

**Report of the Strategic Director (Services) (FHDC)
and the Corporate Director (Economy & Environment)
(SEBC)**

THE GOVERNMENT REVIEW OF WASTE POLICY 2011

Synopsis:

The purpose of this report is to update Members on the Government Review of Waste Policy 2011, the key themes and actions and how it relates to the provision of waste services in West Suffolk.

Background

1. Members will recall the Secretary of State for the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), the Rt Hon Caroline Spelman MP, announced in June 2010 that the Government would undertake a full review of waste policy in England.
2. A joint FHDC/SEBC response was subsequently submitted by way of an online questionnaire and the Government's "call for evidence" (paper JWC10/031), in addition to an overall strategic response by the Suffolk Waste Partnership. The response from FHDC/SEBC reiterated the development of the popular and successful waste management collection services in West Suffolk, based upon the three bin alternate weekly collection model.
3. Following a full review of the available evidence and submissions, the Government has released a number of key documents detailing their proposals for the management of waste and the connection with wider government policy such as the Big Society and Climate Change. The overarching approach is set out in the Government Review of Waste Policy in England 2011, which sets out the vision and proposals to manage waste successfully and efficiently in the future. Supporting this are the following related documents:-
 - (a) a Policy Review Action Plan setting out the key milestones to effect the challenges ahead;
 - (b) an Anaerobic Digestion (AD) Strategy and Action Plan investigating how AD can contribute to the management of wastes and energy recovery; and

- (c) the Economics of Waste and Waste Policy, which has reviewed the role and effectiveness of economic instruments in waste policy decisions.
4. Further information on the above documents is available as outlined in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Website links to key information

Document	Internet Link
Committee Report JWC10/031	http://www3.forest-heath.gov.uk/minutes/jwc/jwc2010oct22/reports/jwc10031.pdf
Joint FHDC/SEBC Response	http://www3.forest-heath.gov.uk/minutes/jwc/jwc2010oct22/reports/jwc10031%20Appendix%20A.pdf
Waste Policy Review 2011	http://www.defra.gov.uk/publications/files/pb13540-waste-policy-review110614.pdf
Waste Policy Review 2011 - Action Plan	http://www.defra.gov.uk/publications/files/pb13542-action-plan-.pdf
Anaerobic Digestion (AD) Strategy and Action Plan	http://www.defra.gov.uk/publications/files/anaerobic-digestion-strat-action-plan.pdf
The Economics of Waste and Waste Policy	http://www.defra.gov.uk/publications/files/pb13548-economic-principles-wr110613.pdf

Summary of the Waste Policy Review

Key Commitments and Challenges

5. The Government's ambition for waste management in England was defined in the Coalition's Programme for Government and Defra's Structural Reform Plan as 'working towards a zero waste economy'. The purpose of the review is to look at all aspects of waste policy and waste management in England to ensure that we are taking the right steps to deliver this ambition.
6. The Coalition Government want to ensure that the policies and ways of delivering them are fit for purpose, meeting society's expectations while reflecting the Government's ambitions to be the greenest ever. It means reducing the amount of waste we produce and ensuring that all material resources are fully valued – financially and environmentally, both during their productive life, and at 'end-of-life' as waste.
7. To effect this, the Government has set out key guiding commitments within the Review, which are summarised in Table 2 below:

