



ENVIRONMENTAL GOOD PRACTICE GUIDELINES

TOPIC – CLEANER PRODUCTION TECHNIQUES

Summary Information:

Cleaner Production is a preventative approach you can apply to your processes, products or services that increases their overall efficiency and reduces the risk to the environment and employees.

It is applicable to businesses of any size.

The starting point for Cleaner Production is a waste audit. Work out all of the inputs to the process and all of the outputs. Products are the outputs your clients pay for. Wastes are the outputs you pay for. Aim to produce more products and less waste.

Wastes can be reduced by avoiding their production in the first place and by recycling them after they are produced. Waste avoidance is the preferred approach. Wastes can be avoided by understanding why they are produced in the first place and changing the process or improving efficiencies, to lower the level of waste generation.

Good Practice Risk Control:

- Each business unit must identify all of the wastes produced from each area of the premises and their current means of disposal.
- Assess the root cause of each major waste type and list options for its avoidance and then recycling. These will be important to identify as objectives and targets for continual improvement.
- Also assess the full cost of each waste stream including disposal, material, treatment, monitoring & staff costs. This cost analysis will make options to eliminate or reduce waste much clearer.
- Assess the feasibility of implementing waste reduction options and prioritise them.

Further assistance with Cleaner Production techniques is available from the EPA Cleaner Production Partnerships Program (CPPP) are also available for the development of sustainable business practices in accordance with defined criteria.

Records of this activity and any initiatives that are implemented need to be recorded and maintained on file.