Environmental Insight Issue 6

Snapshot of what's happening on environmental issues

The CIP Environmental Insight is a bimonthly update of what's happening around the environmental agenda within the built environment. It's free and open to everyone. Some content is only available to subscribers of the CIP Environmental Manual and CIP Knowledge.

Environmental News & Policy Updates

Environment Bill sets out vision for a greener future

The Environment Bill has returned to Parliament. The Bill will enshrine environmental principles in law and introduce measures to improve air and water quality, tackle plastic pollution and restore habitats so plants and wildlife can thrive.

Equipment shortage revealed as new emissions rules kick in

Stricter emissions regulations have come into place for non-road mobile machinery (NRMM) in central London and Canary Wharf, despite a lack of compliant generators. In a post on its dedicated lower emissions zone website the Greater London Authority (GLA) conceded there were not enough approved generators . A law change, which came into effect on 1 January, means construction machinery installed with a combustion engine such as generators, bulldozers, pumps, industrial trucks, forklifts and mobile cranes are subject to more stringent emissions standards.

For more information on the law changes click here

Natural capital tool launched to help protect the environment

An ambitious new online resource has been launched by Defra to help ensure better environmental decision-making by valuing our 'natural capital'. 'Natural capital' is the sum of our ecosystems, providing us with food, clean air and water, wildfire, energy, wood, recreation and protection from hazards. The natural capital approach will make it easier for public and private organisations to better assess and value the environment. This will help deliver benefits including long-term flood risk reduction, boosts to wildlife, improvements to water and air quality, and opportunities for biodiversity net gain.

CIP Environmental Manual now Updated

These are some of the latest updates to the Environmental Manual

- A new section entitled Setting Up on Site.
- Nuisance - the guidance on the registration and GHG emission limits of Non-Road Mobile Machinery within London is updated together with advice on the recognition of engine type approvals. Guidance on the avoidance of vandalism on sites is included.
- Waste - The Environment Agency has published a range of new Low Risk Waste Positions (LRWP) and withdrawn those previously published. LRWPs cover those activities of storage, treatment and recovery of waste that the EA consider do not require an environmental permit provided certain conditions are fulfilled.

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A round up of Davos 2020

Last month saw over 3,000 business leaders, policymakers and thought leaders gathered in Davos for the World Economic Forum (WEF). See below for the highlights and key green talking points that you need to know.

- Publication of the second 'Circularity Gap' report – this is a piece of research showcasing how business and government action to date has helped and hindered progress towards a circular economy.
- Prince Charles launched his Sustainable Markets Initiative and Council. The Prince outlined a 10-point plan to help the global economy become more sustainable including the imposition of green taxes and investing in environmentally friendly technologies.
- The Green Economy Coalition launched the Green Economy Tracker – a digital tool which will help nations measure and accelerate their transitions to economic systems which are more environmentally friendly and socially fair.

Nigel Topping appointed UK climate champion

Nigel Topping has been appointed by the UK Government as its High Level Climate Action Champion ahead of UN climate talks, COP26. Mr Topping will help drive action from businesses, investors, organisations, cities, and regions on climate change and coordinate this work with governments and parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Green Screens Research Partnership

Multiplex has partnered with researchers from the University of Glasgow to conduct a trial of green screens. The trial evaluated how green screens compare to traditional construction hoarding in terms of their ability to capture pollutants and attenuate runoff. The screens were made from a steel mesh with densely woven climbing plants affixed to the hoarding and the installation of associated monitoring equipment. From the data analysis, the results indicate a significant improvement both in terms of air quality and runoff.

Click here for more information

Cardboard Tree Guards

The HS2 project aims to plant up to seven million trees along the Phase One Route, resulting in the use of an estimated 39,000 plastic tree guards between October 2019 to March 2020 alone, by the Fusion JV. As an alternative to plastic, Fusion are piloting compostable cardboard tree guards, made from 100% recycled OCC (old corrugate and card) pulp and supported by eucalyptus poles. As well as being better for the environment, they reduce transport costs as they do not need to be removed for waste collection.

Get Involved...

Do you have something you'd like to contribute to the Insight (best practice, blogs, pictures etc)? If so please contact us on sales@cip-books.com

Not a Subscribed Yet?

The CIP Environmental Manual is a great resource to help navigate environmental issues when working in the built environment. It is written by industry experts and provides practical advice on complying with legislation together with best practice. For more information on subscribing to the manual click **here**

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