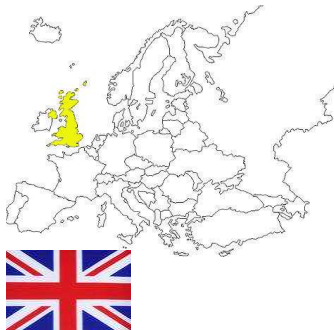


National Industrial Symbiosis Programme (UK)

	Region	United Kingdom
	Type of prevention measure	Voluntary Agreement
	Geographical level of implementation	National
	Target	Businesses
	Date of implementation	2005
	Type of waste	Industrial Waste

This unique voluntary programme applies and facilitates industrial symbiosis at national level for the first time. Seeking substantial resource efficiency improvements, NISP impacts the UK's economy and environmental performance.

Context

Industrial Ecology seeks to reduce the environmental burdens created throughout product lifecycles, from the extraction of virgin materials to the management of waste. Adding to interdisciplinary research on Industrial Ecology, Industrial Symbiosis looks at interactions between the environment, the economy and industry, and promotes the sharing of materials to minimise waste, following the example of a natural ecosystem, where everything is reused. Originating in the municipality of Kalundborg in Denmark, industrial symbiosis allows businesses to develop multilateral solutions for waste energy and material flows.

A national executive oversees regional activity, coordinates synergies between regions and provides for the exchange of best practices and mutual benefits. Methodologies within and between companies are charted and explained through case studies.



Objective

The National Industrial Symbiosis Programme (NISP) was developed in 2005 as an 'independent facilitator' to help businesses in various sectors and of various sizes come together to find uses for unwanted materials, aiming to divert significant waste loads from landfill and produce bottom line benefits for companies through reduced disposal costs and new commercial opportunities, by sharing assets, resources, logistics and expertise.

Means

NISP is regionally based, facilitating material exchange over a given geographic area. The twelve UK regions have output targets and all results are externally verified.

Results

Since the launch of NISP in 2005, the programme has:

- Diverted more than 5.2 million tonnes of industrial waste from landfill
- Eliminated 357,000 tonnes of hazardous waste
- Prevented the use of 7.9 million tonnes of raw materials
- Prevented the use of 9.4 million tonnes of industrial water
- Delivered member cost savings of £131 million
- Generated £151 million in new sales for members

Further Information

National Industrial Symbiosis Programme:
www.nisp.org.uk