

THE WASTE STRATEGY 2000

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 To advise Members of the content of the new National Waste Strategy and the potential impacts for the Council
- 1.2 A copy of the Strategy has been placed in the Members' Room.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The Waste Strategy 2000 was published on the 25th May 2000. It sets a number of new recycling and recovery targets. Many of these targets will affect the Council.
- 2.2 The strategy will strive to minimise the amount of waste that is produced and recover value from waste when it cannot be minimised. The Government believes that 'where waste is created we must increasingly put it to good use – through recycling, composting or using it as a fuel'.
- 2.3 Household waste is a relatively small part of the overall waste stream, but it is important. At present, in England and Wales, just 9% is recycled and a further 8% has energy recovered from it.
- 2.4 Where an energy recovery plant is needed the Government 'believes they should be appropriately sized to avoid competition with recycling'.
- 2.5 The Government proposes to use the landfill credit scheme to help deliver an increase in recycling, particularly of household waste. They intend to extend the range of activities eligible for support to include recycling and re-use projects carried out by non-profit making, non-public bodies, for instance small community recycling schemes.

3 NEW TARGETS

- 3.1 The targets covering municipal and household waste are as follows:-
 - Municipal Waste (includes any waste under the control of local authorities or agents acting on their behalf).

Recovery of 40% by 2005
Recovery of 45% by 2010
Recovery of 67% by 2015

- Household Waste (waste collected on household collection rounds, bulky waste collections, any other separate collection schemes, street sweepings and litter).

Recycle or compost 25% by 2005

Recycle or compost 30% by 2010

Recycle or compost 33% by 2015

- 3.2 The government has indicated that authorities will be required to meet statutory standards in 2005 and 2010, with an interim target in 2003.
- 3.3 The 2003 targets will be based on the recycling rate in each Waste Disposal Authority area. Those Waste Disposal Authorities that recycled between 5 and 15% (in 1998/99) will have to double their recycling rate. This includes the Essex County Council disposal area that recycled an average of 12%.
- 3.4 In Rochford 3.87% of the waste collected by this Council was recycled, 33.12% of waste delivered to Civic Amenity sites was recycled by Essex County Council giving an overall recycling rate of 8.84%.
- 3.5 Under the Governments proposed targets it is likely that the Council will have to contribute to an increased County recycling rate of 24% of household waste by 2003.
- 3.6 County Councils will be given power to require certain wastes to be delivered to them separated from other wastes so that they can be recycled.

4 OTHER ASPECTS

- 4.1 The strategy also outlines the governments intentions on other waste issues, including: -

4.2 Best Value indicators

- 4.2.1 Best value plans should take account of waste minimisation, and include challenging targets which should be backed up by action plans.

- 4.2.2 Other best value indicators are shown as follows: -

- Total tonnage of household waste arising
 - Percentage recycled
 - Percentage composted
 - Percentage used to recover heat, power and other energy sources
- Weight of household waste collected per head

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- Cost per kilometre of keeping land for which the authority is responsible clear of litter and refuse
 - Cost of waste collection per household
 - Cost of waste disposal per tonne of municipal waste
 - Number of collections missed per 100,000 collections of household waste
 - Percentage of people expressing satisfaction with
 - recycling facilities
 - household waste collection
 - civic amenity sites
 - Percentage of population served by kerbside collection of recyclables, or within 1 kilometre of a recycling centre

4.3 Waste and Resources Action Program

4.3.1 The Waste and Resources Action Program will be a new dedicated program, with responsibility for promoting re-use and recycling. It will have the following functions: -

- **market facilitation**, identification of new markets for recyclable materials, and promoting the use of recyclable materials in existing industries.
- **promoting investment in reprocessing**, expanding reprocessing capacity in existing and new markets for recyclable material.
- **research management**, to improve our understanding of the waste stream (composition and distribution) and the opportunities for recycling.
- **information management**, a one-stop shop for waste and recycling data, co-ordination and dissemination of information.
- **advice, guidance and technical support**, to provide advice and guidance and hands-on consultancy to the public and private sectors.

4.4 Public procurement

4.4.1 Central government will award contracts on value for money whole life costs not on lowest price. They will also pilot a scheme that will require public procurement of products containing a minimum recycled content.

This will initially focus on paper products but will be extended to other products.

4.5 Producer responsibility

4.5.1 The producer responsibility legislation will be extended through European directive or British Government initiative and will be extended to the following waste streams: -

- Junk mail (British Government initiative).
- Newspapers (voluntary agreement with Newspaper Publishers Association).
- End of life vehicles (European directive).
- Batteries (European directive)
- Waste electrical and electronic goods (European directive).

4.6 Hazardous waste

4.6.1 The Government aims to reduce the amount of hazardous waste that is produced. It also recognises that there may be an increase in the types of waste that are classified as hazardous.

4.6.2 The Government also aims to reduce the hazardous content of waste in general.

4.7 Landfill tax credits

4.7.1 Under the landfill tax credit scheme landfill operators can claim tax credit against donations they make to approved environmental bodies (such as the Cory Environmental Trust in Rochford). These monies can only be used on defined activities.

4.7.2 The government proposes to extend the range of activities eligible for support to include recycling and reuse projects carried out by non-profit making, non-public bodies.

4.7.3 The schemes regulators ENTRUST are also said to be relaxing their interpretation of the 'research and education' category. Funding can be obtained for pilot schemes for upto 5 years, money can also be used to educate householders on new collection schemes. Further guidance on this will be issued later in the year.

4.8 Limiting Landfill

4.8.1 To meet the Landfill directive the strategy proposes tradable permits which will be issued to authorities based on population and household number.

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- 4.8.2 Authorities can then trade these permits to meet their needs.
Authorities who are performing well on recycling will be able to sell the permits to those authorities that are not doing so well.

4.9 Public awareness

- 4.9.1 The Government will continue to support the National Waste Awareness Initiative which is aimed at increasing the general public's awareness of recycling issues.

4.10 Commercial and Industrial waste

- 4.10.1 The Government has set a target with respect to industrial and commercial waste, by 2005 to reduce the amount of industrial and commercial waste sent to landfill to 85% of that Landfilled in 1998.

5 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The National Waste Strategy has major implications for the environment. Targets will increase the Council's recycling rate and environmental performance.

6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Further work is needed to establish the costs and implications of implementing the strategy, which will to a large extent depend on the precise form of legislation, funding arrangements and the County Council's requirements.

7 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The recycling targets will become statutory. There is an indication that legislation will be enacted this year.

8 PARISH IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 The strategy will affect all parishes.

9 RECOMMENDATION

- 9.1 It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES**

That the Council continues to work with the Consortium of Essex Waste Collection Authorities and the County Council, to establish the best methods of meeting the new targets set out in the Waste Strategy.
(HHHCC)

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Background Papers:

Waste Strategy 2000 – Department of Environment, Transport & the Regions
– May 2000.

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