

Environmental protection

An industrial company in Finland must have an environmental permit to operate, following the EU directive. The authorities carefully examine all information given by the companies, and also make visits to the plant site. Restrictive limits to emissions are then given.

Waste-water treatment in industry is very important for the well-being of our lakes and rivers. The waste waters are first purified by a primary clarifier, which makes the big particles in the water settle down to the bottom. Then a biological treatment follows. Small bacteria and microbes will eat the dissolved solids from the waste waters. Then the secondary clarifier separates the biological sludge, and the water is pure and clear to be let out to the rivers and lakes.

Another important environmental aspect in industry is air pollution. Power plants give most emissions in the form of combustion residues. Electric filters or bag filters are used to clean the flue gases. Flue gas scrubbers remove sulfur dioxides as well. The amount of nitrogen dioxides can be reduced by using better combustion techniques, changing the distribution of combustion air and controlling the burning temperature.

Waste handling is very important for everybody. All waste must be sorted according to its origin and handled properly, both in industry and at home. Most waste can be recycled and reused, mainly as material, secondly as energy and thirdly as waste. The last alternative is a landfill site

Noise prevention is also an environmental issue. A lot has been done by building noise walls at busy roads, for instance, and by laws concerning excessive noise at concerts, restaurants and so on. People should look after themselves and use personal ear protectors when there is too much noise. Damage to your hearing cannot always be healed afterwards.

Lähde: Fräki, L., Häkkinen, E. & Kaihari, M. Techno Rules. Technical English.

environmental permit: ympäristölupa
directive: direktiivi, toimintaohje
authority: viranomainen
plant: tehdaslaitos
site: työmaa, tontti
restrictive limit: raja-arvo
waste water: jätevesi
treatment: käsittely
to purify: puhdistaa
primary clarifier: esiselkeytin
particle: hiukkanen, kappale
to settle down: laskeutua, asettua
dissolved: liuennut
solid: kiinteä aine
secondary clarifier: jälkiselkeytin

biological sludge: bioliete
to separate: erottaa
power plant: voimalaitos
combustion residue: palamisjäännös
electric filter: sähkösuodin
bag filter: letkusuodin
flue: hormi
flue gas: pakokaasu
flue gas scrubber: savukaasupesuri
sulfur: rikki
nitrogen: typpi
distribution of combustion air: palamisilman vaiheistus
to control: tarkkailla, ohjata, hallita