

Household Hazardous Waste: issues & initiatives

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The NHHWF

- 180 members: local authorities, waste companies, manufacturers, retailers, Environment Agency etc
- Main roles:
 - Provide information on policy & practice
 - Carry out research
- Run by SWAP: research and consultancy, also:



What is HHW ?

- “Any material discarded by a household which is difficult to dispose of, or which puts human health or the environment at risk because of its chemical or biological nature”
- Includes:
 - Decorative paints, coatings and related products
 - Garden chemicals and pet-care products
 - Motoring products
 - Household chemicals, materials and appliances.

Why is it important?

- Risk to environment and health through handling and disposal
- Contamination of recycling and other waste streams
- Diverse disposal routes
- Tightening legislation
- Cross-sectoral involvement

Key issues

- Legislative inconsistencies
 - disincentives to segregate HHW
 - inconsistent application of licensing
 - de minimus limits
- Lack of data
- Lack of clear messages to the public

Recent initiatives

- Scotland HHW survey
 - audits and questionnaire surveys of ‘reservoir’ of HHW
- Good practice guide to HHW collections
- Community Re>Paint
 - practical example of hazardous waste minimisation

Urgently needed

- More data on HHW quantities
- HHW information for public
- Improved dialogue between policy makers and HHW stakeholders

The National Household Hazardous Waste Forum

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