

Site Waste Management Plans (SWMP's)

ADK Environmental produce Site Waste Management Plans for clients, usually developers and contractors, in order to ensure environmental compliance for the project. This can be integrated into a company's Environmental Control Plan that can be developed by ADK Environmental.

What are Site Waste Management Plans?

Site Waste Management Plans (SWMP) aim to reduce the amount of waste produced on construction sites and prevent fly-tipping.

Who will the SWMP proposals affect?

The SWMP proposals are likely to affect:

- anyone planning a construction project costing more than **£250,000**
- any construction project **clients** or **architects** that produce, manage or dispose of waste
- **suppliers** to the construction industry
- **environmental regulators**, i.e. Local Authorities (LA's) and the Environment Agency (EA).

SWMPs are intended to change the construction industry's attitude to waste by raising the profile of waste planning.

SWMP content

The SWMP should:

- identify the different **types of waste** that will be produced by the project, and note any changes in the **design and materials specification** that seek to minimise this waste
- consider how to **re-use, recycle or recover** the different wastes produced by the project
- require the construction company to demonstrate that it is complying with the **duty of care** regime
- record the **quantities** of waste produced.

Anyone intending to carry out a construction project worth more than £250,000 must prepare a site waste management plan (SWMP) before work begins on site. The SWMP must be kept either at the site office or, if there is no site office at the site, for at least two years after completion of the project.

What do we have to include in the SWMP?

Rather a lot - there are basic requirements that every SWMP must include and further information depending on the value of the project.

Every SWMP must include details of the person who drafted it, the person in charge of the project and (if one has been appointed) the contractor's identity (if there is more than one contractor, details of the principal contractor must be included).

It must also describe the construction works proposed, including the location of the site and estimated value, and record decisions made before the SWMP was drafted on the nature of the project, its design, construction method or materials employed. It must also describe the waste that will be produced, estimate the volume of each different waste type that will be produced and identify the waste management action proposed for each different waste type including re-using, recycling, recovery and disposal.

Every time waste is removed from site the SWMP must be updated with further information, including the type of waste removed, the site the waste is being taken to and the identity of the waste management contractor removing the waste. The principal contractor must also record on the SWMP within a month of completion a statement confirming that the plan has been monitored on a regular basis to ensure that work progressed in accordance with the plan.

The SWMP will also need to include "a description of any lessons learnt from any differences in circumstances between the first draft of the plan and actual performance".

If the project has a higher estimated value (over £500,000), the SWMP must be further updated to include the identity of the waste management contractor removing the waste (including waste carrier registration details) and a written description of the waste required by section 34 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

Again, within one month after completion, the SWMP must be amended to include the lessons learnt, a comparison of the estimated quantities of each waste type as against the actual quantities of each, if the contractor has learnt any lessons, an action plan to address these in the next project and an estimate of the cost savings that have been achieved. It is interesting to note that the government assumes there will be savings in preparing the SWMP!

But won't all this all end up costing more to implement than the benefit received?

Apparently not for the larger projects, which is why the limit has been set at £250,000. According to the Building Research Establishment, the break-even point (when the estimated cost of writing and implementing the SWMP and the estimated benefit is the same) is £250,000. Above this the benefits should outweigh the costs. Time will tell whether this is, in fact, the case.

What will happen if we don't produce an SWMP?

If you start a project without an SWMP, the person in charge of the project and the principal contractor will both be guilty of an offence. The penalty is imprisonment, a fine or both. Not only this, but also an individual director, or manager of the guilty organisation will be guilty of an offence.