

Regulation 14

Agency matters

Can the Environment Agency balance a falling budget with a rising demand for its services?

Datafile 18

Sector analysis

Environmental services and goods continue to contribute to UK employment and output

Waste 26

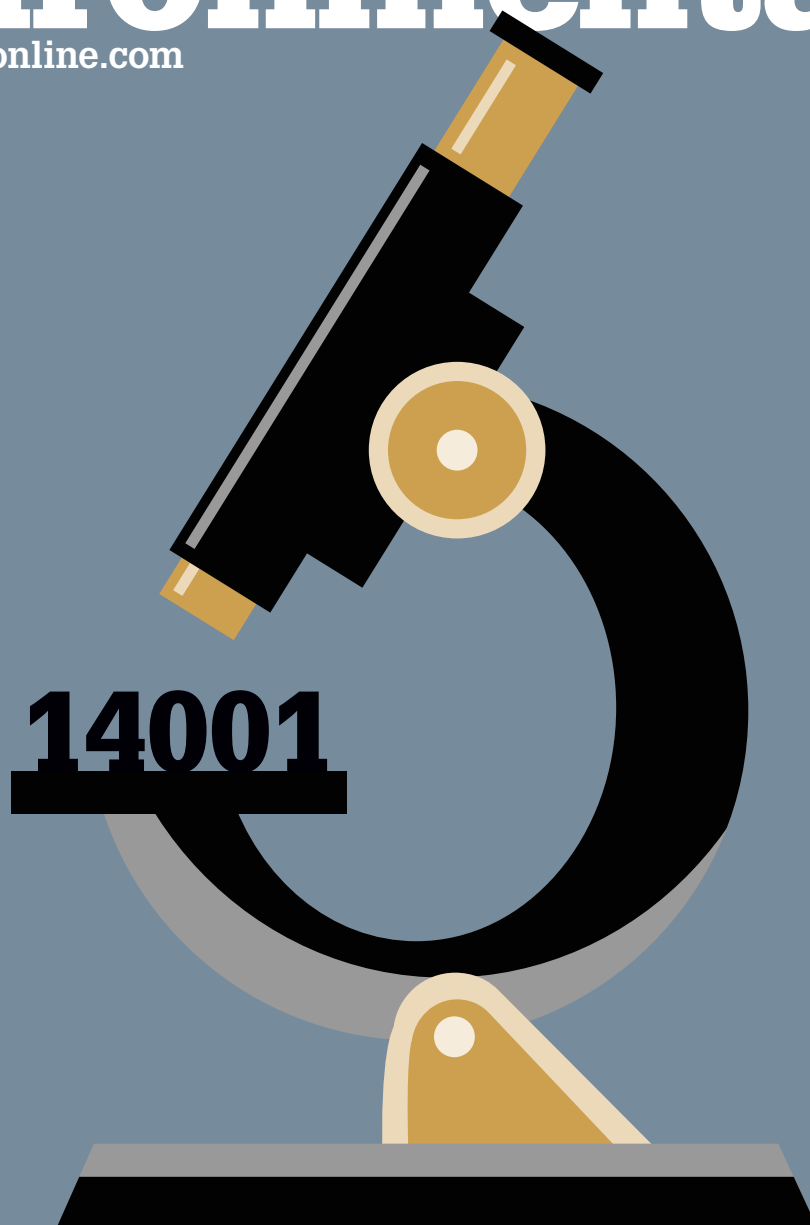
Capital resource

Transport for London rethinks its approach on waste to move three million tonnes of material

the environmentalist

environmentalisonline.com

June 2015



Auditing the new standard

Environment and Energy Management System Training



Many organisations are now acutely aware of the need to manage their impacts on the environment, the business risks of not doing so, and the business benefits gained in implementing an environmental management system.

Investment in environmental training always pays dividends. By measuring, using more efficiently and ultimately reducing the amount of resources you use or waste, you will save money. An environmental management system simply makes good business sense: use resources wisely to help limit your organisation's costs.

Everyday organisations rely on LRQA Training to optimise business performance through their environmental management systems. We focus on training that is relevant to how your business and management systems work.

We provide public or in-house training courses from the most basic, Appreciation and Interpretation – giving you an understanding of the standard, through to Lead Auditor and Lead Auditor Conversion courses.

ISO 14001 Appreciation & Interpretation

Internal EMS Auditor

EMS Auditor / Lead Auditor

EMS Auditor / Lead Auditor Conversion

ISO 50001 Appreciation & Interpretation

ISO 50001 enMS Auditor / Lead Auditor Conversion

Practical Implementation of an EMS

5 reasons to train with LRQA



- Our trainers are practicing assessors, who understand your challenges, ensuring relevant and tailored course material



- Unrivalled global pedigree and heritage within the training and certification industry



- We pride ourselves on your success and achievements, protecting and improving the performance of your business



- Providers of In-House training courses, tailored to your organisation and objectives



- Training that works, ensuring skills and knowledge can be applied seamlessly into your workplace

www.lrqa.co.uk/training

T: 0330 4141 340

E: lrqatraining@lrqa.com



Lloyd's Register
LRQA

Improving performance,
reducing risk

June

News

- 4** Sustainability goes mainstream
Three steps to decarbonisation
- 5** Scotland sets sights on energy
after election gains
IEMA's top 10 action for the government
- 6** Smart tech barriers found
Bosses defend NRW
In parliament Christine Bearder puts the
EU into perspective after UK election
- 7** MacArthur Foundation sets circular
economy indicators
ETS emissions fell in 2014
Business plans Unilever, Volkswagen, Tesla,
International Aerospace Environment group
– Airbus, Boeing, GE Aviation, Rolls-Royce
- 8** Mixed picture for EU species and habitats
Online A selection of news stories
from environmentalisonline.com

Legal brief

- 9** **Recent prosecutions** Supreme court rules
on air quality case; Sita fined £20,000 for
permit breach; roundup of EU infringements
Case law LexisPSL experts on defeat for
Decc in the Court of Appeal on feed-in tariffs
- 10** **New regulations** Environment protection;
water; noise; planning; regulation; waste
- 11** **Latest consultations** Onshore gas and oil;
flood management; RoHS; timber; primary
authorities; birds and habitats directives
Guidance Energy efficiency in SMEs; REACH
compliance; persistent organic pollutants
- 12** **Laying down the law** Andrew Wiseman
gives his verdict on the Supreme court's
ruling on UK air quality plans

Insight

- 35** **EIA update** Standard for offshore EIA
launched; global news – Australia, China;
research – screenings and cumulative effects

IEMA news

- 32** Election 2015: making our voice heard
- 33** IEMA and BRE Academy announce
educational collaboration
Policy update Josh Fothergill on plans to
deliver sustainability
- 34** Forthcoming IEMA events

Features



14 Fit for purpose?

John Barwise asks if the Environment Agency can cope with budgetary cuts



18 The environment industry in the UK

Contributions by the environmental goods and services sector to the economy



20 Framing circularity

Plans by BSI for a framework business standard for the circular economy



22 A closer inspection?

Paul Suff finds out what auditors think about the revised 14001 standard



26 Waste not, want not at TfL

Transport for London takes a new approach to managing its resource use



29 What's in a word?

Why engaging in sustainable development requires an holistic approach

Supplement

Training focus – summer 2015

- Constructing a high degree of ability at Willmott Dixon
- Upskilling for a sustainable future



The Ashridge MSc in Sustainability and Responsibility



The future of business. Lead for the future.

Programme starts: Monday 19 October 2015.

Applications open now.

Rigorous. Relevant. Real. Sustainable.

www.ashridge.org.uk/amsr
admissions@ashridge.org.uk



ASHRIDGE
business school

No easy ride

As the surprise from the unexpected election results subsides and the new government shuffles ministers, reassigns responsibilities and gears up to deliver manifesto pledges, one thing is clear: it will not be long before it has some big decisions to make on issues with potentially significant environmental impacts.

One of the first will be on the location of airport expansion in the south east. The independent airports commission is due to publish its final report this summer, having already shortlisted Gatwick airport and two separate options for Heathrow. Although business groups, including like the CBI, are understood to back expansion at Heathrow, this option risks a rebellion in the government's own ranks. Several MPs in constituencies nearby are opposed. On being elected MP for Uxbridge, Boris Johnson pledged to lie down in front of bulldozers to stop a third runway at Heathrow, while Richmond MP Zac Goldsmith has promised to resign if expansion is given the green light.

Similarly controversial and also due this summer are the results of the 14th onshore oil and gas licensing round. Decc has received 95 applications for 295 blocks that will give operators exclusive rights to apply for permission to drill. With a parliamentary majority and no need to pacify the Liberal Democrats, the Conservatives will be able to push ahead with its ambitions to exploit shale gas. Energy and climate change secretary Amber Rudd has already promised to allow extraction under national parks, which previously Decc had said it would ban. Rudd also wants to block onshore wind, which could lead to a confrontation with the newly powerful Scottish voice in parliament, with SNP leader Nicola Sturgeon demanding agreement of her party before subsidies are cut (see p.5).

Meanwhile, Defra will have its work cut out meeting the deadline imposed by the Supreme court to submit new air quality plans to the European commission by the end of the year after the UK government was found to be in breach of the air quality Directive for failing to meet EU limits for nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) levels (see p.9 and p.12). The UK is so far from achieving these that, by Defra's own estimation, it will not do so in some cities until after 2030. The deadline was January 2015. Meeting the thresholds will require the government to adopt politically difficult measures, such as low emission zones and congestion charging.

All this will be taking place as government departments battle to find further savings to meet deficit reduction pledges. Resources to protect the environment, already under extreme pressure (see pp.14–17), will be cut further. The Conservatives may have secured an unlikely parliamentary majority but that does not mean they will have an easy time.

Defra will have its work cut out meeting the deadline imposed by the Supreme court to submit new air quality plans to the European commission by the end of the year



Catherine Early,
deputy editor

The Institute of Environmental Management & Assessment (IEMA) is the professional home of more than 15,000 environment and sustainability practitioners from around the globe. We support individuals and organisations to set, recognise and achieve global sustainability standards and practice.

We are independent and international, enabling us to deliver evidence to governments, information to business, inspiration to employers and great stories to the media that demonstrate how to transform the world to sustainability. Join us at iema.net.

IEMA

Saracen House
Crusader Road
City Office Park
Tritton Road
Lincoln LN6 7AS
tel: +44 (0) 1522 540069
fax: +44 (0) 1522 540090
info@iema.net
iema.net

Editor

Paul Suff
paul.suff@lexisnexis.co.uk

Deputy editor

Catherine Early
catherine.early@lexisnexis.co.uk

Managing editor

Louis Wustemann
louis.wustemann@lexisnexis.co.uk

Sub-editors

Mike McNabb; Angela Partington

Display and recruitment advertising

Sam MacKenzie
tel: +44 (0) 20 8212 1913
sam.mackenzie@lexisnexis.co.uk
Harry Toomey
tel: +44 (0) 20 8212 1989
harry.toomey@lexisnexis.co.uk

Marketing campaign manager

Rakhee Patel
rakhee.patel@lexisnexis.co.uk

Design

Jack Witherden
jack.witherden@lexisnexis.co.uk

Advertisement production

John Woffenden
john.woffenden@lexisnexis.co.uk

Publisher

Chris Jones
chris.jones@lexisnexis.co.uk

IEMA communications coordinator

Katrina Pierce
k.pierce@iema.net

Advertising, subscription and back-copy enquiries to

Customer services,
tel: +44 (0) 845 370 1234
The 2015 annual rate is £135.

Printing

Headley Brothers Ltd, Ashford, Kent

Published by

LexisNexis, Quadrant House, The Quadrant,
Sutton, Surrey SM2 5AS. lexisnexis.co.uk

© IEMA 2015

LexisNexis aims to provide authoritative and accurate information at all times. Its publications are, however, for guidance only and are not an official information source. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical or otherwise, without the prior written consent of the publisher and editor.

ISSN 14727625



the environmentalist is printed by ISO 14001 certified printers on 55% recycled paper stock and despatched in biodegradable polywrap



LexisNexis®

Short cuts

Reporting map

An online “landscape map” to aid integrated reporting has been published by the Corporate Reporting Dialogue, a group formed in 2014 of eight organisations – CDP, Climate Disclosure Standards Board, Financial Accounting Standards Board, Global Reporting Initiative, IFRS, the International Integrated Reporting Council (IIRC), ISO and the Sustainable Accounting Standards Board – to improve consistency and comparability between different reporting standards and frameworks. The group says the map aims to bring clarity to how the systems and their requirements can be used together to enhance corporate reporting. “The market is evidently, and quite rightly, confused with the alphabet soup of the reporting landscape,” said Paul Druckman, chief executive at the IIRC. “This map will help clarify integrated reporting in the context of broader reporting requirements.” The map provides a snapshot of each one and consists of three levels: “purpose” gives a brief description of each of the eight standards or frameworks; “scope” shows how each one relates to the six capitals of integrated reporting (financial, manufactured, intellectual, human, social and relationships, and natural); and “content” demonstrates how each approach relates to the different elements of integrated reports.

China coal use falls

Coal consumption in China has fallen by almost 8% in the first four months of 2015, compared with the same period in 2014. Carbon dioxide emissions also fell by around 5%, according to calculations by Greenpeace using official figures of China’s industrial output and coal imports. If the reduction continues until the end of the year, it will be the largest recorded year-on-year reduction in coal use and CO₂ in any country, Greenpeace said. The decrease may partly be explained by slower economic growth, but is mostly due to government action to reduce coal use, while increasing renewable energy and energy efficiency, the environmental campaign group added.

Sustainability goes mainstream

The number of businesses and investors embracing “sustainable capitalism” is growing rapidly, according to former US vice-president Al Gore and business partner David Blood.

Gore and Blood co-founded Generation Investment in 2004. It advocates shifting to sustainable capitalism – described as a framework that seeks to maximise long-term economic value creation by reforming markets – to address sustainability challenges. In a new white paper, Gore and Blood stress how the business case for the concept is growing. “We don’t believe there’s a disadvantage to taking environment, society and governance (ESG) into account when making investment decisions. The business case is very, very robust,” said Blood, former head of asset management at Goldman Sachs. He said a review last year by the University of Oxford found that 80% of studies examining the issue concluded that investment strategies that incorporate ESG issues outperform comparable non-ESG strategies.

When Generation Investment started talking about sustainable capitalism 10 years ago, the proportion of businesses and investors who understood it was small, said Blood. “Now the number is 20–25% and it is increasing very quickly. We’re getting to



Al Gore (left) and David Blood

a point where sustainable capitalism is more of a mainstream notion than not.”

The most important first step for businesses and investors to take is to assess carbon risk, said Blood. “Not all investors do that. But, if that’s the only thing an investor does it’s a vital step in the right direction.” The paper notes that more companies are applying a shadow price on carbon when conducting asset valuations, with 150 taking it into consideration last year. Incorporating the cost of carbon can transform an uncertainty into a quantifiable, and therefore manageable, risk, said Blood.

The paper states that it would be a failure of fiduciary duty to ignore sustainability in investment decisions. There are pending law suits on this issue, Gore said.

Three steps to decarbonisation

A report from the World Bank outlines the steps countries need to take to reduce net emissions of greenhouse gases to zero and stabilise climate change.

The bank warns that, if countries do not start taking action now, the global cost of making the transition to a zero-carbon future will rise, and would be 50% more expensive by 2030. The report, *Decarbonising development*, is intended to help policymakers set priorities to reduce GHG emissions that are consistent with achieving zero net global emissions by 2100.

