

HAZARDOUS WASTE FORUM ARISINGS AND MINIMISATION FORUM SUB GROUP

NATIONAL PROGRAMMES FOR WASTE REDUCTION

Summary

This paper provides an outline of the many national, regional and local industry programmes which have core objectives to improve the resource efficiency of UK businesses. No attempt has been made to compare the relative effectiveness or the interrelationships of these initiatives, which are wide and varied, and at different stages of implementation.

Envirowise

Envirowise¹ is a government sponsored best practice programme assigned the task of helping UK industry and commerce to reduce its waste to all media in a manner that gives cost and environmental benefits. Envirowise (formerly the Environmental Technology Best Practice Programme (ETBPP) was launched in 1994 and is jointly funded by DTI and Defra.

Envirowise promotes resource productivity by encouraging businesses to use their resources more efficiently and to minimise waste at source. This ultimately reduces the quantity of waste sent to landfill, undesirable releases to atmosphere or effluent to treatment works – all improving the local environment. As waste costs the UK around £1bn each year, it is not difficult to recognise that businesses can also save money. On average, an organisation working with Envirowise can expect to save £1,000 per employee or convert an additional 1% of turnover into profit.

Since the Programme was established in 1994, it has helped UK business to generate savings of nearly £800 million.

In addition to generic themes of waste minimisation, packaging, solvents, cleaner technology, water and measurement & benchmarking, there are currently fourteen industry sectors for which Envirowise produces specific "how to do it" guides, benchmarking guides and case studies. These are:

Ceramics	Foundries	Plastics
Chemicals	Furniture	Printing
Electronics	Glass	Retail (supply chain)
Engineering	Metal Finishing	Textiles
Food & Drink	Paper & Board	

The Envirowise programme is developing a strategy for promoting best practice in hazardous waste minimisation and management to businesses and the waste management industry for the latter half of 2003/4.

Envirowise produce a wide range of materials on waste prevention. Market research indicates small companies are confused about legislative requirements and where to go for advice. This indicates that Envirowise and other stakeholders, particularly the Environment Agency, need to work together to be fully effective.

¹ For an outline on Envirowise see the presentation to second Forum meeting on 2nd April 2003

Biowise

Biowise is a UK Government Programme funded by the DTI. The programme promotes technology transfer and knowledge in the use of biotechnology. The technologies tend to be quite sector specific. The programme offers site visits.

Contact: <http://www.biowise.org.uk/index.cfm>

Manufacturing Advisory Service

The DTI Manufacturing Advisory Service (MAS) is a new integrated support service providing free information and advice for all UK manufacturers large and small. Diagnostic field services are undertaken by dedicated MAS practitioners. Delivery is in co-operation with the DTI Small Business Service network of Business Links through:

RCMEs - Regional Centres for Manufacturing Excellence help manufacturers by providing information and advice on all manufacturing related issues.

CEMs - Centres of Expertise in Manufacturing drawn from a wide range of organisations

Details from: <http://www.dti.gov.uk/manufacturing/mas/index.htm>

Metals Industry Competitive Enterprise

The MICE is a DTI supported industry initiative for the metals industry. Its seeks to improve the metals sector competitiveness through the application of lean manufacturing practice and supply chain efficiency measures at a company level. The reduction of waste is a key objective. The initiative has £1.6m funding from DTI

Web site details: www.metalsindustry.co.uk

Regional business programmes

Envirowise estimate that there are around 140 active waste minimisation projects in the UK. These projects have evolved since the early 1990's from projects such as Aire & Calder and Project Catalyst. In the region of 5,000 companies have received direct assistance to implement waste reduction and better waste management initiatives. Most projects cover a range of industry sectors and are targeted at SME's. These initiatives provide an important channel for providing advice on waste management legislation.

Substantial regional programmes include ENWORKS, Arena Network in Wales and Environmental Business Growth.

The Environment Agency and Envirowise are expecting to undertake a review of the results of waste minimisation projects in the latter half of 2003/04.

Netregs

The Netregs web site has been developed jointly by the Environment Agency and other UK regulators in conjunction with the Small Business Service to provide accessible information to SME's on environmental legislation. By the end of 2004 Netregs will provide information

that is targeted at over 100 business sectors. Generic information on special waste regulations is already available on the site: www.netregs.gov.uk

The recently published Netregs *SME-nvironment* 2003 survey is the largest ever study into the environmental behaviour of smaller UK businesses.

For further information: <http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/netregs/>

Research Initiatives

i) Waste Recycling Research programme

Under the Waste Recycling Research programme, the DTI and EPSRC committed over £10m to research within processing and manufacturing industry into Waste Minimisation by Recycling or Re-use of materials within processes and plant, and by Recovery of product/components to enable their re-use. The programme is now closed but results are available via the web site: <http://www.oakdenhollins.co.uk/wmr3db/index.html> A significant number of the projects under the WMR 3 programme have contributed to the better management of industrial (hazardous) wastes.

ii) Sustainable Technologies Initiative

The successor initiative to WMR 3 is the Sustainable Technologies Initiative (STI). This initiative has £10m funding over 10 years. Around 40% of the projects funded have an aim of increasing resource efficiency. Within the STI, government sponsors and research councils contribute over £20m to collaborative research projects. The aim is to help UK plc meet the technological challenges of designing sustainability into processes, products and services. Details are available at: <http://www.oakdenhollins.co.uk/sti.html>

ii) Mini Waste Faraday

Mini-Waste is a partnership between industry and the science and technology base. The partnership undertakes strategic research, training and technology transfer activities that will lead to a significant reduction in the waste arising from UK industries. Mini-Waste is a member of the Faraday Partnerships initiative and is supported by the Department of Trade and Industry, the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council and the Natural Environment Research Council.

The Partnership will work with companies and organisations with an interest in innovative industrial waste minimisation solutions from the following sectors:-

- Electronics and battery manufacture
- Food Processing
- Metals and metal finishing
- Construction
- Minerals and inorganics

iv) Electronic Life Cycle Assessment (eLCA)

The eLCA project is a pan-European project that is being developed by the Environment Agency and other organisations across Europe. It will provide software and guidance to help

SMEs carry out assessments on their products to establish the environmental impacts of products and to assist with product eco-design. The eLCA project is focused primarily on the Electronics sector and is driven by the developing requirements of Integrated Product Policy (IPP), the WEEE and ROHS Directives.

The eLCA project is a joint European initiative with partners from five member states: Italy, Germany, Spain, Greece and the UK. The partners include public agencies, universities, SME associations and both not-for-profit and private consultations.

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