

NEWS

“DRAFT”

1 February 2010

MINIMISING CONSTRUCTION'S IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT

The impact of construction on the environment is being discussed at a gathering of experts next week.

The seminar at Manchester Airport will consider how regulators and contractors can work together to establish cost-effective options to minimise the impact that construction and demolition activities have on air quality and the environment.

The event, organised by the Greater Manchester Public Protection Partnership in conjunction with Environmental Protection UK and Manchester Airport, takes place at the Concorde Suite at Manchester Airport on Monday 8 February.

Neil Turner, chair of Council of Environmental Protection UK, who will be managing the day's proceedings said: “Poor air quality has a greater health impact than high profile issues such as passive smoking and vehicle accidents.

“Compliance with the EU limit values will bring major benefits in terms of public health. This seminar provides a valuable opportunity to influence the management of Local Air Quality in Greater Manchester and consolidate partnerships which already exist across many sectors of the economy, in readiness for when the construction and demolition industries come out of recession.”

It is part of the GreatAir Construction Manchester project, which aims to develop guidelines at construction and demolition sites. The project also has a website at www.greatairconstruction.org.uk.

The website will be used to help and support businesses and other interested parties and, in time, become a tool to help contractors and developers do their job within the regulatory framework with minimum of effort.

Substantial work is being done on trying to ensure that that the European Union derived Air Quality Objective for Nitrogen Dioxide is achieved by the due date across Greater Manchester, particularly along the region's primary route network, but there are other sources of nitrogen dioxide that need to be addressed, including the use of “off road” construction vehicles on construction and demolition sites. These sites also have the potential to create dust from the removal, delivery and handling of bulk materials and the onsite construction activities.

Speakers on the day will come from one of the London Universities and the London Borough of Southwark, the Considerate Constructors Scheme, Mace Contractors and the Manchester Airport Group which places environmental issues high on their business agenda. Their brief is to offer targeted advice and practical solutions for securing pollution reduction from construction and demolition processes.

Further information is available on www.greatairconstruction.org.uk or by contacting the Seminar/Event organiser who is John Dinsdale (John.Dinsdale@oldham.gov.uk) or Richard Lewis (r.lewis@manchester.gov.uk).

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NOTES TO EDITORS

A Press Photo Opportunity will be available at lunchtime on Monday February 8th at the Concorde Suite, Manchester International Airport.

The event has been funded by the Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

The Greater Manchester Public Protection Partnership represents all 10 Greater Manchester local authorities and Warrington Borough Council.