Countries should invest now in the research and technology that will be needed over coming decades and avoid taking decisions that can lock in high-carbon growth patterns and infrastructure investments, which will be obsolete in a low-carbon future, says the bank. It also advocates putting a price on carbon, describing how a carbon tax or market is an efficient way to raise revenue while

encouraging lower emissions. Finally, the bank says governments must smooth the transition for those most affected by the changes by protecting poor households from the impacts of higher prices and helping businesses to reinvent themselves for a cleaner world.

Removing fossil fuel subsidies, which primarily benefit the wealthy, and implementing carbon taxes or cap-and-trade systems are two ways to generate the revenue needed for education, health and infrastructure, and reduce carbon emissions at the same time, says the report.

Meanwhile, German chancellor Angela Merkel and French president François Hollande have issued a statement ahead of the Paris climate summit calling on world leaders to join them in delivering action to achieve full global decarbonisation over the course of this century and reduce emissions by 2050 to a level compatible with recent IPCC recommendations.

Scotland sets its sights on energy after election gains

The Scottish government wants to increase its influence over UK energy policy, including giving Holyrood ministers a veto over cuts to subsidies for onshore wind, a key policy pledge of the new Conservative government.

The SNP has 56 seats in Westminster, 50 more than before the general election. Party leader and Scotland's first minister Nicola Sturgeon has urged the UK government to make key decisions on energy policy only after the agreement of the Scottish government. She said Scotland wants prior agreement on changes to subsidies for onshore wind, and more broadly on medium-term budgets for offshore wind and other renewables through the levy control framework to give the sector the confidence to invest. Sturgeon said: "Scotland is an energy powerhouse but we have very limited powers on energy policy. I am calling on the UK to take a much more collegiate approach to policymaking on energy and ensure proper consultation with the Scottish government on major areas of energy policy."

New energy and climate secretary Amber Rudd claims to have already "put a rocket" under a team at Decc to fast-track removing onshore wind subsidies and transferring decisions on planning applications for projects over 50MW to local authorities rather than the Planning Inspectorate. Reaction from the environment sector to Rudd's promotion from minister for energy and climate



Amber Rudd (Decc) and Liz Truss (Defra)

change to secretary of state was positive, with many hoping that it was a sign that the government would act on climate change. Her experience as parliamentary private secretary to chancellor George Osborne was also seen as a boon. However, she has a mixed parliamentary record on energy and climate issues, having voted in favour of cuts to subsidies for renewable energy, according to the website theyworkforyou.com.

Rudd is joined at Decc by Andrea Leadsom, MP for South Northamptonshire, whose responsibilities include energy infrastructure, nuclear, renewables and shale gas; and Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth, who will look after policy on smart meters, energy efficiency and climate science.

Tunbridge Wells MP Liz Truss remains secretary of state for the environment and will be joined at Defra by George Eustice and Rory Stewart but their ministerial responsibilities had yet to be decided as *the environmentalist* went to press.

Queen announces energy bill

A new energy bill announced in the Queen's speech will transfer consenting powers for wind farms over 50MW from the secretary of state to local councils.

The bill will "change the law in line with the [Conservative's] manifesto commitment to give local communities the final say on wind farm applications", according to Decc. Changes will also be made to the national planning policy framework to ensure the communities affected can decide planning applications for wind farms. The new rules would not apply in Scotland or Northern Ireland, Decc said. This follows a post-election

demand by Scottish first minister Nicola Sturgeon for Scotland to be given a greater say over any changes to energy policy (see above).

There are only two onshore wind farms over 50MW in the pipeline for England. Three are planned for Wales, but decision-making on these may soon be devolved to the Welsh government. Plans to end subsidies for onshore wind will be delivered separately, Decc said.

The Queen also said the government will "seek effective collaboration" to combat climate change, including at the Paris conference later this year.

iema's top 10

sustainability actions for the government

- 1 Give greater prominence to environment and sustainability across government thinking and action.
- 2 Prioritise energy conservation.
- 3 Develop a cross-sector skills strategy to enable the UK to compete globally on sustainability.
- 4 Implement a nature and wellbeing act to improve and reverse the UK's current rate of loss of biodiversity and natural habitats.
- 5 Improve air quality in the UK.
- 6 Deliver a "Stern for resources" style report to make the economic case for better resource management.
- 7 Strengthen the UK's international leadership on climate change.
- 8 Prioritise national needs over local concerns to deliver the infrastructure critical to the UK's transition to a sustainable economy.
- 9 Give the Green Investment Bank a greater role in taking forward nationally significant infrastructure.
- 10 Establish an independent body to scrutinise the government's progress on sustainability.

"It is vital that the new government realises the importance that environment and sustainability issues have to play, not only in ensuring that UK business can compete on the global stage, but also in protecting and delivering a sustainable future. These 10 actions should be placed at the heart of its thinking and action," said Martin Baxter, IEMA's chief policy adviser.

IEMA developed this action plan from the results of its polls of members in the run-up to the UK general election (p.32). Of those surveyed, 91% said the new government should prioritise tackling climate risks, while 89% want air quality to improve.

In parliament



The aftermath of the UK election

The outcome of the UK election has set alarm bells ringing in Brussels. Now that a majority Conservative government is in place without input from Liberal Democrats there are worrying signs about its commitment to fighting climate change and supporting EU green policies. But overshadowing everything is the EU referendum, set to go ahead as early as 2016, which could have huge consequences for European efforts to protect the environment.

Fortunately, there has been a spate of positive stories on the environment that has raised my morale. One is the ruling by the Court of Justice of the EU that EU animal welfare standards for the transport of live animals must apply to all stages of a journey, including those taking place outside the bloc. It means that animals exported from the EU will be given adequate space, regular rest breaks and enough food and water for their entire journey wherever that might be.

In other news, the European parliament has given the final go-ahead to a law to slash disposable plastic bag use by 80% by 2025. Plastic bags not only blight the countryside, but many end up as litter in Europe's seas where they pose a threat to marine animals. This is a shared problem that requires a common solution, so it is heartening to see countries across the EU working together to tackle it.

Finally, agreement has been reached on fixing the EU's flawed emissions trading system (p.7) and dealing with the surplus of allowances that has kept down the price of carbon permits in recent years. A system to automatically reduce the number of allowances will start in 2019, two years earlier than originally proposed. This crucial reform sends a powerful signal to the rest of the world that the EU is serious about tackling climate change in the build-up to global talks in Paris later this year.

Catherine Bearder, Liberal Democrat MEP and a member of the European parliament's environment committee.

Smart tech barriers found

Smart technology has the potential to hugely reduce energy bills in the public sector, but it is hampered by a lack of strategy and budget, according to research by the Carbon Trust and GE Lighting.

Most public sector bodies have started to adopt intelligent technology such as building efficiency (77%), LED lighting (57%), and water and waste technologies (24%), the survey found. However, 64% said the availability of funds was the biggest barrier to implementing smart technologies. The lack of an agreed long-term strategic plan was blamed by 34%, while the lack of procurement skills and capacity was cited by 30%.

Respondents saw the value of smart technologies to reduce carbon emissions, with 71% considering implementing more efficient heating, ventilation or air conditioning; 69% looking at installing more efficient lighting; and 66% thinking about renewable energy. The payback time required varied considerably between organisations, with 31% saying that they needed to prove a payback of less than five years, while 26% said the investment had to be recouped in less than 10 years and 8% had more than 10 years to recover the cost.

Agostino Renna, chief executive at GE Lighting, said public sector estates



LED streetlights are becoming more popular

risked being locked into old, inefficient equipment. "Availability of capital is not the problem, but many cities are not aware of it or how to access it," he said. Cities such as Copenhagen used special purpose vehicles to obtain finance, but these are not widespread in the UK, he said. They are also known as private finance initiatives, which have suffered a bad reputation, but could be effective if used properly, he said.

LED lighting could cut energy bills by up to 80%. Once installed, such infrastructure could be used as the platform for other smart technologies, such as sensors to carry out environmental monitoring, Renna added.

Bosses defend NRW

The chief executive and chair at Natural Resources Wales have strongly defended the organisation after stakeholders accused it of "losing focus" on the environment, lacking consistency in its planning advice and operating as if it were a department of the Welsh government rather than an independent body.

Appearing before the environment and sustainability committee of the Welsh assembly, chief executive Emrys Roberts claimed NRW had not lost focus on the environment, but had also to consider the economy and society when taking decisions. "Part of our purpose is to look at the environment, including the environment itself, but the impact on the economy and society too," he said.

NRW was created in 2013 by merging the Welsh arms of the Environment Agency and the Forestry Commission, and the Countryside Council for Wales. Its chair, Peter Matthews, told the

committee that the organisation was working differently from the original three bodies and that some stakeholders, including members of the workforce, were struggling to come to terms with NRW's approach. "The whole idea of integrated natural resource management is new. In fact, we are global leaders. People are finding it quite difficult to come to terms with [that]," he said.

Challenged by the committee about accusations of inconsistency in its advice on planning, Roberts said: "A year ago, we were only responding to about 70% of planning applications on time. Now we're achieving over 90% on time, and that is way above what the legacy bodies achieved."

Roberts rebutted allegations that NRW lacked independence. "Our job is to look at all the evidence and come up with our own independent consideration of the development. We're not influenced by departments in reaching that," he said.

MacArthur Foundation sets circle economy indicators

A set of indicators to measure the progress of a company to a more circular economy business model has been set out in a new report from the Ellen MacArthur Foundation (EMF).

The measures consist of a main benchmark, the material circularity indicator (MCI), which determines how restorative the material flows of a product or company are. It is supported by a number of complementary indicators that enable an organisation to take into account additional impacts and risks.

By measuring material flows, including how much virgin or recycled material goes into the production process, the MCI ascribes a value of between 0 and 1, with higher values indicating higher circularity. Toxicity, scarcity and energy are among the issues included as complementary indicators.

The report, *Circularity indicators*, says the benchmarks can be used as a decision-making tool for designers as well

as for other purposes, including internal reporting, procurement decisions and rating or evaluating companies.

The indicators have been developed to fill a gap, as there is no recognised way of estimating how effective a product or company is in moving from a linear “take, make, dispose” operation to a circular mode, says the EMF.

Several examples of how the circularity indicators can be used are included in the report. These, says the EMF, are inspired by actual cases of companies adopting circular economy principles.

The EMF has also developed an online assessment system for product designs, giving companies the tools to track their progress in delivering circular economy-based business models.

Details of the indicators were published as the UK national standards body BSI established a committee to develop a framework standard for businesses on the circular economy (pp.20–21).

ETS emissions fell in 2014

Total greenhouse-gas emissions from the 11,000 plus installations in the EU emissions trading system (ETS) declined 4.5% in 2014, according to the European commission. Figures also reveal that the number of surplus ETS allowances was 2.07 billion at the end of last year.

The verified data shows that 1.8 billion tonnes of CO₂-equivalent emissions were released by ETS installations across 28 member states, as well as Iceland, Norway and Liechtenstein in 2014. This compares with almost 1.9 billion tonnes in 2013.

Miguel Arias Cañete, commissioner for climate action and energy, said the figures showed that the EU could cut emissions at the same time as growing its economy. “Even while our economies are getting back in the growth track, emissions continue to decrease. This once again shows that economic growth and climate protection can go hand in hand,” he said.

The cumulative surplus in ETS allowances fell from around 2.1 billion in 2013 to 2.07 billion in 2014, said the commission. It reported that verified emissions from aviation activities carried out between airports in the European economic

area in 2014 amounted to 54.9 million tonnes of CO₂, 2.8% more than in 2013.

The commission also said that fewer than 1% of the installations did not surrender allowances covering all their emissions by the deadline of 30 April 2015.

The data came after member states and the European parliament agreed a 2019 start date for a system to automatically transfer a portion of ETS allowances into a market stability reserve if the surfeit exceeds a specified threshold. ETS campaign group Sandbag hailed the deal as a “landmark agreement” and described it as a powerful step towards correcting the imbalance in Europe’s carbon market. It should remove around 2.2 billion allowances from the market by the end of 2020, it estimates.

Meanwhile, MEPs on the environment committee have voted to cap emissions of sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxide from medium-size combustion plants. The proposals would apply to existing combustion plants with a rated thermal input above 15MW from 2020, while the limits would apply to those with an input of between 5MW and 15MW from 2022, and below 5MW from 2027.

Businessplans

Unilever has announced that its global manufacturing facilities have saved 1 million tonnes of CO₂ since 2008. The fast-moving consumer goods business says energy consumption has declined by 20% over the past seven years, saving it €244 million. The company reports that an anaerobic digester at its UK Marmite factory, has converted 18,000 tonnes of solid waste into methane, which is used to provide 30% of the factory’s thermal energy. Unilever says it now plans to switch to renewable energy at its sites where it will be cost effective.

Volkswagen has reported progress towards its ambition to be the world’s most sustainable automotive company by 2018. The firm, whose brands include Bentley, Porsche and Skoda as well as VW, says its global production operations reduced CO₂ emissions by 23.2% in 2014, while energy consumption and waste from manufacturing sites declined by 18.5% and 21.7% respectively. The company’s 2018 targets include reducing energy and water consumption, waste and emissions per unit of production by 25%.

Tesla has unveiled a range of battery storage units to work with solar power systems. The rechargeable lithium-ion battery will store surplus solar energy not used at the time it is generated for periods of low sunlight. The units can also connect to the grid, charging during low-cost periods when demand for electricity is lower and discharging during more expensive periods when electricity demand is higher.

The International Aerospace Environmental group (IAEG), whose members include Airbus, Boeing, GE Aviation and Rolls-Royce, has released the first aerospace and defence declarable substances list (AD-DSL). IAEG says it will enable suppliers to efficiently exchange information and supply data on chemicals and substances that are of concern to the industry. The list includes chemical substances incorporated into aerospace and defence products, or critical in either their manufacture or maintenance. The list will be updated periodically, and used as part of an aerospace industry standard now being developed, says IAEG.

Mixed picture for EU species and habitats

Once common birds, including the Skylark and Black-tailed Godwit, are among almost one-third (32%) of wildbird species in the EU that are at risk of extinction, according to a report from the European commission.

Despite the threat to some species, the *State of nature in the EU* report reveals that more than half (52%) the wildbird populations in the EU monitored between 2007 and 2012 were classed as “secure” and at no foreseeable risk of extinction. By contrast, about 15% are near-threatened, declining or depleted and a further 17% are threatened.

The report also shows that 61% of bird species associated with marine ecosystems are considered secure, and about one quarter threatened.

Almost one quarter (23%) of species covered by the habitats directive received a favourable assessment, but 60% were rated unfavourable. Grasslands, wetlands and dune habitats are of particular concern. Meanwhile, the conservation status of



Field birds like the Skylark face extinction

and trends for habitats are worse than for species. Across the EU, 16% of habitats were rated favourable, while more than three quarters (77%) were considered unfavourable, of which 30% were classed as unfavourable-bad. The main threats to habitats include agricultural practices,

such as changes to cultivation practices, over-grazing and the use of fertilisers and pesticides, and alterations to natural conditions by people.

Hans Bruyninckx, executive director at the European Environment Agency, which prepared the report, said: “The results are mixed but clear. When implemented well, conservation measures work and improve the status of habitats and species on the ground. Such improvements remain limited and patchy, and unfortunately Europe’s biodiversity is still being eroded overall and the pressures continue.”

The report covers about 240 wildbird species, 231 habitat types and more than 1,200 other species of EU interest. It is the first assessment to cover both the birds and habitats directives. The commission says the findings, which are based on the assessments that member states are required to perform every six years under the birds and habitats legislation, will feed into the “fitness check” of the directives that it is now carrying out (below and p.11).

From environmentalisonline.com...

