

NEWS RELEASE

Thursday 6th December 2007

Minister supports new Good Practice guide for Agricultural Waste Plastics

The Agricultural Waste Plastics Collection and Recovery Programme has issued general guidance to farmers for the handling, segregation and storage of agricultural waste plastics (AWP).

The AWP Programme was set up to assist the Government's development of a Producer Responsibility scheme for non-packaging farm plastics that might ultimately encourage the majority of all farm plastics to be collected and recovered.

Whilst details of the Government's proposals in terms of draft Regulations and consultation are not likely to emerge before 2008, there are a number of measures that farmers in particular should be looking to address now in order to facilitate future recycling of waste plastics and avoidance of landfilling.

Joan Ruddock Defra Minister for Waste:

"Farmers have a vital role to play in reducing waste by increasing the amount they recycle. It is essential that Government works in partnership with farmers to provide them with guidance on how best to do this.

"The Good Practice guide for Waste Plastics collection and recovery offers practical advice on the best ways of managing plastics to increase the amount collected and recycled.

"I recognise that Government also needs to reduce the bureaucratic burden for farmers who at present are responsible for the disposal of their plastics and that is why we are currently developing a range of proposals for a new Producer Responsibility scheme. We will consult on the scheme in the New Year."

A 2-page summary leaflet and a more detailed 4-page guidance note can be downloaded from the Programme's website: www.agwasteplastics.org.uk

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For further information contact:

Ivan Good, CIWM (EB): 01604 844625

CIWM (EB)

Chartered Institution of Wastes Management
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Notes to Editors

- The Agricultural Waste Plastics Collection and Recovery Programme was awarded £1 million of BREW funding for research and development in Autumn 2005, in advance of Regulations to apply waste management controls to agricultural waste that came into force on 15 May 2006.
- Defra's BREW Programme recycles revenue generated through Landfill Tax to fund a range of free services and targeted support for businesses.
- Non-packaging AWP includes products such as silage wrap and sheeting, polytunnel and crop film, string and netting.
- Packaging plastics, such as pesticide containers and fertiliser bags, fall under the Producer Responsibility Obligations (Packaging Waste) Regulations 2005.
- The AWP website www.agwasteplastics.org.uk aims to be the definitive source of information about the Programme and provides additional information such as:
 - A searchable database of collectors
 - Details of UK reprocessors
 - Programme news and press releases
 - Useful documents about agricultural waste plastics
 - Copies of Programme publications
 - Links to other websites of interest
- CIWM (EB), the Chartered Institution of Wastes Management Environmental Body, which is the delivery body for the Programme, is a registered charity and company limited by guarantee. Its objects include "research, development, education and the collection and dissemination of information about waste management generally for the purposes of encouraging the use of more sustainable waste management practices".

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