include:

- Waste
- Water
- Renewable Energy
- Beyond compliance
- Septic tanks
- Agriculture
- Construction

Each course should take no longer than 10 – 15 minutes to complete.

The NetRegs team are currently developing a number of new e-learning courses and these will be added to the learning platform in the coming weeks and months.

Sign-up here >>>

New Legislation

The Deposit and Return Scheme for Scotland Regulations 2020

The aim of the Deposit and Return Scheme for Scotland Regulations 2020 is to promote and secure an increase in the recycling of certain materials.

By applying a deposit of 20p to drinks in the most common single-use packaging, the scheme will encourage people to return that packaging to specified return points, where they will be able to reclaim the deposit. This will mean more of these containers will be collected for recycling.

When do the Regulations come into force:

- Parts 1(General), 4 (Scheme administrator) and 6 (Appeals or reviews) came into force on **20 May 2020**.
- Regulations 22-25 (Exemptions for return points and voluntary return point operators) come into force on **01 January 2021**
- Part 3 (Producers) comes into force on **01 January 2022**, and
- Remaining provisions come into force on **01 July 2022**.

Read more on the NetRegs website

The Ecodesign for Energy-Related Products (Amendment) Regulations 2020

EU Ecodesign measures introduced under the Ecodesign Directive set minimum environmental performance standards for energy-related products in order to remove the worst environmentally performing products from the market.

New and updated EU ecodesign requirements for external power supplies (e.g. laptop chargers) have applied in the UK since 1 April 2020, repealing and replacing the previous external power supplies requirements. These Regulations make amendments so that the UK Market Surveillance Authority can enforce the new ecodesign requirements for external power supplies in the UK.

The Regulations came into force on 26 May 2020.

Read more here >>>

Consultations

Consultation

Climate Change: Just Transition Commission - call for evidence
The concept of just transition refers to the need for Governments to take action to reduce emissions in a way which is fair and leaves no-one behind. The Just Transition Commission has been established to provide Scottish Ministers with practical, realistic, and affordable recommendations for such action. It is inviting written submissions to inform the development of final recommendations.

**DEADLINE EXTENDED -** The consultation closes on 30 June 2020.

Read and respond to the consultation here >>>

Updates

Business opportunity for tourism/hospitality sector

Could academic support help a business you know diversify or reimagine their tourism product?
As a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic, the tourism and hospitality industry has come together in an unprecedented way to support business survival and identify key steps on the road to recovery.
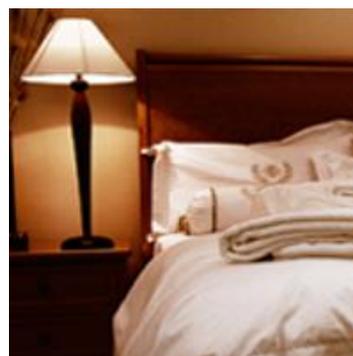
It will take a long time for the market to return to recent levels and initially many tourism businesses will need to look to diversify their offering and source new and different markets.

With this in mind, Interface has developed a service which will offer tourism businesses the chance to collaborate with academics and students with expertise in tourism and marketing. This could help businesses develop and support themselves going forward in this very difficult time.

Apply by **Friday 29 May 2020.**

Read more here >>>

£100m funds to help business

A £100 million package of additional grant support for small and medium sized businesses (SMEs) and newly self-employed people has opened for applications.
The three separate funds, include a £34 million hardship fund for the newly self-employed, a £20 million fund for small and micro enterprises in the creative, tourism and hospitality sectors and £45 million for viable SMEs crucial to the Scottish economy which are vulnerable.

Read more here >>>

The Nature of Scotland Awards 2020 - SNH Business Award

Celebrating businesses large and small, The Nature of Scotland Awards want to hear how yours stands out from the crowd by working differently for the benefit of nature. Does your work assist the conservation sector, are you lowering your carbon footprint, reducing your emissions or maybe you are carrying out steps towards climate adaptation in harmony with nature? The application will be judged based on the impact delivered in proportion to the size of the business.

Entries are open until **01 June 2020**.
Find out more here >>>

EIT Climate-KIC Accelerator programme – Don't miss out!

ECCI is on the hunt for a new batch of budding Scottish entrepreneurs eager to take their markets by storm for its EIT Climate-KIC Accelerator programme.

The EIT Climate-KIC Accelerator programme has been adapted to meet the challenges of COVID-19, switching coaching and mentoring sessions online while restrictions are still in place. With the programme switching online

ECCI is keen to encourage applications from all over Scotland. The world is changing and support for a green recovery will be at the heart of Scotland's 'new normal'. While current circumstances may be difficult and uncertain, ECCI's programme can help businesses adapt and access opportunities that will help deliver a fair and sustainable future.
Apply by Friday 29 May.

With the deadline fast approaching, find out more now - EIT Climate-KIC Accelerator: tailored funding, tools & coaching for start-ups.

New website for oil and gas decommissioning regulation

The Decommissioning Regulatory Hub ("DecomRegHub") is a partnership of five regulators involved in decommissioning of offshore oil and gas infrastructure:

- Offshore Petroleum Regulator for Environment & Decommissioning (OPRED);
- Oil & Gas Authority (OGA);
- Health & Safety Executive (HSE);
- Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA);
- Environment Agency (EA).

The aims of the DecomRegHub include signposting the decommissioning industry to regulatory resources, and sharing information and learning between regulators and industry.

The DecomRegHub website can be found at: https://www.decomreghub.org.uk/

Help to shape the new waste tracking service

The four UK governments and environment agencies are working together to develop an electronic waste tracking service which aims to capture information on all movements of waste in the UK.

The project is progressing well with two companies, Anthesis and Topolytics, funded until October 2020 up to £500,000 each by the GovTech Challenge to develop a prototype waste tracking service. You can read more information about the project here. In addition the 2020 Budget announcement included £7.2 million for waste tracking, securing funding for the project up to 2023-24.

With longer term funding secured and an exciting challenge

ahead we are keen for more businesses to help us shape waste tracking by joining the 600 already on our virtual user panel. User panel activity generally takes place online and signing up does not commit businesses to anything.

Panel members have two important roles:

- to test and provide feedback on software as it is developed
- to take part in targeted research to understand user needs in more detail

If you would like to get involved you can sign up to take part to ensure your views are taken into account.

You can also keep up to date with progress by signing up for our monthly newsletter or via the user panel link.

If you have any questions do not hesitate to contact us at wastetracking@sepa.org.uk.

Missed last month's update?

Visit the updates archive on NetRegs **to view any of the previous updates.**