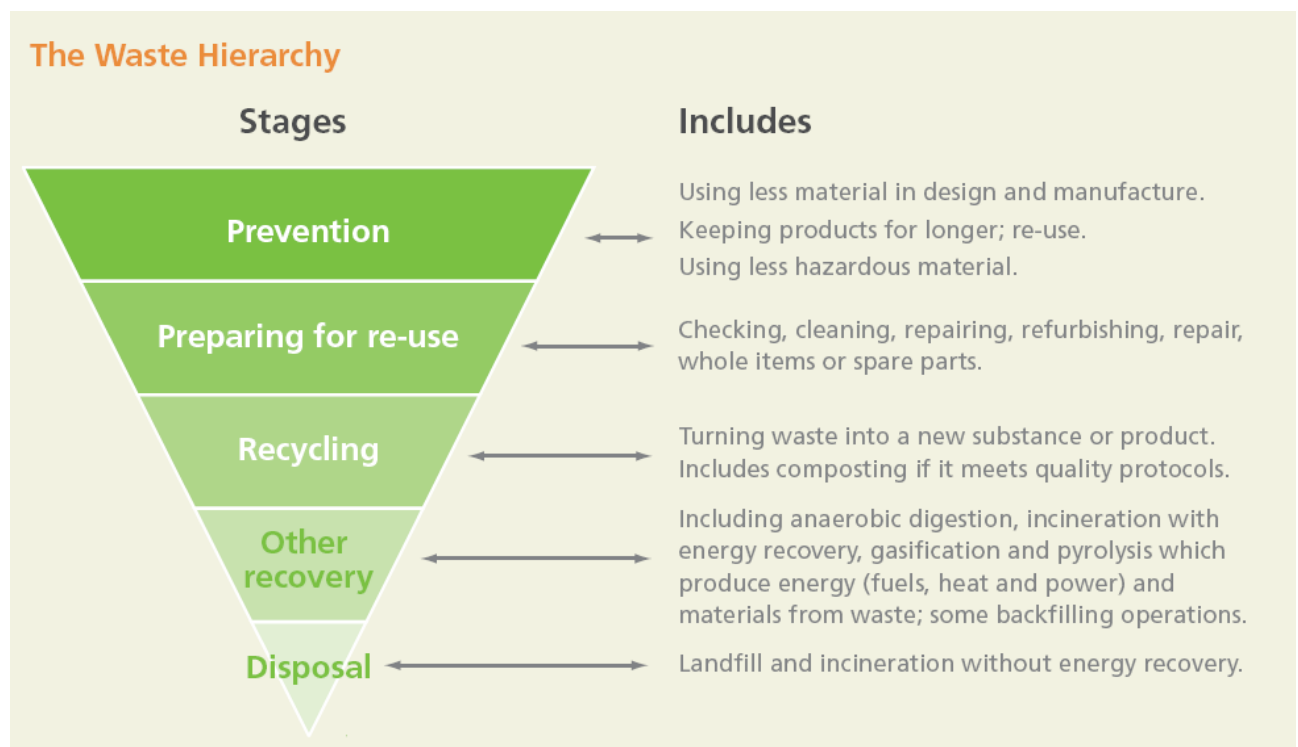
Table 2: Key Policy Commitments

<p>As part of a more sustainable approach to the use of materials, delivering environmental benefits and supporting economic growth, the Government will:</p>	<p>To improve the service to Householders and Businesses while delivering environmental benefits and supporting growth the Government will:</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Prioritise efforts to manage waste in line with the waste hierarchy and reduce the carbon impact of waste; ● Develop a range of measures to encourage waste prevention and reuse, supporting greater resource efficiency; ● Develop voluntary approaches to cutting waste, increase recycling, and improve the overall quality of recyclate material, working closely with business sectors and the waste and material resources industry; ● Consult on the case for higher packaging recovery targets for some key materials; ● Support energy from waste where appropriate, and for waste which cannot be recycled; ● Work to overcome the barriers to increasing the energy from waste which Anaerobic Digestion provides, as set out in the new AD strategy; ● Consult on restricting wood waste from landfill and review the case for restrictions on sending other materials to landfill. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Support initiatives which reward and recognise people who do the right thing to reduce, reuse and recycle their waste; ● Work with councils to increase the frequency and quality of rubbish collections and make it easier to recycle; ● Encourage councils to sign the new Recycling & Waste Services Commitment, setting out the principles they will follow in delivering local waste services; ● Protect civil liberties by stopping councils from criminalising householders for trivial bin offences, while ensuring that stronger powers exist to tackle those responsible for flytipping and serious waste crime; ● Support councils and the waste industry in improving the collection of waste from smaller businesses; ● Reduce the burden of regulation and enforcement on legitimate business, but target those who persistently break the law.

8. However, there are a number of principle challenges that the Review is aimed at addressing in order to realise the longer-term vision of a green, zero waste economy. This includes:-
- (a) preventing waste wherever it occurs - the best environmental outcome;
 - (b) helping local communities to develop and deliver fit for purpose local solutions for collecting and dealing with waste from households and businesses. It is crucial that the right balance is reached between customer service, the environment and cost;
 - (c) continuing to increase the recycling of waste collected from both households and businesses;
 - (d) Ensuring that our approach to extracting recyclables from our waste generates material of sufficiently high quality;

- (e) establishing the right interface between energy from waste policies, renewable energy targets and delivering on our climate and broader environmental needs;
 - (f) continuing to drive waste away from landfill and ensuring that the UK meets the EU Landfill Directive targets for diverting biodegradable municipal waste from landfill in 2013 and 2020; and
 - (g) ensuring an effective approach to tackling waste crime, reducing harm caused to the environment, human health, local communities and legitimate business.
9. While the Review naturally focuses on our use of material resources and how we deal with them when they become waste, it does so with a very close eye on related areas, such as climate change and energy policy, where we need to be clear about the potential contribution of energy from waste to the UK's target that, by 2020, 15% of our energy comes from renewable sources.
10. The Review has also been guided by the 'waste hierarchy', which is both a guide to sustainable waste management and a legal requirement of the revised EU Waste Framework Directive, enshrined in law through the Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011. As illustrated in Figure 1 below, the hierarchy gives top priority to waste prevention, followed by preparing for re-use, recycling, other types of recovery (including energy recovery), and last of all disposal (e.g. landfill).

Figure 1: The Waste Hierarchy



Source: *The Government Review of Waste Policy in England 2011*

11. In driving waste up the hierarchy, the Review will be particularly looking to:-
- (a) target those waste streams with high carbon impacts;
 - (i) for embedded carbon, food, metals (in particular aluminium), plastics, textiles; and
 - (ii) for reducing direct emissions from landfill: food, paper and card, textiles, wood;
 - (b) promote resource efficient product design;
 - (c) promote use of life cycle thinking in all waste policy and waste management decisions; and
 - (d) promote the measurement and reporting of waste management in carbon terms, as an alternative to weight based measures.

The key focus of the Review

12. The Review has considered the Government position and ambition in the following key areas:-
- (a) Ambition and Case for Action;
 - (b) Sustainable Use of Materials;
 - (c) Waste Prevention, Re-use and Recycling;
 - (d) Regulation and Enforcement;
 - (e) Householders and Local Authorities Working Together;
 - (f) Business Waste Collection;
 - (g) Energy Recovery;
 - (h) Landfill; and
 - (i) Infrastructure and Planning.
13. A summary of the above is set out in Appendix 1.
14. An Action Plan has also been developed listing the actions required from the various partners to deliver the Review objectives. The headline proposals in the Action Plan are set out Table 3 below whilst Appendix 2 sets out the key implications of the Review on Households, the Environment, Business and Local Authorities.

Table 3: Summary of the Key Waste Policy Review Actions

Policy Theme	Policy Driver	Key Actions
Ambition and Case for Action	Becoming the greenest government ever; securing a zero waste economy; supporting the waste hierarchy and delivering EU targets and expectations.	1. Promote resource efficient product design and manufacture and target those waste streams with high carbon impacts, both in terms of embedded carbon (food, metals, plastics, textiles ¹) and direct emissions from landfill (food, paper and card, textiles, wood).
		2. Promote the use of life cycle thinking in all waste policy and waste management decisions and the reporting of waste management in carbon terms, as an alternative to weight-based measures.
		3. Support local communities to develop fit for purpose local solutions for collecting and dealing with household waste and work with councils to meet households' reasonable expectations for weekly collections, particularly of smelly waste.
Sustainable Use of Materials	Recognising waste as a resource and pursuing waste prevention.	4. The Government will develop a comprehensive Waste Prevention Programme and in the meantime will work with businesses and other organisations across supply chains on a range of measures designed to drive waste reduction and re-use as part of a broader resource efficiency programme.
Waste Prevention, Re-use and Recycling	Support delivery of an integrated approach to waste prevention, re-use and recycling – absolute prevention of waste is in many areas unrealistic, but we can prioritise prevention while seeking to re-use and recycle as much as possible of the waste which does arise.	5. Increase the percentage of waste collected from both households and businesses which is recycled, at the very least meeting the revised waste framework directive target to recycle 50% of waste from households by 2020.
		6. Work closely with businesses to develop new voluntary responsibility deals in a range of sectors – including hospitality, retail, direct mail, waste industry – focussed on reducing and recycling waste.
		7. Support businesses, local authorities and third sector organisations

Policy Theme	Policy Driver	Key Actions
		<p>to help reduce avoidable food waste – in the home, in supply chains, across the public sector and within businesses themselves.</p> <p>8. The Government will work with business to encourage – where appropriate – greater use of recycled content in packaging, as well as to make packaging more recyclable.</p> <p>9. Consult on increased recycling targets on packaging producers from 2013 to 2017 and on establishing a sub-target for recycling of glass into re-melt applications. Government will make a final decision in the 2012 Budget.</p> <p>10. WRAP will support councils who want to work with local businesses to explore how the necessary street infrastructure can be funded to allow recycling on the go to grow. WRAP will collate and disseminate information and good practice on recycling on the go and identify models for delivering improved facilities both on the street and in public places.</p>
Regulation and Enforcement	To balance environmental protection, market development and regulatory burdens on business.	<p>11. Defra, BIS and the Environment Agency have set in train a programme of work – in partnership with industry – to identify how the burden of compliance on legitimate business can be reduced, with enforcement targeted even more clearly against those who consistently operate outside the law.</p> <p>12. Ensure that enforcement bodies have sufficient powers to tackle illegal waste sites and flytipping. As part of this, we will introduce stronger powers to seize vehicles suspected of involvement in waste crime.</p>
Householders and Local Authorities Working Together	Waste services are a matter for local authorities to develop fit for purpose local solutions. However the Government	<p>13. Work with local councils to increase the frequency and quality of rubbish collections and make it easier to recycle</p> <p>14. Encourage councils to sign up to the new Recycling and Waste</p>

