

Spring 2024

Port Clarence

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.



G R E S B
INFRASTRUCTURE
sector leader 2023

Supporting
RSPB Saltholme.
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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.

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.



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.



Helping Nature Conservation on Teesside

The Teesside Environmental Trust (TET) administers landfill tax funding in the local area, through which Augean is a major contributor to the Saltholme Nature Reserve, run by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB). Augean recently presented TET with a cheque for over £506,000 at the reserve, generated by the landfill tax initiative.

What was once an industrial wasteland, Saltholme has been transformed over the last twenty years into an important and

increasingly bio-diverse conservation area. The RSPB encourages participation through educational and access programmes that can be enjoyed by a diverse range of the wider community.

The reserve is nationally important for the number of wintering wildfowl and waders that the wet grassland attracts, these include Golden Plover, Lapwing and Widgeon. It also has one of the UK's largest inland breeding colony of Common Terns. While of obvious interest

to birdwatching enthusiasts, Saltholme also has a rich diversity of moths, insects and dragonflies that can be found there.

Saltholme organises many events and activities and is open on a daily basis. To find out more about the reserve or to see what's on please go to

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/reserves-and-events/reserves-a-z/saltholme/>



Encouraging Wildflowers at Port Clarence

A part of the Waste Recovery Park that was unused, and which is not expected to be developed in the future, was identified as an area to actively encourage the growth of wildflowers. It is hoped this will in turn attract and support other wildlife at the site.

You would expect that plants would particularly thrive on rich, nutrient laden soil. This is not the case for most wildflowers which actually prefer to grow where the ground conditions are poor, such as the area identified at the Waste Recovery Park.

Other parts of Port Clarence site are already home to a diverse range of flora and fauna due to the species rich grasslands that can also be found there. A high lime content, due to waste by-products from historic steel making, has created an important and increasingly rare habitat to support thriving populations of wildflowers, birds, insects and, especially, butterflies.

Last summer saw this initiative begin to pay dividends, with species such as poppies, various daisies, bird's-foot-trefoil and other native species beginning to thrive and adding colour to the previously unused area.

Further enhancements for this area, such as the addition of bee or insect hotels, are being considered.



Community Renovation Project



One of the groups that the Port Clarence site makes food bank donations to is Shildon Alive, who operate a community hub, community shop and a takeaway or delivery meal service.

While dropping off a donation to Shildon Alive, the Port Clarence team learned that the charity was also planning to renovate a recently purchased property and were calling for volunteers to help. The charity hopes to relocate to the new property which will help to reduce their running costs.

Eager as ever, a team from the Waste Recovery Park were more than willing to use their skills to help out with the renovation. They installed curtain poles, hung doors, decorated, repaired damaged floorboards as well as a general tidy up of the yard and painting the fence.

Impressed with the amount of support that Shildon Alive give to their local community, the team from the Waste Recovery Park felt getting involved in the renovation was time very well spent.

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. Staff at the Port Clarence Landfill and Waste Recovery Park are continuing to do their bit, donating to many Foodbanks in the area.



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.

Cleaning Up at Redcar Beach

At every Augean site, we consciously take the approach that we are part of the wider community in which we operate. To encourage this, we are always eager to help with or participate in local community projects.

Last October, we put in a hard day's work to help litter pick along the beach at Redcar. The initiative involved a number of enthusiastic Augean employees from our Port Clarence site and also from our Head Office in Wetherby. Joining us for the event were also a team of volunteers from SUEZ Recycling and Recovery. Fortunately, the sun was shining, and the day was a great success. An astounding 28 bin bags of waste weighing over 180kg were collected, as well as some larger debris and a hypodermic needle, and then responsibly and appropriately disposed of. We have highlighted before through our community newsletters the problems

and costs associated with the fly tipping of larger scale wastes such as building rubble or old white goods. However, the amount of waste that was collected from Redcar beach emphasises that casual littering also has a very harmful, cumulative impact, particularly on delicate eco-systems such as our coastlines.



Augean Attends STEMFest

Augean is always keen to encourage more children and young people to consider a career in Science, Technology, Engineering or Maths (STEM); helping them to see the importance of STEM in the world around us and how studying science can translate into a wide variety of career pathways and professions.

We were delighted to be part of this year's STEMFest in Darlington. We joined forty other North East companies delivering hands-on activities and showcasing the wide range of careers and job roles available in the area.

Over 1500 young people from Tees Valley schools, aged from 10 to 13 years old, were inspired to get involved in STEM through fun, interactive sessions relating to our industry.

Tackling Waste Crime

New reporting from the Environment Agency (EA) 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.

At the beginning of February, the EA introduced the Economic Crime Unit, comprised of the Asset Denial Team and the Money Laundering Investigations Team. We welcome any move to help stamp out criminals illegally operating in the waste sector, but it will take some time to assess the effectiveness of this new Unit.

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 with CrimeStoppers by calling 0800 555 111 or on their website www.crimestoppers-uk.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 England this is the Environment Agency (EA). 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 the EA, who independently assess and grade a site on its performance.

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 for Port Clarence by visiting www.augean.co.uk/about/site-locations/.

CONTACT

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

Port Clarence Landfill

Terry Blanchard
Tel: 01642 546836

Waste Recovery Park

Steven Craggs
Tel: 01642 546836

Email: info@augean.co.uk

OPEN DOOR POLICY *While we are intending to hold our annual Open Day again in 2024, the details are yet to be decided. We will confirm a date and times and circulate these to the wider local community closer to the event. However, we would like to remind you that we have an open-door policy at all of our sites so a visit can be arranged by appointment with the Site Managers at any time of the year.*



For further information about Augean, please visit www.augean.co.uk or contact our Telephone Helpline: 01642 089980

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