

Spring 2024

North East Scotland

Augean Named Sector Leader

To avoid the worst impacts of climate change, the international community set a target of reaching net-zero emissions by 2050. Transitioning to a sustainable world is a substantial challenge, that Governments, cities and individual companies need to plan for.

Augean follows best practice in environmental stewardship, social responsibility and corporate governance. The continuous development of Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) standards is integral to our business growth.

Our operating practices and our performance against selected criteria are reported in our annual Corporate Sustainability Report (CSR). We also demonstrate our ESG credentials through a variety of reporting mechanisms, one of which is the GRESB Infrastructure standards.

GRESB is an independent organisation providing standardised and validated ESG data and peer benchmarks to financial markets. GRESB has become the leading ESG benchmark for real estate and infrastructure investments across the world.

Augean is pleased to announce that it has been named a 2023 Sector Leader by GRESB Infrastructure for outstanding leadership in sustainability, scoring 95 per cent in the GRESB Infrastructure assessment process and ranked 2nd globally in the hazardous waste management sector.



GRESB
INFRASTRUCTURE
sector leader 2023

*Peterhead
Ecocentre*

Celebrating Twenty Years

2024 marks a very special year for Augean. It will be our twentieth year since we were first formed as a business, all the way back in August 2004, specialising in managing hard to handle wastes and focussing on delivering the best environmental outcomes. From the outset we have sought to create a clear and consistent company ethos, with a strong commitment to health, safety, and environmental compliance.

As a leading member of the waste management sector, we have always endeavoured to dispel negative perceptions of the industry by setting high standards in all aspects of our business. We have a strong track record in investing in new technologies, further driving the modernisation of the sector so that it is fit for the 21st Century.

New Website Launched

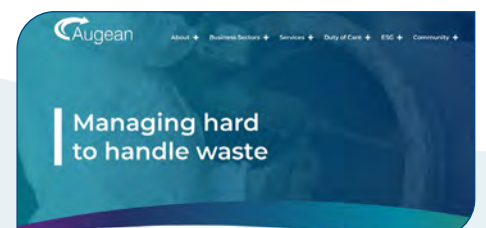
An up to date website is an important resource for any modern company. Augean has recently completed a comprehensive update and redesign of our own website, which is now live.

The new look website provides a lot of information about the company, our sites and what we do. There is also a dedicated section for Community, so those living and working close to our sites can easily find news, events and information relevant to them.

Take a look for yourself by visiting www.augean.co.uk.

A year ago, we welcomed Future Industrial Services Limited (FIS) as part of the Augean Group. This has greatly increased the range of recycling, recovery, treatment, and disposal services we can offer over a greater geographical area.

Being a part of the local communities in which we operate is very important to us and we will continue to strengthen those ties, especially with sites that are newer to Augean, with the same openness and transparency that we have over the last two decades.



18 Years Without Lost Time Incidents

The safety and wellbeing of all Augean employees is probably the most important priority we have. We have very actively encouraged a culture of working where personal health and safety, and that of others, is at the forefront of everyone's mind at all times.

We are extremely pleased, therefore, that the offshore team at Augean North East Scotland (ANES) reached a significant milestone in November of 18 years without a Lost Time Incident (LTI). These are incidents where an accident occurs that results in a worker needing time off work or the loss of productive work through being absent or delays.

Our congratulations to the multi-skilled offshore team, who face conditions where it is a continuous challenge to maintain a safe working environment. To achieve such a long period without LTIs is testament to their dedication and proactive approach to health and safety.



