

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0042125

Permit being assessed: WB3993HE.

For: Gellia'r-gwellt Uchaf Transfer & Composting Station, held by Bryn Recycling Limited
At: Gellia'r-gwellt Uchaf Transfer & Composting Station, Hengoed, Caerphilly, CF82 8FY.

Type of assessment carried out: Site Inspection, Reason: Routine.

On 11/07/2023 between 09:15 and 11:15.

Parts of permit assessed: Various

NRW Lead Officer: Greg Gardner, accompanied by Jak Rose.

Report sent to: Mr. Alun Price / Ms. Jennifer Price, Director / Site Manager & AD Plant Manager on 24/07/2023.

1. Summary of our findings (full details in section 4)

Part of permitted activity assessed (criteria)	Assessment result	Permit condition
C4 - General Management - Storage, handling labelling and Segregation	C3 Minor	3.6.1
A1 - Specified by permit	Assessed (A)	
B3 - Infrastructure - Site drainage engineering (clean and foul)	Assessed (A)	
B4 - Infrastructure - Containment of stored materials	Assessed (A)	
B5 - Infrastructure - Plant and equipment	Assessed (A)	
C1 - General Management - Staff competency/training	Assessed (A)	
C2 - General Management - Management system and operating procedures	Assessed (A)	
F1 - Amenity - Odour	Assessed (A)	
F2 - Amenity - Noise	Assessed (A)	
F3 - Amenity - Dust/fibres/particulates and litter	Assessed (A)	
G4 - Monitoring and Records, Maintenance and Reporting - Reporting and notification to Natural Resources Wales	Assessed (A)	

Result types are explained in more detail in the 'Important Information' section below.

Total number of non-compliances recorded	Total non-compliance score
1	4

How we use the non-compliance score to calculate your annual fee is explained in the 'Important Information' section below.

2. What action is required?

Criteria	Action needed	Complete by
C4	Reduce height and size of stockpile of unprocessed waste wood on the 'top yard' to ensure compliance with your site FPMP, EMS and official FPMP guidance	07/08/2023

Action criteria codes are listed in the 'Important information' section below.

3. What will happen next?

Any non-compliance we have identified and recorded on this form is an offence. It can result in criminal prosecution and/or suspension or revocation of your permit.

At this time, we do not intend to take any further action.

This statement does not stop us from taking additional enforcement action if further relevant information comes to light or offences continue.

4. Details of our assessment

This report details the site visit made on the 11th July 2023 to Bryn Recycling Limited located at Gellia'r-gwellt Uchaf Transfer & Composting Station, Hengoed, Caerphilly, CF82 8FY under permit number, EPR-WB3993HE. Natural Resources Wales (NRW) Officers Greg GARDNER and Jak ROSE attended the Bryn Recycling Limited site for an unannounced site inspection at 09:15am where we met with Ms. Jennifer PRICE (Anaerobic Digestion Plant Manager) and Mr. Alun PRICE (Director / Site Manager). The weather was mild with intermittent rain which it had also been the previous day.

ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS SITE INSPECTION(S)

There were no identified breaches and / or actions identified on the previous site inspection conducted by NRW on 01/03/23 - CAR_NRW0041412.

PERMIT BREACHES AND / OR ACTIONS

Below are permit breaches and / or actions that were identified during the site inspection.

CATEGORY 3 BREACH – PERMIT CONDITION 3.6.1

(C4) – STORAGE, HANDLING LABELLING AND SEGREGATION

"The operator shall manage and operate the activities in accordance with a written fire prevention plan using the current, relevant fire prevention and mitigation plan guidance."

- Stockpile of unprocessed wood waste not being stored in compliance with FPMP guidance and sites FPMP document.

Please see report content for further justification

WASTE TRANSFER STATION

NRW personnel were escorted in and around the waste transfer station area - see photos 1-

3. The waste transfer station area was operational at the time of the site inspection with stockpiles of various waste streams being processed. Housekeeping in the area was in good condition with no excess loose debris present twinned with the flooring infrastructure within the operational areas in good condition with no visible damage present.

Waste(s) stored within the buildings were separated, not overlapping bays and not in exceedance of the sites Fire Prevention and Mitigation Plan (FPMP) - see photo 1. As a reminder to the operator, please ensure you remain within waste stockpile height / width limits as identified in your site FPMP. No offensive waste odours or excessive noises were noted by NRW personnel in this part of the site during the site inspection.



Photo 1 - View inside waste transfer station building



Photo 2 - View inside waste transfer station building



Photo 3 - View inside waste transfer station building

As identified during a previous site inspection conducted by NRW Officers on 26/01/22 (CAR_NRW0039228), a section of the impermeable surface where construction and demolition (C&D) waste is stored was in poor condition. During this site inspection, the area in question has undertaken surface infrastructure improvements with further works continuing into the coming weeks. NRW Officers were satisfied that no waste(s) were being stored on damaged / non-impermeable surface areas and content that the site has taken proactive steps to improve infrastructure conditions to minimise environmental impact should a loss of containment occur. See photo 4.



