

Case Study: Environmental Limits

EnviroPad® – Environmental Protection

**Where:**

Hinkley Marine – Avonmouth

When:

July 2018

Who:

Major Projects – Infrastructure, Gas & Power

Limits fuels odour and leakage from an absorbent material, Balfour Beatty worked with Green Rhino, using their innovative material, to ensure odours and liquids were fully contained once absorbed. This will prevent exposure or discomfort to the user during transport of and use of the EnviroPad.

Kate Platts, Environment & Sustainability Manager, Balfour Beatty

The Challenge

The widely used plant nappies on Balfour Beatty sites though good for capturing spilt fuels from small plant and equipment has a number of major flaws as the hydrocarbons absorb into the material:

1. As the nappies are used they absorb more hydrocarbons and water, becoming heavier to carry between jobs
2. When moved between jobs i.e. in vehicles or stored in a container overnight the hydrocarbons and water leech from the nappies increasing clean up and smell of the fuels fill the confined spaces
3. There is no indicator to show that the nappy is saturated until the fuels start dripping from the material
4. The Plant Nappy does not retain hydrocarbons

The Measures

Green Rhino® approached Balfour Beatty and carried out a presentation of the EnviroPad® on site, December 2017. Green Rhino® was invited back onto site in July 2018 and gave a briefing in the Morning Prayers to the office and site teams

For more information, please contact:

katharine.platts@balfourbeatty.com

The Results

The flaws in the plant nappy were overcome by the EnviroPad®:

The product is innovative as it utilises polymer technology to capture and retain spills of fuels
The hydrocarbons are immediately solidified into the pad
As it is non-leaching there is no pooling of fuels when it becomes saturated
As the fuels are solidified there is a reduced smell when stored or carried in confined spaces
As only the fuels solidify in the polymer, they do not carry the extra weight in the pad of any water
When the pad is saturated the orange trim discolours and it is disposed of as Hazardous Waste
Hydrocarbon only solidifies, the uncontaminated water drains away
The printed side of the pad allows the fuels to soak through to the polymer, the printed side details usage instructions

Due to these positives the pads are used exclusively on the Hinkley Marine Project, Avonmouth