Becoming a more Circular Economy

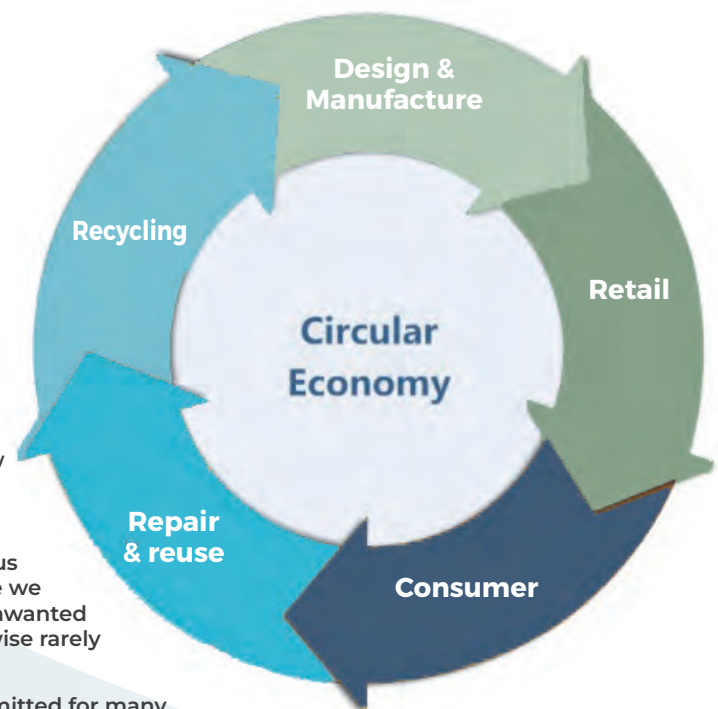
You may be familiar with the Waste Hierarchy, where options for waste material are ranked from the most preferable, the prevention of waste to begin with, through reuse, recycling and recovery, and finally to the least preferable option of disposal. Alongside the Waste Hierarchy, but not replacing it, is the far more complicated and less clearly defined concept of the Circular Economy.

This places more importance on waste being designed out of something from the start so that manufacture creates less waste, it lasts longer and is repairable and ultimately materials can easily be recycled or recovered and the process can start again, maximising the use of the resource for as long as possible.

This moves away from the more traditional concept of taking a resource, using it and then disposing of it, often described as a Linear Economy. A more Circular Economy takes into account how we manage finite resources in the long term. It is also concerned with the energy we use, where it comes from (a more pressing concern in the last two years) and how it is generated.

The Circular Economy is also about human behaviour, how we have changed and what we need to change further. A lot has changed for the better. The recycling of domestic waste is commonplace in virtually all homes. New is also not always best in a Circular Economy! There are now millions of users of the numerous websites or apps where we can buy, sell or swap unwanted items or borrow otherwise rarely used equipment.

Augean has been committed for many years to helping deliver this more sustainable future. Through a range of innovative hazardous waste technologies across our sites, materials that would once have gone straight into landfill are being brought back into beneficial use. We expect that even more techniques will become available in the future to more efficiently reuse, recycle and recover a greater amount of waste materials.



Augean in the Community



It is a regrettable fact that the need for Foodbanks in the UK has become a necessary part of life. The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, followed by the cost of living crisis has led to a year-on-year increase in numbers of people being referred to Foodbanks, many of whom are seeking food aid for the very first time.

We are very proud that sites all across the Augean Group have sustained their efforts to support those in most need in their local communities by continuing to make donations to local Foodbanks, either through direct donations or financial contributions.

Our sites at Peterhead, Great Yarmouth and the three sites in Aberdeen are all continuing to do their bit for their communities by donating essential food items and toiletries to their local Foodbank.

Learning Partnership with Peterhead Academy

Daniel Clark, Peterhead EcoCentre Site Manager, recently visited Peterhead Academy to discuss the educational opportunities that are available at the Augean site with the Principal Teacher of Science. We are delighted that we will now be working together with the school as one of their learning partners.

This partnership will support the young people of Peterhead Academy who are interested in careers in lab sciences and associated sectors, with pupils able to learn about examining materials and using creative and innovative solutions to support our circular economy.

Being a learning partner will create real world learning links associated with the curricular areas being covered in the classroom. This allows the students to receive input during their school project work from the people doing the jobs that use the skills and knowledge they are developing in their subject areas.



John Rauch
leading by
example

A Day a Year to Volunteer

While Augean employees are encouraged to participate in group volunteering activities organised by Augean, such as litter picks, we are also making it easier for individuals to get out into their community and volunteer.

We have started our **Day a Year to Volunteer** scheme, where each employee is allowed a day off, for which they are still paid, to carry out the voluntary activity of their choice. There are limitless ways to do this, from donating blood to coaching at sports clubs or helping the local Foodbank.

Even Augean's Chief Executive Officer, John Rauch, has taken advantage of this scheme by taking time to volunteer at his local foodbank. John worked in all stages of the foodbank's supply chain, from collecting donations to dating and sorting and packing them, ready for distribution.

