



The chief executive officer: Richard Catt

CFA helps your business be green, not red faced

I HAVE previously mentioned in **CFJ** that the CFA has completed our 'environmental checklist' which is available to download from the members' area of our website www.cfa.org.uk

This publication is designed to provide an easy, quick reference guide to flooring contractors of the things they may need to consider in relation to environmental legislation. Not only does it make contractors aware of the requirements, but it also provides a straightforward format to show that you comply.

It is quite amazing the diversity of subjects that we have to consider in the modern flooring world, but also the different things that customers ask for.

Demonstrating an environmentally aware and sensitive approach to business is now becoming more and more important and so having the CFA environmental checklist completed as part of your supporting documentation may not only be time saving, but also give you a competitive advantage or edge.

This is another one of those services the CFA provides to allow members to concentrate on their main business of quoting for and then fitting floors.

Site waste management plans (SWMP) have been a requirement for all contracts over £300K since 2008, but at the CFA we believe the demands to manage waste effectively will increase in the short to medium term.

Through the Construction Products Association (CPA) and their expert Jane Thornback (sustainability policy advisor) and in conjunction with Katherine Adams of the Building Research Establishment BRE, we have managed to secure a significant proportion of a £50K government grant to expand a scoping study we previously sponsored, to a full blown resource efficiency plan.

'A what?' you may ask. A resource efficiency plan is essentially a framework for any sector (in this case flooring) to manage their resources effectively with stakeholders agreeing to

defined actions.

One of the first tasks of the new project will be to establish a flooring stakeholder group, with members including manufacturers and other key industry experts such as Carpet Recycling UK (CRUK). The project will be carried out on behalf of the CFA by Pete Thomas of Pete Thomas Environmental:

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So essentially we have secured a substantial grant to carry out a study which we feel confident will translate into recommendations that we can deliver to CFA members.

Obviously this won't happen overnight, but we are working to ensure you remain at the forefront of waste management and, in common with the environmental checklist, use CFA guidance to deliver what is required by legislation or clients.

Further involvement with CPA recently included a presentation

from Simon Storer (external affairs director) in relation to their activities over the past 12 months and plans for the forthcoming year. It was no surprise, of course, that much of his presentation revolved around the economy.

Again, I am sure you won't be surprised to learn that the picture he painted was not a very rosy one with a prediction for recovery some way in the future. Of course, the CPA essentially represents CFA manufacturers at Government level, but their economic information is widely regarded as some of the most informative and accurate available for the construction sector.

Available to CFA members free of charge the CPA's Economic Barometer gives the current picture, with their economic forecast giving the longer term view. It was this latter document that raised a few eyebrows and is now available for download from the members' area of the CFA website.

For further details contact the CFA office on **0115 941 1126**



CFA president: John Alcock

Why not some incentives to recycle?

WHEN it comes to waste recycling it surprises me although we have the technology to separate different materials, councils and government don't seem to use it because of the costs. So a lot of the materials put out for recycling and are mixed together, don't actually get recycled.

I remember when milk was delivered to our doors in bottles, which we rinsed and put out for collection the next day. Even fizzy pop was sold in bottles with a refundable deposit.

Clothes were handed down without a second thought and we ran cars until the wheels dropped off, patching them up with bits until they were no longer economically viable. So what's so difficult about recycling today?

There is now a move to do away with use-by dates on food as it encourages us to throw out what is perfectly edible. When man used to hunt for food, he knew what was 'good' and 'not good' to eat.

Recycling is likely to become an even bigger topic if the government and particularly Europe gets its way, if only to cynically generate revenue through landfill taxes. However if you recycle more you need good quality material available, which is why the likes of Altro, Tarkett

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