Welsh waste

Wales is to overhaul waste management by introducing bans on burning recyclable materials and improving the segregation of waste. The environment (Wales) bill will also strengthen rules for the collection and disposal of waste so that more material is segregated at source. Under the law, a separate collection service for segregated recyclable materials will be available for organisations that produce waste. The bill also gives ministers powers to extend the plastic bag charge, and place a duty on retailers to donate the net proceeds from the scheme to good causes. The legislation will set a separate 80% greenhouse-gas emissions reduction target by 2050 for Wales. Interim targets will also be set between 2016 and 2020, and these will feed into Welsh carbon budgets, the government said. New budgets will be set every five years after that. The Welsh government expects the bill to receive royal assent by spring 2016. environmentalisonline.com/Walesbill

Product data

Campaigners are urging companies to measure their resource use after research highlighted high land and water use in the manufacture popular products. A smartphone uses nearly 13,000 litres of water and 18m² of land, two-fifths of which is to deal with the pollution caused during manufacturing and assembly, according to the study by Trucost for Friends of the Earth (FoE). It also found that a 100g bar of chocolate uses 2.5m² of land and 1,400 litres of water, while a T-shirt requires four litres of water and just over 4m² of land. FoE noted that some large companies are making progress on reporting, particularly on greenhouse gases. But it recommended that all large companies should also report on land, water and materials used, including in supply chains. Only publicly-listed companies are required by law to report on social and environmental impacts of products. This excludes five out of six large companies across the EU, FoE noted. environmentalisonline.com/landuse

Nature at risk

The European commission’s review of the birds and habitats directives is the “single biggest threat to nature and biodiversity in a generation”, according to a coalition of 100 environmental organisations. The group, which comprises the organisations belonging to Wildlife and Countryside Links in the UK, says it is “deeply concerned” by the commission’s consultation to review the directives as part of its REFIT programme, which aims to reduce regulatory costs. The consultation was launched in April and is seeking views on whether the directives have met their objectives, what the costs and benefits have been, and if positive outcomes could be achieved through national laws rather than EU-wide regulation. The coalition argues that the directives are effective as long as they are implemented properly. The existing laws should be retained, with efforts focused on better implementation and more and better-targeted funding, it says. environmentalisonline.com/ECthreat

Visit environmentalisonline.com for daily news updates

In court



Supreme court rules in air quality case

Environment secretary Liz Truss must set out by the end of the year how the government plans to improve air quality after the Supreme court ruled that Defra had breached EU legislation to limit nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) emissions (p.12).

The ruling brings to an end a five-year legal battle by NGO ClientEarth to hold the UK government to account for failing to comply with the ambient air quality Directive, which came into force at the start of 2010. At the time, NO₂ levels in 40 of the 43 air quality zones in the UK were exceeding the annual 40 µg/m³ threshold. Several countries, including the UK, were granted five-year extensions, but Defra acknowledged in 2014 that 16 areas would not meet the revised 2015 deadline, with London, Birmingham and Leeds likely to breach the thresholds until beyond 2030 under the existing plan from the environment department.

In 2013, the Supreme court ruled that the UK had breached the directive and asked the Court of Justice of the EU (CJEU) for a preliminary ruling on several questions on interpretation of EU law. The case was referred back to the Supreme court by the CJEU in November 2014 after it ruled that UK courts must require Defra to produce a meaningful plan to ensure that the limits on NO₂ emissions are met as soon as possible.

The latest judgment, issued before the general election, stated: "The new government, whatever its political complexion, should be left in no doubt as to the need for immediate action to address this issue." Measures that Defra must consider include low emission zones, congestion charging and other economic incentives.

A spokesperson for Defra said: "Air quality has improved significantly in recent years and, as this judgment recognises, work is already under way on revised plans to meet EU targets on NO₂ as soon as possible."

In February 2014, the European commission launched separate legal proceedings against the UK for failing to cut NO₂ emissions.

Sita fined £20,000 for permit breach

Breaching leachate volumes at a landfill site in Perthshire 18 times between December 2012 and June 2013 and failing to report the problem has resulted in Sita UK being fined £20,000.

Perth sheriff court was told that three leachate wells at the Binn landfill site at Glenfarg were in excess of the two-metre limit over the four-month period. Leachate is the liquid that forms when waste degrades in landfill. To reduce the risk of it escaping and polluting groundwater, regulators impose a limit on the levels that can be reached. In this case, Sita failed to ensure that accumulation at the low point of each leachate collection system was kept below the two-metre ceiling.

The company also failed to notify the Scottish Environment Protection Agency that leachate levels had exceeded two-metres. The waste management business pleaded guilty to both offences.

Earlier this year, Sita UK was fined £110,000 by Redhill magistrates' court for breaching the leachate levels set out in the environmental permit for its landfill site at Albury, near Guildford, throughout 2013.

Roundup of EU infringements

The European commission is taking several member states to the Court of Justice of the EU (CJEU) for failing to comply with EU environmental legislation. France has been referred to the CJEU for failing to ensure wastewater treatment met EU standards in 17 agglomerations. The commission had warned France in 2009 that it contravened the urban wastewater treatment Directive that requires member states to ensure water from towns, cities and settlements is properly collected and treated.

Poland and Slovenia face legal proceedings for failing to enact revised EU legislation on waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE). The commission is asking the court to impose a daily fine of €71,610 on Poland and €8,408 on Slovenia until the rules, which should have been transposed into domestic law by 14 February 2014, are enacted. Finally, the commission is taking Romania to court for failing to transpose the revised packaging Directive. The deadline was 30 September 2013, but the Romanian authorities have still not enacted the directive.

Case law

Decc loses appeal on solar feed-in tariffs

In *Decc v Breyer Group* [2015], the Court of Appeal dismissed the energy department's appeal and the claimants' cross-appeal in relation to the 2011 government consultation to reduce feed-in tariffs (FITs). As a result, Decc could be liable to compensate solar photovoltaic (PV) companies for the impact the proposal had on their business. The decision may also have wider implications for public bodies consulting on proposals that affect the value of individuals' land and businesses.

Decc introduced the FIT scheme in 2010 to support small-scale renewable and low-carbon electricity generation technologies, including solar PV, by making payments to FIT generators. In February 2011, it announced a review of the scheme, primarily because demand was far greater than expected. In October, Decc issued a consultation, which included a proposal to bring forward the date by which installations had to be commissioned or registered to qualify for the original (43.3 p/kWh) tariff. Decc never implemented the proposal, opting instead to reduce the generation tariff to 21 p/kWh from 1 April 2012 for solar PV installations, with eligibility dates on or after 3 March 2012.









By this time many of the installations that would have met the deadline had been abandoned. Several businesses affected by the proposal brought a civil claim against Decc for damages under the European Convention on Human Rights, claiming that the proposal interfered with their right to peaceful enjoyment of their possessions – for example, contracts for solar PV installations or marketable goodwill constituted by or referable to those contracts.

Hayley Tam

Lexis®PSL

New regulations



In force	Subject	Details
20 Mar 2015 	Water	European commission decision 2015/495 sets out the first “watchlist” of substances for EU-wide monitoring to determine future control priorities through the environmental quality standard regime under the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC). lexisurl.com/iema91863
1 Apr 2015 	Environment protection	Two commencement orders (20 and 24) bring into force uncommenced sections of the Environmental Protection Act 1990. Order 20 repeals the Alkali etc. Works Regulation Act 1906 and revokes sections of other legislation, including the Control of Pollution Act 1974, including those relating to processes, statutory nuisances and hazardous substances. Order 24 establishes regulatory powers and duties for Sepa. The Pollution Prevention and Control Act 1999 (Commencement No. 3) (Scotland) Order 2015 brings into force uncommenced sections of the Pollution and Prevention Control Act 1999, adding provisions to the Merchant Shipping Act 1995, which authorise discharges of oil or oil-containing mixtures to waters, harbours or certain UK waters under a permit. lexisurl.com/iema87608 ; lexisurl.com/iema87609 ; lexisurl.com/iema87610
1 Apr 2015 	Noise	The Noise Emission in the Environment by Equipment for use Outdoors (Amendment) Regulations 2015 require conformity declarations to be submitted to the secretary of state and the European commission within 28 days of placing equipment on the market. lexisurl.com/iema68533
1 Apr 2015 	Planning	The Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 revoke and replace the 2012 Regulations. The new regulations transfer powers to district councils from the Northern Ireland department of the environment. lexisurl.com/iema87611
1 Apr 2015 	Planning	The Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 requires councils to prepare local development plans (LDPs), and the Planning (Local Development Plan) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 specify the format and content of these plans. The Planning (Development Management) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 set out procedures for the management of applications for regionally significant, major and local development under the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011. Major and regionally significant development applications made on or after 1 July 2015 will be subject to mandatory pre-application community consultations. lexisurl.com/iema78013 ; lexisurl.com/iema78021
1 Apr 2015  	Regulation	The Deregulation Act makes a number of changes to environmental legislation. These include: preventing planning conditions on development requiring higher standards of energy efficiency than required by building regulations; and removal of powers to establish noise abatement zones from local authorities, with those already established repealed. lexisurl.com/iema91865
1 Apr 2015 	Waste	The Controlled Waste (Fixed Penalty Notices) (Scotland) Order 2014 revises the format of a notice issued for unauthorised or harmful deposits, treatment or disposal of waste. The Litter (Fixed Penalty Notices) (Scotland) Order 2014 revises the format of a notice issued for a littering offence. The Waste (Recyclate Quality) (Scotland) Regulations 2015 amend the Waste Management Licensing (Scotland) Regulations 2011 and Pollution Prevention and Control (Scotland) Regulations 2012. Amendments require that waste management licences and permits granted or varied after 1 April 2015 for material recovery facilities treating dry recyclable waste comply with the code on materials recovery. The Devolution of Landfill Tax (Consequential, Transitional and Saving Provisions) Order 2015 supports the devolution of landfill tax to Scotland. The Scottish Landfill Tax (Standard Rate and Lower Rate) Order 2015 sets the standard and lower rates at £82.60 and £2.60 respectively. The Single Use Carrier Bags Charge (Fixed Penalty Notices and Amendment) (Scotland) Regulations 2015 permits local authorities to issue fixed-penalty notices to suppliers of single-use carrier bags that are breaching their duties under the Single Use Carrier Bags Charge (Scotland) Regulations 2014. lexisurl.com/iema50959 ; lexisurl.com/iema50959 ; lexisurl.com/iema87613 ; lexisurl.com/iema87614 ; lexisurl.com/iema87615 ; lexisurl.com/iema87647

This legislative update has been provided by Waterman's Legal Register available at legalregister.co.uk

Latest consultations



15 Jun 2015

Onshore gas and oil



The Environment Agency is consulting on a new standard rule for a mining waste operation at exploratory “drill and core” wells, which will enable leak-off well pressure testing and acid washing. Leak-off testing examines a rock formation to establish engineering data, while acid washing is the local use of acid solutions in the geological formation to remove residual clay or repair damage in the well. The agency is also proposing a standard rule for the storage and handling of crude oil arising from onshore oil and gas exploration and production facilities. lexisurl.com/iema91887

19 Jun 2015

Flood management



The Northern Ireland department of agriculture and rural development (Dard) is seeking views on draft flood risk management plans (FRMPs). It says the FRMPs would create a framework to help reduce the impact of flooding. The consultation documents include a strategic environmental assessment and a habitats regulatory assessment. The final plans will be published in 2016. lexisurl.com/iema91889

19 Jun 2015

RoHS



The European commission is consulting on the following exemptions from the substance restrictions in the RoHS Directive (2011/65/EU): 9b – lead in bearing shells and bushes for refrigerant-containing compressors; 13a – lead in white glasses used for optical applications; 13b – cadmium and lead in filter glasses and glasses used for reflectance standards; 2015-1 – lead in thin film electronic sensor elements; 2015-2 – lead in high voltage cables and cable assemblies for a rated voltage higher than 250kV DC, containing up to 4% lead by weight; 2015-3 – lead as activator in the fluorescent powder (1% lead by weight or less) of discharge lamps when used as phototherapy lamps containing phosphors, such as BSP (BaSi2O5:Pb). lexisurl.com/iema91879

25 Jun 2015

Primary authorities



Plans for a primary authority scheme in Scotland and how it would ensure it meets the needs of both local communities and businesses are out for consultation. Primary authority enables a business to form a partnership with one local authority for regulatory

purposes. Areas of regulation to be covered include environmental protection and pollution control.

lexisurl.com/iema87666

3 Jul 2015

Timber



The European commission has launched a consultation as part of its review of Regulation 995/2010 – the EU Timber Regulation. The commission says the review will feed into the mandatory report to be submitted by the commission by 3 December 2015 to the European parliament and council. lexisurl.com/iema91881

27 Jul 2015

Birds and habitats directives



The European commission is seeking opinions on the Birds Directive (2009/147/EC) and the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and their implementation as part of a “fitness check” under its regulatory fitness and performance programme (REFIT). The check looks at whether the regulatory framework is proportionate and fit for purpose. Specifically, it will assess the effectiveness, efficiency and “added value” of the directives. lexisurl.com/iema91874

New guidance

Energy efficiency in SMEs

A guide setting out low-cost measures and steps that small and medium-size enterprises (SMEs) can take to save energy has been published by Decc. It says the SME guide to energy efficiency will help such businesses unlock the benefits of lower energy consumption by providing advice on how to improve energy efficiency (lexisurl.com/iema87677). The 82-page publication includes tips on steps to take and measures to implement; guidance on engaging staff; links to government and other support; and a list of FAQs for those wanting more information. The guide was produced by Decc in collaboration with business support service Enworks (enworks.com).

REACH compliance

The European Chemicals Agency has published an illustrative example of consumer exposure to substances in articles to help companies comply with their obligations under the EU REACH Regulation (lexisurl.com/iema91897). Under REACH, registrants have to assess exposure and risk from a substance that becomes part of an article and report the conditions of safe use. The agency says it has published the example because many registrants have not addressed this assessment in their registration dossiers. The example illustrates the level of knowledge and expertise required to make sure that exposure estimation tools are correctly used. It also demonstrates how the limitations in models can be addressed and how they can be reflected in the exposure scenarios for the chemical safety report.

Persistent organic pollutants

Environment Agency guidance on using persistent organic pollutants (POPs) and storing them has been published online on the gov.uk website. POPs are poisonous chemical substances that break down slowly and can enter food chains. The manufacture, sale and use of products containing POPs is now banned and material or products that contain them is allowed in specified circumstances only. The guide on using POPs is available at lexisurl.com/iema91898, while guidance on their storage can be found at lexisurl.com/iema91899.



Laying down the law

Judges issue verdict on UK's failure to comply with EU air quality laws

Andrew Wiseman on the Supreme court's demand that the government urgently prepare new plans to tackle air pollution



The EU Directive on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe (2008/50/EC) sets limits and target values for a number of pollutants, including nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), to protect human health. Under the directive, member states were:

- required to meet limit values for NO₂ by 1 January 2010 – although they could apply to postpone meeting the deadline in a particular area by up to five years (to 1 January 2015) as long as they provided an air quality plan setting how compliance would be achieved; and
- in areas where limit values were exceeded, member states were required to draw up air quality plans setting out measures for meeting limit values or target values as soon as possible.

The UK failed to meet limit values for NO₂ by the January 2010 deadline in a number of areas. In September 2011, Defra submitted air quality plans for some areas and applied to the European commission for time extensions for others. However, in June 2012 the commission partly rejected the UK's air quality plans and application for postponement.

The environmental NGO, ClientEarth, then challenged the environment department's failure to comply with the directive by seeking judicial review.

Supreme court's initial decision

The Supreme court gave its initial decision in the judicial review proceedings concerning the UK's compliance with the Directive in May 2013. It found that the UK was in breach, with the court stating that its declaration was necessary in order to make it clear that national or

EU enforcement action could be taken immediately. The judges also referred four questions on the interpretation of the directive to the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) for a preliminary ruling. The CJEU issued its opinion in November 2014 and decided that:

- if a member state fails to meet air emission limits by the relevant deadline, it is mandatory to apply for the five-year extension. Merely submitting an air quality plan is not sufficient to ensure compliance; and
- it is up to the domestic courts to make an order, requiring the national authority to draw up the necessary air quality plans; and member states should ensure that compliance with air quality limits is achieved as soon as possible.

