

Turn to the experts

Simon Scholes has acquired environmental consultants, Oakdene Hollins. According to Scholes it is the UK's 'most established and prestigious boutique, environmental consultancy'

Previously managing director for Veka Recycling Scholes joined Oakdene Hollins in February 2023. He brought with him over 20 years of board level expertise in plastics recycling.

Scholes says he is committed to helping businesses from a wide range of different sectors get clarity around the often complex and confusing regulations governing recycling and sustainability in everyday operations.

He says: "For many companies the desire to make operational changes that will have a positive impact on the environment are top of their agenda, but the route to get there can be fraught with convoluted directives and conflicting guidance. Oakdene Hollins is perfectly placed to get up close and personal with a business, inserting itself into everyday operations and gaining a deep understanding of their particular challenges to integrating sustainability and a circular economy, laying out the pathway to implementing this in a viable and profitable manner."

As vice chairman of the recycling group at the British Plastics Federation, Scholes worked with UK plastic recyclers to inform on industry, political and economic initiatives and changes. He recently received a 75@75 award from Interplas for being in the top 75 influencers within the plastics industry.

Oakdene Hollins recently extended its team of sustainability and circular economy consultants with the appointment of Dr Pelin Yilmaz as managing consultant. Yilmaz has extensive academic and commercial knowledge about the application of material science and engineering in the energy and automotive sectors.

Before joining Oakdene Hollins she was a senior business analyst for a technology strategy team at Ricardo Strategic Consulting. She contributed directly to a wide range of sustainability projects within the transportation sector, conducting reviews of regulations related to sustainability as well as identifying key trends in materials, processes and technologies driving sustainable development.

With a PhD in materials science from Queen Mark University in London, Yilmaz has also worked in research projects across Europe, including TNO in the Netherlands, and the Italian Institute of Technology. In these post doctoral research positions, she specialised in the development of functional nanomaterials for energy applications such as photovoltaics, solar hydrogen production, smart windows and sodium-ion batteries.

Yilmaz says: "A primary focus for businesses in all industry sectors these days is sustainability which is largely driven by growing legislative expectations around carbon neutrality and the circular economy. One effective approach to advancing sustainability is using carbon accounting and life cycle analysis (LCA) to assess products and processes, identify key areas of



Simon Scholes



Pelin Yilmaz

environmental impact, and then implementing strategies to mitigate those impacts."

As a boutique sustainability and circular economy consultancy Oakdene Hollins advises businesses across a wide range of sectors, including construction, automotive, insurance, textiles and furniture.

Scholes says that it is perfectly placed to provide in-depth science based research which supports sustainability understanding and a positive evolution - especially with LCAs and how they impact on a business' daily operations. □

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