

## East Midlands State of the Environment

### Regulated business

**Businesses can contribute to an improved environment by preventing pollution, minimising their waste and using efficient processes. As a modern regulator, the Environment Agency works to ensure the right balance between environmental improvements and operator performance, and takes action against poor performing or illegal operators.**

We are responsible for regulating the most polluting industries in England and Wales, under the national Environmental Permitting Regulations (EPR) regime. EPR regulates emissions to air and water, and on land, as well as other environmental considerations. EPRs cover industry and waste regulation, including: the metals sector, food and drink, bio-waste and landfill.

We use Operator Performance Risk Appraisal (Opra) and compliance assessment plans to target our regulatory effort on poor performing companies. Opra allows regulated businesses working with us to accurately and consistently self-assess the environmental risks posed by their facilities' operations.

Businesses in the East Midlands that are regulated by us have already made some big improvements. Even with more sites reporting to us, emissions to air and water have fallen, and there are fewer pollution incidents. Fewer sites are breaching their permits and performing poorly. However improvements are needed with respect to greenhouse gas emissions, waste production and resource efficiency to offset the impacts of climate change, an increasing population, and potentially increasing industrial productivity during the economic recovery.

### At a glance

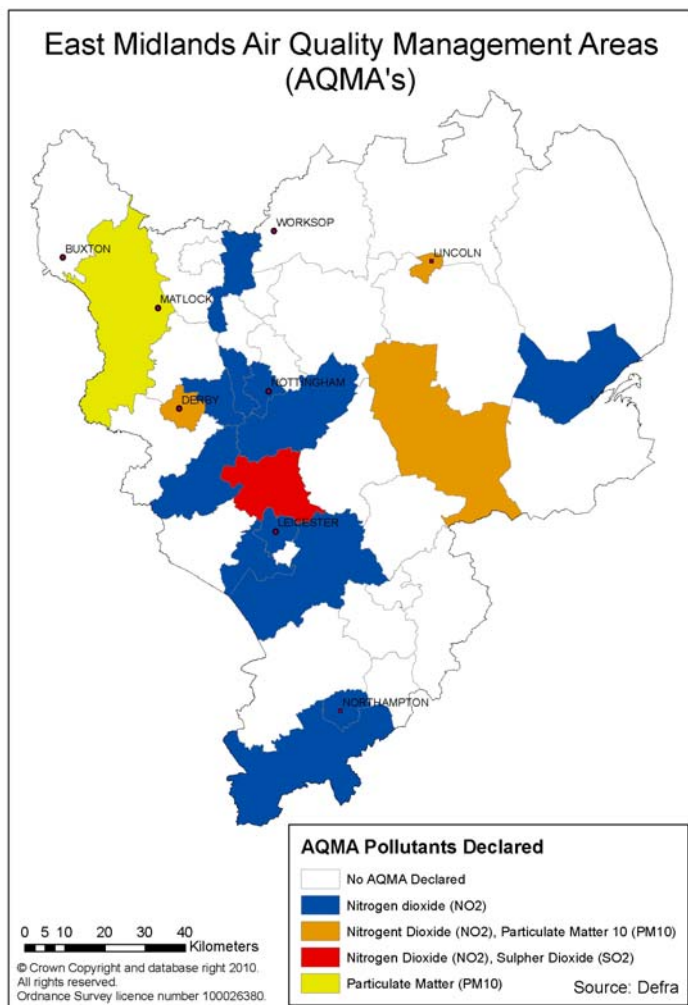
- Within the East Midlands 17 Local Authorities have declared Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs), with 16 of these declaring nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) as a pollutant. Four of these authorities have declared particulate matter <10 µm (PM<sub>10</sub>) as a pollutant and one authority (Charnwood Borough Council) has declared sulphur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) as a pollutant.
- The Environment Agency is committed to reduce the annual emissions to air of eight priority pollutants (namely 1,3 butadiene, benzene, carbon monoxide, lead, nitrogen oxide, non-methane volatile organic carbon, PM<sub>10</sub>, and SO<sub>2</sub>) from our regulated industry, as part of the government's Air Quality Strategy and the requirements of the National Ceiling Directive.
- Regulated industries in the East Midlands contribute to around 13 per cent of national releases of these eight key air pollutants, with the region's industries producing over 26 per cent of national nitrogen oxide emissions.
- Since 2005 regulated industry in the East Midlands has seen an overall reduction of 38 per cent, in these priority pollutants. Emissions of SO<sub>2</sub> and lead have fallen by 64 per cent and 47 per cent

respectively. Since 2005 recorded emissions of PM10 have increased as more industry sectors have come into the regulatory framework, in particular intensive agricultural units.

