



ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

Environmental law is made up of complex treaties, statutes and regulations.

The topic is normally divided into two main sections:

1. Pollution control
2. Resource conservation

POLLUTION

What is Pollution?

- Pollution is the introduction of contaminants into a natural environment that cause instability, disorder, harm or discomfort to the ecosystem.
- Pollution can take the form of chemical substances or energy such as noise, heat or light. These are known as pollutants; the elements of pollution.
- Some can be naturally occurring and are considered contaminants when they exceed natural levels.

What are the sources of pollution on site?

- Air – burning, toxic materials, construction dust (PM10)
- Water – oil, paint & solvents
- Noise – equipment, vehicles & machinery

PREVENTING POLLUTION ON-SITE

The following steps should be taken to help prevent pollution on-site:

- Minimise land disturbance
- Screen the site to prevent dust spreading
- Cover skips loaded with construction
- Cover piles of building materials (cement, sand, etc.)
- Use non-toxic paints, solvents and other hazardous materials
- Segregate and tightly cover toxic substances to prevent spills and contamination
- Cover and protect all drains on-site
- Collect wastewater in settlement tanks
- Use low Sulphur Diesel oil in all vehicles and use the latest filters and catalytic converters
- Do not burn materials on-site
- Reduce noise pollution by using modern, quiet tools and equipment

WASTE MANAGEMENT REGULATIONS

- Waste management facilities are regulated by the Environment Agencies in the UK to protect the health and well-being of the environment and the community.
- Businesses that produce waste are monitored by the agencies.
- Waste from a business represents the loss of valuable resources and presents a risk to the environment.
- To prevent waste, you must recycle all items that you are safe and allowed to do so.

ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

- An Environment Management System (EMS) should provide a company the details of how to highlight long-term environmental impacts of its products, services and processes. It should then explain how to safely reduce these impacts and prevent further environmental damage.
- Most companies should have an Environmental Policy outlining its commitment to the laws, regulations, and other policy mechanisms concerning environmental issues.
- Under the guidance of its Environmental Policy, a company should minimise its impact on the environment and cut pollution and waste by using energy efficient measures, e.g., switching off lights and reducing the use of water. They may also want to consider minimising waste and reducing the environmental impact of the business generally, e.g., buying locally to cut fuel costs.