Photo 4 - Flooring infrastructure improvements at Bryn Recycling Ltd

During this site inspection, it was assessed that the stockpile(s) of waste(s) and waste fines in the outside designated bays were within compliance of the FPMP guidance and the current site FPMP document. - see photo 5 and 6.



Photo 5 - Stockpile of waste(s) at south west area of waste transfer station



Photo 6 - Stockpile of waste(s) at south west area of waste transfer station

NRW personnel were then escorted to within the waste transfer station building which was undertaking waste processing activities. Stockpiles of waste(s) were within compliance of the FPMP guidance and the current site FPMP document. No offensive waste odours or excessive noises were noted by NRW personnel in this part of the site during the site inspection. Dust suppression techniques (dampening down of waste(s)) were witnessed by NRW Officers whilst within the transfer station building. See photo 7



Photo 7 - Stockpile of waste(s) within waste transfer station building and dust suppression techniques being undertaken (background off centre (right))

NRW personnel were then escorted to the 'top yard', to the north of the waste transfer station buildings, where stockpiles of wood waste(s) and uPVC waste(s) were present with some of this wood benefiting from being stored within segregated concrete bays. No offensive waste odours or excessive noises were noted by NRW personnel in this part of the site during the site inspection.

There was a stockpile of unprocessed wood material that required being brought back into compliance with the FPMP guidance and sites current FPMP document - see photo 8. During discussions with the operator at the time of the inspection it was ascertained that the reason for the larger stockpile size of unprocessed wood was due to issues with planned maintenance and unforeseen breakdowns at the destination site. Within the sites current FPMP document, it provides the maximum dimensions for the stockpile of unprocessed wood (see screenshot 1 below). NRW Officers concluded that whilst the maximum individual stack dimensions, as identified within the sites current FPMP document were within compliance, the maximum stack height of 4 metres was not.



Photo 8 - Stockpile of unprocessed waste wood located on the 'top yard'

Waste type	Max. storage (tonnes)	Max. individual stack dimensions (m)	Max. stack height (m)	Max. stack volume (m ³)	Maximum storage time (months)
Wood	5500	50 x 20	4	2,400	3

Screenshot 1 - Excerpt of sites current FPMP document with regards to unprocessed wood stockpile sizes.

CATEGORY 3 BREACH: Reduce height and size of stockpile of unprocessed waste wood on the 'top yard' to ensure compliance with your FPMP (and EMS) and FPMP guidance.

Again, housekeeping in this area was in good condition with no excess loose debris present and the flooring infrastructure was in good working order. No offensive waste odours or excessive noises were noted by NRW personnel in this part of the site during the site inspection. As previously mentioned, please continue to ensure you remain within waste stockpile height / width limits as identified in your site FPMP.

The drying sheds area were inspected with further infrastructure improvement works having taken place which again, was proactive from the operator to further improve infrastructure conditions to minimise environmental impact should a loss of containment occur - see photo 9.



Photo 9 - Drying sheds area with infrastructure improvements taking place

COMPOSTING STATION

NRW personnel were then escorted to the composting station area. There was no treatment of green waste taking place at the time of the site inspection - see photos 10-12. During this site inspection all composting stockpiles / windrows were within the compliance of the sites FPMP document.. As previously mentioned, please continue to ensure you remain within waste stockpile height / width limits as identified in your site FPMP.

During the inspection of the composting area it was noted that the flooring infrastructure was in good working order with no excess loose debris present. There was also no offensive composting odours or excessive noises witnessed by NRW personnel in this part of the site during the site inspection.



Photo 10 - Unprocessed green waste in composting area



Photo 11 - View of the composting station area



Photo 12 - Stockpiles of unprocessed green waste in composting station area

INCIDENT RESPONSE - ODOUR

NRW officers continue to respond to incident reports relating to odours from the permitted facility (waste transfer station and composting station area) and other permitted facilities at the wider site. It has been noted that the operator continues to proactively update NRW and Caerphilly Council Environmental Health staff regarding upcoming activities taking place as part of the permitted and wider site activities which may give rise to odour. Please continue to log and, where appropriate, respond to incident reports sent by the NRW Incident Communication Centre (ICC) as part of the standard notification procedure.

WASTE RETURN SUBMISSIONS

Bryn Recycling Ltd have submitted their waste returns on time and in full. For quarter 1, 2023, Bryn Recycling Ltd received a total of 11,163.69 tonnes of waste(s) and removed a total of 6,679.39 tonnes of waste(s). No unauthorised waste streams have been identified amongst these returns.

NRW personnel Greg GARDNER and Jak ROSE left site at 11.15am the same day.

If you have any issues with this report please contact Greg Gardner on greg.gardner@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk

Thank you.

In this document 'Natural Resources Wales' means the Natural Resource Body for Wales established by Article 3 of the Natural Resources Body for Wales (Establishment) Order 2012

If you have any queries about this report, or to discuss completion of any actions, please contact the NRW Officer named above.

Important information

Legal status of this report

Your permit is issued to you under the Environmental Permitting Regulations. You have a responsibility to comply with the conditions of your permit and prevent pollution/harm of the environment. You must also ensure that you comply with any other relevant legislation that may apply to your site's operations.

