



Legislation Document

Advice on waste management relevant to all productions.

The film industry creates a vast amount of waste from construction waste to catering waste. Best practice is to adhere to the UK's waste hierarchy and you can review and read [HERE:](#)

The production itself is responsible for the compiling of all information relating to waste management. In the event of waste from a production being tipped or dumped illegally then that production is responsible. It's worth remembering that *the polluter pays*. (i.e. the production). The 'polluter pays' principle is the commonly accepted practice that those who produce pollution should bear the costs of managing it to prevent damage to human health or the environment.

Always ensure that the waste company documents relating to all waste transfers include a signed waste transfer ticket at point of collection, the information on this must include.

- Description of the waste inc. the relevant EU 6 digit Waste Code
- Volume/weight of the waste and in what it's contained
- Name and signature of the waste contractor driver
- Dated signature of production person responsible for the waste
- The vehicle registration
- Date and time of collection
- Waste carrier's registration number
- Disposal/treatment facility to which waste is sent and site Permit number
- Keep Waste Transfer Notes on file for 2yrs
- Keep Hazardous Waste Consignment Notes on file for 3yrs.

Government legislation - what your business needs to be doing now

There's a lot of government legislation in place to ensure that UK businesses meet the minimum standards required to minimise their impact on the environment. How these regulations will affect you will depend on the size and type of your production and the process you have in place.

Check government policy on waste and recycling: www.gov.uk/government/policies/waste-and-recycling

- **Air** - related to the amount of smoke, dust, noise, odour and solvents emitted by your business.
- **Hazardous substances** - regulations cover the collection, storage, handling, processing, use and disposal of various substances including: oil, ozone depleting substances, pesticides and biocides, radioactive substances, animal by-products and hazardous/special waste.
- **Waste** - regulating the handling, storage, transport and disposal of trade waste, as well as the recycling of products.
- **Water** - pollution, water abstraction and the discharge of trade effluent to publicsewers.
- **Packaging** - covering the production, use and handling of packaging or packaging materials.
- **Land** - regulations cover the usage of contaminated land and landfill sites for disposal of business waste

Environmental policies

An environmental policy is a written statement outlining an organisation's mission in relation to managing the environmental effects and aspects of its operations. All organisations, to some degree, have an effect on the environment. Having an environmental policy in place demonstrates your green credentials to your shareholders, clients, customers and employees.

Increasingly, customers are demanding that businesses prove their environmental credentials; this is particularly true if you deal with the public sector where there are top-down requirements from Government that all their procurement activities meet certain green standard. Environmental policies can help make sure you not only stay within the law but can also help you to improve your cost controls and conserve raw materials and energy.

Having an environmental policy in place is essential if you want to attain an Environmental Standard (such as ISO 14001 or registration under EMAS), which is a technical document that describes an agreed and recognised way of doing something.

Glossary of terminology

Biodiversity (Biological diversity)

The variety of life, including the variety of species, the genetic variety within species and the variety of ecosystems of which they are a part.

British Standard (BS) 8900:2006

Guidance for managing sustainable development: BS 8900 is designed to help organisations develop an approach to sustainable development.

British Standard (BS) 8909

BS 8909, a specification for a sustainability management system for film, has been designed to help the film industry run its business in a more sustainable way.

Carbon offsets

Actions to reduce or avoid greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in one location in order to 'offset' GHG emissions occurring in a second location. As carbon dioxide is the most important GHG by volume, completely offsetting carbon dioxide emissions produces a result that is often described as 'carbon neutral'.

Climate change

The changes to the Earth's climate resulting from increasing concentrations in the atmosphere of greenhouse gases (GHGs), such as carbon dioxide. The Intergovernmental panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has determined that the marked increase in GHG concentrations since pre-industrial times is the result of human activity, including the burning of fossil fuels (such as oil) land clearing and agriculture. Since GHGs trap heat in the atmosphere, the dominant change has been a rise in average temperatures globally, although there is significant variation, with larger increases at the poles.

Ecosystem

An ecosystem consists of a dynamic set of living organisms (plants, animals and micro-organisms) all interacting among themselves and with the environment in which they live (soil, climate, water, air, sunlight).

Environmental assessment

A process to predict the environmental effects of a proposed project throughout its lifecycle (including construction, start-up, operation and shut-down) and to recommend ways to eliminate, minimise or mitigate those impacts.

Environmental, Social, Economic Performance Indicators

Performance indicators relating primarily to environmental, social and economic areas.

