

An Environmental Philosophy Combining Technology with Commitment

Environmental Policy: Guiding Principles and ISO14001

The 20th century, an era of rapid industrial growth accompanied by the deterioration of the global environment, is drawing to a close, and we are entering the new millennium. In this new age more than ever, environmental problems have become major issues at the heart of corporate management.

Safety and the protection of the environment are the first and foremost management goals of Shin-Etsu Chemical Co., Ltd. The Company's Environmental Charter, formulated in 1998, expresses Shin-Etsu's basic philosophy: a commitment to realizing a society in which sustainable development is possible by limiting the environmental impact of corporate activities to a minimum.

A key element in achieving the goals set out in the Charter is the ISO14001 Environmental Management System.

Since becoming the first Japanese chemical manufacturer to gain ISO14001 certification in 1996, Shin-Etsu completed its plan to have all production sites certified as conforming to ISO14001 standards in early 2000. The Shin-Etsu Group, including subsidiaries and affiliates, has received ISO14001 certification for a total of 22 production sites.

With the goals of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and waste materials, conserving



PVC used as a reductant in a shaft furnace: proof of the great contribution the recycling of waste PVC can make.

energy, and properly managing chemical substances, Group companies and production sites are working to minimize the load on the environment through a process of continual improvement. The results of these activities are presented to the public at large in environmental reports and through other means.

PVC and Environmental Issues

Japan's Vinyl Environmental Council (VEC), led by Chihiro Kanagawa, president of Shin-Etsu Chemical, has promoted the accurate understanding of PVC as an extremely durable and useful plastic that can make great contributions to reduce resource consumption.

The VEC also promotes the development and implementation of such recycling technologies as material recycling and feedstock recycling for waste PVC.

NKK Corporation, Japan's second largest steelmaker, has begun using waste PVC as a reductant in shaft furnaces, thus disposing of 5,000 tons of PVC per year. Tokuyama Corporation began using waste PVC as a base



Synthetic pheromones: attracting attention as a breakthrough method of pest control that is harmless to humans and the environment.

fuel in processes for the production of cement. Both recycling operations are done in cooperation with the VEC.

Synthetic Pheromones

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is a form of agriculture recognized as beneficial to the global environment and a departure from conventional pesticide-intensive agriculture. Synthetic pheromones play a key role in IPM, and Shin-Etsu Chemical is the world leader in this ever-growing market.

Synthetic pheromones are an effective means of reducing agricultural pests from sites without affecting the defenses of the pest's natural predators, by rendering males unable to recognize signals from the scents of females, thereby suppressing the rise of the next generation.

Synthetic pheromones are bringing about a new form of agriculture that respects the environment.