



# Pointing North



**Paul Jennings**, director of Green Compass, looks at the rising need for waste data to exhibit “green credentials” and the role of Green Compass and PAS 402 in providing validated performance figures

**W**aste producers are increasingly demanding “recycling rates” from their service providers, ie, the waste managers. Governments, local authorities, public bodies and private sector organisations who wish to demonstrate their environmental awareness to their customers and stakeholders, are now realising the importance of valid waste data for publication in the sustainability section of their annual reports.

Historically, the waste management industry has suffered from a mixed reputation and a poor press. To most of us not directly involved in waste management it has been seen as an industry operating on the murky, outer fringes of our economy. In so many instances this is unjust and without foundation.

Back in 2008, Constructing Excellence in Wales (CEW) recognised that this sweeping

perception was far from the reality and set about creating a way for well-managed, well-organised, and efficient companies to demonstrate their true credentials.

That’s what PAS 402 and the Green Compass were designed to achieve – PAS 402:2013 “Waste resource management- Specification for performance reporting” sets out the framework for reporting and the Green Compass Scheme provides validation of the PAS 402 report through a UKAS accredited inspection body.

## Validated Waste Data

THE ORIGINS of the PAS and the Green Compass Scheme lie in CEW’s Construction and Demolition Waste programme and adoption was restricted to waste management companies in Wales. With the ending of Welsh Government funding the

opportunity arose to promote both PAS 402 and Scheme to the rest of the UK. In late 2016, with the enthusiastic support from the then BuildUK's Waste Sub Group, Green Compass headed across the border into England. BuildUK's members (including ISG, Vinci, Kier, Wates, Willmott Dixon, Clugston Galliford Try, Mace, Keepmoat et al) quickly recognised the benefit to their own organisations and clients in receiving independently validated waste data from a Green Compass company. Powerday, based in north London, became the first Green Compass member in England and in early 2017, BuildUK member companies then set out a requirement for their supply chain to commit to / receive accreditation by January 2018.

The Build UK Waste Group has now migrated to CIWM and is working as a Special Interest Group for Construction and Demolition. The Group's enthusiasm for PAS 402 is still buoyant and alongside this we now have a number of waste brokers who have also recognised the benefit of having a supply chain that can show evidence of compliance with PAS 402 through membership of Green Compass. Knowing that waste data received from a Green Compass company has been verified by independent accredited inspection raises the level of service that the broker can offer. Go Green Limited who are based in Doncaster offer a nationwide service and were the first broker to become an Affiliated Green Compass organisation, actively encouraging their suppliers to take up the scheme. Acorn Waste of Shrewsbury and ACM Environmental PLC are now both affiliated.

The value of third party validated data cannot be overstated. In August, the Better Building Partnership (BBP) journal printed an extract of a report by Chris Botten "The Need for Operational Waste Rating : Piloting the NABERS Waste Rating Tool", in which he states: "Data quality was a challenge, with all ratings being impacted negatively due to the quality of the data submitted. This was predominately as a result of the way in which we collected data and the evidence provided."

In the August 8 edition of the CIWM journal ESA's Jacob Hayter talks about improving performance and transparency for waste carriers, brokers and dealers.

The Waste Management Brokers Association was launched just two years ago and is flourishing. Included, inter alia, in the stated aims of the association are:

- to determine a Code of Practice which underpins class leading performance of all WMBA members
- to build a Central Compliance Database.

These three examples seem to demonstrate a need for standardisation within the waste management industry. PAS 402 provides the means to enable waste producers, when procuring services, to make a balanced judgment based on a standardized report and standardised data. The Green Compass Scheme underpins the PAS Report by providing a third party inspection carried out by an independent UKAS accredited inspection body.

The level of interest in the Scheme has taken a marked upward turn and our UKAS Inspection body, Tarian Inspection Services are now having to accommodate an increasing number of inspections to meet the demand.

Tarian is the UKAS accredited body who manage all Green

Compass inspections. The Tarian team is now having to spend as much time in England as they do in Wales. So far they have only had to make one trip north of Hadrian's Wall when, in late 2017 they successfully inspected Hamilton Waste and Recycling Limited, based at Carberry near Edinburgh. Hamilton proudly hold the first Green Compass certificate in Scotland. Hamilton's success underlines the fact that PAS 402 is a BSI Publication not a "welsh standard" and is applicable throughout the United Kingdom.

Indeed, there has been some interest further afield in Europe with the support of ENCORD. We understand that there is currently no European equivalent to PAS 402 and who knows, this may present a post-Brexit export opportunity.

## Pathfinders

IN FEBRUARY this year BRE published the new BREEAM 2018 manual which now includes PAS 402 Accreditation. Section "Waste 01" now has the requirement for a pre demolition audit as a separate credit, rather than hidden within Construction Resource Efficiency. Whilst the credit available for diversion of waste from landfill remains largely the same, there is a new requirement which specifies that to obtain an exemplary level credit, waste data must be verified by a PAS 402:2013 certified company.

We are awaiting a further development following an enquiry from Xavier Ramon of Green Living Projects of Barcelona. Xavier has proposed to LEED (the US BREEAM equivalent) that Green Compass should be considered as a permitted substitute for Recycling Certification Institute's Certification Of Real Rates (CORR). LEED's Washington Office has the matter under consideration and we await the outcome.

It is very important that we acknowledge that both PAS 402 and the Green Compass Scheme were written and developed with the support and valuable cooperation of a group of waste managers in Wales who were labelled the "Pathfinders". It is testament to them and the scheme that Brisco, Thorncliffe Skips, Derwen Group, Willams & Williams cyf, and significantly Amber Skips (now part of Biffa plc) remain on the scheme as proud Green Compass Certificate holders.

The waste industry is a vitally important sector of the UK economy and is changing rapidly as it adapts to new regulation, fluctuating global markets and the demands of a client base which is more and more aware of its environmental obligations. PAS 402 and the Green Compass Scheme will continue to provide the opportunity for forward looking companies to demonstrate to their clients just how good they are at managing the waste that continues to clog our economic arteries.

There is still very little public awareness, or indeed governmental awareness, of the contribution that the waste management industry makes to the well-being of us all. Perhaps PAS 402 and Green Compass can change that. ■

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