

# ENVIRONMENTAL NEWSLETTER

Hurst

QUALITY SINCE 1860

BUILDING • PLUMBING • HEATING



## Recycling Initiatives

Here in the office we are also doing our bit by trying to reduce the amount of paper we use, we are piloting a new way of sending out our enquiries rather than sending paper copies we're now sending them out electronically which will vastly reduce the amount of paper and energy it costs to produce each tender submission

We have also recycling all waste paper for the 18 months.

### BATTERY BACK

With new environmental legislations which came in to effect in January this year it is now a legal obligation that we recycle our used batteries. To this effect we have a couple of Battery Cans in the office for all old batteries to be recycled.

### FLUORESCENT LIGHT TUBE COFFIN

As with most other light bulbs these days florescent light tubes can't be disposed of in a skip. We have a light tube "coffin" back at the yard to dispose of any that may come of the jobs you're working on.



## We've Achieved the ISO 14001 Environmental standard.

ISO 14001 is an internationally accepted standard that is awarded to companies that can demonstrate a proven Environmental Management System.

As part of the ISO accreditation process, we identified aspects of our business that impact the environment, established objectives for improvement, defined a management programme to achieve our objectives and achieved ISO 14001 accreditation in January 2010.

Environmental impact is becoming an increasingly important issue across the globe with pressure to minimize that impact coming from a number of sources: local and national governments, regulators, trade associations, customers, employees and shareholders.

By raising awareness we aim to reduce the waste we send to landfill all of which we are monitoring closely. We are doing this by in a number of ways. We will be entering into a new framework agreement for a non hazardous waste provider with R Fletchers Ltd and by doing so we will effectively monitor the waste streams we are recycling and report monthly figures for each major contract.

Sustainable Procurement – by working in partnership with our suppliers and sub-contractors to minimise the environmental impact of their goods and services where possible. This will also involve in raising awareness and standards across our whole supply chain.

Site Waste Management plans are implemented on all projects over £300,000.00. These plans focus attention of potential waste streams and more importantly how waste can be either reused or reduced. Control measures will also be put in place to protect the surrounding environment prior to works commencing.

## 2011 Environmental Objectives

- Recycle paper **60%**
- Electricity Consumption Saving **10%**
- Site Waste recycled **80%**
- Reduce fuel consumption
- Implement SWMP across all relevant sites
- Maintain ISO14001
- Continue to implement and priorities environmental train & Development
- Implement, monitor and measure waste carrier partnership.

## Construction poses a large Risk to the environment

The biggest risk of pollution often occurs during construction, particularly from the following activities

- Dewatering
- Digging foundations
- Moving contaminated soil
- Drainage misconnections
- Discharges to rivers, streams or the ground; runoff from construction materials and / or exposed ground; wheel washing.
- Oil or chemical spills

Most pollution incidents can be prevented with simple and cheap housekeeping techniques. Before construction starts, Follow some of the simple measures below

- Store oils and chemicals in a fully bunded area to prevent leaks or spills
- Make sure Plaster products are segregated in skips

### ENVIRONMENTAL SUPPORT

We have employed the services of an external environmental company to help us keep a breadth of all current legislation. Environmental Monitoring Solutions (EMS) also carry out quarterly environmental audits on a selection of current sites along with supporting us with any training needs and advice. Any work related help or advice you may need please call EMS on freephone 0800 587 2397 and ask for Environmental Management Department – they'll be please to help.



## Good Practice

Water Management / segregation.

Recycling & reuse aggregates

Dust Suppression

Noise suppression & reduction techniques

Energy Conservation

Fuel bunding

An environmental operative in place. This role encompasses all aspects of the environment. Ensuring the company is adhering to current legislation requirements



## How to deal with waste gypsum or plasterboard

If you create waste gypsum or plasterboard as a result of your activities:

Separate gypsum-based material and plasterboard from other wastes on site so it can be either be recycled, reused or disposed of properly at landfill

Separately package or identify plasterboard in a load of mixed waste so that it can easily be identified for separation at a waste transfer station

Do not deliberately mix gypsum or plasterboard waste with other waste for landfill

Speak to your waste management contractor about options for recycling plasterboard. They may be able to provide separate skips or sort it for you

Recyclers treating plasterboard waste may be able to take it for significantly less money than a landfill operator, who must charge for disposal and landfill tax

## Training

As part of our ongoing training plan our aim is raise environmental awareness to all employees we will do this by running courses for all employees that cover the following topics

- Benefits of having an Environmental Management System - ISO14001
- Environmental Pollution
- Discharges to Water
- Storage of oils & chemicals
- Protected Species
- Invasive Species
- Auditing (Checks & Scoring)
- Reporting

## Environment Quiz

1. Which part of the atmosphere screens out the harmful radiation from the sun?
2. Which 174 English Act of parliament was designed to protect the Environment?
3. What is the term used for something that will break down naturally?
4. What cancer causing chemical is found in unleaded petrol?
5. What is the name of the device fitted to car exhausts to reduce pollution?
6. What is the term for the complete disappearance of a species?



## Green & Energy Saving Tips

### Travel

**Think about your speed** and make your fuel go further. Driving at 85mph rather than 70 mph uses 25% more fuel

**Check your tyre pressures** . Driving 65 miles with your tyres at the correct pressure could save 1kg of CO<sub>2</sub>

**Ride a bike.** Cycle to work and save around 0.3 CO<sub>2</sub> of carbon per mile

### Energy

**Switch off lights** Turn off lights when you're not in a room. Wasted light is wasted energy

**Close windows** A typical window left open overnight in winter wastes enough energy to drive a small car over 35 miles.

**Turn of appliances** A photocopier left on over night uses enough energy to produce over 1700 copies. A computer left on unnecessarily releases the equivalent of 7 (regular sized) balloons full of carbon

**Lets work together to make a difference to our environment.**

1. The Ozone Layer. 2. The Control of Pollution Act 3. Biodegradable  
4. Benzene 5. Catalytic Converters 6. Extinction

Answers



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