

## SITE WASTE MANAGEMENT PLANS (SWMP)

BRIEFING DOCUMENT

18 May 2009

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### OVERVIEW

SWMPs are a system for:

- Tackling fly tipping
- Demonstrating compliance with existing waste management legislation
- Improving resource efficiency
- Raising standards for all (Envirowise 2007b)

Developed in 2004, SWMPs were originally a DTI voluntary code of practice. From 6<sup>th</sup> of April 2008 SWMPs became a legal requirement for all construction and demolition projects of more than £300,000 in value in England with additional updating requirements for projects over £500,000 (legislation in Wales may come at a later date, already in existence in Scotland, projects over £200,000 in Northern Ireland are already mandatory). A SWMP to document and control waste on site, showing commitment to sort, reuse and recycle, is currently a minimum standard requirement in the Code for Sustainable Homes (Payne 2007). SWMPs are site specific and need to be produced for each project, even though some sections will be universal (Envirowise 2007b).

A SWMP will provide a structure for waste management at all stages of a construction or demolition project. The format of implementing a SWMP depends on the company's procedures and the size and type of project. However, minimum requirements should:

- Identify the appointed person responsible for resource management
- Identify the types of waste generated
- Identify how the waste is to be managed (waste hierarchy)
- Identify the licensed contractors used for waste removal
- Identify the quantity of waste generated from the project and a plan for how it will be measured (Envirowise 2007a)

A SWMP involves:

- Assigning responsibility for writing and implementing the SWMP
- Identifying the likely types and amounts of waste arising
- Establishing the best waste management methods for each type of waste
- Utilising sustainable procurement of materials
- Communicating the plan and training staff on how it will be implemented – ideally everyone working on the site should be involved with SWMP
- Setting up on-site systems to segregate and handle wastes, encouraging recovery
- Making sure the site complies with duty of care
- Collecting data on waste generated during the project
- Reviewing the SWMP regularly and drawing up future recommendations

## Key benefits of a SWMP:

- Structured approach to management and recycling on site
- Reduction in cost of waste management / increased savings:
  - Reduce the loss of valuable raw materials – encourage resource efficiency and waste minimisation through the waste hierarchy
  - Costs of disposal to landfill are increasing
  - Costs associated with the reclassification of certain wastes as hazardous
- Control of regulatory risks relating to materials and wastes on site
- Compliance of contractual needs of public and private sector needs
- Help you to deal with any queries from environmental regulators
- Improve the company's environmental performance (Envirowise 2007a & 2007b)

### **CASE STUDY: Waste Facts & Figures**

- The average 8 cubic yard skip costs around £150
- The average cost of what is being thrown away in that skip is over £1,200
- In the UK an average of 13% of all materials delivered to site go into the skip without ever being used
- The UK produces around 400 million tonnes of waste annually, of which about 72 million tonnes comes from construction sites
- The construction industry produces the equivalent of five tonnes of waste for every single person in the UK

(NetRegs 2007)

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## FURTHER INFORMATION

- Envirowise (2007): <http://www.envirowise.gov.uk/page.aspx?o=185234>
- Envirowise (2008): *Site Waste Management Plan Regulations 2008*  
<http://www.envirowise.gov.uk/media/attachments/244214/Diagram%20%20-%20SWMP%20Regulations.pdf>
- Envirowise (2008): *Additional Duties*  
<http://www.envirowise.gov.uk/media/attachments/244214/Diagram%20%20-%20SWMP%20Additional%20Duties%20pdf.pdf>

## REFERENCES

- CIRIA (2007). *Good practice tools for the use in the development of strategies, plans and procedures for the management of decommissioning wastes and potentially re-usable items*. Available online: [http://www.ciria.org/sdspur/pdf/good\\_practice\\_tools\\_paper-first\\_full\\_draft.pdf](http://www.ciria.org/sdspur/pdf/good_practice_tools_paper-first_full_draft.pdf) [Cited 18/05/2009]
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