

38923 Toxics Use Reduction Strategy

Does your local authority have a Toxics Use Reduction Strategy?

No.

Has your authority implemented or considered implementing a toxics use reduction action plan?

The Council promotes the use of COSHH assessment as a means to reduce harm to employees and others affected by the organisation's undertakings.

Would your authority consider doing so in the future?

Please refer to A2 above.

Has your authority used any techniques such as workplace mapping of premises or body mapping of employees to identify toxics priorities?

No

Please provide details of lost time injury attributable to chemical exposure?

There is no 'chemical exposure' marker on our payroll system that would allow us to identify and extract such information.

Does your authority have any Just Transition Projects, if do are there any Toxics Use Reduction initiatives included?

No

Can you provide information on any measures, campaign or initiatives your authority has implemented other than Just Transition initiatives aimed at making your workplaces and communities toxics free?

The Council promotes COSHH assessment based on material safety data sheet information and consideration of the application of use. The Council has carried out programmes of workplace audits over many years to establish compliance with arrangements in place.

What is your local authority's policy on the use of glyphosate-based herbicides?

To curtail weed growth, glyphosate is used twice per year on the city's streets. It is not used within our parks where excess weed growth is removed by strimming.

Are incidents of exposure to substances hazardous to health discussed at an appropriate forum e.g. health and safety committee?

The Council operates Health and Safety Groups/Committees across the organisation which create the opportunity to highlight any relevant health and safety issues.

Does your authority discuss toxics use reduction with your trade unions?

The Council promotes employee engagement in areas affecting employee health and as such promote dialogue as part of the COSHH assessment process or reviews.

What steps does your authority take to protect workers when purchasing new substances that may be harmful to health of workers and communities?

The Council promotes COSHH assessment based on material safety data sheet information and consideration of the application of use.

Is your authority concerned UK REACH may not ensure worker occupational health and safety and, if so, what alternatives measures might you adopt?

No

What steps has your authority taken to assess the risks arising from exposure to hazardous substances you currently use?

Please refer to A12 above.

How useful they have found Material Safety Data Sheets and now Safety Data Sheets as a source for assessing toxic substances?

These sources provide a good basis for assessment.

Where do you get information on toxics from apart from HSE, manufacturers and suppliers?

These are the main sources of authoritative information.

To what extent are you confident that your authority complies with COSHH or are your COSHH risk assessments and action plans up to date?

The Council promotes the means to assess hazardous substances through its COSHH assessment process. The Council has carried out programmes of workplace audits over many years to establish compliance with arrangements in place.

In addition to the above, there is further information published on our Disclosure Log regarding Glyphosate Usage in Edinburgh. Please refer to request 34186 at:

<https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/homepage/10467/freedom-of-information-foi-disclosure-log>