Whichever way our employees choose to volunteer, we do know that getting involved in community organisations or charities to help others or the environment is a very positive experience for all that Augean fully supports.

ANES Sites Working Together

For many years ANES sites have provided innovative environmental solutions to manage waste streams derived from North Sea exploration, production and decommissioning activities. A key area of this has been the receipt and treatment of oil-based muds at ANES sites from the Oil and Gas Industries.

The environmental award-winning Pocrá Quay facility in Aberdeen allows the quayside transfer of oil-based muds directly from vessels into the tank farm, where it undergoes the first stage of treatment.

Following this, the mud is then

transferred to another of our Aberdeen sites at Blackdog. This site has the ability for the bulk storage of 10,000 barrels (bbls) of material, which is then processed through the emulsion unit to break down the oil-based mud into three separate phases. The remaining solids are then taken to our Peterhead site for additional processing and recovery. This is a very good example of the complimentary capabilities of our North East Scotland sites, working together to achieve the best environmental outcomes and supporting the needs of local industry.



Tackling Waste Crime

New reporting from the Environment Agency (EA), the waste regulator in England, has provided sobering information on the extent of waste crime that is occurring, with little prospect of the situation improving soon.

Following their National Waste Crime Survey (2023) the EA have estimated that, in England alone, 18 per cent of all waste, the equivalent of 34 million tonnes, is being illegally handled and managed. This is thought to cost the economy around £1 Billion a year in unpaid taxes, lost legal business activity as well as social and environmental harm.

The Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) recently launched an initiative to target and remove the increasing number of adverts, profiles and posts on digital platforms that offer illegal waste collection services. These services are often carried out by unlicensed operators and the waste ending up being fly tipped or burnt.

SEPA hopes to raise awareness of this so people are protected from inadvertently being part of the problem, by giving their money and waste to criminals.

Augean has also sponsored an independent study by Localis, which has recently been published, called Cleaning up our act – reforming landfill tax for place resilience and best local outcomes. There is currently a huge disparity in the levels of landfill tax being levied for active and inactive waste materials, which has unintentionally been a factor in the rise of waste crime. A key recommendation of the report is the introduction of an intermediate level of landfill tax to bridge this imbalance and reduce the incentive for waste crime.

The EA Waste Crime Survey found that only around one quarter of all waste crime is reported. So, we would like

to remind you that 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.



Environmental Permits



To legally operate as a waste facility, each of our sites must obtain the necessary planning consent from the relevant Local Planning Authority, or, in the case of a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project, a Development Consent Order (DCO) from the Planning Inspectorate. However, in addition to a site being granted the required planning approval, every site must also obtain an Environmental Permit before operations can commence.

Environmental Permits are issued to waste operators by the industry regulatory bodies; in Scotland this is the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA). Sites will not be lawfully able to operate unless this additional authorisation has been given by these specialist regulators, even if planning permission is in place.

There is nothing vague or broad-brush about an Environmental Permit. It precisely details what activities or processes can take place on a site, and the quantities and types of wastes or materials that can be accepted and present at the site. A framework for how a site is required to be monitored is also set out in the Permit, so that the



site's performance and compliance to environmental standards can also be assessed.

Obtaining an Environmental Permit is only the first step in an ongoing process that lasts for the entire operational life of a site. Any site with an Environmental Permit is regularly and rigorously inspected by SEPA, who independently assess a site on its compliance.

Sometimes, there is a need to make changes to the operation of a site, for example, to introduce a new process or where there are changes to a waste stream. If these fall outside of the scope of an existing Environmental Permit, a variation must be applied for and granted before those changes can be made.

Augean aims to be open and transparent about all aspects of our business and each of our sites. For this reason, we publish all the relevant Environmental Permits and/or Waste Management Licenses for every site on our website, so they are easily available for public scrutiny in full. You can find these by visiting www.augean.co.uk/site-locations.



CONTACT

We are keen to continue to act as a good neighbour. To ask any questions or to raise any concerns about our sites, please contact:

Aberdeen (Blackdog)

Tel: 01224 719200

Aberdeen (Greenbank)

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Aberdeen (Pocra Quay)

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Great Yarmouth

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For further information about Augean, please visit www.augean.co.uk or contact our Telephone Helpline: 01224 600240

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