

Spring 2024

South West

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



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.



Safe Transportation



Although it is always more preferable to prevent or manage waste at the site where it arises, most of the time, environmental, practical and simply cost considerations mean that the most practicable solution is to send the waste to the nearest appropriate facility.

There are very few facilities in the UK where hazardous wastes can be managed, as dealing with these wastes safely and appropriately is very specialised in nature. Therefore, the majority of hazardous wastes need to be

transported away from the site of origin, normally by road and frequently over a long distance. At every operational Augean site, we have many, carefully thought out procedures for accepting wastes on to the site, how they are then handled, stored, treated or ultimately disposed of. The exact same care and attention that we take once we receive waste on to a site must also be applied to the method and means by which it is sent to us.

The Department of Transport strictly regulates how hazardous wastes are transported. Firstly, it must be established that the waste can be safely moved. The wastes being transported must then be secured and packaged or

contained in the most suitable way for that waste. The carrier of the waste is responsible for ensuring that the waste is safe for transport in accordance with the relevant transport regulations.

Sometimes it is necessary for a set route to be established along which the waste will travel to the accepting site and any waste materials which could be potentially dangerous also require the driver of the vehicle to have undergone specialist training.

In addition to working with external waste carriers, Augean is also a registered waste carrier and maintains its own fleet of vehicles, including very specialised vehicles, to meet our customers waste transportation needs. Our transport hub based at Honiton recently added an additional four new Volvo trucks to their pool of vehicles, in very smart Augean livery.

Becoming a more Circular Economy

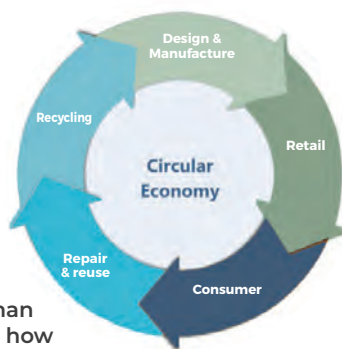
You may be familiar with the Waste Hierarchy, where options for waste material are ranked from the most preferable, the prevention of waste to begin with, through reuse, recycling and recovery, and finally to the least preferable option of disposal. Alongside the Waste Hierarchy, but not replacing it, 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.



False Alarm at Honiton

On 7 March this year, contractors were excavating near the car park at Augean's Honiton site to install a new steel fence, and unexpectedly came across a large metal object. The presence and purpose of the object was not obvious, as a precaution the area was immediately cordoned off.

Drainage and other site plans could not explain the presence of the object, but it was known a Second World War Army base had been located where the Industrial Estate is now. The police were consulted and sent a photo of the object for visual assessment. As a result, the police requested that the cordon area be extended, and all Augean personnel were evacuated.

On the arrival of the police, Durham Way, where the site is located, was cordoned off. A visual assessment was also sent to the bomb squad and their presence requested. At this point, neighbouring companies were also evacuated.

A Royal Navy bomb squad attended the site, but it was eventually determined that the object was a disused drain.

By the very nature of our business, we exercise extreme caution in our approach to anything. While the object turned out to be benign, we could not have ignored the potential harm if it was not. We would like to thank our neighbours for their patience and co-operation while the incident was thoroughly investigated.



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.

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.

Augean's Honiton site has been donating to the King's Centre foodbank, run by Honiton's Community Church, while Augean Avonmouth has also been giving to the Bristol North West Foodbank.



Cleaning up in Honiton

Fly tipping of larger scale wastes such as building rubble or old white goods has a very obvious and visible, negative environmental effect. However, everyone should not ignore the very harmful, cumulative impact of casual littering as well.

Staff from many Augean sites regularly take part in litter picks in their local area. A team of eager volunteers from Augean Honiton have also joined this tradition by organising a litter pick in their community, helping to tidy things up. It is planned that this will be the first of many such events in or around Honiton.



Comprehensive Waste Solutions



The HiPod processing service in the South West is managed from our Honiton 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 standard 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. HiPods are also available in smaller sizes and for more specialised specifications, such as flammables, aerosols, fluorescent tubes and electrical waste storage.

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.

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 Augean South West sites by visiting www.augean.co.uk/about/site-locations/.

CONTACT

Augean South West is a geographical grouping of three Augean sites located at Honiton, Avonmouth and Plymouth.

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:

Honiton/Plymouth

Tel: 01404 548333

Avonmouth

Tel: 0117 9820303

Email: info@augean.co.uk



For further information about Augean, please visit www.augean.co.uk or contact our Telephone Helpline: **01904 373057**

This is printed on 100% recycled paper

