

The Waste Tyres Dialogue

The Issue

Waste tyres are a growing problem in the UK. In 2003, the UK sent an estimated 85,000 tonnes of tyres to landfill, approximately 18% of all waste tyres. From 2006 this will be prohibited under the Landfill Directive. This could cause an increase in fly tipping. Such illegal dumping costs approximately £2.3 million a year. An alternative solution needs to be found.

The Solution

In 2001 The Environment Council joined forces with the Environment Agency to engage the tyre industry in finding solutions to the problems related to waste tyres. The process was funded by the RMC Environment Fund.

The dialogue involved government agencies; tyre manufacturers, retailers, re-users and recyclers; local authorities; academics and landowners. The first meeting took place in July 2001 and was used to build relationships amongst stakeholders and identify priority issues. The issues raised were so wide-ranging that they could not be dealt with effectively in a large group, so working groups were set up. These dealt with the definition of waste, enforcement & existing stockpiles, exemptions from waste management licensing & market barriers. Overcoming market barriers is the focus of an ongoing phase of the dialogue, aiming to stimulate the use of existing and potential tyre recovery technologies. Around 50 stakeholders have been involved.

The Impact

The waste tyres dialogue has provided a way forward in dealing with a critical environmental issue by helping the tyre industry and the relevant authorities improve their capacity to deal with the upcoming landfill ban. The practical impacts of the project include:

- Improved awareness of the Environment Agency's tyres programme throughout the tyre industry
- Development of a mature working relationship between industry and the Environment Agency
- Production of papers on Stockpiles, Enforcement, Definition of Waste, and Exemptions
- The successful Duty of Care awareness campaign pilot widely replicated elsewhere

Better relationships have made the Environment Agency's work easier, while ensuring that the interests of the tyre industry are considered in decision-making.

The Environment Council

212 High Holborn
London WC1V 7BF
Ph: 020 7836 2626
Fax: 020 7242 1180
Email: info@envcouncil.org.uk
Website: www.the-environment-council.org.uk

The Environment Council

Testimonial

"We are proud to play an active role in the stakeholder dialogue. It is refreshing that the Environment Council has managed to bring together all the disparate interests involved to discuss the broad range of issues affecting the disposal of tyres throughout the UK and Northern Ireland."

Richard Edy

Director of the National Tyres Distributors Association

The Environment Council and Waste

The Environment Council has been running engagement projects in waste for many years. Our experience in this field includes running local waste strategy workshops for Surrey and Dorset County Councils and producing "Best practice guidelines" for the waste industry. The Environment Council also convenes the National Resource and Waste Forum, a network of companies, local authorities and civil society with an interest in addressing waste related issues. www.nrwf.org.uk

Issue area:

Waste management

Duration:

2001 - 2004

Process:

Stakeholder Dialogue

Stakeholders:

The Environment Agency
DEFRA
DTI
Michelin Tyres
National Tyre Distributors Association
British Rubber Manufacturers' Association

