

Out and about

The HAZRED team are out and about at events around the country over the coming months, talking about the project and looking to recruit interested businesses to take part. Here are some of the places you can find us:

- **Hazardous Waste – Understanding, Managing and Minimising Events**

3rd November 2005

Royal Clarence Hotel, Exeter

9th November 2005

Thistle Hotel, Middlesbrough

15th November 2005

Royal Moat House Hotel, Nottingham

Envirowise, one of the project partners, is running a series of free events this autumn to demonstrate how businesses can cost effectively adapt to the new Hazardous Waste Regulations. Further information can be found at www.envirowise.gov.uk

- **European Fine Chemicals Conference & Exhibition**

1-2nd December 2005

Manchester United,

Old Trafford, Manchester

Martin Brocklehurst, Head of Waste Strategy at the Environment Agency, will give a presentation on collaborative approaches to resource efficiency and highlight how the HAZRED project will work with the chemicals industry. Further information can be found at www.chemicalsnorthwest.org.uk

- **Institute of Metal Finishing Symposium**

14th February 2005

Birmingham Medical Institute,

Edgbaston, Birmingham

The HAZRED project team will be delivering a talk on current and forthcoming legislation affecting the sector and discussing sustainable practices that businesses can adopt. Further information can be found at www.uk-finishing.org.uk

Hazardous waste reduction plans take shape

Work is now underway on developing the hazardous waste reduction plans for each of the six industry sectors that the HAZRED project is working with.

The plans will propose hazardous waste reduction targets for each sector and outline practical measures that businesses participating in the HAZRED project can take to prevent and reduce hazardous waste. They are being drafted in collaboration with leading environmental and industry experts and the project partners – the Environment Agency, the Scottish Environment Protection Agency, the Irish Environmental Protection Agency, the Welsh Assembly Government, Envirowise, Groundwork, SafetyKleen and the Waste Recycling Group.

Each hazardous waste reduction plan will build upon existing plans and strategies currently being employed by the sectors, such as the Chemical Industry Association's commitment to

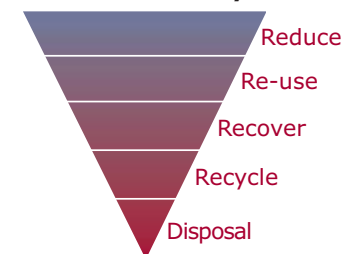


Visit the HAZRED website

The HAZRED website – www.hazred.org.uk – includes background information on the project, latest news and events and information on taking part. It also includes links to other useful hazardous waste resources.



Waste Hierarchy



reduce hazardous waste (waste produced per tonne of product produced) by 25% by 2010. As well as detailing practical measures for the businesses participating in the HAZRED project, the sector plans will recommend broader strategic opportunities to be taken forward by the sectors as a whole.

Later this year the draft sector plans will be available via the HAZRED website – www.hazred.org.uk – and the project team would welcome comments from any interested parties. Final draft versions of the sector plans will be presented at a series of interactive workshops in early 2006. See inside for more information on the sector workshops and details of how to attend.

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Scope of sector plans

The sector plans will utilise the principles of the waste hierarchy (see image) to identify hazardous waste management 'best practice' within the sector and any additional techniques/technologies that may be available to reduce hazardous wastes.

Each of the six hazardous waste reduction plans will include the following information:

- An industry sector profile providing background on the sector structure and business activities, including what hazardous raw materials are used, waste characterisation, and typical treatment and disposal methods. The plans will, as far as practicable, quantify waste generation within the sector and the environmental impacts.
- A realistic appraisal of what waste prevention and minimisation measures may practicably be achieved within the sector.
- Clearly defined objectives and targets for reductions of hazardous waste.
- An action plan, including practical measures that will be progressed through the project and strategic opportunities for reducing hazardous waste across the sector.



HAZRED is an EU Life-Environment partnership project



Hazardous waste explained

The aim of the HAZRED project is to demonstrate the effectiveness of a sector-led approach in preventing and reducing hazardous waste.

But what actually constitutes hazardous waste and why is it so important to reduce it? Below, we have tried to answer some of the frequently asked questions on this subject.

What is hazardous waste?

Waste is hazardous when it contains substances or has properties that might make it harmful to human health or the environment. The term 'hazardous' does not always mean that waste is necessarily toxic, although some can be. Major hazardous waste types include construction and demolition wastes such as chemically contaminated soils, oils and oily wastes and organic chemical process wastes.

Who produces hazardous waste?

In 2001, over 100,000 businesses in the UK produced hazardous waste. However, changes to the definition of hazardous waste mean that many more businesses are now classed as producers. For example, fluorescent light bulbs, television sets and computer monitors are now all categorised as hazardous waste.

How can I check whether my waste is hazardous?

The European Waste Catalogue provides a list of hazardous and non-hazardous wastes, which are identifiable by a different code number for each type of waste. It is

available from the European Union website and the Environment Agency has produced a guidance document to help explain it. Alternatively, businesses can seek advice from their waste contractor – who will need to know the code so they can dispose of the waste properly.

In addition, businesses can access help from their environmental regulator: the Environment Agency (England and Wales); the Scottish Environment Protection Agency; the Irish Environmental Protection Agency or the Environment and Heritage Service (Northern Ireland).

