



## Higher National Unit specification

### General information

**Unit title:** Sustainable Resource Management: Waste Policy and Legislation (SCQF level 7)

**Unit code:** H65H 34

**Superclass:** QE

**Publication date:** January 2014

**Source:** Scottish Qualifications Authority

**Version:** 01

### Unit purpose

This Unit has been developed to offer learning and development opportunities for those aspiring to be, or are already employed within the waste management, sustainable resource management sector. It is designed to provide the learner with an understanding of the current policy and legislative framework.

### Outcomes

On successful completion of the Unit the learner will be able to:

- 1 Identify current critical legal requirements relating to the waste management, sustainable resource management sector.
- 2 Explain key waste management principles and terms/definitions ranging from the legal definition of 'waste' to the requirements of key waste management principles.
- 3 Identify current key waste policies and strategies within England, Northern Ireland, Scotland or Wales.
- 4 Explain the current concepts and practical applications of the 'Duty of Care' with regard to waste.

### Credit points and level

2 Higher National Unit credits at SCQF level 7: (16 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 7)

### Recommended entry to the Unit

Entry is at the discretion of the centre.

## **Higher National Unit specification: General information (cont)**

**Unit title:** Sustainable Resource Management: Waste Policy and Legislation (SCQF level 7)

### **Core Skills**

Opportunities to develop aspects of Core Skills are highlighted in the Support Notes for this Unit specification.

There is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skill components in this Unit.

### **Context for delivery**

If this Unit is delivered as part of a Group Award, it is recommended that it should be taught and assessed within the subject area of the Group Award to which it contributes.

### **Equality and inclusion**

This Unit specification has been designed to ensure that there are no unnecessary barriers to learning or assessment. The individual needs of learners should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment methods or considering alternative evidence.

Further advice can be found on our website [www.sqa.org.uk/assessmentarrangements](http://www.sqa.org.uk/assessmentarrangements).

## Higher National Unit specification: Statement of standards

**Unit title:** Sustainable Resource Management: Waste Policy and Legislation (SCQF level 7)

Acceptable performance in this Unit will be the satisfactory achievement of the standards set out in this part of the Unit specification. All sections of the statement of standards are mandatory and cannot be altered without reference to SQA.

### Outcome 1

Identify current critical legal requirements relating to the waste management, sustainable resource management sector.

#### Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Key current International Agreements influencing waste policy and legislation
- ◆ Key current tiers of regulation including EU Directives related to waste and resource management and how they are incorporated within UK legislation and devolved Regulations
- ◆ Key UK current legislation related to waste and resource management
- ◆ Key current National Regulations across the UK

### Outcome 2

Explain key waste management principles and terms/definitions ranging from the legal definition of 'waste' to the requirements of key waste management principles

#### Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Key waste management principles:
  - proximity principle
  - precautionary principle
  - the waste hierarchy
  - polluter pays principle
  - principles and application of the 'End of Waste' criteria

### Outcome 3

Identify current key waste policies and strategies within England, Northern Ireland, Scotland or Wales.

#### Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Current policies
- ◆ Current strategies
- ◆ Appropriate legislation
- ◆ Appropriate regulation

## Higher National Unit specification: Statement of standards (cont)

**Unit title:** Sustainable Resource Management: Waste Policy and Legislation (SCQF level 7)

### Outcome 4

Explain the current concepts and practical applications of the 'Duty of Care' with regard to waste.

#### Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Main duties set out in the Duty of Care for everyone within the waste chain
- ◆ Waste classification using the current European Waste Catalogue/List of Waste
- ◆ Waste Transfer Notes and Consignment Notes in line with applicable legislation

#### Evidence Requirements for this Unit

Learners will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills across all Outcomes by showing that they can:

#### Outcome 1

- ◆ identify the key current international agreements that influence waste policy and legislation.
- ◆ define the various tiers of Regulation and identify EU-wide Directives explaining how they are applied to UK-wide Acts and UK-wide and devolved Regulations.
- ◆ identify key current UK legislation related to waste and resource management.
- ◆ describe the current Waste Scotland Regulations (WSR) and how they meet the requirements of current revision of the Waste Framework Directive (rWFD) and how they differ with Regulations in other parts of the UK.

Written and/or recorded oral evidence is required from learners to demonstrate this.

Assessment will be completed under open-book conditions.

