



INDUSTRIAL WASTE RESOURCE GUIDELINES

WASTE AVOIDANCE AND REDUCTION

The *Environment Protection (Industrial Waste Resource) Regulations 2009* provide a regulatory framework intent on driving resource efficiency and embedding the waste hierarchy in the management of industrial wastes, including potentially hazardous prescribed industrial wastes.

The easiest way for industry to reduce the costs associated with the management of their industrial waste is to avoid the generation of it altogether. The Regulations provide a decision framework within which industry must assess and implement practicable opportunities to avoid, reduce, reuse or recycle their wastes and avoid disposal to landfill.

Where an opportunity to avoid, or reduce generating prescribed industrial waste is practicably accessible, then these must be implemented. Practicably accessible means the technology or required facilities are reasonably available and reasonably affordable given the scale of the business. In any event these measures would provide financial benefits over the long-term, through both reduced raw material costs and reduced waste disposal costs.

SERVICES

The focus of the Regulations is to increase resource efficiency and end landfill disposal of category B prescribed industrial waste by 2020. To this end, the Regulations seek to provide practical measures for avoidance and waste reduction.

Beyond these regulatory measures, EPA will continue to assist businesses with value-adding services that increase their competitiveness through reducing environmental impacts, cutting costs and enhancing reputations.

EPA delivers these services through its Sustainable Solutions Unit, which delivers advice and standard services to industry by helping them improve resource efficiency and generate less waste.

Some of the services EPA can provide through the Sustainable Solutions Unit include are described in the boxes on this page and over.

HazWaste Fund

The principal service provided for the avoidance, reduction, reuse, recycling and treatment of prescribed industrial waste is the HazWaste Fund.

The HazWaste Fund is designed to support industry to accelerate reductions in the volume and hazard of hazardous waste in Victoria. The HazWaste Fund is made possible as a result of the Victorian Government's commitment to invest increased hazardous waste landfill levy revenue in projects to avoid waste or productively use wastes that cannot be avoided.

The HazWaste Fund supports industry, site owners and technology providers to invest in new technologies for the remediation of contaminated soils and for the avoidance, reduction, re-use and recycling of hazardous waste. Applicants should contact Sustainable Solutions Unit team members for discussion and feedback prior to making a submission. For more information on the HazWaste Fund, visit www.epa.vic.gov.au/projects/piw_reduction/hazwaste.asp.

This guidance forms part of the Industrial Waste Resource Guidelines (IWRG), which offer guidance for wastes and resources regulated under the *Environment Protection (Industrial Waste Resource) Regulations 2009* (the Regulations). Publication IWRG300 – June 2009.

HazWaste Expo

EPA will regularly hold a HazWaste Expo.

The most recent HazWaste Expo was held on 20 November 2008 and was an outstanding success. Over three hundred people from industry, government and the waste consultant sector attended the event in search of innovative solutions to reducing hazardous waste and remediating contaminated soil. EPA is in the process of further follow up with both attendees and exhibitors to measure the impact of the event in reducing PIW to landfill.

For more information on the HazWaste Expo, visit www.epa.vic.gov.au/projects/PIW_Reduction/hazwaste_expo08.asp.



Helpful links

- Resource efficiency case studies: www.epa.vic.gov.au/bus/resource_efficiency/casestudies
- Sustainability covenants www.epa.vic.gov.au/bus/sustainability_covenants
- Avoiding prescribed industrial waste web page www.epa.vic.gov.au/projects/PIW_Reduction

Case study: An example in avoiding waste generation

A manufacturer generates a waste as a result of the manufacturing process. This waste is derived solely from fugitive product. Through the installation of innovative technology, the generation of this waste stream is completely eliminated.

Additional benefits are realised through reductions in:

- raw material use
- energy use
- greenhouse gas production
- water consumption.

Beyond the environmental benefits, the business gains significant cost savings and is recognised as an industry leader in 'best practice'.