



1. Introduction

Dacorum Borough Council's (DBC) Commercial Bonfire Policy aims to address the legal, environmental and health risk to employees and the organisation from burning commercial waste/bonfires.

2. Legal Duties

DBC has a zero tolerance towards bonfires at all operational sites, deeming the burning of commercially generated waste an unlawful practise. Burning waste produces smoke that contains a range of pollutants which can pollute the environment, cause local nuisance and have damaging health effects. It also increases background levels of air pollution.

Dacorum Borough Council has a duty of care to ensure that all waste is disposed of through the correct waste streams, using the waste hierarchy and ensuring only registered Waste Carriers are contracted to dispose of waste at an Authorised Treatment Facilities. All waste leaving site must generate a Waste Transfer Note as a record of waste removal. Burning activity of any sort can result in criminal prosecution and substantial fines under the:

- Environmental Protection Act 1990 – sections 33 and 34
- The Clean Air Act 1993 – section 2
- Highways Act 1980 – section 161A
- The Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011 – section 12

3. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to assist DBC in complying with the legislation and protect the health of employees, the public and the environment.

4. Scope

This policy applies to DBC staff, including agency, temporary workers, work experience, volunteers and those that may be employed via a Government Scheme that are likely to dispose of commercial waste. **This policy also applies contractors (and their subcontractors) such as but not limited to Osbornes, Interserve, Sun Realm etc. engaged by DBC.**

5. How DBC Controls of the risk from burning commercial waste/bonfires

Once the policy is approved by Corporate Management Board and the Health & Safety Committee the policy becomes binding, breaching this policy will be result in disciplinary action.

Burning of commercial waste or having bonfires is **absolutely prohibited**. All waste generated by DBC must be disposed of via the appropriate waste stream, together with a waste transfer note to demonstrate that DBC has complied with its duty of care.

*Bonfires used as part of a team building, scout/brownies or similar activities are excluded from this policy. Such events must be risk assessed by the event organiser and must **not** be used to burn commercial or domestic waste.