#### Outcome 2

- ◆ describe the current legal definition of waste.
- ◆ explain the application of the definition.
- ◆ describe the 'Proximity Principle' using examples of its application.
- ◆ describe the 'Polluter Pays Principle' using examples of its application.
- ◆ describe the 'Precautionary Principle' using examples of its application.
- ◆ describe the 'Waste Hierarchy Principle' using examples of its application.
- ◆ describe the 'End of Waste Criteria' as currently defined.

Written and/or recorded oral evidence is required from learners to demonstrate this.

Assessment will be completed under open-book conditions.

## Higher National Unit specification: Statement of standards (cont)

**Unit title:** Sustainable Resource Management: Waste Policy and Legislation (SCQF level 7)

### Outcome 3

- ◆ describe the current National Waste Strategy.
- ◆ describe the current Zero Waste policy.
- ◆ describe the current legislation.
- ◆ describe the current regulation.

Written and/or recorded oral evidence is required from learners to demonstrate this.

Assessment will be completed under open-book conditions. The learner is expected to report upon their host Government's policies and strategies.

### Outcome 4

- ◆ describe the main duties set out in the Duty of Care for everyone within the waste chain.
- ◆ detail potential offences and penalties for contraventions of the Duty of Care.
- ◆ demonstrate waste classification using the European Waste Catalogue/List of Waste.
- ◆ describe Waste Transfer Notes and Consignment Notes in line with applicable legislation.

Written and/or recorded oral evidence is required from learners to demonstrate this.

Assessment will be completed under open-book conditions.



## Higher National Unit Support Notes

**Unit title:** Sustainable Resource Management: Waste Policy and Legislation (SCQF level 7)

Unit Support Notes are offered as guidance and are not mandatory.

While the exact time allocated to this Unit is at the discretion of the centre, the notional design length is 80 hours.

### Guidance on the content and context for this Unit

This Unit is intended to introduce learners to the current legislative and policy framework that they work within.

It will develop an understanding of the hierarchical nature of legislation from current European Directives, to national laws, to specific regulation and guidance in the waste management sphere.

Learners will be expected to develop knowledge of the drivers, origins, objectives and targets of specific legislation/policy.

For the purposes of the *Waste Policy and Legislation* Unit, learners will be expected to develop a good grasp of legislation, its purpose and operation but will not be required to detail each sub-section of an Act or Regulation. A learner will be expected to know where to look for further and/or detailed information and must be able to demonstrate an ability to research the subject and present credible arguments on a particular issue(s).

Waste is defined in the European Union's current revision of the Waste Framework Directive (rWFD) as: 'Any object or substance that has been discarded; is intended to be discarded or is required to be discarded'.

Waste management is defined in the European Union's current revision of the Waste Framework Directive (rWFD) as: 'the collection, transport, disposal and recycling of waste, including the supervision of such operations, the aftercare of disposal sites and the activities undertaken by dealers and brokers'.

The annual turnover of the UK waste and resource management sector (2012–2013) is estimated to be £11 Billion and the sector currently employs 142,550 people which is predicted to rise to 195,550 by 2020. The sector is highly regulated and a knowledge of the legal framework and policies is essential in delivering a first class service within the sector.

## Higher National Unit Support Notes (cont)

**Unit title:** Sustainable Resource Management: Waste Policy and Legislation (SCQF level 7)

### Guidance on approaches to delivery of this Unit

This Unit is likely to form part of a Group Award which is designed to provide learners with the professional and technical knowledge and skills for wastes sustainable resource management sectors. In these circumstances, the Unit is likely to be delivered towards the beginning of the Group Award as the information provides the background to many of the Units which make up the Group Award.

Alternatively the Unit can be undertaken as a standalone Unit for learners to support their continued professional development.

A range of delivery techniques can be employed including classroom based lectures and small group workshops and activities.

This Unit could be delivered by distance-learning. The use of virtual-learning environment (VLE) is highlighted, with on-line lectures and activities; the employment of video and audio clips, social-media and other online tools is encouraged. Learners should be encouraged to use the Internet as a research tool in addition to traditional library based resources. Independent study should be encouraged by using learner-centred, resource based methodologies.

To reinforce their learning experience learners should review real case studies such as the BP oil spill in 2012 or the Loscoe (landfill) gas explosion in 1986. Learners may also benefit from a site visit to one of the numerous locations where a legacy of contaminated land has been left by companies failing to take their environmental responsibilities seriously. As an alternative a centre may wish to show a film or devise a commentary.