Policy Theme	Policy Driver	Key Actions
	<p>believes that better procurement and joint working can improve the efficiency of collections while improving the frontline service for the public in an affordable and practical manner.</p> <p>Enforcement powers and penalties available to local authorities should balance the need to respect individuals' civil liberties with the need to deal effectively with behaviours which have a negative impact on residents'.</p>	<p>Services Commitment, drawn up by the Local Government Association and representatives of local councils, working with Defra and WRAP.</p> <p>15. Remove criminal sanctions applying to householders and ensure that the level of fines local authorities can impose are appropriate.</p> <p>16. Repeal certain powers of entry in England that currently enable local authorities to inspect household waste.</p> <p>17. Remove some of the burden and barriers which prevent local authorities from focussing on local priorities, including abolition of some data requirements, targets and legislation burdens, principally the Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme from 2013.</p> <p>18. Keep Britain Tidy will develop the Love Where You Live litter campaign; WRAP will work in partnership with Keep Britain Tidy to enable groups participating in Big Tidy-Up activities (many of which are school groups or charities) to recycle the materials they collect. WRAP and Keep Britain Tidy will pool their knowledge, and bring anti-littering and tidy-up messages and recycling on the go messages together under the same banner. We will also work with business and others to develop ways of tackling the problem of littering from vehicles, through encouraging changed behaviour and practical disposal solutions.</p>
Business Waste Collection	To make it easier and more cost effective for SMEs to recycle.	19. Work with representatives of the waste management industry to develop a voluntary Responsibility Deal under which they will work to improve the experience and access of SMEs to cost-effective recycling services. We are also working with local authorities on a Business Waste Commitment to develop the recycling services offered to SMEs.

Policy Theme	Policy Driver	Key Actions
Energy Recovery	To get the most energy out of residual waste, not to get the most waste into energy recovery. To specifically support Anaerobic digestion for food waste.	20. Work to remove barriers to other energy from waste technologies by ensuring information is available and readily understood.
		21. Publish a guide to energy from waste to help all involved make decisions best suited to their specific requirements. While remaining technology neutral, to look to identify and communicate the full range of recovery technologies available and their relative merits – right fuel, right place and right time.
		22. Provide the necessary framework to address market failures and ensure the correct blend of incentives are in place to support the development of recovery infrastructure as a renewable energy source.
Landfill	To drive waste management up the waste hierarchy and meet key EU targets in 2013 and 2020.	23. Consult on introducing a restriction on the landfilling of wood waste , with the aim of diverting the still substantial tonnages that end up in landfill to better uses up the waste hierarchy and delivering clear environmental benefits.
		24. Review the case for restrictions on sending other materials to landfill over the course of the Parliament, including looking specifically at textiles and biodegradable waste .
Infrastructure and Planning	To continue to support local authorities in the provision of necessary waste infrastructure. To ensure local communities benefit from hosting waste infrastructure and be involved from an early stage in planning for infrastructure.	25. Provide advice and support for local authorities on science and technology , drawing together and publishing data on likely waste arisings and treatment capacity in future years, and supporting efforts by local authorities through effective contract management to generate further efficiencies in waste collection, reprocessing and treatment.
		26. Seek to reduce commercial barriers to the effective financing of infrastructure.

Impact of the Policy

15. The Government is keen to work in partnership with local authorities and businesses in all parts of the economy to encourage and spread best practice in waste prevention and resource management. Consequently there is much to commend in the review.
16. With business waste accounting for 30% of the total waste stream, the increased focus on this area is positive and welcomed. Moreover, the utilisation of effective partnerships will always be a supported mechanism to drive resource efficiency along with the appreciation that producer funding at the moment does not cover the full cost of collecting, sorting and recycling packaging waste.
17. There are useful comments concerning product design and more effective adoption of the waste hierarchy principles, although overall there are only limited actions within each sector to secure the demonstrable step-change required.
18. In terms of local authorities, it is difficult at this stage to understand the impact relating to a change in waste regulatory powers, the effectiveness and availability of incentive initiatives and the proposals around weekly collections of smelly waste.
19. A commentary of the Policy has been submitted by the Local Authority Recycling Advisory Committee (LARAC), who nationally represent local authorities on waste related matters and this is attached in Appendix 3.

Delivering the Policy

20. The Government is keen to work in partnership with local authorities and businesses in all parts of the economy to encourage and spread best practice in waste prevention and resource management. With this in mind, the Government will:-
 - (a) reduce barriers to innovation wherever possible and the burden of regulation on compliant businesses, enforcement will target those who consistently flout the law;
 - (b) drive innovation in the waste sector and provide fiscal and regulatory certainty;
 - (c) provide leadership and demonstrate best practice in waste prevention and management;
 - (d) support capacity building in local communities, and ensure that they are free to take the initiative in service design and provision; and
 - (e) challenge and support businesses to meet their responsibilities and be smart about investment in and management of resources.
21. The Government also wants to empower local communities as part of a power shift away from central Government, reinvigorating local democracy, understanding, accountability, and participation. They want to ensure that the barriers to participation are removed and that community and civil society engagement, the Big Society, can occur unhindered.

Measuring Progress

22. The success of this Review will be measured on a number of levels. However, success will only be achieved if the various actions and policy measures are implemented in a timely way, with Government, business, local authorities and civil society working in partnership.
23. The Government will continue to assess progress against a number of EU targets which are focussing action in specific areas. These are:-
 - (a) EU Landfill Directive targets on the diversion of biodegradable municipal waste from landfill in 2013 and 2020;
 - (b) Waste Framework Directive target that 50% of waste from households is recycled by 2020;
 - (c) Waste Framework Directive target to recover at least 70% of construction and demolition waste by 2020; and
 - (d) a range of minimum producer responsibility targets covering packaging, Waste Electronic and Electrical Equipment (WEEE), End of Life Vehicles (ELV) and batteries.

