

[National Statistics: Renewables obligation: certificates and generation, April 2018](#)

Monthly data for April 2018 on the number of certificates issued for generation under the Renewables Obligation (table ET 6.3).

[Press release: Plastic pollution could stop horse riders in their tracks](#)

Plastic granulate, sold as an alternative surface for equestrian centres, could place Yorkshire's horses and riders at risk, present a pollution hazard and lead to owners falling foul of the law.

Plastic granulate is a waste material derived from the recycling of cable sheathing and Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE). It's being marketed by some waste producers and brokers as a base material for horse maneges and track surfaces. However, there is no legal route available for its use for this purpose except in accordance with an Environmental Permit.

Furthermore, the plastics contained within this material can contain Persistent Organic Pollutants (POP's), phthalates and lead stearate. Weathering can cause leaching of these toxic substances into the wider environment, potentially causing contamination to land and groundwater. Some plastic granulate may even be cross-contaminated with non-plastic elements such as metal fragments and glass, making surfaces where it's used potentially harmful for horses and riders.

Environment Agency officer, Greg Deakin said:

We're determined to eliminate avoidable waste and crack down on plastics as part of the government's 25-year environmental plan.

We're therefore urging those with equestrian facilities to carefully consider the use of this material. It might be offered free of charge or for a small delivery fee, but it is an offence under the Environmental Permitting Regulations to use this waste without appropriate environmental controls.

If you're found to have plastic granulate waste deposited on your land without the appropriate Environmental Permit awarded by the Environment Agency, you could be fined and be liable for the cost of its disposal.

Producers or brokers of plastic granulate have a legal duty of care to ensure plastic granulate is disposed of at a permitted facility. If you are approached and offered this material and you do not have an appropriate Environmental Permit, please let us know on 03708 506 506 and ask to speak to your local waste team. Alternatively you can email the details to enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk.

If you are aware of any deposit of this waste please report it, anonymously if you prefer, to our 24-hour National Incident hotline on 0800 80 70 60.

Press release: Plastic pollution could stop horse riders in their tracks

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Research and analysis: Infrastructure finance review: insights for district heat network investment in the UK

This review of key UK infrastructure sub sectors by Deloitte was designed to identify lessons learnt from relevant infrastructure sub sectors that will help unlock third party finance for district heat/cooling networks in England and Wales.

Sectors explored include:

- energy from waste
- offshore wind
- ground mounted solar
- smart meter portfolios
- licenced offshore transmission links (OFTOs)
- interconnectors
- licenced Regulated Asset Base (RAB) networks under economic regulation
- infrastructure provider model as used in Thames Tideway Tunnel
- PFI / PF2 / PPP

Guidance: Heat networks: procuring finance

This paper is designed to help local authorities which recognise the potential benefits of engaging with a non-public investor (NPI) to deliver a heat network, but want to better understand:

- at what stage the local authority can engage with the NPI
- what role the NPI could play in developing the heat network project
- the procurement law and state aid implications of involving the NPI
- the alternatives for delivering the project in a way which meets the local authority's objectives, complies with legal requirements and supports investment from non-public sources

Similarly, NPIs considering investment in a heat network project with a local authority may want to better understand the procurement law and state aid considerations which are relevant to the structuring of the project, and how these influence the local authority's approach.