

Material flow analysis and market survey for securing the disposal of waste oils

Commissioned by:

German Federal Environmental Agency (FKZ 204 31 322)

Carried out by:

Okopol, Institute for Environmental Strategies, Hamburg

Duration:

June 2004 - September 2005

Background and objectives

In 2002 the German waste oil regulation was amended and the requirement of Council Directive 75/439/EEC on the disposal of waste oil - giving priority to the regeneration of waste oil - has been implemented. This imposes a reorientation for waste oil producers, collectors and recycling companies. Additionally current market conditions for recycling and energy recovery raise new questions with regard to the stability of waste management.

The objective of the study is the systematic collection of data on the current amount of waste oil and management procedures as well as the review of the present calculation method. This is also required by the European Commission as they have filed an appeal against Germany.

Proceedings and expected results

Within the scope of this project a material-flow analysis of the current situation of the German waste oil disposal shall be compiled, which will be based on available statistics. Furthermore necessary estimations on quantities and qualities will be performed or optimised. In this context discussions with industry representatives will be carried out in order to ensure the integration of relevant stakeholder and their expert judgement.

Besides the status quo analysis, it shall be investigated how the - partially dramatic - price changes of the last years have affected waste oil disposal and which other effects might result from such market changes.

The result of the project will be a structured report on the situation and prospects of the German waste oil disposal thus meeting the information demands of the European Commission. Elaboration of a transparent discussions basis for the involved actors is one of the targets of the study in order to ensure the long-term stability of waste oil management in an ecological and sustainable way.

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