

Welcome to issue 24 of BusinessCare's E-newsletter!

In this issues we offer some practical tips for cleaner production practitioners, update partners on changes to the website, and profile some of our partner councils and the outstanding work they are doing with the construction and demolition industry.

Tips for practitioners

Where to find the information you need

Remember our KEY QUESTIONS:

- what do we waste?
- how much do we waste?
- how much do wastes cost us?
- where are the wastes produced?
- why are the wastes produced?
- what can we do to prevent or reduce wastes?

When working out how much we waste and how much our waste costs us, it is best to start at a high level initially, and then focus on specific areas more closely.

Information sources to help calibrate “black box” inputs and outputs include:

- information on raw materials and production
- information on process
- accounting information
- meters
- regulatory information
- other information

Information on raw materials and production

Firms' information about this will be in several different places, including:

- product composition and batch sheets
- MSDS sheets (Materials Safety Data Sheets)
- product and raw material inventory sheets
- operator data logs
- operating procedures
- production schedules
- machine run times and production inventories

Information on process

Process information will also be held in several places, including:

- process flow diagrams and descriptions
- design, material and heat balances
- operating manuals
- equipment lists, layouts and logistics
- equipment specifications and data sheets
- piping and instrument diagrams (PID)
- site plans

Accounting information

Again, financial information about how much inputs and wastes cost will be held in several different places (this is why it is a really good idea to have company accounting staff on your cleaner production team):

- solid waste handling / treatment / disposal costs
- costs and income relating to recycled materials
- water and sewer (trade wastes) costs and surcharges
- product, energy and raw material costs
- operating and maintenance costs
- departmental cost accounting reports

Meters

A lot of firms have meters in several places, especially for electricity. Some have water meters at the gate or at stream or groundwater pump intakes. Others may have trade waste flow meters as well. Energy suppliers are often happy to help with metering, but you may need to approach local utilities or commercial service providers for help with metering liquid wastes. Solid waste tonnages will be measured at the landfill or transfer station, and this information will be in your accounting system. See also Toolbox 06, Measuring.

Regulatory information

Regulatory information held by your city, district, or regional council can include:

- solid and liquid waste and air emissions analyses
- waste shipment manifests
- compliance and/or environmental monitoring under the conditions of resource consents and/or applications
- waste or environmental audit reports
- trade waste bylaws

Other information

Companies may also have other useful information in:

- environmental policy statements
- standards and standard procedures, including ISO, environmental or quality management systems, HACCP, and OSH procedures
- organisational charts
- triple bottom line reports

This information has been taken from BusinessCare's Toolkit for Change session on measuring businesses resource use and waste generation. For more information refer to the Toolkit for Change – in the coordinators section of the website or your own hard copy.

Website update

We are currently working on the marketing section of the BusinessCare website, in response to feedback that information in this section was difficult to find. Existing marketing related resources have been relocated so they are easier to find and there are some useful new additions as well. The changes will be made over the next few weeks.

Visit the BusinessCare website at:

www.businesscare.org.nz

Best practice guidelines for the construction and demolition industry emerge from a Bay of Plenty based study.

An eye opening study in Tauranga has revealed that up to six tonnes of waste is generated during the building of an average three-bedroom home.

The findings have certainly raised eyebrows and concern as to the amount of waste created by the construction industry as we experience increased growth in development in the region.

Commissioned by the Tauranga City Council and Environment Bay of Plenty and conducted by Tauranga based Environmental Education for Resource Sustainability Trust (EERST), the year long study not only monitored the volume of waste discarded from residential building sites but also looked into ways to divert it from landfill.

EERST cleaner production manager Paula Inglis has keen to identify exactly what was being thrown away and why. "We know that up to 85 per cent of the



contents of skips on building sites can be reduced, re-used or recycled", she says.

Photo: Paula Inglis (EERST) and Corey Passey (G J Gardner Homes) - Courtesy is Environment Bay of Plenty

Spin-offs have already flowed from the study. Builders, sub contractors, architects and developers are starting to provide support toward the concept of reducing waste throughout the design stage, ordering and managing materials more efficiently and

separating waste streams as much as possible on site for ease of recovery and recycling, says Paula.

A local architect is being assisted to write waste management plans into construction specifications requiring builders to meet those requirements. In turn the builders have requested that their waste operator provide a service to the site for the recovery of recyclable materials. Consequently, a new service is being trialled by the waste company in an effort to divert materials otherwise going into landfill or cleanfill sites.

This type of project will create a demand for changes in service and infrastructure within the waste industry. Alternative solutions and markets for materials are being explored as opposed to landfilling or cleanfilling mixed materials deemed as rubbish.

"The businesses involved have been hugely receptive. It was very forward thinking of the Council's to get involved in this project and as a result, we will see major changes". Best practice guidelines are being developed to create awareness and provide simple and effective solutions to waste management for everyone involved in the construction industry.

While the Councils see environmental gains as the biggest benefit, home owners will also be happy because builders will be paying less in dump charges. All levels of the industry have the opportunity to design better methods of handling, managing and disposing of waste. There is also an opportunity to establish a culture for waste recovery and recycling on building sites and within building related industries such as building material supply companies.

The study is continuing this year in an effort to continue to develop and improve systems for recovery and recycling that are simple and effective.

For more information about this project contact Paula Inglis - paulainglis@ihug.co.nz

Your comments ...

✉ If you have favourite tips of your own or projects you would like featured in this newsletter, send them to us and we will include them in the next newsletter.