



## In Development

Rio are working towards MCS Accreditation (Microgeneration Certification Scheme) ensuring that Rio are able to assist from inception to completion in any roofing project by having a multi-skilled workforce able to install Solar PV systems thus improving the integrity of current roofs and also having a significant impact on the building's carbon footprint through energy efficiency.

## Upcoming Features

- **Solar PV Systems—**  
Rio to offer the Total Solution
- **Carbon Zero—**  
Industry first, what it means and the benefits
- **Sustainable Construction—**  
The future, what it means and how Rio are improving working practices
- **Green Roofs—**  
What is a green roof? Why choose an inverted green roof system?
- **Feed in Tariff—**  
A feature on carbon reduction and the potential savings and returns on investment

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## WOULD YOU LIKE INFORMATION ABOUT THE WASTE HIERARCHY?

### What is The Waste Hierarchy?

The waste hierarchy ranks management options in order of increasing environmental impact. Everyone should aim to eliminate waste from the onset but, if this is not practical or possible, then you should consider reducing, reusing or recycling waste. If none of these steps apply, then dispose of waste in a responsible manner.



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# Enviro Aware

## Pressure to Clean Up

The UK Environment Agency and other government bodies are putting increasing pressure on construction companies to reduce pollution and conform to environmental regulations. In the past the pollution fines have been low and environmental regulations slack, and it could have been perceived as cheaper to pollute than to prevent pollution. This situation is now changing, and enforcement of environmental regulations is not only very expensive but can be irreversibly damaging to the reputation of a firm. Measures to reduce and control pollution are relatively inexpensive and cost-effective, and the construction industry to incorporate these into an environmental management strategy. By employing these practices, the construction industry is well positioned to clean up its act.



## this issue

- Overview—Pollution in Construction **P.1**
- Why do we need an EMS? **P.2**
- The True Cost of Waste? **P.3**
- In Development, Upcoming Features **P.4**

## Overview—Pollution in Construction

The construction industry is responsible for more water pollution in the UK than any other industry. This is mainly due to the high levels of highly potential pollutants that are used regularly and in large quantities such as:

- Diesel & paint
- Solvents
- Cleaners
- Debris & dust

Air, soil and noise pollution can also be a major risk with in the construction industry, for example:

- Land clearance
- Carbon Emissions
- Demolition
- Burning
- Toxic materials
- Dust generation
- Vapours from oils & glues
- Thinners & hazardous chemicals

### What are Rio Doing about it?

At Rio, we are focusing on reducing our environmental impact through careful planning and close monitoring. We have set up an environmental management system that has analysed every aspect of the business and assessed the potential risks to the environment. From these risks we have been able to compile a

number of Work Instructions that are easy to follow that ensure that we are all complying to the law, improving our efficiency and reducing the possibility of a major environmental incident.

This bulletin will take you through the various aspects that you will come into contact with everyday while you work on Rio, and what steps we have taken to reduce the potential risks.





# Significant Risks

We have spent time looking at the business and determining which aspects of the day to day workings impact the environment most significantly.

Each significant risk will be explained in more depth in this bulletin. The Significant risks are as follows:

- Waste Generation
- Hazardous Waste
- Chemical Spillage
- Chemical Fumes
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Carbon Emissions
- Energy consumption
- Use of pesticides
- Invasive plant
- Disposal of vegetation/trees

For every significant risk a work instruction has been written. The work instruction considers the legal requirements and outlines detailed instructions on what you are expected to do to comply with these laws.



# Why do we need an Environmental Management System?

We look at the driving factors in the 21st century construction industry to adopt a more enviro-friendly system of working

Setting up and running an environmental management system (EMS) can provide significant benefits across a number of areas of the business.

## Key benefits

Running an effective EMS will help with:

### Better regulatory compliance

Running an EMS helps to ensure that legal responsibilities are met and more easily managed on a day-to-day basis

### More effective use of resources

We now have policies and procedures in place that help manage waste and resources more effectively and reduce costs

### Marketing

Running an EMS helps to prove our business' credentials as an environmentally aware operation that has made a commitment to continual environmental improvement

### Increased sales opportunities

large businesses and government departments may only deal with businesses that have an EMS

### Lighter Regulation

Even if an EMS is not a regulatory requirement, by showing commitment to environmental management, we can benefit through reduced fees and charges from environmental regulators

### Benefits for the world around us

An effective EMS makes good sense. By helping to identify the causes of environmental problems and then eliminate them, an EMS can help to potentially save money. Think of it this way:

- Is it better to provide a service right the first time or fix it later?
- Is it cheaper to prevent a spill in the first place or clean it up afterwards?
- Is it more cost effective to prevent pollution or to manage it after it has been generated?



# Reducing construction waste

## The true cost of waste

The true cost of waste is not just the cost of hiring a skip. It also includes:

- › the cost of the materials that end up as waste;
- › the labour cost to handle the waste on site; and
- › the cost of waste storage, transport, treatment and disposal.

The true cost of construction waste will continue to rise substantially each year due to:

- › Landfill Tax increasing each year (£48 per tonne in 2010/11);
- › higher disposal charges; and
- › purchase costs of materials and products increasing.

## The true cost of waste is often around 10 times the skip hire cost.

Source: Envirowise

There is potential for waste minimisation and better site waste management to positively affect the company's bottom line through greater efficiency in the use of materials, resulting in cost savings not only in the reduction of skip hire and landfill charges but through the use of more efficient working practices.

The true cost of waste is not just a waste contractor's fee; to this one must add the time and resources going into the process of disposal.

The true cost of filling and disposing of one skip with mixed construction waste in one study was found to be £1,342. Although the skip hire was only £85, the labour to fill it was £163 whilst the cost of unused material in the skip was the most significant at £1,095. Other additional costs included the loss of not selling waste for salvage and poor packaging or overfilling of skips leading to double handling.

Whilst Rio are not involved in the design element of construction projects, we take our responsibility very seriously. As part of our ongoing environmental strategy, all projects now include environmental considerations at the planning stage and this includes taking into account the possibility of reuse/recycling of materials. Through a managed supply chain, we ensure that all of our materials are recycled wherever possible and have achieved a 65% reduction in waste to landfill in the last year.

## EYE ON IT Changes in legislation

Waste (England & Wales)

Regulations 2011

Requires businesses to apply the waste management hierarchy, introduces a two-tier system for waste carrier and broker registration, and excludes some categories of waste from waste controls.

Amends the Hazardous Waste Regulations 2005. Amends the Environmental Permitting Regulations 2010

CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme (Amendment) Order 2011 SI 234

Amends 2010/768 by extending phase one of the trading scheme to 1 April

2014. Reduces the second and sixth phases from seven to six years. The second phase will start on 1 April 2013. Each phase will overlap the previous phase by one year instead of two years. (More on this next issue)

For more information on changes in legislation visit:

NetRegs: [www.netregs.gov.uk](http://www.netregs.gov.uk)

Business Link: [www.businesslink.gov.uk](http://www.businesslink.gov.uk)