- In 2008, 56per cent of East Midlands EPR regulated industrial sites were rated with a full compliance rating in Opra band A, with only 5 per cent in the poorest compliance bands D, E and F.
- There are currently 149 PPC regulated sites in the East Midlands that have accredited environmental management systems, with 35 per cent of these Waste Management facilities.
- Since 2002 there has been an 18 per cent reduction in pollution incidents attributed to waste management facilities in the East Midlands.

## Data and trends

To protect human health and the environment, the government prioritised eight main pollutants to air under the UK Air Quality Strategy, which have set limit values. Where these limits are not likely to be achieved, local authorities declare an AQMA. These areas may range from just one or two streets to a much greater area. The East Midlands has 17 AQMA's identified on the map below.



customer service line

08708 506 506

[www.environment-agency.gov.uk](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk)

incident hotline

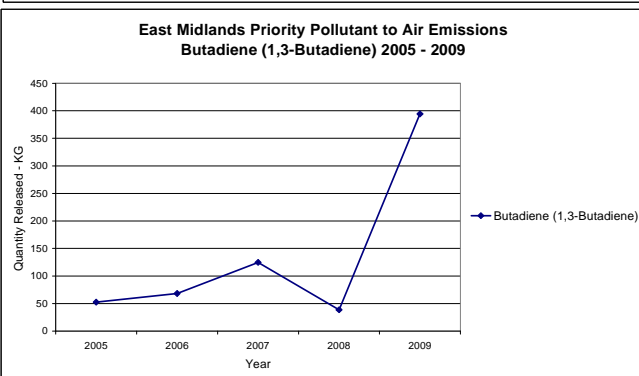
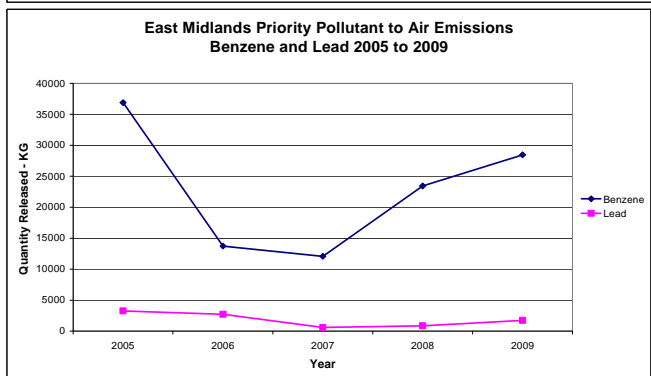
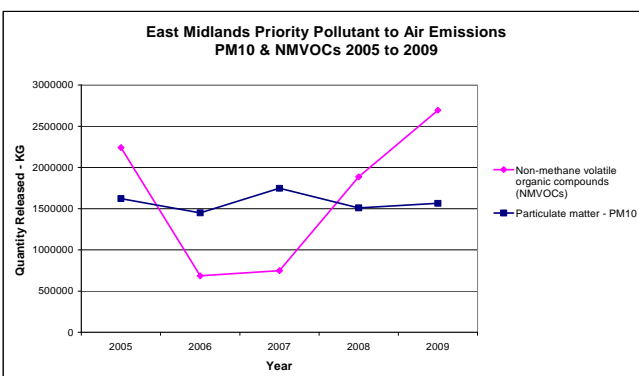
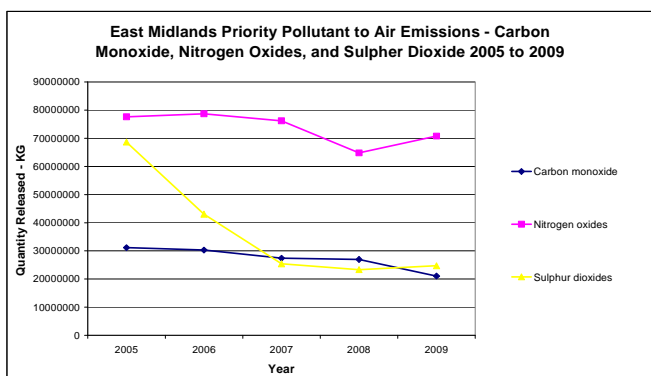
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floodline

