Disposal of Dusty Waste

The City of Newcastle

Summerhill Waste Management Centre

Waste Description

The disposal of waste containing significant quantities of dust can cause a number of environmental compliance problems at the Summerhill Waste Management Centre and impact on the health and safety of staff and customers.

Typically, the dust in these loads comes from industrial settings where dust from sanding, cutting, milling etc has been collected by dust extraction systems. Such collection systems are often installed to protect workers from potential hazards associated with exposure to the dust or to minimise the release of dust to the environment. In some cases this trapped dust is then disposed of to the general waste stream. This results in mixed Solid waste loads which contain bulk portions of these dusty materials.

Hazards

The uncontrolled disposal of these materials at landfill sites leads to two major problems:

1.   Potential WHS Risks

If wastes are unloaded in a manner which causes the dust to be released, landfill staff, customers and surrounding communities could potentially be exposed to the same risks that the original extraction system was designed to manage.

2.   Environmental Impacts

Summerhill is licensed as a landfill by the NSW EPA. This EPA licence contains conditions regarding the management of the Centre's environmental impacts. In particular, Centre management are required to control the generation of dust from the Centre, monitor dust deposition on the surrounding environment and report results of monitoring to the EPA and general community. All practical steps to manage dust generation must be taken.

Procedure for Disposal

To allow the Centre to meet it's environmental and WHS obligations, dusty materials should be collected and transported separately from the general waste stream.

These loads will be regarded as Special Waste. As such, the standard conditions for Special Waste will apply.

- Enquires related to dusty loads should be directed to the facility on 4985 6600.

- A Disposal Approval will be supplied for presentation at the weighbridge upon arrival. City of Newcastle reserves the right to not release a Disposal Approval until it can be demonstrated that potential health risks associated with handling of the material have been identified and adequately assessed.

- A booking may need to be made depending on the volume of material to be disposal and if there are any special handling or burial needs. This will be discussed and determined at the time the enquiry is reviewed.

- Dusty loads presented for disposal must be either:

    - Wetted sufficiently to prevent the emission of dust during unloading, or
    - Contained in heavy duty, sealed dustproof bags or similar containers.

- Where loads are wetted care should be taken to ensure that the load does not generate run off and that it still meets criteria for Solid Waste under EPA Guidelines.

- Where loads are contained in dustproof bags permission will not be given to unload by tipping unless it can be demonstrated that the bags will not rupture during unloading.

Charges

Please refer to [City of Newcastle's website](#) for current disposal charges.

Where dusty wastes are mixed with other wastes, the entire load will be charged at the rate for dusty materials.

Non-Compliance

Details of vehicles delivering non-complying dusty loads will be recorded by centre management. The transporter will be reminded of the requirements for dusty loads and advised that a second non-compliance will mean that no future loads will be accepted until it can be demonstrated that an acceptable disposal method has been developed.

Where a dusty load releases dusts identified **as having potential WHS risks** the transporter will be advised immediately that no future loads will be accepted until it can be demonstrated that an acceptable disposal method has been developed.

If required, it will be the transporter's responsibility to develop a suitable disposal method and arrange an acceptable time for the proposed disposal method to be trialled.