

# Reduce, Reuse and Recycle

Everyone produces waste. In England and Wales the combination of industry, commerce and household waste amounts to over 100 million tonnes annually. Unfortunately, this is growing at around 3% each year. And while waste cannot be eliminated, we can reduce its environmental impact by preventing waste wherever possible as well as making more sustainable use of the waste that is produced. ([www.defra.gov.uk/environment/](http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/))

The UK is running out of landfill sites and burying waste in the ground is one cause of ground water pollution and is a waste of resources that could be recycled. Landfill Sites can also produce gases, which contribute to acid rain and global warming.

## FACTS:

- Waste is often a substantial cost to business that is often overlooked
- Waste disposal costs are increasing and will continue to do so due to landfill space running out and the impacts of new legislation
- An effective waste minimisation programme can typically save most companies at least 1% of turnover
- Waste management practices are designed to reduce costs through effective management of company resources
- All waste has the potential to adversely affect the environment through the contamination of the air, soil and water.

**Disclaimer:** This leaflet is intended to provide only a brief introduction to some common environmental issues affecting business and should not be regarded as fully comprehensive advice.

# Waste & Business

## BRIEFING NOTES

### Advantages of Waste Management

**Cost Savings** - Increased operating efficiency and reduction in production costs, revenue and capital.

**Competitive Advantage** – Improved company image and reduce costs.

**Regulatory Compliance** - Attainment of, and improvement on regulatory requirements.

**Risk Reduction** - Better understanding, control and management of existing risks and future liabilities.

### The Rising Costs of Waste Disposal

Do you think that your waste disposal costs are already high? Unfortunately, the bad news is that they will continue to rise over the next few years.

### But Why?

Britain is under pressure to meet legally binding European targets to reduce the amount of waste we send to landfill and to increase our recycling rates. The problem of waste disposal is seen as one of the country's biggest environmental challenges.



### Waste Exchange Network

Remember that waste is just another name for rubbish that is thrown away when *WE* no longer have a use for it. However, your neighbour may find your waste to be of value!

The Waste Exchange Network promote waste re-use and recycling by matching waste materials with organisations that are looking for those materials. This creates a ***win-win-win*** situation:

- The material donor can avoid paying waste disposal costs
- The material recipient gains free raw materials
- And environmental damage is reduced through more efficient resource use and less waste disposal.

Visit the Waste Exchange Database at [www.gemsnet.org/npr\\_wen.htm](http://www.gemsnet.org/npr_wen.htm).

