

Good value for money in Waste Management project for DOW UK



Steve Wigg

How DOW UK runs its operations including the waste management effectively by implementing best practices of international Total Waste Management supplier Indaver to stay competitive with India & China where EHS laws are more relaxed...

"We can focus on our core business"

"Guarantee of full compliance & zero risk"

Before 2013, DOW was confronted with different waste partners which did not contribute to a general overview or more transparency to implement optimization projects. In 2013 Indaver was awarded the hazardous waste management of DOW: a.o. contaminated packaging, solid IBC's, etc. As DOW focused on cost effective and sustainable waste management, Indaver was able to implement some optimizations resulting in more recovery solutions and cost reductions. Running operations as effective as possible, including waste management, is crucial in competition with India & China where EHS is not such a top priority as in the EU.

DOW King's Lynn nowadays is a batch management production facility. This means production is established in smaller campaigns. This way it is easier to meet the fast shifting crop needs of Africa and those of our global customers. The type of waste being produced depends on the campaign so it can fluctuate very easily and quickly.

In East Anglia's King's Lynn, right by the sea, DOW produces products for crop protection such as fungicides and pesticides. Annually they produce over 150 tonnes of waste of which some is aqueous based, toxic and harmful to the environment. Dow UK wanted to get full relief and traceability/control regarding its waste package and therefore centralized its hazardous waste management with international Total Waste Management (TWM) supplier Indaver. Being a partner for DOW The Netherlands & other European pharmachem customers, Indaver offered best practices in waste management. Steve Wigg, Waste Management Focal King's Lynn & waste hub leader UK elaborates on what competitive advantages this approach brought to Dow UK.

Therefore our waste management partner had to be very flexible in analyzing new waste streams and accepting them. Indaver thoroughly but quickly analyses the waste with MSDS, sample products, lab reports etc. Because our crop protection products are distributed/used globally, traceability is a main issue.

We cannot risk any legal prosecutions or damage to brand image. With Indaver we get fully compliant transport and treatment solutions all the way along the waste chain. For DOW UK this is full relief.

Together with DOW, value improvement projects were discussed and implemented. Contaminated waste sweepings, for instance, formerly went to landfill and nowadays get a recovery solution instead.

This action was crucial because it contributed to the zero landfill goal DOW has set itself to achieve more sustainable production and waste management.

Smoothly exporting hazardous waste in order to get overseas Best Available Technique solutions was only possible thanks to Indaver's expertise in Transfrontier Shipping (TFS) administration and legislation.

Waste is turned into energy (steam and electricity) through incineration instead of being dumped on a landfill, which is off course a much more environmental friendly solution. Besides more streamlined packaging with good quality UN approved drums, also the transport is now organized more efficiently which led to reduced transport costs of 50 %.

With Indaver we get good value for money because they realize the lowest Total Cost of Ownership for DOW UK.

Indaver services DOW UK, DOW The Netherlands, DOW Portugal, DOW Belgium with its long term (Total) Waste Management projects and DOW Germany in terms of treatment solutions. Because of the uniform European/international approach, the different DOW sites have a waste management system that is aligned to one another. The direct benefit of the international waste management approach for DOW is that they get comparable waste data so that well-considered and focused actions can be taken in terms of waste and cost reductions, preparing programs for the co-workers on site etc. Because of international experience with other pharmachem customers, best practices are shared to get the most cost effective and sustainable waste management.

In Terneuzen (NL) on its Indaver Gevaarlijk Afval site, Indaver built a new cleaning yard for DOW Terneuzen with a long term partnership for cleaning DOW's process equipment. Indaver is also a knowledge sharing partner for DOW Stade & Schkopau searching the market for specific solutions, conducting extensive studies and giving advice in terms of legislation, market evolutions etc.