

REFERENCE

2526394

RELEASE DATE

November 2025

SUBJECT

Requesting information pertaining to NI Water's usage/disposal of spent activated carbon.

RESPONSE

NI Water replies to each query in turn as follows.

1. How Northern Ireland Water disposes of, reuses, or treats the spent activated carbon used in the treatment of blue-green algae (cyanobacteria) from Lough Neagh water.

NI Water can confirm our Carbon contractor, Chemviron, is responsible for the removal, transport and disposal/treatment of the Carbon.

The spent granular carbon is transported as green waste back to their reactivation furnace in Tipton near Wolverhampton in the UK.

The majority of the carbon is re-activated and returned to NI Water for use again in drinking water purification.

If NI Water doesn't want the spent carbon returned (which is NI Water Alpha's process) then the contractor would send it for addition to their industrial re-activation pool in Feluy, Belgium, where it is re-activated and then supplied into waste water applications or something similar. It is not used in drinking water applications again.

2. Whether any hazardous waste classification or environmental monitoring is associated with the disposal of this material.

If the returned carbon from NI Water is in very poor condition and doesn't warrant being re-activated, the contractor would approach a responsible waste disposal company to arrange disposal through the correct channels and provide documentation where relevant.

Please visit the links below for further details:

<https://www.chemviron.eu/solutions/activated-carbon-reactivation/>

<https://www.calgoncarbon.com/media/press-releases/2016-11-03/calgon-carbon-holds-ribbon-cutting-ceremony-celebrating-grand-opening-of-new-chemviron-carbon-reactivation-plant-in-united-kingdom/>

3. *The location(s) or facilities where the spent carbon is taken for disposal or regeneration.*

See above point one for this information.