Finance/Budget/Resource Implications

24. The future budget implications are unknown until the specific actions of the Review are released in greater detail.

Environmental Impact and Sustainability

25. The Government is committed to fostering sustainable, low carbon and resource efficient patterns of consumption and production. This includes working towards a Zero Waste Economy, where products and services are designed, produced, used and disposed of in ways that minimise carbon emissions, waste and the use of non-renewable resources.
26. An important element of this objective is the sustainable management of waste: treating waste as a resource and like all resources, having been extracted from the environment it should, wherever possible, be retained within the production cycle. In this way the impact on the environment of future production can be minimised.
27. The Review supports key principles to reduce the environmental impact of waste:-
 - (a) the Waste Hierarchy and the promotion of sustainable waste management; and
 - (b) the Polluter Pays Principle, in which those who produce the waste must pay the full cost of managing the waste.
28. The energy impacts of material resource use and the direct greenhouse gas emissions from biodegradable wastes in landfill are significant, meaning that sustainable waste policies are an important part of tackling national and international climate change. The Government's approach to avoiding the risk of dangerous climate change has at its heart the Climate Change Act 2008, which requires Government to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by:-

- (a) cutting emissions by at least 34% by 2020, and 80% by 2050, below the 1990 baseline;
- (b) setting and meeting five-yearly carbon budgets for the UK during that period; and;
- (c) requiring that those carbon budgets be set three budget periods ahead, so that it is always clear what the UK's emissions will be for the next 15 years, and setting the trajectory towards the 2020 and 2050 targets.

Policy Compliance/Power

- 29. Subject to the detail of the specific actions within the Review, there may be an impact on the councils' policies in terms of enforcement and waste collection arrangements.
- 30. Overall, the Review supports the vision and actions of the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Suffolk.

Performance Management Implications

- 31. The Government will continue to assess progress against a number of EU targets which are focussing action in specific areas, as outlined in paragraph 23 above.
- 32. Despite the review of the National Indicators, it is also expected that waste streams collected and disposed of (especially related to those outlined above) will continue to be reported nationally using Wastedataflow.

Legal Implications

- 33. There are no legal implications at present. Further information is required concerning amendments to local authority regulatory powers and the duties for waste collection.

Human Rights Act and Diversity Implications

- 34. There are no human rights and diversity implications.

Crosscutting Implications

- 35. From an implementation perspective, the Review encourages effective dialogue and engagement with a range of key partners such as households, business, the waste management industry, the voluntary sector and local authorities (including waste management, economic development, community engagement and planning services).
- 36. In terms of the priorities, a key theme is resource efficiency and carbon management, both in terms of our role in service delivery and the way in which we deliver council services.

Risk Assessment

37. There are no specific risks attributable to the Review. However, it is worth noting the specific Review actions that may impact on local authorities:-
- (a) to work with local councils to increase the frequency and quality of rubbish collections, particularly weekly collections for smelly waste;
 - (b) to replace or reduce the extent of certain enforcement powers that interfere with civil liberties and to adopt an incentive driven approach; and
 - (c) the Government is committed to the waste hierarchy and favour waste management that offers a significant climate change benefit, for example using Anaerobic Digestion.

Council Priorities

38. The effective management of waste supports the following council priorities:

Forest Heath District Council:

- Community safety; and
- Street scene and environment.

St Edmundsbury Borough Council:

- Raise standards and corporate efficiency;
- Improve the safety and well being of the community; and
- Secure a sustainable and attractive environment.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that Members note the key themes and actions in the Waste Policy Review 2011.

Documents Attached

Appendix 1: Summary of the main parts of the Review of Waste Policy

Appendix 2: Factsheets detailing the impact of the Policy Review on Households, Business, Local Authorities and the environment

Appendix 3: Response to the Waste Policy Review from the Local Authority Recycling Advisory Committee (LARAC).

Background Papers

Committee Paper JWC10/031 – Response to the Waste Policy Review Call for Evidence

Nigel McCurdy / Sandra Pell

Strategic Director (Services) / Corporate Director (Economy and Environment)

28 October 2011

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Summary of the main parts of the Review of Waste Policy

Sustainable Use of Materials and Waste Prevention

Summary

Waste is a resource. Reviewing our approach to waste in this country, it is clear that for too long we have worried about how to dispose of waste, but not enough about the use we can make of it. At a time of material resource pressure – even scarcity in some cases – we need to consider waste more fully within the wider context of material flows and sustainable material use.

We need to prioritise action: this means focussing both on the recovery of critical materials, but also on those areas which have the biggest environmental – particularly carbon – impact, whether that be through embedded or direct carbon emissions.

Preventing waste wherever it occurs should be the shared priority of Government, business and civil society – it delivers economic and environmental benefits. We heard this repeatedly from those who responded to our Call for Evidence and with whom we discussed these issues in conducting the Review.

The Government will develop a comprehensive Waste Prevention Programme by the end of 2013, but in the meantime will work with businesses and other organisations across supply chains on a range of measures designed to drive waste reduction as part of a broader resource efficiency programme.

Regulation and Enforcement

Summary

Waste legislation exists for a reason. It protects the environment and human health and can help to create markets, providing a level playing field in which legitimate businesses can operate. However, businesses also made clear that the enforcement of waste regulation can impose significant burdens on them: enforcement needs to focus on those operating outside the law, rather than those with a good track record of compliance.

We have listened carefully to these views. Defra, BIS and the Environment Agency have set in train a programme of work – in partnership with industry – to identify how the burden of compliance on legitimate business can be reduced, with enforcement targeted even more clearly against those who consistently operate outside the law and risk harm to health or the environment. This work will consider measures aimed at:

- allowing businesses to fulfil their obligations more easily and effectively and reduce unnecessary burdens;
- better integrating regulatory controls in the best interests of people and the environment;
- rebalance the approach taken to regulation so as to more markedly enforce against non-compliance.

In addition, we will look at a range of issues around prevention, detection and enforcement of illegal waste sites and flytipping, from available penalties and sentencing guidelines to collaborative working and guidance to business. We will introduce stronger powers to seize vehicles suspected of involvement in waste crime.

Empowering Local Communities

Summary

The Government will be working with local councils to increase the frequency and quality of rubbish collections and make it easier to recycle and to tackle measures which encourage councils specifically to cut the scope of collections. Waste services are a matter for local authorities to develop fit for purpose local solutions. However the Government believes that better procurement and joint working can improve the efficiency of collections while improving the frontline service for the public in an affordable and practical manner.

The Government understands that the public have a reasonable expectation that household waste collections services should be weekly, particularly for smelly waste. The Government has already moved to remove Audit Commission guidance and inspections which marked down councils who do not adopt fortnightly rubbish collections; and to abolish Local Area Agreements imposed by Whitehall which created perverse incentives to downgrade waste collection services. The Government will work with WRAP to monitor service levels to understand whether and how they are changing, keeping the quality, affordability and frequency of household waste collections under review.

