



Best environmental practices make for long-term savings

McGrath's Zero-to-Landfill waste management system can protect skip hire firms from the perils of LOI testing

The skip hire sector has expressed concerns that inconsistencies in Loss on Ignition (LOI) testing, which determines the biodegradable content of wastes, may expose them to unfair and punitive higher rates of landfill tax.

The Government's working group has introduced a Loss on Ignition (LOI) test for fines from mechanical treatment plants that will allow operators of landfill sites to determine the correct level of tax. This will be used on a mandatory basis to test a random selection of samples. A well-established method of testing, it determines the biodegradable and combustible element of waste which is indicative of its pollution potential. From 1st April 2016 only those that can demonstrate their consignments consist of less than 10% biodegradable will qualify for the lower rate. With the higher rate due to increase to £84.40 on April 1st, the £81.15 per tonne differential could have a catastrophic effect on some smaller operators.

Jenny Watts, director of the United Resources Operators Consortium (URoc), which represents skip hire firms and waste transfer station operators said recently:

"We have had plenty of feedback from our members and they have real concerns that they will struggle to make the ten per cent threshold."

These changes, which are designed to incentivise waste operators to look more closely at how they separate the fines, will not apply to McGrath's customers as all non-hazardous wastes they accept are already diverted from landfill.

"Skip operators can avoid the uncertainty and risks of LOI testing completely by using our Zero-to-Landfill system," explains McGrath's Business Director, Tara Donaghy, "We have an established system for extracting biodegradable materials from fines and other mixed wastes which allows our customers to avoid the potential for higher landfill taxes as well as demonstrating environmental best practice."

The HMRC historically kept the lower tax rate for inert waste as it covers naturally occurring materials such as clay, sand, gravel and stone. But since the Landfill Tax was introduced in 1996 the rate has steadily risen to encourage waste to be treated higher up the waste hierarchy.

The McGrath Group provides full turn-key resource solutions for managing construction, commercial, municipal and industrial wastes. Their average recycling rates exceed 95% with only the remainder being sent for Energy Recovery.

McGrath has developed state-of-the-art systems to capture, process and report on the wastes managed, enabling clients to demonstrate legal compliance and their environmental credentials. Innovative reporting provides:

- » Full breakdown of the recycling rates for each material
- » Data on the destinations of materials for each category of the Waste Hierarchy
- » Data on carbon (CO2e) emitted during the waste management process for GHG Scope 3 Reporting

Clients throughout the UK are able to enjoy McGrath's excellent customer service, industry-leading recycling rates and innovative reporting systems via a network of approved partners located throughout the country.

McGrath's MRFs are permitted to accept and process 1.3m tonnes of waste per annum.