sedgwick



AUSTRALIA

Waste beneficiation

(resource recovery)

Waste beneficiation capability

(resource recovery)

In Australia, we have a team focused on not only minimising our output, but partnering with our clients to help them do the same. Our dedicated environmental management team specialise in environmental services, consultation, assessments, investigations and project management, waste consultation and waste beneficiation. They have the expertise to deliver a range of professional and highly technical consulting services for complex insurance losses and claims, designed to help property owners, insureds, insurers and developers maintain compliance with current environmental regulations along with minimising risks and optimising business objectives.

Waste beneficiation, also referred to as resource recovery, is the process by which waste or raw materials are altered through physical, mechanical or thermal treatment. This process, which has become more popular in Australia, enhances a materials' properties or ergonomic value instead of disposing them in landfill.

The terms waste beneficiation and resource recovery in relation to what Sedgwick does focuses on what's known as waste streams, the production of waste generated during:

- Failed manufacturing and production processes (rejects)
- Road, rail and air accidents
- Products and materials involved in catastrophic events, large losses involving fires, floods, collapsed buildings, warehouses and/or racking collapses
- Batch or product recalls on products due to health and safety concerns
- Product contaminations (non-hazardous)
- Product recall or expired products



Legislation

The national waste policy of 2018 states that “we can better support our economy, protect the health of our communities and reduce environmental impacts if we harness the value of materials we dispose of and return them to productive use”. This policy embodies a circular economy, shifting away from “take, make, use and dispose” to a more circular approach where we maintain the value of resources for as long as possible. This is particularly important in Australia as we move towards a circular economy, with businesses and governments recognising the opportunities waste materials provide along with the economic value they retain.

The waste hierarchy is enshrined in the Recycling and Waste Reduction Act 2020 (No. 119, 2020 - RWR Act).

The owners or producers of a waste stream, are guided to follow the waste hierarchy process:

1. **Prevention of waste (avoidance) –** by efficient design and manufacturing of products
2. **Reduce –** find processes that reduce waste production or the volume of waste being produced
3. **Reuse/reprocessing –** find ways to reuse waste generated through alternative processes
4. **Recycle/energy recovery –** recycle products and materials that are suitable for recycling or recover energy from alternatives waste destruction methods
5. **Disposal –** where the top four elements cannot be done, waste treatment and disposal, is the final step of the process



What process follows the management of waste streams during an insurance claim?

- Basic testing and external analyses if required
- Seek reputable alternatives in local markets and the country
- The waste stream could be altered physically, thermally or biologically to benefit other industries, for example organic food products that were not fit for human consumption can be used in animal feeds
- Waste can also be composted where the product can't be reused
- Bioremediation, chemical oxidation or chemical reduction - the process of chemically or biologically reducing the toxicity of a waste stream to a point where it is non-toxic and can remain in the environment
- Energy generation through anaerobic digestion (biodigesters)
- Insect treatment - maggot production for the purpose of chicken feed and fertilizer
- Rejuvenation of products back to its original properties, to be resold into a secondary market
- Recycling suitable products, packaging and materials
- Legal waste disposal at preferential rates for Sedgwick customers directly with the disposal facilities

Historically, waste streams generated during claims were loaded, transported and safely disposed of at landfill facilities. This significantly costly process left third parties, insurers and the insured with considerably higher claim costs.

Sedgwick ensures the following benefits of waste beneficiation/resource recovery:

- The full financial benefit received during waste beneficiation/resource recovery is returned to the insured or insurer
- Increased operational capacity – the insured does not have to dedicate resources to remove and dispose of damaged goods or waste generated from the incident or catastrophe
- Assisting to close the loop on circular economy
- Accelerate the claim process, clean-up process and waste removal (reduce BI costs)
- Providing environmental responsible insureds, with sustainable solutions and alternatives
- Legally compliant waste solutions (legislative requirements)
- Increase service offerings to both the insurers and insured
- Both the insured and insurer receives the maximum rebate on the waste stream (reduce claim payout values)
- Increase rebate potential (higher percentage value in comparison with the salvage norms)
- By promoting waste beneficiation/resource recovery solutions, we increase the insured's environmental sustainability score for their environmental management system
- Providing advanced technological solutions, instead of landfill disposal, with lower emissions
- Providing solutions around historical environmental-related incidents and claims which generated waste
- Insureds' and insurers' satisfaction and relationships

Some alternative waste solutions include:

- Liquid oil rejuvenation/regeneration
- Recycling of recyclable materials or reuse in alternative markets
- Debagging, drying and re-bagging of products
- Mineral beneficiation
- Animal feed
- Composting of organic waste streams
- Bio-digestors/ biogas waste-to-/ energy/ anaerobic digestion
- Oil/flammable liquid recycling/reuse
- Insect digestion processes and options
- Rendering plants – animal waste (i.e. chicken or beef, if permitted and regulated)
- Organic liquid waste treatment

When handling a claim, the use of contractors and suppliers are restricted to:

- Using preferred suppliers and contractors of the insured (client) and must be instructed by the policyholder
- Suppliers and contractors in the local market, available to Sedgwick for rendering the required services in line with the insured's consent and requirements
- Specialist suppliers, under Sedgwick's agreed arrangements (external from Sedgwick's database)

Our commitment

We aim to avoid any delay that would prejudice the position of the insured or potentially increase the financial value of loss. The insured's consent to proceed must be clearly recorded on the claim, by means of a consent form or an instruction. Throughout the waste management process, we will work to protect the brand reputation of the insured, by ensuring service providers are managed, audited, verified and monitored regularly, and receipts of waste certificates are issued.

To learn more about the waste beneficiation/resource recovery process and how we can help you, please contact:



Duane Pretorius
Environmental Manager
+61 477 953 264
duane.pretorius@sedgwick.com



sedgwick

TOGETHER WE *THRIVE*

SEDGWICK.COM