The court's final judgment

On 29 April 2015, the Supreme court delivered its final judgment and unanimously ordered the government to prepare new air quality plans to bring the UK into compliance with limit values for NO₂ immediately. The court ordered UK authorities to deliver the plans to the European commission for approval by 31 December 2015. The court said that the secretary of state for the environment had accepted that new plans had to be prepared, but warned that the new government should be left in no doubt as to the need for immediate action. It also said the court is prepared to impose appropriate measures to secure effective compliance with its decision at the earliest possible opportunity.

Revised plans

The Supreme court's decision quashes the UK government's existing air quality plans to cut excessive levels of air pollution and requires it to deliver compliant plans by the end of 2015. It means that up to 30 areas could require

revised plans, including Greater London and Birmingham where Defra's existing plans would not have achieved the NO₂ limits until after 2030.

The plans are likely to include a crackdown on the most polluting diesel vehicles as a key source of NO₂ emissions. The measures put forward by the government could include the creation of more low-emission zones (LEZs) and an increase in excise duty on diesel. All of this will involve considerable and urgent work for the new government.

In February 2014, the commission launched separate infringement proceedings against the UK for failure to comply with the Directive. It is likely to await the submission of the UK government's new plans before progressing the infringement proceedings further.

Air quality in the UK

In October 2011, the environmental audit committee (EAC) published damning criticism of successive governments' inaction on improving air quality in the UK. The committee noted that, in 2008, some 29,000 people in the UK died from the long-term affects of air pollution, 4,000 of whom were in London. The EAC also reported that 40 of the UK's 43 assessment zones were failing to meet EU targets and poor air quality was found to be shortening the lives of up to 200,000 people in 2008 by two years on average.

Aside from the human cost, the financial cost of failing to improve air quality is staggering. Defra estimates this costs the UK up to £20 billion a year, while the European Environment Agency reveals that industrial air pollution recorded by the European pollutant release and transfer register in 2009 cost the UK between £3.5 billion and £9.5 billion.

Industry and road transport are the main sources of air pollution, with the former a major source of emissions of NO_x (46%) and PM₁₀ (36%) and the latter contributing to significant emissions of NO₂ (30%) and PM₁₀ (18%).

Andrew Wiseman is a partner in the specialist environmental and planning law firm Harrison Grant; andrewwiseman@hglaw.co.uk.

www.jobs.environmentalstonline.com

the environmentalist jobs



Official jobsite of
iema
Institute of Environmental
Management & Assessment

To register for FREE job email alerts, go to
www.jobs.environmentalstonline.com

Advertisers include:

URS

waterman

RPS

**Schneider
Electric**

**W5
recruitment**

**Cyfoeth
Naturiol
Cymru
Natural
Resources
Wales**

**Pegasus
Group**

**Canal &
River Trust**

**penguin
recruitment**

ENVIRON

British Gypsum

**worcestershire
county council**

Meridian Thompson Group

WSP

clancydocwra

**Environment
Agency**

babcock

trusted to deliver™

ATKINS

Keepmoat
PROMISE. DELIVERED.

From the publishers of

the environmentalist

www.jobs.environmentalstonline.com

A WORLD OF OPPORTUNITY



Environmental training for groups
and individuals throughout the world

Classroom Training

- UK - London, Birmingham, Chorley, Newcastle
- Bahrain, Colombia, Dubai, Georgia, Tunisia

Worldwide Training

- e-Learning
- Blended Learning
- Distance Learning
- In-company Training
- Bespoke Training

IEMA, NEBOSH, IOSH, CIEH, CSkills, CQI

RRC
INTERNATIONAL

www.rrc.co.uk

+44 (0)20 8944 3100

info@rrc.co.uk



Fit for purpose?

With the Environment Agency continuing to face budget cuts and failing to achieve its performance targets in key areas, **John Barwise** asks whether it can cope with growing demands on its services?

Environmental regulations benefit the economy by about £10 billion a year, according to Defra. Yet the Environment Agency, the main regulator of environmental rules in England, continues to face stringent cuts to its budget and is losing several hundred key staff in the process.

The financial restrictions come as the agency reports higher levels of non-compliance and a significant increase in pollution incidents, raising questions on whether it has the staff and resources to carry out its statutory responsibilities.

The agency is a non-executive departmental public body funded largely by Defra. The environment department has been reducing the grant-in-aid budget the agency receives since 2010, but it was the devastating effects of last year's winter flooding that focused attention on the cuts in flood defence spending and staff. In response, the government announced an extra £100 million for flood repairs and maintenance of defences, and further funding has been allocated for flood and coastal risk management (FCRM) until 2016.

But while much of the FCRM capital budget has been protected, the agency's environment and business division, which deals with all environmental permitting regulations, non-compliance, pollution incidents and environmental crime, continues to face budget cuts – although the 2015 budget allocated an additional £4.2 million for the agency to specifically tackle illegal waste activity.

Costs and benefits

The agency was established in April 1996 under the Environment Act 1995, and is one of the largest environmental regulators in Europe. The total cost of running its regulatory and management services in 2014–15 was £1.3 billion. About 66% was spent on FCRM, 21% on water, land and biodiversity, and 12% on regulating industry. According to Defra, the money is well spent. A report published earlier this year by the environment department concluded that, for every £1 spent on environmental regulation in UK, there is a £3 net benefit to society.

The study, *Emerging findings from Defra's regulation assessment*, estimates the costs and benefits of 428 regulations derived from domestic, EU and international legislation between 2012 and 2021. The net annual cost

to businesses of implementing measures to comply with the regulations over this timeframe is calculated at £4 billion. However, the benefits to society overall, including savings to the government, the economy, public health and the environment, amount to £10 billion a year.

Frida Hök, policy adviser at international chemical secretariat ChemSec, said: "It is important to emphasise the socio-economic savings that come with stricter environmental regulation. The impacts of chemicals on human health, environment and wildlife result in extensive societal costs, which are reflected in, for example, healthcare expenses."

Defra says the benefits "reflect the introduction of new regulations and the removal of old regulations", which are being phased in as part of its smarter environmental regulation review. Under the coalition government's initial "one-in, one-out" (OIOO) rule (replaced in 2013 by one-in, two-out), every regulation implemented by a department had to be matched by savings to business. The Defra report revealed that the OIOO rule delivered £3 million additional savings a year for business.

Assessing performance

Although most businesses invest in compliance and other environmental protection measures, some do not. The agency admits it is failing to meet its own targets on reducing pollution incidents and non-compliance in business. The agency publishes a corporate scorecard, which provides a quarterly overview of its performance against 23 measures covering the five themes in its corporate plan (see panel, p.16). The results for the quarter to March 2014 revealed that serious and significant pollution incidents continued to rise, with 639 category one and two pollution incidents recorded – 44% higher than the agency's 442 target. The increase in incidents from regulated sources was twice as fast in 2013–14 as those from non-regulated sources and represented 43% of the total.

Non-compliance has also risen, with 3.8% of permitted sites showing poor compliance records, compared with 2.9% in the previous year. Non-compliance in the lowest three compliance bands of Opra – the agency's operational risk appraisal scoring system – increased from 159 to 182, well above the

A close-up photograph of a person wearing a high-visibility yellow-green safety vest over a dark grey long-sleeved shirt. The vest has the words 'ENVIRONMENT AGENCY' printed in large, bold, green capital letters. The person is holding a bright blue, glossy hard hat with both hands. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

ENVIRONMENT
AGENCY

124 target for the year. The agency says the increase reflects, to an extent, an improvement in its ability to identify and record non-compliance.

Its environment and business division, which has regulatory oversight for monitoring and compliance, enforcement work and environmental crime, is one of the biggest casualties of the cuts. Grant-in-aid funding faces further cuts until 2016, representing a fall of 34% over three years, according to figures released by the agency. The number of staff at the agency has also been reduced, from 13,181 in March 2010 to just 10,250 in October 2014. The workforce is likely to contract further this year, to around 9,700, a reduction of 15%, after staff transfers to Natural Resources Wales are factored in.

The role of the agency

The main purpose of the Environment Agency is to protect and improve the environment, which it continues to do through its statutory responsibilities as a regulator and through regulatory guidance, good practice, supporting information and supplementary guidance.

Its regulatory responsibilities cover many industrial activities, the waste sector and nuclear installations as well as contaminated land, onshore oil and gas installations, agriculture, water quality, flooding and coastal defences, fisheries, emissions trading and climate change, conservation and ecology.

© iStockphoto/ClarkandCompany

Agency's five priority themes

- **Act to reduce climate change and its consequences** – we will play a full part in helping to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions, help people and wildlife adapt to climate change, and put climate change at the heart of everything we do.
- **Protect and improve water, land and air** – we will maintain and improve water quality, promote more sustainable land management, protect and enhance wildlife, and improve the way we work as a regulator to protect people and benefit the environment, while minimising costs to businesses.
- **Work with people and communities to create better places** – we will reduce the risks to people, households and businesses from flooding and help people to improve, protect, value and enjoy their local environment.
- **Work with businesses and other organisations to use resources wisely** – we will further our understanding of the best environmental options for managing waste and promote more efficient and sustainable use of resources.
- **Be the best we can** – we will improve the way we work with customers and partners and involve communities. We will use compelling evidence and knowledge to support decision-making and use the funding available to us to maximise outcomes for people and the environment, while minimising our own environmental impact. We will continue to drive efficiency to deliver value for money.

Source: Environment Agency corporate plan 2014–16.

In an interview last year, Paul Leinster, the agency's chief executive, claimed it could cope with less staff: "The important thing for me is that by March 2016 we'll still be 9,700 people and we'll still have a budget of over £1 billion. You can do a lot of good things for people and the environment with that level of resource."

Rising problems?

The environment and business division is responsible for most environment protection measures in England, including air, land, water, waste and biodiversity. Its regulatory inspection and auditing work should not be directly affected by the cuts because this is funded by permit charges. But cuts in grant-in-aid funding appear to be having an impact on the division's environmental protection work.

Recent figures released by the agency show water quality has fallen, with just 17% of England's rivers now judged to be in good ecological health, compared with 29% in 2014. Mark Owen, chief executive at the Angling Trust, says: "I am very concerned as to the ability of the Environment Agency to properly carry out its role as competent authority under the Water Framework Directive, given present and potentially further cuts in [its] grant-in-aid."

The agency says pollution, over-abstraction and invasive species are the main problems. Responding to concerns, a spokesman told *the environmentalist* the agency had improved or stabilised the condition of nearly 2,000 miles of rivers. "The agency will continue to work closely with farmers, businesses and water companies to reduce pollution and improve water quality wherever, and however, possible," he said.



© Geoff Moore/REX

Environmental organisations remain sceptical, arguing that further cuts put the natural environment at risk. Rob Cunningham, head of water policy at the RSPB, says: "The agency's biodiversity staff are particularly vulnerable to cuts because they rely so heavily on direct grant-in-aid, whereas other parts of the organisation raise revenues through charging schemes. While the talk is always of increased efficiency, what this really means is losing people who understand their patch and are able to offer support and expertise tailored to local need."

The agency cites waste management as the worst business sector for pollution incidents and non-compliance, and says there are still hundreds of illegal sites operating in England, many of which are close to sensitive receptors, such as houses, hospitals and schools. The Environmental Services Association (ESA), which represents the waste sector, says waste crime damages the reputation of its members and undermines legitimate waste and recycling work. Sam Corp, head of regulation at the ESA, argues that cuts to the agency's waste crime work could undermine its regulatory clout. "Although we recognise the need to make cuts in public spending, these should not be at the expense of the environment or human health," he says.

Data published by the ESA Education Trust estimates the annual cost to the economy from waste crime "is likely to be in the region of £600 million, and could be far greater". Earlier this year, the government announced tougher enforcement proposals and additional funding to help the agency tackle waste crime. Corp says the ESA welcomes the extra money but argues the waste sector requires more assurance: "Tackling waste crime requires ongoing resourcing and, while the additional funding is very helpful, we would also welcome a long-term commitment to fund this important work."

However, the agency's 2014–16 corporate plan acknowledges that funding for its environment and business division is still falling. This, it states, is "placing pressures on some important areas of work". The plan also acknowledges that new responsibilities are likely to put further pressure on budgets.

The environment and business division is responsible for regulating onshore oil and gas operations in England, for example, including the emerging shale gas and oil industry. But, with fewer staff in post, questions are being asked about its ability to regulate this new, untested industry.



© Global Warming Images/REX

The agency's former chair, Chris Smith, believes the regulator will not be able to cope and is calling for a new single regulator for all onshore gas and oil extraction in the UK. In an interview with the *Guardian* in February 2015, he warned: "The current resources available to regulate fracking safely could not cope with the government's hoped-for shale gas boom."

The agency says the shale gas industry is a government and corporate priority. "Funding for setting up the regulatory regime comes from Defra grant-in-aid," a spokesperson told *the environmentalist*. "Our work to regulate individual sites is financed through the charges we raise for environmental permits and licences, which is not subject to spending cuts."

The fracking industry is not completely convinced. A report published in March by a new shale gas taskforce, set up by the government and chaired by Smith, concluded: "The current regulatory oversight for any potential shale gas industry at a national level does not command the public confidence that is necessary."

Changing the way it works

In recent years, the agency has introduced a number of self-assessment schemes to optimise staff and resources so that regulatory oversight is targeted at the worst offenders. Its monitoring certification scheme (MCERTS) is one. This sets standards for continuous emission monitoring systems, and allows operators to submit their own data to the agency for compliance assessment.

The Opra scheme assesses the risks from industrial installations covered by environmental permitting regulations (EPR). Those considered high risk or which show poor compliance performance and require more inspection visits are charged higher rates than low-risk installations. The EPR assurance scheme that covers the pig and poultry industry allows certification bodies to inspect member farms and collect compliance data for the agency. Farms that join the scheme require fewer compliance audits, saving them around £900 in inspection fees.

A similar EPR assurance scheme (EMS+) has been trialled in other industries to see whether regulatory compliance can be incorporated with certification audits for environmental management systems. EMS+ remains a work in progress, and the certification bodies and businesses that took part in the trials raised concerns about how the scheme would work in practice (see *the environmentalist*, December 2013).

For businesses, self-regulated and risk-based schemes mean fewer inspections, lower compliance fees, less pressure on staff and less bureaucracy. Pressure on the agency's over-stretched budget is relieved and its environment and business division can focus on high-risk businesses and poor performers.

The agency's best practice guides to help businesses and trade bodies deal with complicated technical and regulatory procedures and other onsite activities are being phased out. The Netregs website, a source of technical and supporting guidance, is no longer available for England, although the service still operates for Scotland and Northern Ireland. An agency spokesperson says that guidance on legal compliance is available on the gov.uk website, but added: "We no longer develop or host best practice guidance, in accordance with government policy, although we continue to support trade associations and others who wish to do so."

Much of the agency's previously published guidance is either no longer available or has been archived on gov.uk. As one agency officer told *the environmentalist*: "Our advice is to grab it while you can."

Environmental sense?

There are limits to the more-for-less dictat, and the key question for the new government is whether continued cuts to the agency's budget make economic or environmental sense. Using the treasury's own cost-benefit rule, flood defence projects get the go-ahead if the agency can demonstrate £8 of benefit for every £1 of investment. Given that the agency's total annual budget is just over £1 billion and Defra's own study shows a £10 billion a year benefit from environmental regulations, such a return is a powerful argument for sustaining or even increasing the funding the regulator requires to deliver the vital protection services on which we all depend.

