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R3/C/126/TP – National industrial Symbiosis Programme Final Report

1. Overview

In order to make a significant reduction in commercial and industrial wastes going to landfill the National Industrial Symbiosis Programme set out to provide a framework and develop the tools for a series (initial target qty was 5) of interlocking regional programmes to apply industrial symbiosis theories and methodologies in practice. No such roadmap existed at the time of the award and the only examples were to be found on a small scale outside of the UK. In the event NISP exceeded its target and was able to establish programmes in all 9 English RDA regions + Scotland + Wales (though some of these were only possible after additional funding was received from the DEFRA BREW Fund).

NISP recognised the importance of working outside traditional company and sector boundaries and consequently engaged with companies of all sizes, in all sectors and in large geographic areas. By identifying synergies between the companies and implementing those that were commercially viable the project succeeded in diverting hundreds of thousands of tonnes of waste from landfill. A detailed table on Appendix 6.1 shows these synergies.

Other related Documents:

Appendix 6.3 - NISP Training Document ‘Creating Business Opportunities Through Industrial Symbiosis’ (supplied separately)

Appendix 6.4 - NISP Year of Achievement (supplied separately).

Appendix 6.5 - Developing an NVQ in Industrial Symbiosis

NISP Web-site www.nisp.org.uk

2. Importance of networks

The whole concept behind the project was to form networks of companies who come together with a common aim of creating business opportunities out of hitherto waste or underutilised resources and through that mechanism divert waste from landfill. Each region has a Programme Advisory Group comprising principally of businesses. These ‘networks’ in themselves have been introduced during the programme to Regional Development Agencies, Local Authorities, Environment Agency, Government Office and others. The

wider network comprises of over 300 organisations in each of the ‘mature’ NISP regions (i.e. Yorkshire and Humber, Scotland and West Midlands). These networks are cross sector in nature and contain everything from sole traders to Multi-national corporations and also social enterprises.

NISP has through the networks and the projects undertaken provided many social benefits including creation/safeguarding of jobs and reduction in pollution.

3. Criteria/Types of works/Barriers encountered

From the outset NISP was demand led in that it did not target any particular waste material but concentrated on ‘working with the willing’. There were no barriers to entry on the programme and hence NISP diverted many different materials from landfill whilst providing considerable additionally to business including increased sales, cost reductions through landfill diversion etc.

Similarly where capital equipments or other investments were required the companies that were party to a synergy funded it themselves.

Barriers were typically non technical, occasionally regulatory but more often commercial (price, quantity, logistics)

4. Training and Education and Promotion

The programme has created a 1 day training course called “Creating Business Opportunities Through industrial Symbiosis”. The course both introduces industrial symbiosis concepts and gives detailed training on optimising the use of the on-line data collection system to help companies and regional co-ordinators identify synergies that will divert waste away from landfill to productive re-use.

Over a 1000 copies of ‘A Year of Achievement Document’ have been distributed at launches and mailed to relevant MPs, DEFRA officials etc. It has also been available as a download from the NISP website together with many case studies generated under the programme.

The programme also led to a report being written ‘Developing an NVQ in industrial symbiosis on behalf of the Learning + Skills Council.

At the end of the grant funding period (Dec 04) over 600 organisations were engaged with the programme.

5. Conclusion

The NISP programme has left a legacy of an ongoing national programme which has received funding from DEFRA (overall financial leverage created by OET funding has now reached x 50). The ideas behind NISP are being very much used in the current WASTE Strategy 2005 Review and the OGC 'Kelly' Report to the Treasury. Similarly NISP has been the inspiration behind recent Resource Management initiatives by the Local Government Association.

The Table on Appendix 6.1 details information regarding quantities/types of waste diverted from landfill to the end of December 2004 which was the final grant claim.

326,105 tonnes in total diverted

6. Appendix

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