

Summer 2023

Paisley

Giving a Helping Hand

Augean has always made a conscious effort to be part of and support the local communities near to our sites. This important aspect of our business ethos is realised in a variety of ways through our Community Funds, discretionary donations to local community groups or projects, regular litter picks, charitable fundraising and, when necessary, mitigating the consequences of fly tipping which is an ongoing issue in many areas.

In these challenging times with the rising cost of living, sadly many more people have found themselves turning to food banks to support their day to day lives. We are very proud that all the Augean workforce up and down the UK have stepped up and donated items or raised funds to send parcels to local groups in their area.

As the cost of energy has continued to be a factor affecting people, we have been careful to provide items that require little or no cooking to prepare. Items donated have included necessities other than food, such as household cleaning and washing products and for personal care.

As a company that treats and disposes of hard to handle wastes, Augean makes an important contribution to the everyday, good function of society on a national level. However, giving practical, hands on support to communities at a more local level such as this, is very important to us as we know it can, and does, make a difference to those living and working near our sites.



HiPods at Paisley.
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Augean Acquires Future Industrial Services Ltd

In March 2023, Augean completed the acquisition of Future Industrial Services Limited (FIS) which now has become part of the Augean Group.

The combined business will offer a more diverse range of recycling, recovery, treatment and disposal services for hard to handle wastes underpinned by a network of strategically located sites and service centres. The Augean Group now has 23 sites across the UK. This enhanced footprint will allow the company to work to achieve the best environmental outcomes for wastes through an increased spectrum of capabilities.

Both Augean and FIS have a wealth of expertise, high standards of operation and strong reputations for excellent customer service. Most importantly FIS shares a strong commitment to health, safety, and environmental compliance, which is a cornerstone of the business. With these same objectives and values, Augean has wholeheartedly welcomed all its FIS colleagues into the Augean Group.

Importantly, this is an example of the ongoing support and investment in the future of the company by Augean's shareholders Ancala Partners and Fiera Capital Infrastructure.



Comprehensive Waste Solutions



The HiPod processing service is managed from our Paisley site. These are secure containers that Augean provide to our customers to allow them to safely store a range of hazardous materials on their own sites. They are then collected and transported by us for treatment and disposal, providing a comprehensive hazardous waste solution.

The HiPods have a capacity of 1100 litres and can accept a wide variety of hazardous waste streams such as solid oily rags, spill granules or contaminated plastics and metals. The containers are also secure and lockable to prevent accidental handling of the contents.

Once the HiPods have been collected and returned to site, the waste contents are then recycled, treated or disposed of safely. Where possible, we aim to achieve 100 per cent recovery of these wastes, so there is no further need for transportation of waste for disposal in landfill.

Where does the name Augean come from?

Did you realise there is a meaning behind the name of Augean? It does not sound like a name from the UK, so it is often assumed that Augean may possibly be a French company? The name is indeed not native in origin, but it is not French!

The name Augean actually has its origins in the myths and stories of Ancient Greece, specifically those of the legendary hero Hercules, who we know more commonly by the name he was given by the Romans – Hercules. Of the many tales of Hercules, probably the most famous is the Twelve Labours of Hercules which is where you will find the meaning of Augean.

In this legend, Hercules was obliged to be in the service of the King of Mycenae for ten years. The King thought of Hercules as a rival and a threat, as he was actually the rightful ruler of Mycenae, and so he set him a series of seemingly impossible or highly dangerous tasks. The fifth of these tasks was to clean the stables of the exceedingly numerous livestock of King Augeas – the Augean Stables. The accumulated filth in the stables had not been dealt with in decades and Hercules had only one day to complete the job.

Instead of relying on just his prodigious strength to muck out the stables in the conventional way, Hercules also applied some intelligence to achieving the goal. He dug channels that diverted two rivers so that they flowed directly through the stables, completely cleaning them within the deadline of a day.

Today the phrase ‘cleaning the Augean Stables’ is synonymous with a large and often unpleasant, task that can only be achieved with great difficulty but will only get worse with inaction. Dealing with the more difficult to manage wastes that our society produces has become Augean’s modern Herculean Task that we approach with the same care, innovation and intelligence as the ancient hero.



Open Door Policy

As well as operating the comprehensive HiPod system for hazardous waste management Augean’s Paisley site also has an effluent treatment plant for contaminated waters generated on and off the site. Waste oils and oil sludges are also treated to remove contaminants and water to produce a cleaner oil that with further treatment can be reused in a variety of ways.

The team at Paisley have well established tank cleaning and jetting services available through the site. Any wastes generated as a result of cleaning can be treated on-site at Paisley or at other sites within the Augean group.

We operate an open-door policy site visit can be arranged by appointment at any time so that you can see the operations first-hand.

Contact details can be found on the back of this newsletter.

Apprenticeships at Augean

We see our people as our greatest asset. They are a key resource that possess the skills and qualifications necessary for us to safely deliver the wide range of services that we offer in a challenging sector. Continuous training and personal development investment in all our workforce forms an essential part of our continued success.

The waste sector is very exciting to work in and Augean provides roles that may be not immediately obvious like employing chemists and engineers. There are diverse opportunities that could lead to being part of providing innovative solutions to manage difficult by-products of the things we use every day, reducing carbon, reusing waste, and developing waste as a resource. There is a fantastic opportunity for everyone in the sector to make a difference to the environment and leave a positive legacy.

Augean invests in encouraging the workforce of tomorrow through Apprenticeships. These allow young people, or those wanting a change of direction, to develop the right skills and knowledge for a career in the context of a real, paid job, learning alongside more experienced workers. The hands-on experience underpins the 20 per cent of working hours that are spent in study towards qualifications.