0845 988 1188

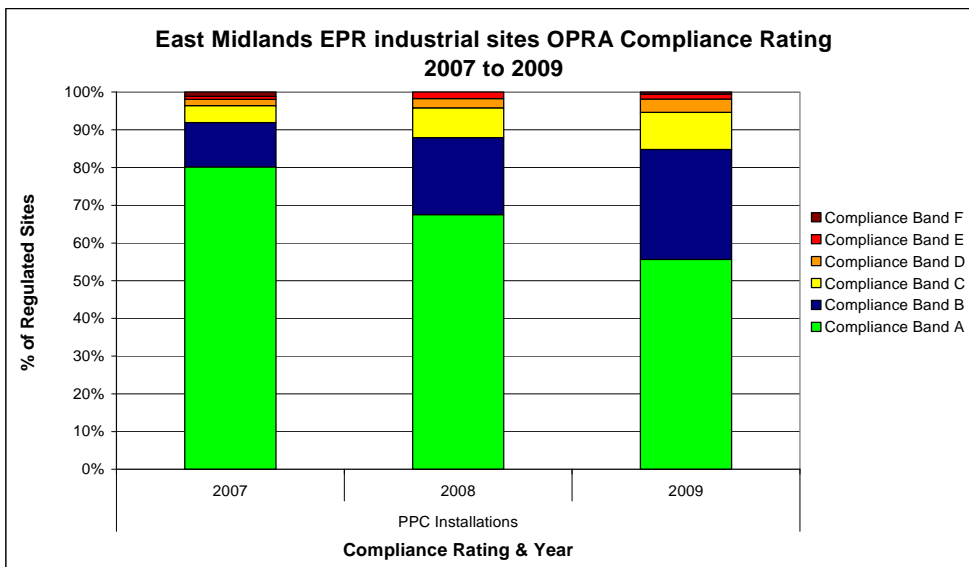
As part of our contribution to deliver the government's Air Quality Strategy and the requirements of the National Emission Ceiling Directive the Environment Agency aims to reduce emissions of eight priority pollutants from our regulated sites across England and Wales.

All industrial sites regulated under EPR are required to provide returns for air emissions through our Pollution Inventory database. In 2009 regulated industries in the East Midlands contributed 13 per cent of the national releases of these eight air pollutants. Since 2005 emissions of nitrogen oxide and lead have fallen by 64 per cent and 47 per cent respectively. In the same period emissions of PM10 have increased by 20 per cent, which is partly due to more industry sectors coming into the regulatory framework, in particular intensive agricultural units.

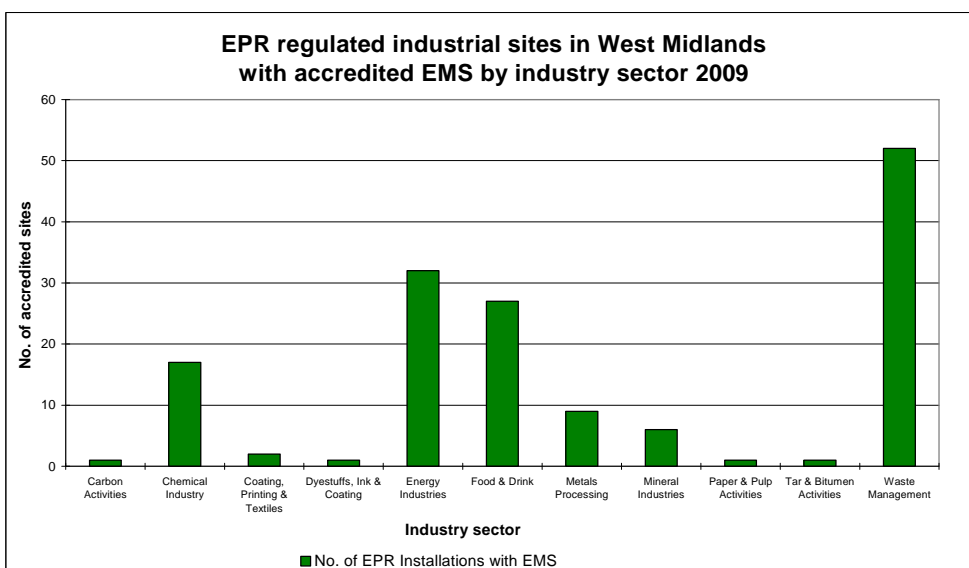


We use our Opra and Compliance Assessment Plans to target our regulatory effort on the poorest performing operators. Opra provides a risk rating from A to F with bands D, E and F the poorest performing compliance bands. Compliance scores allow performance of a regulated site to be assessed annually so we can identify where to target our effort.