Policy and subsequent legislation develop from very fluid national and international situations that vary from country to country even within Great Britain and Ireland and certainly within Europe. The root is generally political; brought about by national disasters and pressure groups such as Friends of the Earth. There are international laws and conventions relating to waste and waste management throughout the World in relation to shipping and trans frontier shipping of waste. Learners would benefit from good knowledge of current affairs and history.

Learners will develop their knowledge of all **current** national legislation during this Unit. They will be able to describe the use of that legislation and where and when it is appropriate. There will be no need to repeat legislation verbatim and learners can rely on notes and open-book opportunities.

Lessons will be provided in multiple ways including classroom, virtual learning and YouTube clips. Internet research and evidence referencing will be encouraged.

## Higher National Unit Support Notes (cont)

**Unit title:** Sustainable Resource Management: Waste Policy and Legislation (SCQF level 7)

### Guidance on approaches to assessment of this Unit

Evidence can be generated using different types of assessment. The following are suggestions only. There may be other methods that would be more suitable to learners.

Centres are reminded that prior verification of centre-devised assessments would help to ensure that the national standard is being met. Where learners experience a range of assessment methods, this helps them to develop different skills that should be transferable to work or further and higher education.

As with any Unit, centres should ensure they can authenticate learners assessments. This may be done by questioning learners about their work, by viewing drafts of partially completed assessments or by using an online anti-plagiarism tool.

If single Outcome assessments are used, each report would have a word count in the region of 800 words.

If an integrated assessment is used, the report would have a word count in the region of 2,500 words.

### Opportunities for e-assessment

E-assessment may be appropriate for some assessments in this Unit. By e-assessment we mean assessment which is supported by Information and Communication Technology (ICT), such as e-testing or the use of e-portfolios or social software. Centres which wish to use e-assessment must ensure that the national standard is applied to all learner evidence and that conditions of assessment as specified in the Evidence Requirements are met, regardless of the mode of gathering evidence. The most up-to-date guidance on the use of e-assessment to support SQA's qualifications is available at [www.sqa.org.uk/e-assessment](http://www.sqa.org.uk/e-assessment).

### Opportunities for developing Core and other essential skills

There are opportunities to develop the Core Skills of *Communication* at SCQF level 6, *Problem Solving* at SCQF level 6, *Numeracy* at SCQF level 5 and *Information Technology* at SCQF level 5 in this Unit, although there is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skills components.



## History of changes to Unit

Version	Description of change	Date

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## General information for learners

### **Unit title:** Sustainable Resource Management: Waste Policy and Legislation (SCQF level 7)

This section will help you decide whether this is the Unit for you by explaining what the Unit is about, what you should know or be able to do before you start, what you will need to do during the Unit and opportunities for further learning and employment.

This Unit is designed to enable you to understand the legal and policy framework in which the waste and resource management sector operates. It is primarily intended to prepare you for a supervisory post within the waste and resource management sector, but it can also help you if you already hold such a position. If you have work experience within the waste and resource management sector, you should be able to make use of it during your study of this Unit.

The Unit has four separate Outcomes. To begin with, you will look at the context of waste legislation and its drivers. You will examine how international agreements and directives lead to the development of policy and national legislation. You will then explore the key waste management principles as underpin by the national waste strategies of each region of the UK before focusing on current policies and current strategies. Outcome 4 will then enable you to understand and evaluate the Duty of Care — from the ‘waste chain’ concept to the completion of waste transfer notes and consignment notes. Further, you will cover the legal definition of waste and how key principles are applied to manage waste and resources safely and effectively.

Overall, you will be expected to use the knowledge and skills from the Unit to enable you to contribute to the successful management of waste and resources within a workplace. This could help you in the future gain employment in the waste and resource management sector, or it could enhance your, and your employers, current performance if you are already employed within the industry.

Assessment will be in the form of short subject-specific reports, open-book assessments, and presentations by the learner. To complete this Unit successfully, you will have to achieve a satisfactory level of performance in the four assessments.

Core Skills developed through this Unit will include *Communication* at SCQF level 6, *Problem Solving* at SCQF level 6, *Numeracy* at SCQF level 5 and *Information Technology* at SCQF level 5, although there is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skills components.

During this Unit you will be briefed on and asked to research policies and strategies pertaining to Waste Management and asked to discuss legislation and regulations resulting from those policies and strategies. Support will be given through media systems such as on-line/virtual classroom teaching, YouTube and other suitable ways. Traditional methods will be provided for those with a different set of skills and tailored to suit the individual.