

Want to know more?

For the legal side, the law is in the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2010.

The Regulations also implement some European Community Directives.

If you want more information about the procedures you will need to read part of the General Guidance Manual which can be seen at:

<https://www.gov.uk/local-authority-environmental-permit>

There are all sorts of information and contacts about resource efficiency from Wrap:

<http://www.wrap.org.uk> or
telephone 01295 819 900.

Defra is the Government Department responsible for the system in England.
Contact:

helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk or
telephone 08459 33 55 77.

West Lindsey District Council

West Lindsey District Council

Knowing about regulating pollution where you work

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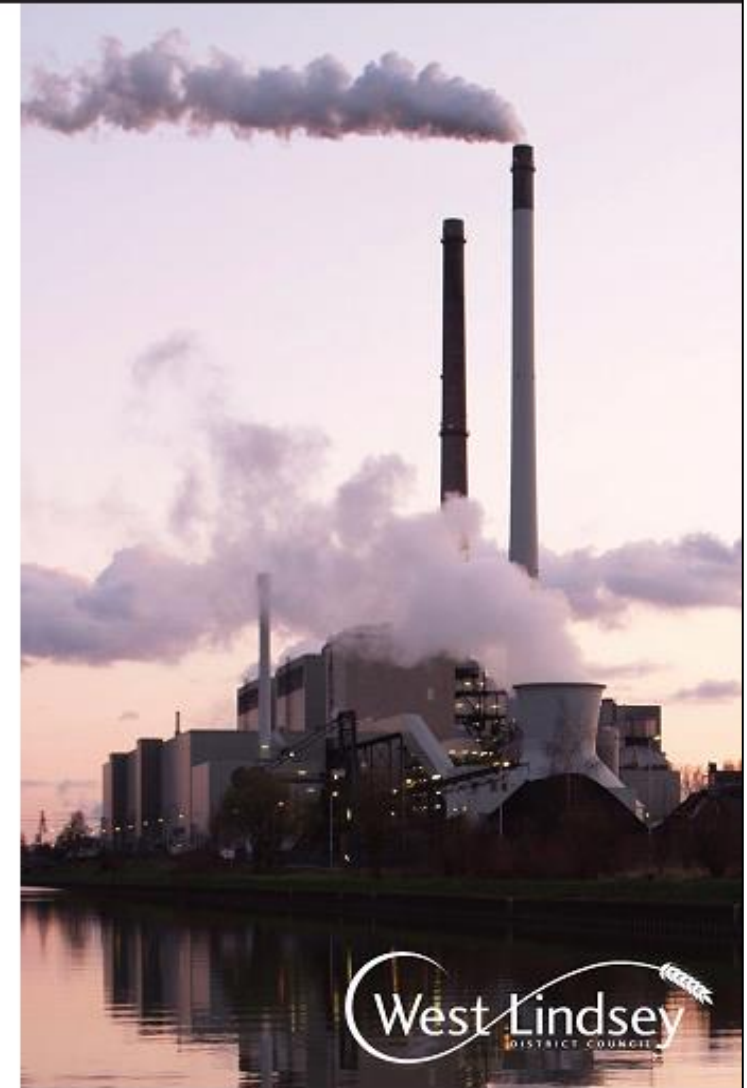
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Regulating pollution

The place where you work is regulated under the Environmental Permitting Regulations. This is to reduce any pollution the factory or other sort of premises may cause and, in particular, to help improve air quality.

By complying with the regulations, your factory/premises will be reducing its environmental impact.

How it is done?

The place where you work – we'll call it a factory - needs a permit to operate.

The permit will include conditions. They will say how the factory must be run to minimise pollution.

The Government has published guidance for each type of factory. This explains what the expected pollution standards are.

Under the law, the standards must strike a balance between protecting the environment and the cost of doing so.

West Lindsey District Council is responsible for regulating the factory. This means that from time to time an officer from the council's environmental protection department will visit to check that regulations are being complied with.

The council must by law have regard to the Government's guidance. The guidance can be found on the internet at:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/quality/pollution/ppc/regs/index.htm>

The council must also consider local circumstances.

If all goes well

The council rates factories as high, medium or low risk. This is based on two things.

First, what the environmental impact would be if something went wrong.

Second, how reliably and effectively the permit conditions are complied with.

If a factory is rated low risk, the council charges less for it to be regulated.

Also it means that the environment is being more reliably protected (although sometimes factories can't reduce their risk level because of the type of work that is done, however well it is managed).

If things go wrong

The council has powers in case a business doesn't comply with its permit or operates without one.

It can serve various kinds of legal notice or take the business to court.

But the preference is to work with businesses to solve problems, only using tough measures as a last resort.

Being Sustainable

Saving energy, using less water, reducing waste and other similar actions are referred to as "sustainable consumption and production".

Another term is "resource efficiency": doing the same thing but using fewer raw materials.

According to Government figures:

- ◆ £6.4 billion a year could be saved by UK businesses just by firms taking resource efficiency measures that cost little or nothing (2007 data).
- ◆ 2% of annual profit is lost through inefficient management of energy, water and waste.
- ◆ 4% of turnover is spent on waste.

What can employees do?

Everyone in a **factory** can have a **role** in **helping** to make **sure** the **permit** is **reliably** complied **with**, and to **minimise** the **environmental** impact of the **factory**.

This may just be by **following** instructions on how to **comply with** **permit** conditions.

Or it may be **keeping** an eye open for **possible** problems.

Or it could be **suggesting** ways of **improving** the **factory's** **environmental** performance.

And **don't** forget that ideas for **improvements** could **also** save the **business** some **money**, such as by **reducing** waste.