There are now Modern Apprentices at most of Augean's sites in Scotland (and the equivalent Apprenticeships across Augean's other sites in England) filling a variety of different roles. Our Apprentices play an essential role in supporting the success of teams across the company and are crucial to ensuring that Augean have the highly skilled employees that we need, now and in the future.



One of our apprentice Chemists

Health and Safety First

Historically, the waste management industry did not have a good reputation for Health and Safety. For nearly two decades, Augean has been a leading figure in changing that perception, by building a culture within the company where Health and Safety is at the forefront in the mind of every employee, every day.

Employees are encouraged to report even minor cuts and grazes as the next person doing the same thing might not be so lucky. Reporting Near Misses are also encouraged, where an accident nearly happened but didn't, so we can change that action or process to make it safer. Reporting Safe Acts can also help make changes for the better. We set annual targets for the reporting of Safe/Unsafe Acts or Conditions and we communicate our progress on this back to everyone on a regular basis. All of our workers are made to feel empowered enough that they feel able to stop any unsafe working practice or action, whether this is by a colleague, regardless of seniority, or a contractor.

Our attitude to Health and Safety may not be shared by other companies. When it is necessary to use an outside contractor on one of our sites, they are given a full site induction where the site rules are explained, how we do things on site and any potential hazards are clearly identified.

One of the biggest risks when it comes to Health and Safety is complacency. Raising and keeping awareness of the safety of all our staff and those around them is a constant task that is never finished.



Sometimes it is necessary to provide very specialist health and safety training to protect our employees. One example of this is for working in confined spaces and rescue which is very relevant for our Industrial Services teams at Augean Paisley.

Wherever possible procedures such as industrial cleaning should be carried out externally, but sometimes the need to physically enter a space cannot be avoided. Confined spaces can be very dangerous as there could be a number of risks present, such as fumes and vapour, a lack of oxygen or fire risk to name just a few.

The first step is the ability to make a risk assessment, to identify before any work is carried out the risks present and determine what precautions are necessary. It is essential that anyone carrying out the work has received the appropriate training and instruction to

do so safely, whether it is the correct use of breathing apparatus or the proper use of equipment within the confined environment to achieve the task.

Should the person in the confined space experience difficulty, it is also essential that the method of safe rescue has also been determined beforehand. Anyone attempting the rescue must also have received the necessary level of training required to do so.



The Waste Hierarchy

The protection of the environment and human health through the safe and responsible management of wastes that we all collectively produce as a society is the primary role of the waste management industry. In recent years there have been significant changes in policy and legislation designed to encourage an increase in treatment, recycling, reuse or recovery of waste. This is referred to as the waste hierarchy.

There is a need to produce less waste and manage the wastes that cannot be reduced in the most effective way. This means putting waste to beneficial use; or recycling it into another useful product; or deriving energy from it like energy from waste plants. This is particularly important for managing household waste.

There is increased customer and public interest in sustainable methods of waste management, and this has encouraged companies like Augean to take an innovative approach. We have sought to continuously improve the services

we provide by introducing new processes so we can continue to deliver the best environmental techniques and solutions for waste management. The company explores ways of improving existing techniques and ways in which it can increase the recycling and reuse of materials following treatment and to substitute wastes for products in processes saving material resources and limiting the amount and types of wastes sent to landfill.

We all want to see reuse and recycling improve, but the reality of that ambition is that these processes on industrial waste streams will always generate small quantities of material that can't be reused, recycled or recovered in a cost-effective manner. This is normally because the wastes are contaminated or their chemical composition means the residues cannot be safely reused, recycled or recovered without presenting



long-term environmental risks. Therefore, the best environmental option for that material is in a landfill that has been constructed to ensure the residues are sealed to prevent unacceptable risk to human health or the environment. Landfills are an important necessity of the waste management infrastructure that a thriving economy needs, and they might well be a resource in the future.

Waste Crime

Fly tipping is probably the most visible type of waste crime that we see or experience on a regular basis. Unfortunately there are a range of types of waste crimes that are not so visible, these are generally categorised as; waste sites that are operating without permits or regulation, sites that do have permits but the actual activities of the site breach these, misclassifying waste, burning waste and illegally exporting waste.

While there may be different types of waste crime, they all present a danger to the environment and human health. They also have a very tangible cost in other ways. In 2021, the Environmental Services Association (ESA) conservatively estimated that waste crime cost the UK economy £924 million in 2018/2019, and it is probably more than that in 2023. This is a substantial rise from the estimated cost in 2015 of £604 million to taxpayers, legitimate businesses and private landowners through loss of revenue and the expense of clean up.

As a responsible waste operator, Augean abides by a very wide range of regulation and legislation to lawfully operate as a business. Planning permission has been sought for every Augean site and permits obtained that set out in minute detail what can and cannot be present or carried out on each specific site. The relevant permits for each site are published on our website at www.augean.co.uk. As well as our own internal inspection programme, Augean's

performance on every aspect of a site is subject to scrutiny from external bodies such as the Environment Agency, Health and Safety Executive and other independent auditors.

It is a collective responsibility that all the waste that we produce as a modern society is reused, recycled, recovered or disposed of in the most appropriate and legal way.



If you have any concerns about the waste activities of an individual or a business, you can anonymously raise your concerns by calling the Dumb Dumpers Stop Line on 0845 230 4090 or on their website at www.dumbdumpers.org

CONTACT

To ask any questions or report concerns regarding our sites or to arrange for a site visit so that you can see our operations first-hand, please contact:

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Tel: 0141 887 5689

Email: info@augean.co.uk



For further information about Augean, please visit www.augean.co.uk or contact our Telephone Helpline: **0141 2660576**

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