



Baling your recyclable waste can help you to turn it into a valuable commodity.

ORWAK
Environmental
Services Ltd.

The Landfill Directive

On 30 October 2007, the next stage of the EU Landfill Directive came into effect, and it has had a major impact on how businesses dispose of their waste. The directive is aimed at reducing the sheer volume of general waste being sent to landfill, and requires businesses to 'pre-treat' their waste and remove any recyclable materials at source. It also bans non-hazardous liquids from landfill (hazardous liquids are already banned) including, for example, edible oils and some paints and inks.

In conjunction with the financial pressures of the ever-increasing Landfill tax, this legislation means that landfill is set to become an increasingly expensive and socially undesirable option.

Keeping on top of your obligations

Waste is becoming a complex field and as such, many businesses would benefit from the environmental expertise offered by companies such as Orwak. As waste becomes more expensive and time consuming, the opportunities to save money and ease the waste burden become increasingly attractive.

To find out how Orwak can help you to better manage your waste, please contact us or visit our website www.orwak.co.uk to download our simple guide "Implementing a cost-effective waste policy".



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Waste A legal framework



by 2010 the Landfill Tax
will have doubled to

£48

per tonne



It's an alarming statistic that UK businesses are estimated to have produced over 80 million tonnes of waste in 2005. According to the Environment Agency, less than 45% of this waste is recycled and over 35 million tonnes will go straight to landfill.

The Legislative Landscape

UK businesses have faced a sharp increase in the demand to be more environmentally aware in recent years, with pressure coming from both official sources and consumers. Environmental legislation, financial pressures and public opinion are all forcing businesses to become much more accountable for the volumes of waste and pollutants they produce, and for the environmental damage their commercial operations may cause. This trend can be seen in the recent rise of 'producer responsibility' and 'polluter pays' legislation.

The Environmental Protection Act

At nearly 18 years old, the key piece of UK environmental legislation is the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (EPA), which places a Duty of Care on waste producers to ensure that their waste is handled and disposed of 'appropriately'.

The EPA also establishes the principle that waste producers are responsible for what happens to their waste, from production right up to final disposal, or from 'cradle to grave'. This means that even after you have passed on your waste to a disposal contractor, you are still legally responsible for that waste and must ensure that the contractor and disposal site handle it lawfully and carry the right licences to accept it. Crucially, you are also required to prove that you have fulfilled this duty by retaining records of all waste transfers for at least two years.

The Hazardous Waste Regulations

Under the Hazardous Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2005, a business need generate as little as 200 kg of hazardous waste per annum, to be required to register as a hazardous waste producer with the Environment Agency. With a surprising number of common items now legally classed as hazardous, your site may well be classed as a Hazardous Waste Producer. Hazardous items include television sets, computer monitors, batteries, many paints and oils and also fluorescent light tubes. If you dispose of 200 kg of these items combined, per annum, then you need to register with the EA.

In Scotland and Northern Ireland, the Hazardous Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2005 operate as the Special Waste Amendment (Scotland) Regulations 2004 and the Hazardous Waste (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2005.

Packaging waste, WEEE and manufacturer responsibility

The principle of 'producer responsibility' is also evident in recent legislation which requires manufacturers to bear responsibility for the environmentally sound disposal of their products at the end of their lifespan. The Packaging Waste Regulations 2007, the WEEE (Waste Electronics and Electrical Equipment) Directive 2007 and the forthcoming Batteries Directive all require manufacturers to make arrangements for the appropriate disposal of their products, even though they may have been sold on many times.

Waste legislation is being driven by the European Union Directives and is increasingly based on the principle that if you bring a product to market, you must also make adequate provision for the disposal of both the original product and its associated packaging.