

**THE VOICE:**  
MANAGING WASTE THROUGH  
THE WASTE HIERARCHY

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DIVERTING WASTE FROM  
LANDFILL IN THE MIDDLE EAST

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GIBSON, DIRECTOR OF  
ENVIROWISE

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# THE VOICE: Managing waste through the waste hierarchy

This edition of TPI News focuses on waste management. Most businesses can clearly identify what they buy, but not what they waste and the cost of waste can be a real surprise. The cost of waste to a business is not just disposal costs, but also the cost of wasted raw material, storage, handling time, utility costs and transportation. If a business can reduce its waste it can considerably enhance its efficiency and reduce its environmental impacts and help to reduce the volumes of waste sent to landfill.

The environmental expert interviewed in this edition of TPI News is Martin Gibson, Director of the UK Government's waste minimisation programme, 'Envirowise'. Envirowise works at the top of the waste hierarchy helping businesses to reduce their waste and to gain both the financial and environmental benefits of improved resource efficiency. Resource efficiency involves looking at a business with fresh eyes and questioning how things are done, can processes and products be tweaked or redesigned to simply design out waste.

If waste is unavoidable the next best option identified by the waste hierarchy (below) is to reuse the waste. The High-Tech article on Nviro Cleantech Ltd focuses on a revolutionary new technology, which uses an industrial-scale microwave to burst open, the tightly packed fibre of MDF. This allows the fibres to be reused to produce new MDF or a variety of other products. This reuse will significantly reduce the volumes of construction waste sent to landfill.

Reuse may be an option for an element of a waste. Envar, the subject of one of the case studies in this edition, successfully proved that the lime contained in incinerator ash from the paper industry makes an effective substitute for quarried lime in the stabilisation of sewage sludge.

Waste that cannot be reused may have the potential to be recycled or composted. Two companies introduced in the 'Special feature' provide such technologies. Alvan Blanch provides technologies to convert animal and vegetable waste into useful products such as compost, fertiliser, irrigation water and biofuels. On the recycling side, another company featured, Centriforce Products is the UK's largest recycler of plastic scrap. The company produce a range of products such as fencing and pigpens composed of materials recycled from municipal waste streams.

Finally, where there are no other options some waste will still need to be disposed to landfill. Tetronics Limited, a company which features in a Hi-tech article in this edition specialise in the application of thermal direct current plasma arc technology used to significantly reduce the volume and stabilise hazardous waste allowing it to be safely disposed of.