By finding out which types of waste produced are hazardous, companies can carefully segregate hazardous and non-hazardous waste. This practice can help save money by reducing the volume of waste disposed of as hazardous, thereby avoiding the associated high disposal costs.

What options are currently available to dispose of hazardous waste?

The key options for hazardous waste disposal are landfill, high temperature incineration and use as a fuel, for example in a cement kiln. Rising costs for landfill and a recent reduction in sites accepting hazardous waste – from more than 200 to 12 – have highlighted the need for a shift towards more sustainable solutions that reduce reliance on landfill.

Although there are alternatives to landfill disposal, minimising the amount of waste produced should be regarded as a business imperative. When waste production is unavoidable however, treatment to turn hazardous waste into non-hazardous waste should be considered. The cost benefits of waste minimisation and waste treatment are

becoming ever more favourable as landfill prices increase and available capacity reduces. Disposal should always be the last option!

One of the project partners, Envirowise, offers free on-site visit to UK businesses to identify areas where hazardous wastes can be reduced. Companies can also access advice from an Envirowise advisor on how to design out hazardous materials from products, thereby minimising the amount of hazardous waste produced. For details call the Environment & Energy Helpline on **0800 585794**.

Where can I find additional help?

Businesses can access additional information about hazardous waste from www.hazardouswaste.org.uk or by visiting the NetRegs website - www.netregs.gov.uk - for sector specific guidance. In addition, Envirowise offers free waste minimisation help and advice to small businesses in any sector via their website - www.envirowise.gov.uk.

If you work in any of the following sectors, visit www.hazred.org.uk to find out about the hazardous waste reduction plan being developed by the HAZRED project for your sector:

- General construction/building
- Treatment and/or coating of metals
- Maintenance and repair of motor vehicles
- Photographic processing
- Manufacture of speciality organic chemicals
- Manufacture of machinery and equipment

Sector workshops

The HAZRED team is currently organising a series of six interactive sector workshops for businesses interested in taking part in the project and other stakeholders to come and find out more about HAZRED and to review the hazardous waste reduction plan for their sector.

Each half-day workshop will give an introduction to the HAZRED project and the draft sector plan. Delegates will be invited to break into groups to analyse the draft plan and suggest additional content and new ideas. The workshop will finish with a detailed Q&A session, offering a good opportunity for small and medium-sized businesses to find out exactly what's involved in participating in the project and how they can benefit from taking part.

Arrangements for the metal treatment, motor vehicles and fine chemicals



workshops are as follows:

- Treatment and/or coating of metals
Date: 11th January 2006, 10:00am – 2:00pm
Venue: Surface Engineering Association, Birmingham
- Maintenance and/or repair of motor vehicles

Date: 17th January 2006, 10:00am – 2:00pm

Venue: Aston Villa Football Club, Birmingham

- Speciality Organic Chemicals
Date: 25th January 2006, 10:00am – 2:00pm
Venue: BASF, Cheadle Hulme, Cheshire

To find out more about any of these events and to register interest in attending, visit www.hazred.org.uk or contact naomi.davidson@environment-agency.gov.uk

The HAZRED project would particularly like to hear from small businesses in the six sectors across the UK or Ireland who produce hazardous waste and are interested in applying new approaches to reduce it.

Coming soon! Look out for workshop details for the other three sectors – general construction/building, photographic processing and manufacture of machinery and equipment – on the HAZRED website or email naomi.davidson@environment-agency.gov.uk to receive further details.

Sector focus: treatment and/or coating of metals

The treatment and/or coating of metals sector was identified as one of the areas that could most benefit from participating in HAZRED by industry and environmental experts. The decision was based on the number of small businesses in the sector, the volume of hazardous wastes produced, and the potential to reduce this.

The HAZRED project is working closely with key industry stakeholders including the Surface Engineering Association (SEA) and the Institute of Metal Finishing (IMF) to develop the hazardous waste reduction plan for the sector, including realistic waste reduction targets, and to recruit small businesses to take part in the project.

Sector profile

A wide range of finishing techniques are undertaken by this industry sector such as surface heat treatment, powder coating, galvanising and hot dipping, tinplate, electroplating and anodising. These processes generate a range of hazardous wastes, mostly consisting of mixed oils, spent acids and filter cakes. Other hazardous wastes produced include solvent from degreasing operations, aqueous effluents from rinse baths, contaminated solvents and paints.

Legislative pressures

Tighter controls on the disposal of treated hazardous wastes and a sharp decrease in authorised facilities have affected the majority of businesses operating in the sector and led to an increase in waste management costs.

In addition, the banning of liquid hazardous wastes from landfill sites has further highlighted the need for a more sustainable and less costly approach to hazardous waste management.

How HAZRED will work with business in the sector

Participating businesses will each receive access to the hazardous waste reduction plan and advice on how to apply it to their operation. They will also benefit from on-site help with a specialist adviser, including help with implementation, monitoring and evaluating waste outputs and cost savings achieved.

Treatment and/or coating of metals - key facts

- Generates approximately 135,000 t/a of hazardous waste
- Most of the hazardous waste produced derives from mixed oils, spent acids, filter cakes and redundant chemicals
- The majority of hazardous waste is currently sent to landfill sites after treatment or disposed of via effluent treatment methods
- Over 99 per cent of companies within the sector are small with numbers of employees ranging from 10 – 20
- In total, it is thought the industry employs around 330,000 people throughout Europe

