

University of South Alabama Waste Minimization Plan

Hazardous waste minimization is a national policy specifically mandated by the U.S. Congress in a 1984 amendment to the Hazardous Waste law, the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) 3129 98th Congress: Hazardous Waste Reduction Act of 1983. The University of South Alabama, as a generator of hazardous waste, does its best to integrate pollution prevention into experimental design and laboratory management. Consistent with national, state and local regulations, the University of South Alabama Safety & Environmental Compliance Department policy states that chemical waste will be minimized through efficient and appropriate use of all resources. Waste minimization procedures include source reduction and environmentally sound - distributes unwanted, useable chemicals from one laboratory to another instead of disposing of the material as hazardous waste. Intra-departmental chemical exchanges are encouraged to help control waste disposal costs and saves important departmental and grant funds.

Substitution of Less Hazardous Materials

Minimization of hazardous waste can be achieved by the substitution of less hazardous materials in laboratory experiments, Maintenance, Central Plant and Construction operations whenever possible. This also has the collateral advantage of improving w

Purchase gas lecture cylinders from companies that will recycle them when empty.

Laboratory Management Practices

Good laboratory management can go a long way toward avoiding unnecessary waste generation. Order only the quantity of materials which you anticipate using. Many chemicals have a limited shelf life; especially true for peroxide-forming and reactive chemicals. One person should be the ordering for a laboratory to avoid duplicate ordering of materials. A chemical inventory that is kept updated (required by the Safety Department on a yearly basis) can help eliminate the ordering of unneeded chemicals. The sharing of chemicals with other members of your department and other departments will allow funds to stretch much further. All containers should be clearly identified and labeled with the proper chemical name so they do not become unknown wastes.

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