Footprint

In a spatial context, the area occupied by permanent and temporary facilities and their associated activities. In an ecological context, it measures humanity's demand on nature by considering the resources consumed and resources affected to support our activities.

Global Reporting Initiative (GRI)

A global, multi-stakeholder initiative to develop a common framework for sustainability reporting. The Sustainability Reporting Framework includes the Sustainability Reporting Guidelines, now in their third version, Sector Supplements and Protocols. The GRI is a collaborating centre of the United Nations.

ISO 14001

An international standard that sets requirements for Environmental Management Systems. Environmental Management Systems should address policy, planning, implementation/operation, checking/corrective action, and management review.

Performance Indicators (PI)

PIs are used to help an organization define and measure progress toward the organizational goals or objectives. GRI also uses Performance Indicators to elicit comparable information on the economic, environmental and social performance of the organisation.

Stakeholder

A person or organisation that has a legitimate interest in a project or entity. Also refers to people who could affect or are affected by an organisation's social, environmental and economic performance.

Sustainability (also often referred to as Environmental Sustainability)

Meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." (Brundtland Commission). The concept of sustainability usually includes the areas of environmental, social, and economic development.

Sustainability Management and Reporting System (SMRS)

A performance-based system that defines our sustainability objectives, fosters an integrated approach to achieving them, and provides transparent reporting on results relative to sustainability related bid commitments and corporate goals, to both internal and external audiences.

Sustainability Reporting

The practice of measuring, disclosing and being accountable for organizational performance while working towards the goal of sustainable development. A sustainability report provides a balanced and reasonable representation of the sustainability performance of the reporting organisation, including both positive and negative contributions.

Triple Bottom Line

Another term for 'sustainability' that refers to the idea that environment and social factors should be considered in addition to the financial bottom line.

Zero Waste

The concept that all activities are designed to eliminate waste and that any residual waste is recovered to be used as inputs to other processes

Further reading

British Standard. 8900: Guidance for Managing Sustainable Development

British Standard. 8901: Specification for Sustainable Event Management System with Guidance of Use. BSI, 2007. Read more [HERE](#)

British Standard. 8909: Specification for a Sustainability Management System for film

Environmental Management Systems

An Environmental Management System is a framework to help businesses manage their impact on the environment and comply with Government legislation. Having an EMS can not only help you to reduce your environmental impact but it can also achieve cost saving and demonstrate your commitment to improving your performance to clients.

You can set up your own EMS as an internal management tool. Alternatively, there are recognised national and international standards that provide accreditation and external recognition of the standards achieved. EMS standards recommended by DEFRA include:

- ISO 14001
- EMAS
- BS 8555
- BS 8909

To fully contribute to an improved environmental performance, a good EMS should:

- Be implemented at a strategic level and integrated into corporate policy and plans.
- Identify the organisation's impact on the environment and set clear objectives and targets to improve their performance
- Be designed to deliver and manage compliance with environmental laws and regulations
- Incorporate assured performance metrics that demonstrate all of the above.

For more information and advice on EMS visit the [Defra](#) website.

Targets for the future

The Climate Change Bill was introduced to Parliament on 14 November 2007 by the previous Labour government. It became law on 26 November 2008. The two key aims underpinning the Act are: to improve carbon management and help the transition towards a low carbon economy in the UK; and to demonstrate strong UK leadership internationally.

Key provisions of the Act include a legally binding target of at least an 80% cut in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 and a reduction in emissions of at least 34% by 2020; both compared to levels in 1990. Read more [HERE](#)

Industry links:

The British Academy of Film and Television Arts - BAFTA.org

British Film Commission - <http://britishfilmcommission.org.uk>

British Film Institute BFI - <http://www.bfi.org.uk>

Film London - <http://filmlondon.org.uk>

BFI Greening Film Website <http://www.greeningfilm.com>

Screen Skills - <https://www.screenskills.com>

Production Guild of Great Britain - <https://productionguild.com>

Production Managers Association – <http://www.pma.org.uk>

Location Managers Association - <http://www.golm.org.uk>

BECTU: <https://www.bectu.org.uk/home>

Producers Alliance for cinema & TV (PACT) - <http://www.pact.co.uk>

Government links to legislation including Waste & recycling

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/environment-agency>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/waste-legislation-and-regulations>

<http://www.netregs.org.uk/environmental-topics/water/trade-effluent-managing-liquid-wastes>

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/entertainment/theatre-tv/film.htm>

[https://www.gov.uk/guidance/protected-areas-sites-of-special-scientific-interest=](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/protected-areas-sites-of-special-scientific-interest)