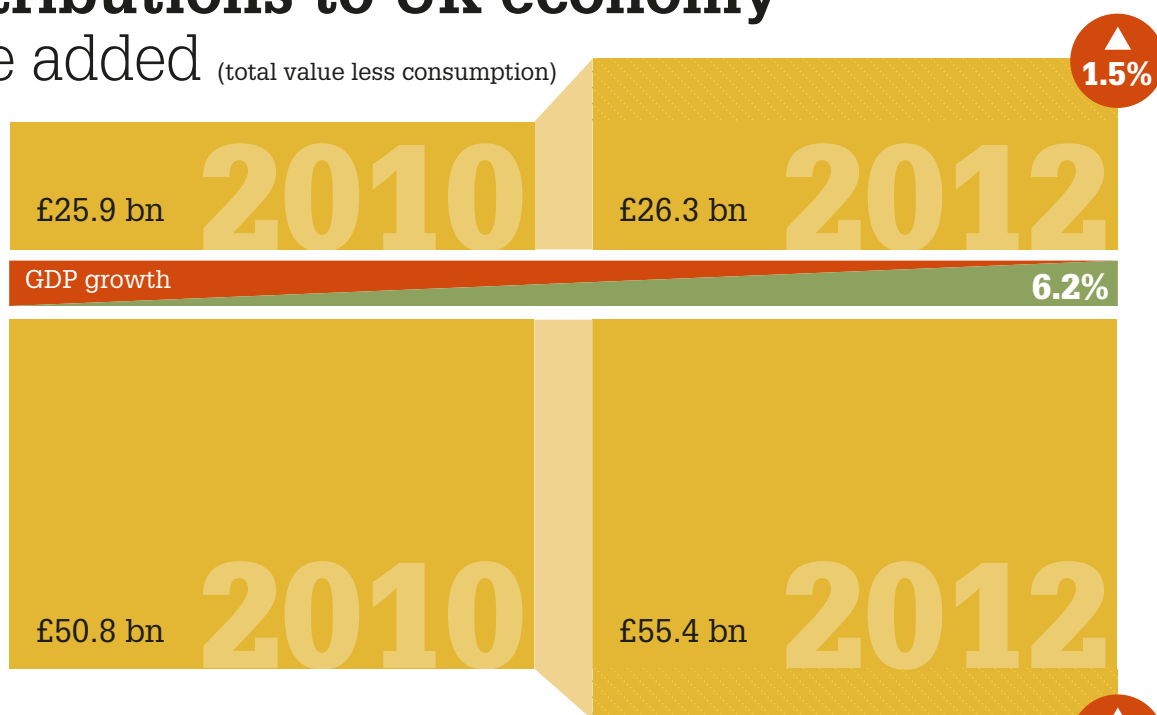
The 2014–16 corporate plan highlights the challenges the agency faces as it struggles to carry out its statutory responsibilities with fewer staff and resources. "We will have to prioritise our actions and reduce some of our activities," states the plan, while acknowledging that pressures on its environmental services and infrastructure are set to increase in the years ahead.

John Barwise, MIEMA, CEnv, is a director at QoL, an environmental management and communications consultancy.

The environment industry in the UK

Contributions to UK economy

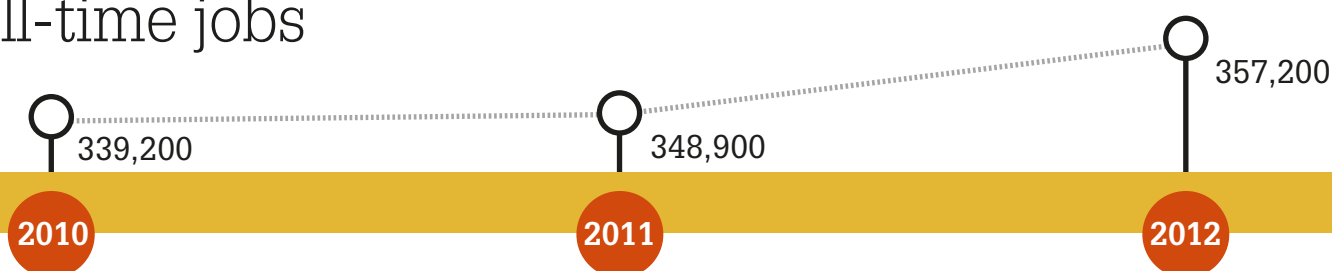
Value added (total value less consumption)



Output (Value of goods and services)

▲
9.1%

Full-time jobs

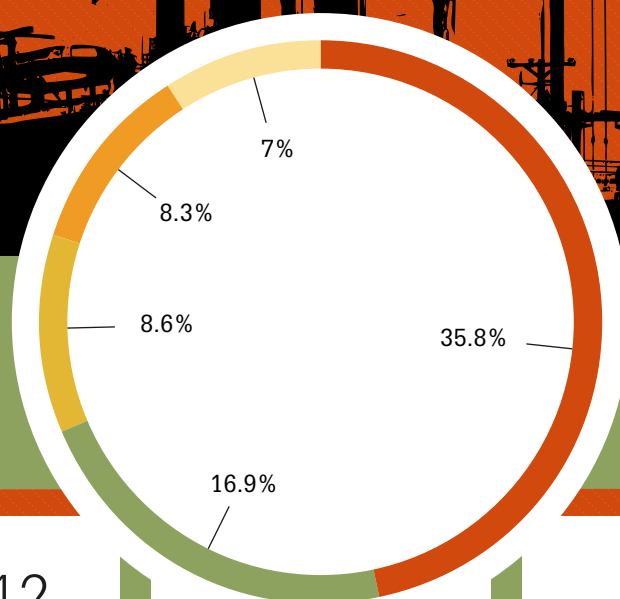


Employment in the environment goods and services sector (EGSS) increased by **5.3%** between 2010 and 2012

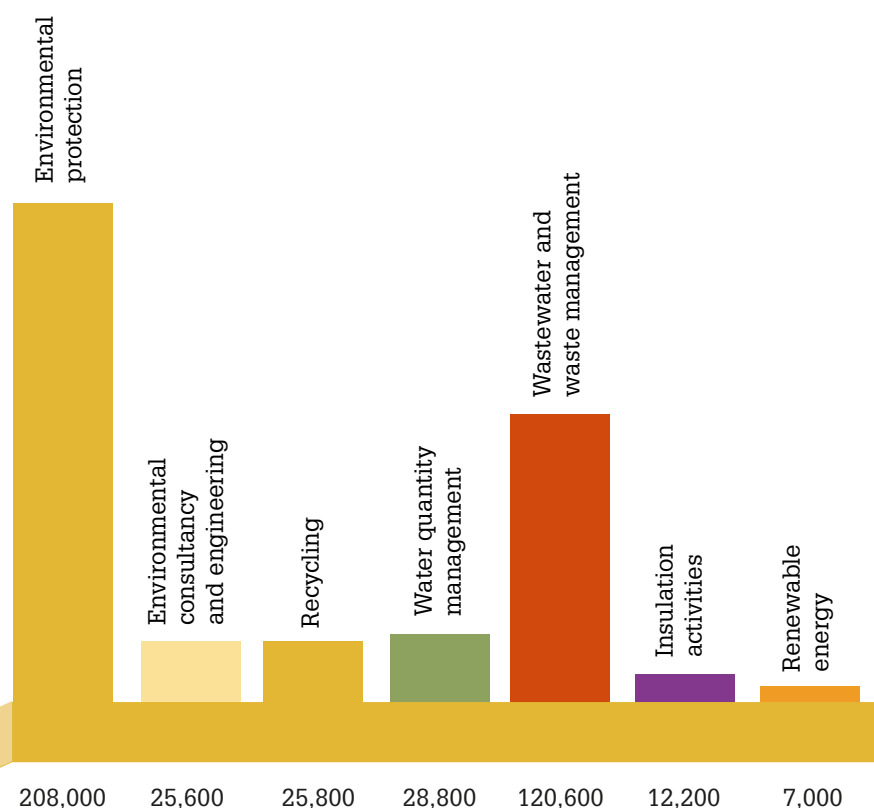
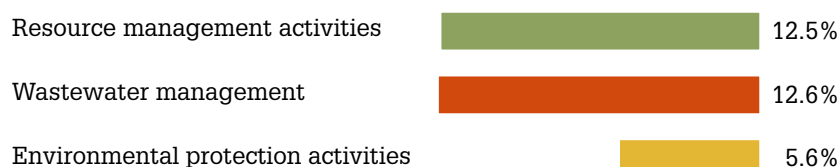
EGSS is defined by Eurostat as: a heterogeneous set of producers of technologies, goods, and services that measure, control, restore, prevent, treat, minimise, research and sensitise environmental damages to air, water and soil, problems related to waste, noise, biodiversity and landscapes and resource depletion.

2012

Top sectors by value added



Output increases 2010 – 2012



Employment by sector 2012

1
Wastewater and waste management services
£9.4 billion

2
Water quantity management
£4.4 billion

3
Recycling
£2.2 billion

4
Production of renewable energy
£2.2 billion

5
Environmental consultancy and engineering services
£1.8 billion



Framing circularity

Paul Suff talks to **Phil Cumming**
about the development of a
business standard for the
circular economy

The circular economy is not a new concept, having its origins in several schools of thought, from regenerative design and the performance economy – which introduced the idea of an economy in loops – to cradle-to-cradle and biomimicry. What is new is the circular economy's rising popularity as more businesses seek an alternative to the linear "take, make, dispose" model, which relies on large quantities of increasingly expensive resources and energy.

To support the shift from a linear to a more circular economic model, BSI, the UK national standards body, has established a committee, SDS1 10 sustainable resource management, to develop an overarching framework standard for business. The working title for the standard is "Framework for implementing the circular economy in organisations" and the committee expects to publish a draft for public comment by autumn 2016, with the final version available in 2017.

Translating a macro concept

A research project by BSI in 2013 was the beginning of the journey to the framework standard on the circular economy. The remit for the project included exploring the role of standards and other tools to help

organisations develop or improve their understanding of the concept and to start embedding it. The project discovered more than 200 standards related to specific areas of waste prevention and resource management but no formal standards that defined or focused entirely on the thinking behind the circular economy. A stakeholder forum in 2014 to discuss the project's findings concluded that a standard should be developed to help businesses identify their role in this, provide some clarity and direction on key areas, and highlight the potential risks and opportunities from adopting a more circular business model.

Phil Cumming, SDS1 10 chair, says the focus of the committee's work is to turn a macro concept into something that businesses can use to move forward. "The Ellen MacArthur Foundation [EMF] has done a fantastic job of welding the various schools of thought together into the concept of a circular economy, but businesses need to be able to turn that into practical action," he says. "There is a lot of theory and talk, but not as much action as there could be."

The committee has 60 members, including IEMA, the Green Alliance, Defra, the Scottish executive, Wrap and the Centre for Sustainable Design as well as the EMF and five of the companies belonging to its CE100 network.

In developing a framework standard, SDS1 10 is tasked with agreeing a set of definitions to promote a common understanding of the circular economy and associated processes, and investigating the role of “systems thinking” in its various models.

Cumming explains that, after discussions with several businesses that are already attempting to take this route, the work of the committee is focusing initially on these questions and areas:

- How can organisations determine resource management risks and opportunities, and identify key resources and materials of concern?
- How can organisations determine the relevance of the circular economy to them? What is their role? What are the implications for manufacturers, retailers, service-based organisations, and small and medium-size enterprises?
- What are “open-loop” and “closed-loop” systems?
- What is a closed-loop supply chain? How “closed” is good enough, while remaining feasible?
- Guidance on the provenance and use of secondary materials – for example, recycled plastics, bearing in mind issues around chemicals and the EU REACH Regulation as well as the emerging transparency agenda.
- Guidance on different business models, such as collaborative consumption and the sharing economy.

Barriers to change

Cumming, who was corporate sustainability manager at London 2012 organising body Locog and helped to develop the sustainable events standard BS 8901 (now ISO 20121), concedes that developing a workable standard will be challenging. “If we end up with a standard that is so complicated that only consultants can understand and use, we will have failed,” he says. “It needs to be useful and easy to follow, and help businesses to develop and deliver more circular ways of operating.”

One challenge he foresees is in gaining acceptance among advocates of the circular economy model that circularity is not automatically sustainable. “You could, for example, manufacture a window frame from recycled material. This might involve using a lot of energy and the product being full of toxic chemicals, which is not very energy-efficient and is not easy to recycle at the end of its life. As a committee we’ve already agreed that sustainable development is an underlying principle of the standard and organisations should look to pursue circularity if it is more sustainable rather than for circularity’s sake.”

He also points out that circularity is not, as many contend, wholly about resource scarcity, but could include issues like supply chains being disrupted by the effects of a changing climate, conflict minerals and other geo-political events.

Another potential barrier to overcome is making the standard relevant to a myriad of businesses. “Manufacturers and retailers will have different roles in the circular economy,” Cumming says. “Many retailers, for example, do not manufacture their own products, so will have very little visibility of the materials that go

Lending a helping hand

SDS1 10, the committee developing the framework standard for a circular economy, wants to involve as many organisations as possible. Its chair, Phil Cumming, says the committee is keen to hear from companies active in the circular economy about their experiences and the lessons they have learned. The group is also looking for organisations to pilot the draft standard. The next committee meeting is on 6 July 2015. For more information or to register your interest, email the committee manager, Tom Digby-Rogers, at tom.digby-rogers@bsigroup.com.

into them or where they come from.” Nonetheless, he believes if an organisation uses or manages resources, whether they are renewable, non-renewable or synthetic, they will need to adopt a similar approach to manage them more sustainably. “Broadly, they will first need to identify the key materials they use and are reliant on. Then determine if they actually need to use them all or in the same quantities. Last, they need to understand the associated risks and opportunities.”

Cumming says the standard may also help clarify the role of the waste industry. “Traditionally, businesses have paid a waste management company to take away their waste. It was either put in landfill, incinerated or, if the material had some residual value, sold, often to an overseas reprocessor and shipped back to the UK in a new product,” he says. “But waste doesn’t exist in the circular economy, so waste companies and local authorities have to become enablers, helping with reusing materials for instance.” He says there is evidence that some of the large waste firms are switching to service-based business models, but smaller companies may need support to adjust.

The committee is keen to ensure the standard employs the right language to encourage business to engage, says Cumming. “The language around the circular economy is much more business-friendly than terminology that accompanies climate change,” he argues. “It’s about physical things that companies can see and buy, so tends to have more traction at board level. The standard needs to retain that business vocabulary.”

The business models associated with a circular economy, such as remanufacturing, leasing and sharing, present their own unique challenges that the framework standard will need to address. These include the contractual, liability, warranty and insurance issues emanating from the use of repaired or shared goods. Also, REACH does not apply to waste but does if it is turned into, or used in, a product.

Cumming suggests that such considerations, as well as issues around ecodesign, product specifications and measurement, might be covered in more detail in supporting standards. “It is clearly early days as far as the committee’s thinking is concerned, but the framework standard will not be able to cover everything. Instead it will underline the key things that organisations should consider and possibly provide some commentary around the various options available to them, such as alternative business models and the approaches they can take to identify their key resources.”

60
organisations,
including IEMA,
Ellen MacArthur
Foundation, Defra,
the Green Alliance,
Wrap and Scottish
executive, are
helping to develop
the standard

A closer inspection?

Paul Suff asks assessors how the new 14001 standard will change EMS audits



Whether the new international standard for environmental management systems, ISO 14001: 2015, strengthens the links between the EMS and organisational strategy, more effectively engages leaders and ensures environmental aspects are related to business risks and opportunities will largely depend on the quality of the internal and external audits.

