An insight into Alternative Treatment
What happens to your waste when we collect it?

Whilst incineration is a legal requirement for certain streams of clinical waste, alternative treatment is suitable for other streams of clinical waste and results in sustainable benefits for the environment and cost-efficiencies for healthcare organisations.

Did you know?
– Any odours that are emitted are channelled, condensed and go through a filtration process so that anything that is released into the atmosphere is an odourless, harmless vapour.
– The steam that is generated from the disinfection process is condensed back into water to increase the moisture content of incoming waste if this is required.
– There are several types of alternative treatment technology such as hot oil augers and steam augers. As part of the alternative treatment process and to maintain best practice, the waste can also be pre-shredded (where the waste is shredded prior to treatment) or post-shredded (where the waste is shredded after heat treatment).

1. Waste segregated by the customer into appropriate categories.
2. Waste collected by SRCL. The BioTrack tag or code is scanned into the SRCL driver’s portable data terminal, which is updated on to the central customer management information system.
3. On arrival at the receiving alternative treatment (AT) site, the waste is transferred to the secure storage area at site. Waste and customer information is uploaded to BioTrack. Details are also recorded on an inappropriate waste form if required. If the receiving site receives any waste that is suitable for incineration only, this is transferred to a facility that offers incineration. This is done via a back load transport system so that any vehicles that go to collect AT waste from incineration facilities don’t travel empty.

Infectious healthcare waste for disinfection via Alternative Treatment.

The waste in the bin is weighed and the weight information is uploaded to Bio Track.

The waste is tipped into a pre-tipper that allows plant operatives to visually inspect the waste via the transparent/Perspex front. Any inappropriate waste is inspected and a compliance report is sent back to the waste producing site. Furthermore, any inappropriate waste found at an AT site has to be retrieved as this cannot be processed. A video screen with camera feeds from inside the tipper also aids the operative at this stage.

The waste is tipped into a secondary enclosed tipper which sends the waste to the shredder unit via a second bin lift. The secondary tipper has been installed in line with the EPR 5.07 Guidance.

The waste is then shredded into small particle sizes. Waste from the shredder is then transferred to the Heat Disinfection Unit via an enclosed tipper.

Shredded waste is then moved through a Heat Disinfection Unit (HDU) that uses hot oil. At 140°C, the HDU disinfects the waste as it moves through the unit, whilst generating steam.

Once cool, the shredded, disinfected waste is then compacted, and baled if required.

This shredded, disinfected waste is now ready to be sent to for use as an alternative fuel source for energy-from-waste plants or cement kilns.

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