The Government has reviewed a range of enforcement powers and penalties to ensure that there are proportionate, necessary and fair. As a result we will be replacing some criminal offences with civil sanctions and reducing the level of fines available and we are proposing to set 'harm to local amenity' as a test before a civil penalty can be imposed by a local authority. We have also committed to remove some of the burden and barriers which prevent local authorities from focussing on local priorities, including abolition of some data requirements, targets and legislation burdens.

In partnership with local authorities and private sector waste management providers we want to make it easier and cost effective for SMEs to recycle. Households and businesses often produce similar types of waste and where it makes sense to do so, materials should be collected and treated together. The Government's decision to end the Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme from 2013 removes an important perceived barrier to local authority service provision in this area. We have found that SMEs are not always aware of their legal responsibilities, of available recycling services and indeed in some areas there is a lack of such services. We want to address these issues in a number of ways including through voluntary commitments with service providers.

Infrastructure and Planning

Summary

Government continues to support local authorities in the provision of necessary waste infrastructure. We believe local communities should benefit from hosting waste infrastructure and be involved from an early stage in planning for infrastructure. A better understanding of the impact of technologies is needed.

We will do this by:

- Providing advice and support for local authorities on science and technology;
- Working with the Environment Agency, local authorities and industry to draw together and publish data on likely waste arisings and treatment capacity in future years;
- Supporting efforts by local authorities through effective contract management to generate further efficiencies in waste collection, reprocessing and treatment;
- Seeking to expand capacity to treat C&I and C&D waste through improved information and developing supply chains for recyclates and solid recovered fuel;
- Working to help reduce commercial barriers to the effective financing of infrastructure.

Energy Recovery

Summary

Government supports efficient energy recovery from residual waste which can deliver environmental benefits, reduce carbon impacts and provide economic opportunities. Our aim is to get the most energy out of waste, not to get the most waste into energy recovery. Anaerobic digestion offers a positive solution to food waste. We will work to remove barriers to other energy from waste technologies by ensuring information is available and readily understood. In particular we will:

- Work with industry to implement our joint Anaerobic Digestion Strategy;
- Overcome barriers to development of markets for outputs from energy from waste;
- Identify and communicate the full range of recovery technologies available and their relative merits – right fuel, right place and right time;
- Publish a guide to the full range of energy from waste technologies available to help all involved make decisions based on their specific requirements;
- Provide the necessary framework to address market failures in delivering the most sustainable solutions, while remaining technology neutral;
- Work to identify commercially viable routes by which communities can realise benefits from hosting recovery infrastructure to help support community acceptance;
- Ensure the correct blend of incentives are in place to support the development of recovery infrastructure as a renewable energy source;
- Support the development of effective fuel monitoring and sampling systems to allow the renewable content of mixed wastes to be accurately measured; and
- Ensure that waste management legislation does not have unintended consequences on the development of the energy recovery industry.

Landfill

Summary

Landfill should be the last resort for biodegradable waste. The landfill tax will remain the key driver to divert waste from landfill and remains necessary to ensure we meet key EU targets in 2020. However, even with this push it will still be likely that some waste will end up in landfill and may warrant additional, legislative tools, such as landfill bans or restrictions.

We will:

- Maintain the landfill tax increases towards a floor of £80 per tonne in 2014/15;
- In 2012 we will consult on introducing a restriction on the landfilling of wood waste;
- Building on this, we will review the case for restrictions on sending other materials to landfill over the course of the Parliament, including looking specifically at textiles and biodegradable waste.
- Set the right mix of incentives as part of energy from waste generally and remove barriers to new technologies;
- Urge local authorities as owners of historic sites to look at capture of methane alongside remedial measures.

Factsheets detailing the impact of the Policy Review on Households, Business, Local Authorities and the environment

Government Review of Waste Policy 2011

– what it means for business

Why waste matters

Reducing waste and making the best use of resources is not just good for the environment, it can save businesses money and support growth.

That's why the government is reviewing and improving its policies – this factsheet tells you what we plan to do and how it will affect you.

A zero waste economy

Although businesses in England now recycle more than 50% of their waste, they still produce over 45 million tonnes of waste every year. The government wants to move beyond this throwaway society towards a zero waste economy, where we work to prevent waste, then reuse, recycle and recover what cannot be prevented – and throw away only as a last resort.

Making waste collection better

While many businesses are reducing their waste and recycling more, some say they find it difficult to do this and recycle cost effectively. We want to make it easier for businesses to do the right thing by:

- Providing more help and advice to businesses on how to reduce their waste.

- Asking local authorities to sign up to a new Business Recycling and Waste Services Commitment. This will tell you what you can expect from your local waste services – and ensure councils listen to you and work to improve.
- Working with private waste contractors on a voluntary agreement to increase the take up of recycling services by smaller businesses and promote more sustainable waste management.
- Encouraging SMEs to join up to buy waste collection services together.

Simplifying regulation

The government is committed to reducing the burden of regulation. Instead of creating new rules, we will work with businesses to reduce their waste voluntarily. These responsibility deals have been highly successful and we now want to expand them in sectors such as hospitality, direct mail and retail.

We are also changing enforcement so that we target individuals and businesses who persistently flout the law rather than those with a good track record. And for businesses who deal with waste, we will simplify legislation and make application forms and inspection regimes better.

Using resources carefully

With business, we are promoting product design and manufacture that enables easier upgrades, repair and recycling at end of life. This will prevent waste and improve sustainability by reducing the need for primary production of resources. These efforts will be targeted at products with high carbon and environmental impacts, such as food, metals, plastics, textiles and wood.

Did you know?

Avoiding mixed materials and colours makes packaging more likely to be recycled at the end of its life, and more economical to treat.

Find out more

There's more information about waste on these websites:

Defra - www.defra.gov.uk/environment/waste

WRAP - www.wrap.org.uk

Environment Agency - www.environment-agency.gov.uk/business/topics/waste

Businesslink - www.businesslink.gov.uk
(Choose Environment & Efficiency)

Government Review of Waste Policy 2011

– what this means for the environment

Why waste matters

Sustainable waste policies are an important part of tackling climate change and protecting our natural resources. If we want a more sustainable economy, we need to reduce waste and make better use of what we produce.

That's why the government has reviewed and improved its waste policies. This factsheet tells you what we plan to do and how it will help the environment.

A zero waste economy

Despite good progress in reducing waste, the UK is still sending 44 million tonnes a year to landfill. This generates methane emissions and the waste sector is estimated to account for around 3% of all UK emissions. But the overall impact of waste policies on reducing carbon across the economy goes much further. The government wants to move beyond this throwaway society to a "zero waste economy" where we reuse and recycle all we can and throw away only as a last resort.

Prevention is best

Our first aim should be to prevent waste by being smarter about how we produce goods and use materials. The government will help by promoting product design and manufacture that enables easier upgrades, repair and recycling at end of life.

These efforts will be targeted at products with high carbon impacts, such as food, metals, plastics, textiles and wood.