Due to be published in September, 14001: 2015 is different from the previous version (2004) in several ways and these will challenge the competence of many auditors. The new section on organisational context will require assessors to develop a broader knowledge of the organisation they are auditing and the industry or sector in which they operate. Likewise, assessing how the environment can affect the ability of the organisation to create long-term value will demand a greater understanding about how climate change and resource scarcity, for example, will affect operations. Meanwhile, the new leadership clauses will necessitate more contact between auditors and top management teams, a dynamic that is likely to test assessors' communication skills and business acumen.

Starting point

A roundtable discussion hosted by *the environmentalist* in 2012 on the future of 14001 found mixed opinions among practitioners on auditing competence.

Several participants questioned whether auditors would have the skills to effectively conduct a more strategic assessment. "The skills set is completely different for compliance-type compared with more strategy-based audits," said Viki Bell, global portfolio manager for sustainability at standards body BSI. Ben Vivian, co-founder of consultancy Vivian Partnership, said: "The concern I would raise about moving to a more strategic standard management system is that you end up asking who is going to audit it and who's competent enough to audit. So, if you end up with a system that no one can actually audit, you've got a big problem."

Certification bodies and assessors acknowledge that the competence of many auditors will have to improve. Warren Percival, director at consultancy RSK Environmental, describes 14001: 2015 as a huge change for the auditing profession. "There are some massive changes for auditors in the new standard," he warns. Certification bodies will have to "up their game" to ensure the process effectively assesses organisations against the requirements of the new standard. "In my experience, too many third-party auditors do not apply enough rigour during the audit," he says.

Nigel Leehane, managing director at environmental engineering consultancy CRA Europe, says auditing was always a weakness of 14001 and the flaws could be exacerbated by the additional demands on assessors on the revised version. "The quality of some internal and external audits has been questionable. Some auditors do not have the right skills to make an effective assessment and that competence gap is likely to grow with 14001: 2015," says Leehane, a technical expert on the groups that revised the auditing standard ISO 19011 in 2011 and now a member of the group revising 14001.

Martin Hockaday, environmental sector manager at certification body NQA, agrees that the clauses in the revised standard will require assessors to have a broader range of knowledge than that demanded by the 2004 version. "Assessing how organisations could be affected by the environment is very different from looking at how its operations affect the environment and will require assessors to have a deeper understanding about the organisation, its products and services, supply chains etc," he says. "How will increasing water scarcity due to climate change affect a textile manufacturer, for example, as sourcing its raw materials may get more difficult?"

Steve Williams, system and governance manager at business assurance company LRQA, believes that the proposed changes to 14001 are positive and will lead to greater integration of environmental management and organisations' business operating systems. But he also concedes that auditors will need more understanding of the business risks that face an organisation and how these will affect their ability to meet the required outcomes in relation to their EMS. "They will also have to be able to understand the context in which the organisation operates so as to better understand the potential impact of these risks," he says.

Leading challenge

Most practitioners and assessors accept that the success of the revised standard in raising commitment to the EMS at the highest levels in an organisation will depend largely on the effectiveness of auditors. The leadership clauses require senior management to demonstrate commitment to the EMS. Auditing conformity will involve assessors speaking with top managers about what they have been doing to actively support the management system.

The frequency of meetings between assessors and senior managers will rise and auditors will have to be skilled in communicating what might sometimes be difficult messages. This was highlighted by Clare Dann, global technical manager for environmental management systems at BSI, in *the environmentalist* in February 2015. She said that 14001: 2015 would require assessors to discuss the EMS more often with senior management, which, on occasion, might lead to difficult conversations between clients and auditors.

Williams agrees: "The greater emphasis on leadership in 14001: 2015 will mean that auditors will need to be prepared to challenge the top management of the organisation on their commitments."

Hockaday outlines a possible scenario to illustrate how assessors might encounter problems when addressing senior managers. "What if the business strategy is geared towards growing sales of a product, but the EMS identifies that the material in it, perhaps a rare earth metal, is scarce?" he asks. "It would mean the EMS is telling the company to go in a different direction to the strategy. That might not go down too well in some businesses, particularly if they have invested heavily in the product."

Percival describes tenacity as a key attribute for an auditor. "They need to follow the right line of questioning to discover suitable evidence. Will they get

long enough face-to-face time with senior managers to elicit the necessary information?" he asks.

Leehane wonders whether internal auditors will have the confidence and ability to deal with their top management teams and whether external auditors will have enough time to question senior managers. He advises organisations to prepare their senior management team.

He also counsels that the interaction is likely to be more productive if assessors can talk the "right language" in terms of what drives business performance.

Hockaday alludes to some of the practical difficulties that might arise when assessing performance against the leadership clauses. "Auditors need to recognise that senior managers are busy people, so they will have to be flexible when speaking with them," he says. "A meeting might be arranged 12 months in advance as part of the auditing cycle, but the chief executive might be called away at the last moment. Or senior management might be based in another facility or another country." In such circumstances, Hockaday advises assessors to find another way to provide senior management commitment. He suggests that this could involve speaking to others in the business to find evidence of top-level involvement in the EMS.

"For a new client, we'd initially expect to speak to top management during stage two of the audit process and then at least once during a three-year cycle. It might, however, be appropriate to interview management at every audit. The frequency will probably depend on the size and complexity of the organisation," says Hockaday.

Putting the organisation into context

Dealing with the clauses on organisational context may take many assessors out of their comfort zone and require them to have a general awareness of a much broader range of issues. Equally the requirements on risks, opportunities and threats will demand industry knowledge and an understanding of downstream issues.

The draft international standard (DIS) published last year states that an organisation should determine "external and internal issues that are relevant to its purpose and that affect its ability to achieve the intended outcome(s) of its EMS". The DIS offers an insight into the range of knowledge that auditors will need in terms of the context of the organisation. As well as the environmental conditions related to climate, air quality, water quality, land use, natural resource availability and biodiversity, assessors will also be expected to know about the external cultural, social, political and economic landscape in which the organisation operates. Crucially, auditors will also need to be capable of assessing not only the organisation's impact on the environment, but the effect the environment has on the organisation.

Certification bodies and assessors generally accept that this is a significant change and will require many auditors to update their skills and knowledge. "At LRQA, we have been anticipating the move towards the requirements defined in the new management systems high-level structure for a number of years and have been training all our assessors," says Williams. "The assessors are looking at the bigger picture in relation to the risks that certified organisations need to address, the context in which they operate and the interested parties' requirements that need to be addressed."



Percival is concerned that some auditors will have insufficient environmental or sector experience. "Although all management standards will follow the same high-level structure, I don't think you can expect assessors to effectively audit environment, quality and health and safety systems with some of the changes that are coming up. There will be a need for additional technical competency and knowledge that you may find only in a specialist." He says that it is often the case that an "environmental specialist" is assigned to undertake a legal review during the triennial audit cycle, for example.

Percival also asks whether all auditors will have the knowledge and skills to work across sectors. "Assessing an EMS at a manufacturing facility can be very different from auditing one on a construction site, especially when dealing with issues like 'context', which is required under the new standard." He believes some auditors will lack knowledge in an important facet of the revised standard. "Do they understand the concept of lifecycle assessment or have the ability to effectively assess risk, opportunities and threats?" he asks. Leehane makes a similar point: "Considering lifecycle perspectives will be particularly challenging for auditors. They will have to push organisations to look at this across their supply chains and to consider significant aspects that may be outside their direct control. That is something many will not be used to doing."

Percival also points out that auditing for the new standard will not be an entirely lateral process, but will require assessors to examine how the clauses link together. "Clause 5.2 relates to establishing, implementing and maintaining an environmental policy. But auditors will have to find out how it links with, say, 4.1 and the requirement to understand the organisation and its context."

Hockaday describes 14001: 2015, with its reference to social, political, legal, regulatory, financial, and economic frameworks, as more closely aligned to the wider remit of sustainability than the previous version. This expansion to consider broader sustainability issues may be a new concept for some auditors, Leehane believes. He says: "Many will not understand that the failure to develop strategic approaches to environmental sustainability will result in an inability to build a more sustainable and successful business model – for example, by ignoring the potential benefits of efficient natural resource use. They will need to think outside their traditional pollution prevention and spill control boxes."

Ready and waiting?

Williams reports that LRQA has been preparing assessors for 14001: 2015 for several years. The training has focused not only on the requirements of the high-level structure, so that all management systems, including 9001 (quality), will follow the same template, but also the fact that a lot of detail is now supported by the annex to the standard. Percival reports that RSK too has already started providing its assessors and clients with training and consultancy on applying it.

Hockaday at NQA advises that training should not focus just on understanding the new clauses, but on establishing a common auditing approach to them. "We don't want auditors interpreting the clauses differently," he says, explaining that NQA and other certification bodies already adhere to ISO/IEC 17021: 2011, the conformity assessment standard.

Longer audits?

Whether the duration of audits will rise to accommodate the new requirements in 14001: 2015 is open to question. Martin Hockaday, environmental sector manager at certification body NQA, is noncommittal on whether the revised standard is likely to lead to longer assessments. "Audit time is generally linked to the number of processes that require checking, so if there are more to examine it might take longer. As yet, we don't know if audits will take longer. But I think it's safe to say they will not take any less time."

Although 14001: 2015 requires auditors to address additional requirements, Nigel Leehane, managing director at environmental engineering consultancy CRA Europe, says external auditing against the new standard may not necessarily require more time: "Clients will not want to pay more and I think certification bodies will address this by adopting a more efficient auditing process, and by focusing on areas of greatest organisational risk."

Steve Williams, system and governance manager at business assurance company LRQA, believes the length of the audit will depend on the organisation: "If they have a mature system that is already embedded in their business system, where they are addressing risks at an organisational level, they will already be familiar with how their system will need to change to meet the new requirements. As a result, they should be prepared for the assessment against the new standard. If, however, we are looking at an organisation that is not well prepared, the time necessary to undertake the audit will be longer because the assessor will need to ensure that it understands what is required and to verify that it is compliant."

17021 sets out the principles and requirements for the competence, consistency and impartiality of the audit and certification of management systems of all types. Hockaday hopes that consistency will be achieved by effective planning by the certification bodies and oversight by accreditation organisations. He says that NQA has been preparing for the changes to 14001 for some time, and started training its assessors last year in the new requirements. "We plan to audit against the new standard from day one, so we need to be ready," he says.

Ultimately, Leehane believes "switched-on auditors" will see the changes to 14001 as an opportunity, empowering them to support organisations to improve their performance. "Others will find the changes challenging," he says. "Many auditors have a lot of work to prepare themselves for the revised standard, but the enlightened ones will see it a chance to make their mark."

Percival recalls some of the advice he received early in his career: "We were told always to look for objective evidence that an organisation is meeting the standard and to not treat the assessment as a tick-box process, ensuring we audited and understood how all areas of the standard interact. I think that counsel still holds true."

Waste not, want not at TfL

Helen Woolston describes how Transport for London is rethinking its approach to waste

Transport for London (TfL) is adopting a more enlightened and strategic approach to its “waste”. By setting itself goals, it is moving away from simply managing waste to an approach that can best be described as “responsible resource use”.

TfL’s remit includes a responsibility to support London’s sustainable growth. With a growing population, the transport services provider has to ensure the capital continues to have a modern, fast and sustainable system that can help the city be a liveable one. It has a multi-billion pound modernisation programme, and is now working with its partners on constructing the new extension to the Northern Line underground route, improving the area around Victoria railway station, and rebuilding Bond Street and Tottenham Court Road tube stations.

Rebuilding and renewal

Construction and renewal on this scale means that resource management is a significant feature of the work. In 2014, TfL projects generated about 3 million tonnes of commercial, demolition and excavation

waste (including Crossrail). Over the same period, its operations produced 46,600 tonnes of commercial waste from customers, offices, depots and garages.

Some TfL businesses have a good record, recycling up to 99% of waste materials, but in such a large, complex organisation, TfL acknowledges that more can be done to share good practice. Although the amount of unwanted materials produced depends on the nature of the work being carried out, opportunities for designing out waste and reusing and recycling apply to all TfL construction projects.

TfL’s main offices – including 55 Broadway above St James’s Park tube station and at Pier Walk, near the O2 arena on Greenwich Peninsula – achieve the Defra good practice annual water consumption target of 6m³ per full-time equivalent (FTE) employee. They also achieve recycling rates of 62% and are all working towards a target of 75%.

TfL is part of the Greater London Authority and supports the delivery of the Mayor of London’s transport strategy and the capital’s environment strategy (LES). The business waste element of the LES demands that 70% of commercial and 95% of construction waste be reused and recycled by 2025. TfL has set out its vision for moving from waste to resource management in the organisation’s corporate environmental framework and consists of objectives, targets and a delivery programme (see panel, p.28).

Theory into practice

The modernisation and expansion of Bond Street and Tottenham Court Road underground stations in preparation for Crossrail – which passes through central London, linking Heathrow and Reading to the west with Abbey Wood and Shenfield in the east – provides an example of TfL putting into practice its ambitions for resource management. The principal contractors, Taylor Woodrow Bam Nuttall at Tottenham Court Road and Costain Laing O’Rourke at Bond Street, have been set a target to

Keeping London moving

Transport for London (TfL) keeps the capital moving by running the underground, Docklands Light Railway, trams, rail, bus, river, Victoria coach station and Dial-a-Ride services. It also maintains and develops London’s red route streets and, through its schemes and policies, promotes walking, cycling and the greater use of low-emission vehicles. TfL is also involved in planning new transport schemes and projects, such as river crossings and the Crossrail 2 north–south link, which aim to help achieve the Mayor of London’s environmental strategic goals for the capital.

5 TIPS

Achieving resource goals

- 1 Have a strong vision or policy**
Cutting waste to landfill and proactively considering waste as a resource.
- 2 Include as part of key business processes – such as a construction project management system**
Setting out zero waste to landfill early as a project requirement. Set up a resource management plan. Share materials and contacts who reuse materials between sites and parts of the organisation.
- 3 Practical measurement**
Use tools – such as the net waste tool developed by Wrap to calculate waste arisings and BRE's Smartwaste reporting platform – to record materials and help track progress.
- 4 Practical onsite measures**
Segregate materials and create a secure materials storage compound, for example.
- 5 Communicating results**
Reporting and communicating progress against the targets is influential in generating support. TfL includes waste and resource data in its scorecards, reports to the board and annual report.

TfL's resource management vision

Objectives

- TfL will continue to minimise generation of waste as far as possible.
- For any waste still generated, TfL will develop a normalised target for reduction, for example per project spend or passenger kilometre.
- TfL will develop a target for reducing hazardous waste.
- TfL will prioritise reuse of resources and maximise opportunities for recycling unavoidable waste, using innovation and new systems where practical.
- TfL will optimise opportunities to recover energy from remaining waste.
- TfL will continue to purchase reused materials or those with a high-recycle content.

Targets

- TfL will reuse, recover and recycle 99% of non-hazardous waste, with interim targets of 30% for recovery by 2031 – in line with the London Plan, which sets out a strategy for the capital.
- TfL head offices will aim to achieve a shift from current Defra good practice performance of 6m³ water consumption per full-time equivalent (FTE) employee to the environment department's best practice of 4m³ per FTE employee.

TfL will achieve these targets by:

- Designing out waste in construction.
- Delivering a reduction programme for hazardous waste.
- Continuing to invest in low-use and recycled water technologies.
- Developing a system to quantify how much is spent on having its waste treated, recycled and disposed of. This will help TfL target priorities for where to reduce waste.
- Creating a waste exchange process for the organisation and its contractors.
- Requiring large capital projects and programmes to achieve external sustainable building or infrastructure certification, equivalent to BREEAM "very good" or "excellent" where possible.
- Measuring and reporting annually on progress made towards achieving the targets and key programme delivery.

divert construction and demolition associated waste from landfill. Buildings around the stations have been demolished, while public utilities and highways have been diverted at street level. All of this work has created numerous waste streams.