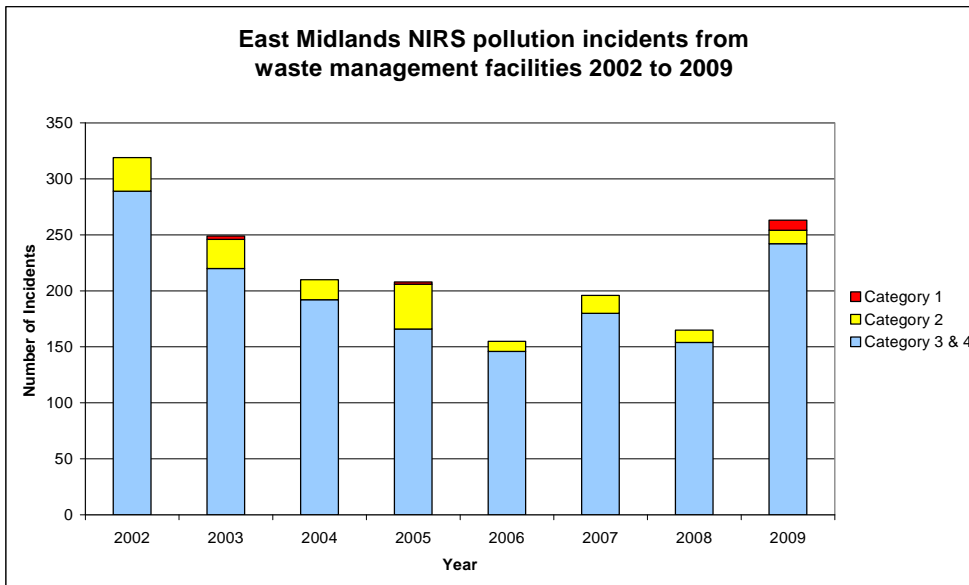
At the end of 2009 there were 20 (5.4 per cent) EPR regulated industrial sites in the East Midlands were in compliance bands D, E and F, with 60 per cent in compliance band A.



At the end of 2009 there were 149 EPR regulated industrial sites in the East Midlands with accredited environmental management systems (EMS). Since 2006 the number of EPR Installations with an effective EMS within their Opra site profile has risen by 125. The biggest increase has been in the waste management sector, with an additional 40 facilities implementing an effective EMS. The waste management sector accounts for 35 per cent of accredited EMS industrial sites in the East Midlands



In 2009 there were 263 pollution incidents recorded in our National Incident Recording System (NIRS) attributed to waste management facilities in the East Midlands. These waste management facilities include both EPR regulated sites and waste facilities exempt from EPR. Between 2002 and 2006 the number of pollution incidents from waste management facilities has shown a falling trend, with an overall reduction of 52 per cent. Since 2006 there has been a rising trend in incidents from waste management facilities, although the number of incidents is still 18 per cent lower than what they were in 2002.



## Our role

As a regulatory the Environment Agency is changing how it works with regulated industry to give more and better advice. We help business be the best they can to improve their environmental performance. In addition we provide guidance on how companies can obtain externally verified environmental management systems.

We work directly with regulated sites to reduce pollution to air and improve air quality. Using evidence we are able to target our regulatory efforts at reducing emissions of pollutants to air from the major emitters in the region.

We also work with industry sectors to encourage the more efficient use of resources by businesses in the East Midlands. This will be achieved by:

- Promoting the environmental, economic and social benefits of sustainable procurement and developing sustainable procurement partnerships.
- Working with our regional partners and key business sectors to encourage the more efficient use of resources.
- Ensure those businesses we regulate undertake resource, energy and water efficiency audits and implement their findings.

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