



## Environment Exchange

The first exchange in Europe for trading recyclable commodities, was launched at the end of November 1998, in London.

The Environment Exchange will promote trading in materials such as paper, plastic, metals and glass, and is a response to new European Union regulations that require member States to recover 50–65 per cent of waste packaging materials by the year 2001, and recycle at least half that amount.

The UK is the first country to enshrine the EU Environment Directive in national legislation, and it is estimated that the regulations will affect 19,000 companies by 2001.

Businesses with an annual turnover of more than £ 5m sterling and handling more than 50 tonnes of packaging must hold Package Recovery Notes (PRNs), to

prove they are fulfilling their packaging recovery and recycling obligations. Those that recover or recycle more than their required amount can sell their excess PRNs to other businesses.

The Environment Exchange will provide a publicly accessible internet bulletin board to match sellers and buyers. Trades will be completed via a telephone ordering service.

There are six types of PRN. Individual commodity recycling notes are issued for glass, aluminium, paper, plastic and steel, and a general note is issued for the recovery of non-specific materials.

The exchange has been set up in co-operation with OM Group, which runs the Stockholm Exchange and trades financial and Pulpex wood pulp futures and options in London. (MJ) □

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