The environment management teams at the principal contractors must consider the fundamental principles associated with the waste hierarchy, from prevention to disposal. This involves working closely with the engineering and design teams as well as subcontractors to ensure waste creation is avoided, reduced or reused. At Bond Street, 64,239 tonnes of waste/resource had been created by February 2015. Of this, 63,726 tonnes – or 99.12% – have been diverted from landfill.

By applying the waste hierarchy, numerous ways of beneficially using resources have been developed. The Bond Street environment team agreed with Crossrail to send 17,555 tonnes of excavated material to Wallasea Island in Essex to be used in developing a nature

reserve for migratory wildlife and assist in making the area more resilient to the impacts of climate change, such as sea-level rise. The Bond Street team also sent construction waste to Caddington golf club in Bedfordshire as part of a redevelopment and extension project.

Tottenham Court Road has generated 160,000 tonnes of excavated waste since 2010. All of the uncontaminated waste has been used for land reclamation. Of the 5,000 tonnes of construction waste generated at the station, 95% has been recycled. For example, straw required for filtering excess water during tunnel excavation was donated to London Zoo.

The environment teams at both stations have also formed a relationship with the National Community Wood Recycling (NCWR) project, which reuses and recycles wood and creates work for disadvantaged people. So far about 50 tonnes of timber have been passed to the project. The material is put to various uses, including shelving units, garden planters and chicken huts, and even a nightclub bar.

Measures to increase recycling rates across the sites include removing from TfL offices all individual bins that used to sit below the desks, and sending them to a school in Southwark where they are used as flowerpots. To assist with the reuse, waste skips onsite are segregated into wood, metal and mixed construction waste. Each skip is properly signed and workers are briefed regularly on enhancing waste segregation.

Office waste is segregated into dry recyclables, general waste and food waste. The food waste is taken to an anaerobic digestion and waste management facility and used to generate either electricity or compost. Aerosol cans are pierced onsite and containers disposed of as metal. Some aggregates have been reused for temporary works at the site. General waste is turned into refuse-derived fuel and dry recyclables are sent to a material recovery facility for segregation, where the material is baled and sent for to be reprocessed for reuse.

The environment teams at both construction sites have established resource efficiency communications programmes. The focus of these includes promoting use of materials before they reach their expiry date and raising awareness of the cost of resources and disposal.

Going online

TfL concedes that it has been a challenge to obtain and verify that all waste data is complete, which is why it is now rolling out use of Smartwaste, BRE's flexible online reporting platform. TfL is also examining some of the legal issues that have surfaced, such as when discarded material becomes classed as waste, case law and the Environment Agency's statement of regulation. This sets out the basic rules businesses carrying out certain activities must follow to prevent pollution.

TfL's experience shows that having a strong vision with senior management support is crucial when communicating targets to local businesses and sites.

Helen Woolston, MIEMA, is sustainability coordinator at Transport for London.

What's in a word?



Effectively engaging in sustainable development requires a holistic approach, argue **Neil Rotheroe, Gary McFarlane and Martin Ruston**

Despite the evolution of sustainable development or sustainability to include social and economic components, it is disappointing to find that many businesses and other organisations still tend to perceive it in solely environmental terms. Too many organisations do not consider sustainability in terms of opportunity.

Successful entrepreneurs tend to have an opportunistic mind-set. But if sustainable development (SD) is perceived as being outside this and restricted to a risk control activity, leaders are unlikely to be significantly engaged and it will lack positive strategic management. What is required in such circumstances is a culture change. The problem is best described as a failure to find a means for developing and operating a strategy for SD in the management of organisations.

Limited approaches to sustainability have included management system specification (MSS). This covers environmental management systems for the environmental component, such as ISO 14001 and the EU eco-management and audit scheme, EMAS, and quality management systems set in the economic context, such as ISO 9001. However, MSS approaches have been criticised for failing to substantially engage significant input by the strategic leaders of organisations, and is being tackled by the revisions to both 14001 and 9001, and which will adopt the same high-level structure.

Nonetheless, the issue remains that MSSs, while having a clear utility and contributory value, do not provide a holistic approach. A more comprehensive framework needs to be deployed to achieve strategic management for sustainable development.

BS 8900 in practice

Chartered Institute of Environmental Health

The Chartered Institute of Environmental Health (CIEH) is a registered charity providing a voice for environmental health professionals. The management board decided to undertake the framework provided by BS 8900 for the management of sustainability as a way of assisting the future development of the organisation, particularly in a period of rapid change in its strategic operating environment.

The CIEH has found 8900 useful for demonstrating to its members and other stakeholders where the organisation is going. The strategic framework provided by the standard has helped to enhance and articulate the meaning of the current activity of the profession, which is inherently concerned with the management of sustainability in its social, economic and environmental components. As result, 8900 adds value to the professional stance of the organisation through communication, focus and the practice of continual organisational learning.

The institute is set on changing the culture of the organisation, and the adoption of the framework provided by 8900 is seen as central to achieving this. The experience of the CIEH confirms that the standard can be a constructive tool in a corporate change strategy.

The creation of a stakeholder group in line with the requirements of the standard to determine principles of sustainable development, as indicated by 8900, has been useful to the institute in terms of it becoming more of a learning organisation and better able to respond to challenges. Also, the development of the format of the maturity matrix in the standard was found by the CIEH to be valuable in providing cultural alignment.

Stone Computers

Stone Computers is the UK's largest independent manufacturer of IT equipment and a supplier to the public sector. The company, based in Staffordshire, is the only UK-based IT manufacturer with its own onsite facilities to recycle redundant equipment.

Sustainability is an increasing area of interest to its public sector clients, notably in education. Gaining certification to BS 8900 demonstrated to external and internal stakeholders the company's commitment to addressing sustainability issues and embedding these in the strategic development of the business. The company was also keen to be a leader in this area and be the first in the IT sector to gain such recognition. By using the standard, Stone Computers has built on its core values and ensured that the senior management team maintained a clear focus on sustainability, helping to determine strategic policy and create opportunity for the business.

For Stone the process of gaining certification to 8900 put the spotlight on the more difficult challenges facing IT manufacturers, some of which appear insurmountable. One is the issue of working conditions in many IT manufacturing plants in Asia, from which most components are sourced. The sustainable management process undertaken by Stone in accordance with 8900 ensured that the board faced this issue head-on. This provided the opportunity for the company to engage with its stakeholders and to promote the stance on sustainability that it has adopted.

Applying the standard at Stone and gaining certification have enabled the senior management team to develop a clearer strategic overview of how the business should identify and address sustainability issues as well as how the elements of its management systems are relevant in delivering progress against its sustainable development objectives. These are aligned with the declared principles of sustainable development in 8900.

The development of Stone's sustainable development maturity matrix, an 8900 requirement, has also proved useful in the strategic management of the business.

Accessible framework

To develop an accessible framework, we have taken part in piloting an approach using the recent update of BS 8900 on managing sustainable development of organisations. The 2013 version has two parts: a guide and framework requirements (against which recognised certification can be achieved).

The intention is to use the two parts together. The standard is not an MSS because it provides a strategic framework for the management of sustainability in organisations. The approach set out by the standard expects continuous senior management leadership, input and direction. Critically, it seeks to capture, engender and orientate innovation in organisations relevant to sustainability in the management context.

8900 does not duplicate existing management system approaches and reporting activity. Rather it sits above these and provides strategic direction and input into the setting of high-level objectives.

In the context of innovation, the standard seeks an approach that moves beyond risk control to be a focus for strategic business opportunity – it is central to the organisation's business case and to meeting client requirements in relation to corporate social responsibility and sustainability. It sits well with organisations that are innovative and want recognition for this.

The standard is not about being perfect now. It is about setting and achieving genuine direction, supported by objective evidence, and promotes the notion of the learning organisation.

Beyond risk control

Innovative organisations tend to have many positive initiatives geared towards sustainable development. 8900 provides a manageable and coherent way to develop a strategy to embed successful initiatives at the operational level. It also provides the context for further progress. The approach used in the standard engages senior management. In this respect it is all about moving beyond an approach that focuses exclusively on operational risk control to one focused on business opportunity in response to the need to be sustainable.

In this it makes efficient use of business leaders by providing them with a framework to direct sustainability management without necessarily being sucked into all the operational details. The sustainable development maturity matrix component of the standard is valuable at leadership level in that it assists directors to make truly strategic decisions on a continuous improvement pathway towards effective management of sustainability.

The success of the pilots (see examples from the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health and Stone Computers in panel, left) suggest that 8900 provides a good solution to the lack of an accessible framework for organisations to engage in a holistic way with sustainability, particularly in smaller organisations where resources can be limited.

Neil Rotheroe, sustainable development consultant, academic and verifier; **Gary McFarlane**, director at the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health; and **Martin Ruston**, group compliance manager at Stone Group



CONFERENCES 2015

Delivering Sustainability: Culture & Capability

Date
14 July 2015

Venue
11 Cavendish Square
London
W1G 0AN

5 Excellent Reasons to Attend:

1. Leading-edge speakers, including Mike Barry leader of Marks & Spencer's 'Plan A'
2. Game-changing organisational strategy for the sustainable business: practical approaches to up-skilling your workforce
3. Networking & collaboration: invaluable opportunities to share knowledge and refine strategy
4. Network Rail to PwC: workshop and plenary programme led by the industry's best
5. Capable people and the right culture: embedding a shift in your organisation's thinking

Book your place today! iema.net/conferences

Exhibitor Stands & Sponsorship Packages available

Find out more:
r.armitage@iema.net | iema.net/conferences-2015



iema.net

Making the profession's voice heard during the election

Following IEMA's successful #sustainableMP election campaign, Tim Balcon, the institute's chief executive, offers a message of thanks to members for their engagement and enthusiasm:

When I joined IEMA in 2013, one of the most common things members said to me was: "I really want IEMA's voice to be louder, more recognisable". Given our global membership of 15,000 and untold depth and breadth of collective expertise I couldn't help but agree. That's why we made a decision to up our game to create a stronger, more resonant presence in the media and policy worlds.

We've been working hard to transform the views members give us into meaningful and impactful statements. You've mirrored that by giving us your opinions so we now have a rich collection of statistics and comments to work with, and I'd like to thank you for that.

Let me give you some examples. You may recall how we have used the member engagement on the revision to ISO 14001 to help shape this international standard. When mandatory greenhouse-gas reporting was introduced, IEMA members' views played a part in that government decision. More recently, the UK general election presented us with an opportunity to escalate this kind of activity and I really think that – thanks to the fantastic contributions of members – this has paid off.

Starting in February this year, we carried out a series of polls (see panel, right) among UK members on key policy and legislation issues that will prove crucial to the next term of parliament. You responded in droves. Each poll generated hundreds of responses, giving clear and decisive direction on what you wanted from the new government. And you weren't coy in your views. Most of the data was in the 80th and 90th percentiles, leaving little room for doubt as to the strength of feeling on some really important issues, such as climate leadership and sustainable resource management.

We took those results to the media and found that there was an enormous appetite for our statistics. Just type



IEMA chief executive Tim Balcon

"IEMA UK" into Google news and you'll get a good flavour of the takeup of our poll results. You wanted a louder voice? I think this shows we have made huge strides in the right direction.

By getting involved in our election campaign, you've helped generate almost 3,000 responses, more than 50 headlines and in excess of 60 new policy calls – all in three months.

That is no mean feat, especially considering that organisations often struggle to get their voice heard at general elections. I think this shows that, together, IEMA and its members can achieve some really impressive things.

Even though the election campaign is over, our work isn't done. With the new Conservative-majority government in place we will be taking your views – particularly your 10 sustainability actions (p.5) – to the new secretaries of state and doing all we can to transform these from a wishlist to new policies.

I think you'll agree that with our election campaign we have found a winning formula for communicating your views to government through the media. We hope not only to replicate the success of this campaign in the future, but to build on it until you hear and see us on national and international broadcast channels. Keep getting engaged in our polls, consultations and events and it won't be long until you're seeing the results in some seriously high-profile places.

As a final word, thank you to every member who took the time to get involved. It's been impressive and I'm looking forward to seeing much more of this engagement in the future.

IEMA election polls

In a series of polls in the 12 weeks up to the UK general election, IEMA asked members' opinions on what the incoming government should focus on. Fully 2,846 responses were received across the five surveys.

Key findings include:

- 72% said energy conservation and efficient use of materials should be the main area for future energy investment;
- 96% want the new government to set up a cross-sector sustainability skills strategy – with STEM skills incorporating sustainability; and sustainability included as part of the national curriculum and lifelong learning programmes;
- 75% believe the UK planning system is not currently capable of playing its part in the transition to a sustainable economy;
- 80% want a "Stern for resources" style report published to make the economic case for resource management;
- 91% want the new government to make a commitment to tackling climate risks;
- 92% want the role of the Green Investment Bank to expand so that it has powers to appropriately borrow and invest in projects that both protect and improve the UK's natural capital; and
- 89% were unhappy with the lack of focus on environment in the run-up to the general election.

IEMA and BRE Academy announce collaboration

IEMA and the training arm of the Building Research Establishment, BRE Academy, have signed an agreement under which the two organisations collaborate to develop and deliver industry-relevant sustainability training courses. These will be embedded into both higher and further education programmes to provide graduates with market-ready qualifications and support employers in their recruitment process.

The collaboration between the two organisations will play a key role in IEMA's current campaign, "Skills for a sustainable economy: preparing for the perfect storm", which aims to highlight the critical need for environment and sustainability skills in businesses worldwide.

The BRE Academy provides high quality, world-class training and education programmes, which are developed and delivered in partnership between BRE and industry experts such as IEMA. It aims to lead the construction industry by delivering educational excellence, address the knowledge and skills gap, develop the next generation of skilled operatives and professionals, as well as deliver accessible and practical continuing professional development and lifelong learning programmes.

Tim Balcon, IEMA chief executive, said: "Training and education provision is a key service, which we provide for our 15,000-strong global membership, who are focused on driving more sustainable practices and standards across all sectors. Our collaboration with the BRE Academy will enable us to offer new skills programmes with a focus on the



Tim Balcon flanked by BRE's Pauline Traetto and Peter Bonfield

built environment, which plays such an integral part of every business and industry as well as the economy."

Pauline Traetto, director of the BRE Academy, commented: "As an organisation BRE shares very similar goals and values to IEMA. We want to make a positive difference and reduce adverse impacts on the environment for the benefit of people and the commercial world. We are delighted to work with IEMA in this way and develop targeted and applicable training programmes for educational institutes and industry."

The partners are looking at developing courses covering the challenges of delivering a more sustainable and resilient built environment, as the effects of climate change are felt internationally on buildings and infrastructure.

Policy update



Are you delivering sustainability?

In the May issue of *the environmentalist*, you will have seen that IEMA's "Preparing for the perfect storm" campaign had secured its 40th supporter. Since the campaign was launched, together with our *Skills for a sustainable economy* report, in October 2014, IEMA's course of action to bridge the environment and sustainability skills gap in partnership with business has generated much discussion and interest. That talk has now started to evolve into definitive action.

Recently IEMA signed a memorandum with the Building Research Establishment (left) to develop sustainability-focused training programmes to upskill the construction industry workforce. The courses being developed and will be launched in 2016. Several similar partnerships and initiatives, which will have a wide impact, are also in the pipeline, .

The next major milestone in the campaign will be IEMA's conference in London on 14 July. The one-day event, "Delivering sustainability: culture and capability", will set the scene of the changing nature of business – how climate change impacts, price volatility and resource threats will increasingly affect businesses' ability to prosper – and outline how the right skills across all professions is the solution.

