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## Eco-Smart Consultancy 'Think Green' Quarterly Newsletter September 2010

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The 3<sup>rd</sup> Issue of 'Think Green', [Eco-Smart Consultancy](#) launches a new environmental news feature. Generally topics will be chosen to highlight either, how we all contribute positively or negatively on the environment and how we are making a difference.

### Environmental news.



#### Ozone layer depletion.

The first article for the new 'environmental news' feature

concentrates on the latest study which suggests that after years of concern over the ozone layer it is finally repairing itself. In the 1980's scientists noticed the ozone layer depleting, this was assumed to be directly contributable to man-made chemicals.

Today although there seems to be large holes appearing in the ozone layer directly over Antarctica there is some good news. The study has shown in the upper stratosphere, ozone recovery can be directly attributable to the banning of CFC's found in aerosols and air conditioners.

However in the lower stratosphere recovery is greater than predicted from the banning of CFC's, therefore some other man made or natural component has come in to play.

There are many possible natural causes for this e.g. volcanoes and weather play a part. Ultraviolet rays from sunspots boost the ozone layer, while sulphurous gases emitted by volcanoes can weaken it. Cold air in the stratosphere can either weaken or boost the ozone layer, depending on altitude and latitude.

As usual there are many sceptics who will argue that the ozone layer would always repair itself given time.

Whatever the reasons it is predicted between 2030 and 2080 the ozone layer should be at restored to previous 1980 levels.

Between now and then I am sure we will be trying to counteract another environmental blight brought on by the human race – **or just perhaps, we will learn from past experiences and treat the environment with the respect it deserves.**



## Latest Legislation updates.

- **Environmental permitting Amendment 2010** - deregulating from local authority certain activities involving the melting of non-ferrous metals and manufacture of powder coating materials.
- **EU regulation on persistent organic pollutants 2010** - adds 9 further polluting substances, whose production and use have to be controlled.
- **End of Life vehicles 2010** - provides powers of entry and inspection for the enforcement authorities.
- **REACH** - change the criteria for compiling safety data sheets from 1 December 2010.
- **VOC's in paints, varnishes and vehicle refinishing products 2010** – amends definition of coating.
- **Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (amendment) 2010** - substitute's new definitions of 'dangerous substance or mixture'.
- **Energy performance of buildings amendment regs 2010** - sellers of residential property need to arrange an energy performance cert. before placing on the market.
- **Aerosol dispenser regs 2009** - Aims to protect public health by prohibiting the supply or possession of aerosols not marked as conforming to safety standards.

If you require further information on any environmental legislative issues then, Eco-Smart Consultancy now offers an [environmental register update service](#). See our website for further details.

## Environmental Facts.



- Every year in the UK we use 13 billion steel cans, which if placed end to end would stretch to the moon-three times! About three billion of these cans are made from recycled steel. By using recycled materials we can save 75% of energy needed to make steel from virgin materials. (Source: Steel can Recycling Information Bureau).
- A recycled aluminium can saves enough energy to run a television for three hours.
- Recycling aluminium saves up to 95% of energy and produces 95% less greenhouse gas emissions than if raw materials are used. (Source: Alupro)
- If all the aluminium cans in the UK were recycled there would be 14 million fewer full dustbins each year.



## CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme.



For clients of Eco-Smart Consultancy that are within the CRC energy efficiency scheme

you should by now have registered as either a Full participant or an information disclosure with the Environment Agency. Closing date 30-9-2010.

## Recycling symbols.

Carrying on from the previous issue of 'Think Green' we have produced a guide to show the variety of commonly used recycling symbols that you might find on some of the everyday items you buy or produce.

### Packaging Symbols:-

Polymer Types	Examples of applications	Symbol
Polyethylene Terephthalate	Fizzy drink and water bottles. Salad trays.	
High Density Polyethylene	Milk bottles, bleach, cleaners and most shampoo bottles.	
Polyvinyl Chloride	Pipes, fittings, window and door frames (rigid PVC). Thermal insulation (PVC foam) and automotive parts.	

Low Density Polyethylene Carrier bags, bin liners and packaging films.



Polypropylene Margarine tubs, microwaveable meal trays, also produced as fibres and filaments for carpets, wall coverings and vehicle upholstery.



Polystyrene Yoghurt pots, foam hamburger boxes and egg cartons, plastic cutlery, protective packaging for electronic goods and toys. Insulating material in the building and construction industry.



Unallocated References Any other plastics that do not fall into any of the above categories - for example polycarbonate which is often used in glazing for the aircraft industry