Reducing landfill

We will do more to reduce the impact of landfill waste by:

- Consulting on banning wood waste from landfill and considering the feasibility of banning other materials in the future;
- Recovering materials from items such as mobile phones and electrical goods at their end of life;
- Promoting technologies that can capture methane from landfill sites so it can be used as fuel.

Tackling food waste

Every tonne of food and drink wasted creates around 4 tonnes of CO₂. Food waste also costs business and households money – it can't be right that UK households throw away £12 billion of good food and drink every year. We'll work with the public and private sectors to help businesses and consumers drive down avoidable food waste.

More recycling

We will consult on higher recycling targets for packaging, particularly in areas such as plastic and aluminium where recycling rates are low.

You should be able to recycle when you are out and about – we will help businesses and councils who want to work together to put more recycling bins in places like shopping centres and high streets.

Working with businesses

Businesses have a big role to play in managing waste. We will work with them to reduce their waste through voluntary agreements – and invite producers to enter responsibility deals where they take responsibility for the whole life cycle of their products.

Did you know?

- Anaerobic digestion could produce enough electricity for 3m people – the combined populations of Birmingham and Nottingham.
- Waste services cost the average household over £145 per year.

Find out more

There's more information about waste on these websites:

Defra - www.defra.gov.uk/environment/waste

WRAP - www.wrap.org.uk

Environment Agency - www.environment-agency.gov.uk/business/topics/waste

Government Review of Waste Policy 2011

– what this means for householders

Why waste matters

We all have an interest in waste, from how our bins are collected to the cost of what we throw away – both to us and the environment.

That's why the government has reviewed its waste policies in England – this factsheet tells you about our plans and how they will affect you.

A zero waste economy

We've already achieved a lot – English households recycle 40% of their waste, up from little more than 10% just a decade ago. However, as a nation we still produce 200 million tonnes every year and we need to do more to reduce this. We want to move towards a "zero waste economy" where we reduce, reuse and recycle all we can, and throw things away only as a last resort.

Better collection services

We want to make it easier for people to reuse and recycle, and easier for people to find out about local waste services. That's why we are encouraging councils to sign up to the new Recycling & Waste Services Commitment. This will tell you what you can expect from your local services and ensure the council listens to you and works with you to help reduce waste.

We understand that householders have a reasonable expectation that waste collection services should

be weekly, particularly for smelly waste. We will be working with local councils to increase the frequency and quality of rubbish collections and make it easier to recycle, and to tackle measures which encourage councils specifically to cut the scope of collections.

Recycling on the go

You should be able to recycle when you are out and about as well as at home – we will help businesses and councils who want to work together to put more recycling bins in public places like shopping centres and high streets.

Encouraging re-use

We're working with local authorities, businesses and charities to make it easier for you to donate and buy more reused items, such as electrical goods, furniture and clothes. For example, we are supporting development of 'one-stop shop' repair and reuse facilities.

Reasonable enforcement

We'll also stop councils from criminalising householders for trivial bin offences such as putting their bin out on the wrong day. Instead, we'll have smaller penalties and target enforcement on those who persistently flout the law, such as flytippers.

We will support councils that reward and recognise people who do the right thing.

Sensitive planning

In the coming years, landfill sites will close but we will need more sites for reusing and recycling waste, and recovering energy from some types of waste. We'll make sure that householders have a say in planning where these facilities are placed, so that you are involved in the decision that's made.

Did you know?

- Anaerobic digestion could produce enough electricity for 3m people – the combined populations of Birmingham and Nottingham.
- Waste services cost the average household over £145 per year.

Find out more

There's more information about waste on these websites:

Defra - www.defra.gov.uk/environment/waste

WRAP - www.wrap.org.uk

Environment Agency - www.environment-agency.gov.uk/business/topics/waste

Government Review of Waste Policy 2011

– what it means for Local Authorities

Why waste matters

Waste collection is a key frontline service which affects quality of life, and waste sent to landfill is a major contributor to UK methane emissions.

That's why the government is reviewing and improving its policies on waste. This leaflet gives an overview of these policies and what they mean for local authorities.

A zero waste economy

Although local authorities in England have made big strides in reducing and recycling waste, they still handle over 12 million of the 44 million tonnes of waste sent to landfill every year. The government wants to move beyond a throwaway society towards a zero waste economy, where we work to prevent waste, then reuse and recycle – and throw away only as a last resort.

Engaging with customers

All local authorities should seek the views of their customers when designing and delivering waste services. They should provide opportunities for people who want to do more than the minimum and tell them what happens to their waste.

We are encouraging local authorities to sign up to two Recycling and Waste Services Commitments, one for householders and one for businesses. The commitments will give councils a tool to frame discussions with householders, business customers and contractors.

We understand that householders have a reasonable expectation that waste collection services should be

weekly, particularly for smelly waste. We will be working with local councils to increase the frequency and quality of rubbish collections and make it easier to recycle, and to tackle measures which encourage councils specifically to cut the scope of collections.

Rewarding good waste management

The government would like to see a shift from enforcement powers that may infringe civil liberties towards reward and encouragement. For example, we're removing the criminal sanction and £1,000 fine for householders who present their waste in the wrong way and replacing them with more appropriate, smaller fines. But we will ensure that you continue to have the powers you need to tackle serious waste crime.

To promote reward and recognition, we have commissioned research to understand the best ways of rewarding people. We have also launched a scheme to fund innovative reward and recognition schemes.

Reducing the burden on local authorities

The government is committed to removing some of the barriers to good service delivery.

We have removed targets – to free local authorities to focus on providing services in the most sustainable way for their local area. We are also looking to reduce the quantity of information that councils have to report and cut the amount of waste management legislation. For example, we are ending the Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme.

Supporting local authorities

The government will help local authorities form partnerships to procure and provide services more effectively. We are also working with iESE and WRAP to improve local authority procurement skills. And with our support, WRAP is also promoting good practice in recycling in public areas and exploring ways to deliver improved reuse and recycling facilities.

We will also promote the use of a carbon metric reporting tool to help councils report the environmental impacts of waste management in carbon terms. We are also supporting anaerobic digestion.

Did you know?

- The waste management industry employs between 120,000 and 150,000 people.
- Anaerobic digestion could produce enough electricity to supply nearly a million households.

Find out more

There's more information about waste on these websites:

Defra - www.defra.gov.uk/environment/waste

WRAP - www.wrap.org.uk

Environment Agency - www.environment-agency.gov.uk/business/topics/waste

Appendix 3

**Response to the Waste Policy Review from the Local Authority
Recycling Advisory Committee (LARAC).**



"Working for our members to be the voice of government on waste minimisation and recycling issues"

LOCAL AUTHORITY RECYCLING
ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Department for Environment, Food and Rural
Affairs
Nobel House,
17 Smith Square
London,
SW1P 3JR

26th August 2011

Dear Sir/Madam

GOVERNMENTS REVIEW OF WASTE POLICY IN ENGLAND 2011

I am writing to present the LARAC response to the recently published review of waste policy, which is contained below.