This report explains the findings of our assessment and any action you are required to take. We categorise non-compliance using our guidance for assessing non-compliance at regulated sites.

When we find potential non-compliance/s we will normally give you advice on how to maintain compliance.

To correct non-compliance, we may:

- require you to take specific actions
- issue a notice
- review the conditions of your permit.

Any advice and guidance we give will be without prejudice to any other enforcement response that we consider may be required.

Assessment results and non-compliance categories (used in section 1):

Assessment result	Description
Assessed (A)	Assessed or assessed in part, no evidence of non-compliance found
Action only (X)	Action only relating to the activity assessment
Ongoing (O)	Ongoing non-compliance, not scored

Non-compliance category	Description	Score
C1 Major	Potential to have a major, serious, persistent and/or extensive impact or effect on the environment, people and/or property	60
C2 Significant	Potential to have a significant impact or effect on the environment, people and/or property	31
C3 Minor	Potential to have a minor or minimal impact or effect on the environment, people and/or property	4
C4 No environmental impact	Non-compliance at a regulated site that cannot foreseeably have any impact on the environment, people and/or property	0.1

How we use assessment scores

The number and severity of non-compliances recorded in a year will affect your annual subsistence fee the following year. A non-compliance factor is added to your site's Operator

Performance Risk Appraisal (OPRA) score when we calculate your fee to reflect the additional resource we use to assess permit compliance.

What are suspended scores?

In line with our guidance, we may suspend scores for up to six months to allow time for remedial action to be taken. Suspended scores will be re-instated if the action is not completed.

Full list of Industry and Waste action criteria (used in section 1 and 2):**A: Permitted activities**

- A1 Specified by permit

B: Infrastructure

- B1 Infrastructure – Engineering for prevention and control of emissions
- B2 Infrastructure – Closure and decommissioning
- B3 Infrastructure – Site drainage engineering (clean and foul)
- B4 Infrastructure – Containment of stored materials
- B5 Infrastructure – Plant and equipment

C: General management

- C1 General management – Staff competency/training
- C2 General management – Management system and operating procedures
- C3 General management – Materials acceptance
- C4 General management – Storage, handling, labelling and segregation

D: Incident management

- D1 Incident management – Site security
- D2 Incident management – Accidents, emergency and incident planning

E: Emissions

- E1 Emissions – Air
- E2 Emissions – Land and groundwater
- E3 Emissions – Surface water
- E4 Emissions – Sewer
- E5 Emissions – Waste

F: Amenity

- F1 Amenity – Odour
- F2 Amenity – Noise
- F3 Amenity – Dust/fibres/particulates and litter
- F4 Amenity – Pests/birds and scavengers
- F5 Amenity – Deposits on road

G: Monitoring and records, maintenance and reporting

- G1 Monitoring and records, maintenance and reporting – Monitoring of emissions and environment
- G2 Monitoring and records, maintenance and reporting – Records of activity, site diary/journal/events
- G3 Monitoring and records, maintenance and reporting – Maintenance records
- G4 Monitoring and records, maintenance and reporting – Reporting and notification to Natural Resources Wales

H: Resources efficiency

- H1 Resource efficiency – Efficient use of raw materials
- H2 Resource efficiency – Energy efficiency

Enforcement response

Any permit condition non-compliance is an offence and we may take legal action against you. Action we take can include prosecution, serving a notice on you and/or suspension or revocation of your permit. See our Enforcement and Sanctions Guidance for further information.

Data protection notice

You should make sure that anyone named in this report knows that the information it contains will be processed by Natural Resources Wales to fulfil its regulatory and monitoring functions and to maintain the relevant public register(s).

We may also use and/or disclose the report in connection with:

- offering or providing you with our literature or services relating to environmental matters
- consulting with the public, public bodies and other organisations (e.g. Health and Safety Executive, local authorities) on environmental issues
- carrying out statistical analysis, research and development on environmental issues
- providing public register information to enquirers
- investigating possible breaches of environmental law
- assessing customer service satisfaction and improving our service
- Freedom of Information Act or Environmental Information Regulations requests.

We may also pass it on to our agents or representatives to do these things on our behalf.

Disclosure of information – this report will be available to view on-line

If you think this report contains commercially confidential information that should not be placed on our public register, you must contact your local Natural Resources Wales office within **fifteen working days** of receiving this report, using the contact details in the accompanying email or letter. You must give a full explanation of why it should not be added to our public register, including specifying which information is commercially confidential. We will assess your request and respond to you within 20 working days to let you know if we agree to your request.

What do I do if I disagree with the report or have a complaint?

If you disagree with this compliance assessment report, you should contact the lead officer without delay to discuss your concerns.

If you are unable to resolve the issue with the lead officer or their line manager you should contact our Customer Contact team on 0300 065 3000 (Monday to Friday 08:00 – 18:00), or email enquiries@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk for details of how to raise your dispute further through our Complaints and Commendations procedure.

If you are dissatisfied with our response, you can contact the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales by phone on 0300 7900203 or by email at ask@ombudsman.wales

Welsh Language Standards

We are committed to establishing Natural Resources Wales as a naturally bilingual organisation. We will provide compliance reports in your preferred language.