Delegates will benefit from hearing people who have been innovative and re-imagined their organisation's approach to sustainability through skills frameworks. Mike Barry, leader of Marks & Spencer's groundbreaking Plan A journey, will give one of the morning's keynote addresses, while the plenary and workshop sessions will similarly be led by the best in their fields, including experts from: Network Rail, PwC, Jaguar Land Rover, Skanska and the Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership.

Members can book their place for just £250 + VAT at iema.net/conferences-2015-skills.

Josh Fothergill is policy and engagement lead at IEMA; j.fothergill@iema.net

Rise in career changers

Environment and sustainability roles are becoming the career change of choice, with 42% of professionals who now work in these roles describing themselves as "career changers", according to a survey by IEMA.

The data comes from IEMA's practitioner poll, which found that 87% of those who started their career in non-environment or sustainability roles are happy with their choice of career. The proportion of practitioners

reporting high levels of satisfaction has risen by 10% since last year, IEMA said. Tim Balcon, CEO of IEMA, said: "With the economy becoming increasingly dependent on environment and sustainability skills, it's great to see that many who boast these skills are enjoying their roles to such a high level. These skills and the people that are entering the profession have a vital role to play in enhancing and supporting business action in this area."

More successful IEMA members

IEMA would like to congratulate the following individuals on recently upgrading their membership as part of their ongoing commitment to learning and professional development.

Associate

Stephanie Abbott

Stephen Agugua

Liga Apsite, Vauxhall Luton

Bolaji Babutunde, University of Port Harcourt

Ross Baird

Lisa Barley, Magnox

Finlay Bennet, Marine Scotland

Chris Bowles, The Garden Centre Group

Dominique Brown

Jacqueline Burkinshaw, Arriva Bus UK

Julian Burton, Wallop Defence Systems

David Carney, Arriva – The Shires

Peter Cooper, Arriva London

Arinze Chukwu, Tidal Flow Nigeria

Christine Dargon, Arriva Bus UK

Dean Davies, Olive Group

Richard Deakin, Tata Steel

Amar El Awad, Green Energy & Environmental Services

Julia Emburey, Syngenta

Emma England, QinetiQ

Mfon Essien, Nestoil

Glenn Evans

Olumide Fasanmi, TSL Logistics

Petya Georgieva

Nicole Grenier, VolkerStevin

Jennifer Gowers, Environment Agency

Peter Hayes, Scottish government

Nicole Holland

Aren Houghton, Energy Power Resources

Luke Jones

Michail Karatzas

Stephanie Keay, Skanska UK

Eleanor Kiff, Network Rail

Ian Kingston, MoD

Bethany Kington, Enzygo

Jose Lafragueta, Scottish Power

Joe Langham, Syngenta

Stephen Law, Arriva Transport Solutions

Alan Lewis, Mondelez Confectionary UK

Jade Littlewood, Shell UK

Jamie Lynch, HOW Planning

Laura MacDougall, DSRL

Lisa McAllister, Lockheed Martin UK

Liam McCarroll, Innovation Group

Emily McCombe, North Star Shipping

Douglas McGlade, Morris and Spottiswood

Orla McManus

Sonia Naran, Brite Green

Craig Nimmo, Scottish Woodlands

Jessica Norfolk, Doosan Babcock

Dumka Nulog, Aecogreen International

Marielle Pantin

Peter Parkin, Olive Group

Claire Parsons, EM Highway Services

Jennifer Pearson, RWE Solutions UK

Louise Percy, Positive About Business

Glen Peters, Stannah Group

Simon Pole, University of Northampton

Peter Roberts, Mahle Filter Systems

Edward Rogers, Arriva North West and Wales

Joshua Rothbard

Peter Sewell, Saga Group

Steve Smith, Polypipe Building Products

Simon Steele, Princes Group

Rene Stent, Magnox

Jonathan Storey, SSE

Michael Thakoordin, Ford Motor Co

David Tolley, ISS Integrated Solutions

Krasimira Traykova

David Walsh, Arcelor Mittal Tailored Blanks

Charlotte Watters, GroundSure

Lauren Webb, BioProduct Laboratory

David Wilson, Dairy Crest

Stephen Wolf, Coal Authority

Stuart Wollaston, Laing O'Rourke

Nenibarini Zabbey, University of Port Harcourt

Araceli Zorrilla-Quinza, Swarovski UK

Full and Chartered environmentalist

Edward Bergin, Atkins

Bronwen Chinien, Surrey County Council

Jamila El Mir, Arup

Donna Green, Turner Estate Solutions

Alexandra Hammond, Essentia, Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust

Nicholas Hunter, Atkins

Daniel Johnston, Jacobs Engineering UK

Sean McPike, Eli Lily and Company

Colin Moorcroft, Skanska UK

Giovanni Nacci, Transport for London

Richard Naylor, Heineken UK

Paul Owen, The Co-operative Group

Lorna Stork, Knauf Drywall

Alan Sweeting, BMI Healthcare

Michael Taylor, Santia Consulting

Arjun Thirunavukarasu, BAM Nuttall

Breana Wheeler

Michael Whitehead, Crossrail

Chartered environmentalist

Paul Harrison, TNEI

Lisa Palframan, Homes and Communities Agency

IEMA events

Date	Region/Time	Topic
10 Jun	Wales	Tata Steel site visit – Port Talbot
11 Jun	Yorkshire and Humber	Passivhaus the way it is – making strides in our industry
17 Jun	South West	Exeter energy-from-waste site visit/Social (Exeter)
1 Jul	Midlands	Lincoln energy-from-waste site visit
1 Jul	Yorkshire and Humber	Social (Leeds)
2 Jul	South East	Social (London)
IEMA conference		
14 Jul	London	Delivering sustainability: culture and capability
IEMA webinars		
9 Jun	12:30–13:30	ISO 14001: 2015 update: hear about the latest changes

EIA update

Standard for offshore EIA launched

BSI has launched a standard to drive best practice in environmental impact assessment (EIA) for offshore renewable projects.

The UK national standards body developed 6900 with Renewable UK, the Marine Management Organisation and Marine Scotland, as well as several companies, including ABPMer, Renewable Energy Services and Scottish Power. The authors of 6900 researched recent EIAs on offshore renewable projects to identify good or innovative practice and processes to avoid. The standard includes case studies, templates and engagement plans.

BSI hopes that the standard will help developers of offshore wind farms and other renewables projects and EIA consultants to commission, screen, scope and execute future assessments more quickly and at lower cost. David Fatscher, head of market development



© Imaginethat/REX

for sustainability at BSI, said: “The development and delivery of standards is important for driving the industrialisation of offshore renewable energy. Appropriate standards create a foundation for growth based upon recognised benchmarks of quality and promote UK competitiveness by reducing barriers to international trade.”

International news

Australia

Federal authorities in Australia have launched an investigation after construction started on a £130 million port 20km off the coast of Darwin without government approval and without the correct environmental assessment. The deep-sea facility for the local woodchip industry at Port Melville on the Tiwi Islands is in an area the Northern Territory (NT) government says supports many species not recorded anywhere else in the world.

The NT Environment Protection Authority's (NTEPA) said Ausgroup, the Singapore-based company behind the project, had not completed the assessment process required to secure

approval. Meanwhile, the federal environment department reported that it had not received a referral, which is required for projects likely to affect areas of national environmental significance.

However, the chief minister for the NT, Adam Giles, said the company had provided documents to the NTEPA in support of the project, including: an operations environmental management plan; an environmental policy; an erosion and sediment control plan; and a draft biosecurity management plan. He also reported that the port developer was preparing further information that the NTEPA had demanded.

China

Plans to construct the largest hydropower dam in China have been refused by the country's environment department after the project failed an environmental impact assessment. The proposed Xiaonanhai Dam on the Jinsha River, upstream of the Yangtze,

would have generated 1.7MW of electricity and was due to be completed in 2019. *China Daily* reported that rare fish upstream of the Yangtze have been adversely affected over the past 10 years because of the dam projects on the Jinsha.

EIA research

Timing of screenings

Delaying the submission of an EIA screening request can help smooth the progression of a project through the planning process, according to experts at planning consultancy Terence O'Rourke in a new QMark paper. Jo Baker and Emma Robinson acknowledged that screening is usually completed early, but argue that delaying it might be more sensible, particularly where the decision on the need for EIA may be more ambiguous due to the scale of the development or the nature of potential effects. The authors say the lack of sufficient baseline information and initial assessment work can make it difficult for local planning authorities (LPA) to reach a decision, a situation compounded by a reduced lack of in-house technical expertise at LPAs. The authors also say that the additional information the revised EIA Directive (2014/52/EU) will require suggests there will need to be a more detailed consideration of project design and potentially significant issues at an earlier stage. This, they believe, will probably lead to a delay in the submission of screening reports to allow the information to be compiled.

environmentalisonline.com/timing



Cumulative effects

In a QMark paper, Michael Phillips, principal consultant at Dulas, reports on a wind farm project in Shropshire, which he says provides an example of the confusion that can sometimes emerge over whether part of a development needs to undergo an EIA. The difficulties encountered by the Reeves Hill project centred on an access track that required permission from a neighbouring authority and involved a screening decision by Welsh ministers. Phillips says the problems could have been avoided if the authorities had requested further information and visited the site to determine the relationship between the two developments and their potential environmental impacts.

environmentalisonline.com/reeves





Twitter

We are now live on twitter!

Follow us
@SPA_Enviro
for the latest industry
news and jobs



Get in contact

For more information
regarding any of these
opportunities or to apply please
call 01296 611322 or email
response@shirleyparsons.com



@Jobs_spa
@ShirleyParsons

Follow us on Twitter for all
our latest opportunities and
health and safety news



Also search for us
on Linked in!



SELECTION OF CURRENT OPPORTUNITIES

Senior Acoustics Consultant

LONDON £50,000 TN 7226

Shirley Parsons Associates are currently working with a global construction and infrastructure design consultancy that are looking for a Senior Acoustics Consultant to join their team. The successful candidate will need to have experience giving advice on high profile, large scale infrastructure/construction design projects. Candidates must have consultancy experience and be qualified to degree level.

Environment & Sustainability Advisor

ESSEX £25K-£27K LO 7229

A large housing construction company is currently seeking an Environment and Sustainability Advisor to join their team. The successful candidate will report directly to the Environment and Sustainability Manager and will play a vital part in implementing the company's sustainability strategy. Suitable candidates will have a strong understanding of ISO 14001 and a 2:1 degree in an environmental related discipline.

Senior Environmental Consultant

LONDON £45K TN 7026

A global commercial property consultancy is currently looking to expand their team with the addition of a Senior Environmental Consultant. The successful candidate will be responsible for undertaking surveys and inspections, providing environmental advice to international clients and undertaking business development to generate new clients and projects. Candidates will have previous consultancy experience.

Environmental Advisor

LONDON £28K-£38K + CAR LO 7219

A major construction company with a strong pipeline of work currently has a requirement for an Environmental Advisor to support their complex project. This role will see you support and advise senior staff in all areas of environmental management and liaise with stakeholders and regulators to ensure that environmental risks are managed. Candidates need to have a thorough knowledge of environmental management systems and have experience within the environmental industry.

Senior Ecologist

LONDON £40K TN 7025

An international commercial property consultancy is seeking a Senior Ecologist to work on their client's exciting urban infrastructure projects. The successful candidate will be responsible for undertaking impact assessments whilst producing technical ecological reports and liaising with clients. Suitable candidates will be a member of IEMA and have consultancy experience.

Senior Sustainability Consultant

LONDON £45K TN 7225

We are currently working with a global sustainability consultancy in London who is seeking a Senior Sustainability Consultant to join their growing team. This role will see you support the sustainability team and undertake sustainability practices from design to completion stage. The successful candidate will need to have experience undertaking BREEAM and LEED practices as well as experience working with issues concerning energy and carbon reduction.

Senior Environmental Consultant

NOTTS £180-£230 PER DAY LO 7215

A leading service provider is currently seeking a Senior Environmental Consultant for a 12 month contract. You will be responsible for delivering support and environmental advice to the project development team in the form of environmental assessments and reports. Candidates must hold an environmental degree and have excellent knowledge of environmental impacts including water, noise, heritage, landscape, and air.

Environmental Coordinator

LONDON £35K-£45K + CAR LO 7133

One of the UK's leading multi-disciplinary consultancies is seeking a Regional Environmental Coordinator to join their team. This role will see you drive and deliver plans to meet environmental targets, ensuring data for environmental KPIs are recorded accurately and effectively. Candidates must hold an IEMA membership and have experience with environmental data sets.

EIA Consultant

LONDON £33K TN 7153

Shirley Parsons Associates are currently working with a global property services consultancy in London who is seeking an Environmental Impact Assessment Consultant to join their growing team. The successful candidate will be needed to have experience undertaking EIA and providing environmental advice within a consultancy environment.

Sustainability Advisor

LONDON £35K LO 6571

An international contractor is currently recruiting for an experienced Sustainability Advisor. Within this role you will be responsible for ensuring that all environmental objectives relating to regulation, law and contractual commitments are met. You will also implement and manage ISO 14001 as well as managing company environmental requirements. Candidates must be a member of IEMA and have a minimum of 2 years' experience within the construction/infrastructure industry.

www.shirleyparsons.com



Exciting opportunity for an Environmental Consultant looking for a challenge

Environmental Auditor/Consultant – Southern England

Ligna is a rapidly growing SME operating in timber Chain of Custody certification, supply chain management and quality and environmental auditing. We have contracts with blue chip companies, trade associations, major UK projects and International organisations.

The business needs to recruit to continue our steady growth. We require someone with a knowledge of, or interest in, the timber industry and who has some experience of ISO auditing. You must have a clean driving licence. You will most likely be located in the South of England, but be prepared to travel extensively across the UK.

You will need to be committed, creative, tech savvy, proactive, and flexible, and be able to work and communicate effectively with both senior management and shop floor staff. You will also need to understand and manage your time efficiently. You will be someone who is looking for a chance to develop rapidly under the mentorship of experienced professionals. We are progressive employers looking to invest in developing the right people.

Salary and car package commensurate with experience and age.

If this opportunity is of interest, please send a short CV and covering letter to: info@ligna-uk.com

Assistant Environmental Manager

- Talented undergraduate or postgraduate in EIA, planning or related areas
- 2 years' practical EIA experience, SEA knowledge desirable
- Knowledge of sustainability assessment and environmental legislation an advantage
- Good communication and writing skills

The role is based in our Bournemouth office. We are a practice that values excellence and are interested to hear from high-calibre applicants who want to make great projects happen. You will join a talented, friendly team with a broad range of clients.

Please send your CV and recent examples of your work for the attention of the Personnel Manager at: careers@torltd.co.uk by 21 June 2015.

www.torltd.co.uk



TERENCE & PROUKE

Strategic Thinker?

Come and join us - we're shaping the sustainability profession from the future.

- What will the world of work be like in 2030? What will people be doing and how will they do it?
- What are the implications of a decarbonised world and how quickly can we get there?
- How will cities, businesses and communities become resilient and what will this mean for us all?

Help us understand how these and other 'big' issues will shape the profession.

Exciting new opportunities are available to join IEMA's Strategic Advisory Council. We're recruiting members and non-members to provide advice to IEMA's Board on long-term issues that will shape the profession. Horizon scanning and foresight forms a key aspect of the Council's role.

iema
Institute of Environmental
Management & Assessment

**TRANSFORMING
THE WORLD TO
SUSTAINABILITY**

**Can you
make a
difference?
If so, we want to
hear from you
by 17th July.**

Further information and an application form are available at iema.net/shapingthefuture or contact Martin Baxter, IEMA's Chief Policy Advisor m.baxter@iema.net - 01522 540069



iema.net

DOWNLOAD FREE ISO 14001:2015 GAP GUIDE

www.nqa.com/14001changes



NEVER STOP IMPROVING



NEVER STOP IMPROVING

Contact us

08000 130900

info@nqa.com

www.nqa.com