The response below is sent on behalf of the Local Authority Recycling Advisory Committee (LARAC). LARAC is an association of around 85% of the local authorities across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland whose waste management and recycling professionals co-ordinate and operate waste management services. Membership is drawn from all types of authority including statutory Waste Collection (WCA), Waste Disposal (WDA) and Unitary authorities.

Our response has been peer reviewed by members of LARAC's policy team and executive committee. LARAC members have also been invited to comment on the publication through the members' discussion forum on our website. All contributions received have been taken into account in drafting the response below.

If you have any queries on this response then please contact me at sally.sheward@staffordshire.gov.uk or Andrew Craig at andrewj.craig@ntlworld.com.

Yours faithfully,

Sally Sheward
LARAC Policy Team



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GENERAL COMMENTS

LARAC believes that there is much to commend within the review. However there were several areas where we felt more work could be done and where greater commitment could have been given to the interventions needed for delivery.

With business waste making up around 30 % of the total waste stream, the increased focus on this the review is very much welcomed. The emphasis on partnerships is regarded as positive, so too is the Government's appreciation of the fact that producer funding at the moment does not cover the full cost of collecting, sorting and recycling packaging waste. The recognition of the link between waste and consumption together with understanding the role that product design and manufacture can have in achieving waste minimisation has also been received positively.

In many respects the Review gives many commitments to working with and supporting businesses, industry, local government and the big society. However, overall there were only a very few tangible key actions relevant to each sector, therefore much less in the way of a demonstrable step change than had been hoped for.

THE AMBITION & CASE FOR ACTION

LARAC commends the decision to review waste policy in England which it welcomes.

In the response to a call for evidence, LARAC set out how we believed the term "zero waste" should be clearly defined so as to avoid confusion with "zero waste to landfill". Whilst "zero waste economy" is outlined in the context of materials being recovered, recycled or reused LARAC was pleased to note the review also recognises and considers disposal in this context, albeit as an option of last resort.

Whilst LARAC respects the Government's desire not to implement target based approaches to the achievement of aims, it was nonetheless disappointing to read that its ambition was for an overall recycling rate for England of no more than the 50% level set out in the Waste Framework Directive. Achieving this rate of recycling has been acknowledged as a principal challenge. However the desire to achieve higher rates of recycling is something that only the devolved administrations seem to be now aspiring to.

Whilst unnecessary and excessive regulatory requirements are sometimes unfair on those that are compliant; regulation does have a role to play in achieving aims. The review sets out to reduce burdens by removing what are considered barriers to innovation. However without Government intervention we are not convinced that the market will provide a sufficient incentive for businesses to "do the right thing", insofar as it has failed to achieve this to date.

LARAC understands that empowering local communities to become involved in the delivery of services has many benefits, not least of aiding understanding and providing accountability



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and democracy. However it believes that for "localism" to work meaningfully within the waste sector, local parties and groups will need to work together with those already involved with such services, ensuring that a consistent approach is adopted with respect to the technical complexities associated with managing waste appropriately and effectively.

SUSTAINABLE USE OF MATERIALS & WASTE PREVENTION, REUSE AND RECYCLING

LARAC agrees that focussing efforts at the top end of the waste hierarchy is a priority. Ensuring products are designed from a whole life cycle perspective will help achieve greater waste minimisation and will assist in ensuring that when the product has reached the end of its useful life it can be recovered/recycled in line with the options available. We support measures creating conditions whereby "disposable goods" are moved out of the supply chain and replaced with more durable goods.

Furthermore, LARAC is keen to ensure that, in keeping with taking a "zero waste economy" seriously, the whole sustainable consumption and production agenda needs to be considered in totality. In this respect, the commitment that the review gives to more sustainable use of materials is very positive. However there is little to indicate how this will be achieved. Exploring options for improving recovery of valuable materials is outlined, but with little detail on how this would deliver outcomes. The reference to "only where commercially viable" further reduces potential impact.

The commitment to provide more information and support to Businesses is a step in the right direction, with the creation of a Waste Prevention Fund a clear signal of action to help deliver on this aim.

However, exactly how the Government proposes to work with, enable continued development of, and explore options on a variety of other different waste prevention proposals is unclear. LARAC hopes that the Government will provide more detailed information in these areas.

The development of a Waste Prevention Programme is certainly welcomed by LARAC and its Members and over the next 2 years we look forward to being able to contribute to its development.

Whilst LARAC was disappointed that a moratorium on packaging targets was announced towards the end of 2010, we had hoped that the review would give commitment in relation to increased recycling targets from 2013. Needless to say upon publication of the review we were further disappointed that no commitment in relation to higher targets was given, merely a pledge to consult further.

Challenging packaging recycling targets are an essential element in not only increasing recycling and reducing carbon from materials that are currently going to landfill, but also helping user organisations to develop new supply chains out of the most common packaging materials plastics and cardboard (including composites). Until a firm signal is given on this,



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new supply chains that are needed to de-risk investments in new packaging recycling initiatives will be hard to develop.

To this end, LARAC hopes that the Government will ensure that all parts of the materials chains are consulted during the process of packaging targets, in particular the new resources industries such as base chemicals and the energy industry.

Whilst commercial organisations in the packaging supply chain will undoubtedly call for reduced targets, LARAC anticipates that public, community and private sector organisations will all want targets to be as challenging as possible so that maximum levels of materials can be recovered. LARAC participates in the Advisory Committee on Packaging (ACP) and concurs that there is an urgent need for the current Packaging Recovery Note (PRN) system to be made transparent. This is vital if public confidence (and perception) is to be gained that the issue of packaging recycling has been effectively addressed in the review.

LARAC wholeheartedly supports the principle of Extended Producer responsibility and is pleased to read that further Responsibility Deals are being considered across a greater proportion of industry.

However, whilst the first Courtauld Agreement has been quite successful at getting most of the large brand owners and retailers together to reduce packaging the second commitment is ambitious and appears to be less clear in areas such as carbon effects measurement. Similarly whilst LARAC supports the principle of these deals we are doubtful that, by themselves, they will achieve great results. Private sector organisations will seek to do different things and will have differing priorities to those that are accountable to the public.

In contrast a Local Authority cannot be selective and has to be accountable to the whole population. There are good examples of genuine partnership approaches between both private sector and business from which learning will be gained for example the unique collaboration between Marks and Spencer and Somerset Waste Partnership.

Overall, whilst the principle of responsibility deals is something LARAC supports, without a credible threat of compulsion it is unlikely that Society as a whole will benefit as much as it might from better resources management.

