

WASTE MANAGEMENT

- Prevention and minimization and environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes
 - Policy measures for the prevention and minimization of hazardous wastes

Policies include the application of the waste hierarchy in waste management policies such as Waste Strategy for England 2007. The Pollution Prevention and Control (PPC) permitting regime itself includes elements which encourage business to minimise waste, including hazardous waste. Furthermore, hazardous waste that is disposed to landfill is subject to the Landfill Tax, which currently imposes a cost on hazardous waste producers. There will be potential savings where hazardous waste is diverted from landfill. In addition, evidence shows that techniques that lead to waste prevention, lead to costs savings. Work undertaken by the Government supported National Industrial Symbiosis Programme (NISP) in relation to hazardous and problematic waste streams has led to the minimisation of hazardous waste and diversions from landfill

- Transfer of environmentally sound technologies and know-how on clean technologies and low-waste production

In terms of transfer of technology, the UK supports the work being done under the UNEP Basel Convention by the Basel Convention Regional Centres to deliver training, consultation, dissemination of information, awareness raising, and, technological transfers, on matters relevant to the implementation of the Basel Convention and to the environmentally sound management of hazardous and other wastes in developing countries.

The UK agrees that capacity building in developing countries is important and believes that pilot projects are a good way of helping demonstrate and disseminate technology and techniques to developing countries, and has been able to support these financially.

- Initiatives to treat, recycle, reuse and dispose of wastes at the source of generation and regulatory mechanisms (Polluter-pays principle)

Industrial production processes account for a considerable share of overall emissions to the environment in Europe (and thus in the UK). The EU has a set of common rules for permitting and controlling industrial installations in the IPPC Directive on Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control of 1996. In essence, the IPPC directive is about minimising pollution from various industrial sources. Operators of industrial installations, including many waste management installations, are required to obtain a permit containing environmental requirements, from the authorities. These requirements must

be based on the principle of the use of best available techniques (BAT). The controls automatically apply the polluter pays principle, which is a fundamental aspect of European waste legislation.

The Government will continue to encourage policies which lead to reductions in hazardous waste arisings. The Government will continue to encourage the full and proper application of the Landfill Directive controls and the requirements of the Hazardous Waste Regulations which are leading to improved management and control of hazardous waste. and this regime and the Environmental Permitting Programme will continue that process.

The Government and the Environment Agency have also issued guidance on the mixing of hazardous waste and on the treatment and landfilling of hazardous waste, in particular to make it clear that mixing hazardous and non-hazardous waste simply in order to dilute hazardous waste is not an acceptable treatment option.

- Procedures for environmental impact assessment, taking into account the cradle-to-grave approach

There are comprehensive controls on EIA laid down in Europe in the EIA Directive which is fully transposed in the UK.

- Recovery, reuse and recycling of hazardous wastes and their transformation into useful material

The European suite of waste legislation which is applied in Member States requires encouragement to be given to the reuse, recycling and recovery of waste including where possible hazardous waste. As well as the policies in the recently revised Waste Framework Directive, there are associated Directives on Hazardous Waste (91/689/EEC), Landfill (1999/31/EC), End of Life Vehicles (2000/53/EC) and on Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (2002/96/EC).

As noted above the Landfill Tax helps push waste up the waste hierarchy of management. Work is being undertaken in England on the development of a set of Principles on the management of hazardous waste in England. A new strategy is expected to be launched in late 2009.

- Phase-out of toxic, persistent and bio-accumulative waste

Comprehensive European legislation on chemicals management (REACH) and on the content of waste electrical and electronic equipment (the Restriction of Hazardous Substances Directive (ROHS)) have been applied in the UK and have lead to reductions in use of damaging chemicals in products.

- Environmentally sound waste disposal and treatment

In addition to the framework legislation on waste, other EU Directives and Regulations also contribute to the environmentally sound management of waste treatment operations, as the Landfill Directive (1999/31/EC) and the Waste Incineration Directive (2000/76/EC) or of specific waste streams, as the Directives on Waste Oils (75/439/EEC as amended), Sewage Sludge (86/278/EEC as amended), Batteries and Accumulators (2006/66/EC), Packaging (94/62/EC as amended), End-of-life Vehicles (2000/53/EC) and Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (2002/96/EC and 2002/95/EC).

- Inventories of hazardous waste production, their treatment/disposal, and contaminated sites

Comprehensive data is collected in England and Wales on producers of hazardous waste, arisings and the movements of such waste. This data is collected and published annually by the Environment Agency (see for example: <http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/research/library/data/97801.aspx>)

- Establishment of combined treatment/disposal facilities for hazardous wastes in small- and medium-sized industries

The provision of facilities for the treatment and disposal of hazardous waste is led by the private sector. Waste companies in the UK have been able to provide sophisticated systems for the management of hazardous wastes, and to advise smaller and medium sized enterprises on their own management systems.

- Dissemination of scientific and technical information dealing with various health and environmental aspects of hazardous wastes
- Notification systems and registries of exposed populations

The Environment Agency has been able to provide the public in England and Wales with accessible information on the location and operation of waste management facilities (see <http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk>) and the UK's Direct Gov website provides advice to the general public on the management of hazardous waste that can arise in homes – eg asbestos sheeting or chemicals. (see http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/Environmentandgreenerliving/Wasteandrecycling/DG_10014614)

In addition the Defra website provides access to some scientific evidence and information on waste management. (see for example: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/waste/index.htm>)

- Preventing illegal international traffic in hazardous wastes

There is a comprehensive system of legal and regulatory requirements to help prevent the illegal traffic in hazardous waste to and from the UK. The UK has

ratified the Basel Convention through the European Waste Shipments Regulation. The competent authorities in the UK are funded to tackle incidents of illegal waste shipments. Currently the focus is on combating potentially illegal shipments of waste electrical and electronic equipment to developing countries, and the CAs have been recently able to make a number of arrests and to prosecute the people involved.

- Environmentally sound management of solid (non-hazardous) wastes and sewage, in the context of integrated planning and management of land resources
 - Policies aimed at waste prevention and minimization, reuse and recycling
 - Development of environmentally sound disposal facilities, including technology to convert waste into energy, such as, for example, through utilization of landfill methane
 - Financial mechanisms for waste management service development in deprived areas

In terms of wider waste issues, the UK in common with other European Union Member States has addressed the environmentally sound management of waste (ESM) through the various EC Directives and Regulations relating to waste and environmental protection. A key plank of the EC legislation is the proper application of the waste hierarchy to the management of waste with waste prevention at the top and disposal at the bottom. Due protection of the environment and the safeguarding of human health is an underlying objective of this suite of EU legislation.

Comprehensive policies and programmes on waste management are in the Waste Strategy 2007, including on energy from waste. (see: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/waste/strategy/index.htm>)

- Radioactive wastes and their environmentally sound management (safe storage, transportation and disposal of radioactive waste)

Separate and complete controls apply to the regulation and control of radioactive waste to ensure protection of the environment and human health