In its response to the Call for Evidence, LARAC called for attention to be focussed on those waste streams where the greatest environmental benefit could be gained from prevention, thereby applying a rationale to such a choice. In this respect, and in stark contrast to the paucity of information about delivery mechanisms of some commitments, the specific action to focus on "toy packaging" within the review seemed somewhat arbitrary. Packaging for cosmetics, non-food goods (e.g. hardware and DIY) and luxury goods are equally strong candidates for attention.

The inclusion of Deposit Return Schemes within the review was encouraging, (albeit in very limited detail) and LARAC look forward to contributing further on this as part of the consultation on packaging in 2012. Discussions and consultations with our members on these schemes has shown, in principle, support for their use in reducing litter and increasing recycling, primarily on a voluntary basis.



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REGULATION & ENFORCEMENT

LARAC recognises that the review is seeking to minimise burdens on businesses and to encourage householders to participate more in waste prevention and recycling by adopting a light touch on regulation. However, our members have expressed disappointment and concern regarding the repeal of certain powers under the review. In particular, parts of the Environment Act 1990. The number of cases where these powers have been exercised compared to the many millions of bin collections that Local Authorities carry out each week in England is minimal. Where they have been used in the past, they have almost never been taken lightly, but rather as a last resort in a difficult situation. Although rarely used, the ability to fine persistent offenders is something that LARAC would like to see retained.

Furthermore, our members have expressed concern in relation to paragraph 131 of the review. LARAC would like the Government to clarify exactly what it proposes to in respect of Section 46 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (EPA 1990). We hope that the repeal relates only to provision of up to a £1000 fine, NOT the ability to specify how householders present their waste for collection. Further clarification on this would be welcomed.

The example given in point 134 of the review, using a more light hearted touch to local authority enforcement is commended, however in keeping with the LARAC view of "one size doesn't fit all" approach to collections, there will be undoubtedly be areas and situations where this is perhaps not suitable.

In any case, LARAC would welcome clearer guidance on the extent of local authority powers under this section of the EPA 1990 and how much, if at all, the Government proposes to change these.

EMPOWERING LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Householders and local authorities working together

LARAC welcomes the review's confirmation that waste services are a matter for local authorities to develop fit for purpose solutions. Each district has different demographics, different needs and requirements and individual circumstance. It is vital that local authorities are given the freedom to achieve a service that suits the needs of local people and the local environment. LARAC believes this is in keeping with the Government's "localism" philosophy.

It is widely acknowledged and documented that choice and frequency of collection strongly influence and facilitate increases in recycling, yet the review sets out a commitment that the Government will work with local councils to increase the frequency and quality of rubbish collections. LARAC would welcome further details as to exactly what measures are being proposed to increase the frequency of collections and what evidence exists that collection frequency need to be changed.



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LARAC understands that high quality information is critical to achieve buy in from residents for most of the waste services that are offered. Over the last decade, LARAC has recognised that WRAP has assisted greatly with helping to improve and standardise recycling communications to members of the public and have provided much needed support to Local Authorities to get the messages across. The review makes specific reference to information relating to end destinations for materials that are recycled. Whilst LARAC accepts that there is always more that could be done in this area the review did not outline specific measures that the Government proposes to assist Local Authorities and other key stakeholders in achieving this. More consideration should be given to the packaging industry's involvement in helping Local Authorities to achieve this.

Whilst much of the Review lacks specific actions, there is a list of specific and fairly tangible activities in relation to rewards and recognitions. In general LARAC supports the concept of "rewards" as a motivational tool but this does not engage everyone. Some may see it as paradoxical that a grant funding scheme will be made available to "incentivise" community groups, civic society organisations and local authorities to come up with innovative schemes! LARAC hopes that the allocation of funds under this scheme will take into account any perverse incentives schemes may provide for people to consume more.

In consideration of support to local authorities, LARAC welcomes the announcement in the review that the Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme will end in 2013. This will eliminate the disincentive that local authorities often perceive against providing its small local businesses with services to recycle their waste. LARAC would welcome further guidance and on how Local Authorities might now better support such businesses.

LARAC understands the Government is keen to reduce the burden to Local Authorities in respect of the amount of data that is reported. Where appropriate, LARAC supports streamlining data collections. However, it is also important to consider the importance of good quality comparable data as a management tool; one which is vital in understanding how services perform and how best they may be improved from a quality as well as efficiency perspective. It is important therefore that reducing information demands does not lead to loss of key. LARAC proposes that any further changes to Waste Data Flow should be considered with these comments in mind.

Business waste collections

For many years, the success of focussing on household waste reduction and recycling has been widely recognised. Much has been achieved in this regard and it is pleasing to read in the Review, that greater emphasis and focus is now to be given to wider municipal wastes. Local authorities are often asked about services to Small Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and LARAC recognises that there is more that needs to be done in this respect.

The Review identified many of the key barriers faced by businesses in the quest to recycle more and gave some commitment to tackling this. LARAC welcomes this, but we feel that more information as to how many of these commitments could be to be delivered should have been given. In particular, how does Government propose to encourage local authorities to consider the use of household facilities for joint use taking into account the perceived barriers to joint use of these sites.



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Involvement of Civil Society

LARAC supports the use of civil society in delivering community involvement in recycling and /or reuse services and welcomes the acknowledgement within the Review that one of the key barriers to their involvement is finance. With Local Authorities facing financial constraints, the funding support traditionally use to help sustain these schemes may not be available.

Whilst the Government's commitment to civil society within the Review is clearly set out, once again there appears to be a lack of specific proposals for how the aims and objectives will be taken forward.

FOOD WASTE

LARAC supportst the Government's decision to give priority to food waste as this aligns with the general consensus that those waste streams where the greatest environmental benefit could be gained should be given greater focus.

The introduction of a producer responsibility deals for the hospitality and food service industry is welcomed and LARAC loosk forward to hearing more about this commitment in the near future.

ENERGY RECOVERY

Whilst the recognition that Energy recovery technology has a vital role to play in any sustainable waste management system is clearly stated, the Review also encouragingly sets out the role of Government in facilitating informed decisions by communities, local authorities and businesses. The work that will evolve from those commitments however needs to be set out in a clear and defined way if the commitments are to be achievable.

The better use of heat from EfW plants is essential to achieve high efficiency energy recovery from waste as the Review identifies. However, in general, the District Heating schemes needed to provide greater efficiency to these plants are unlikely to flourish unless some form of public subsidy is identified towards the infrastructure costs – there is a body of evidence that the incentives already introduced (Renewable Heat Incentives, Renewables Obligation, Code for Sustainable Homes, Green Investment Bank) will not be enough to address this market failure, where capital costs of the gas distribution infrastructure are sunk. This market failure has not been successfully, unaddressed.

LARAC shares the Government's view that Energy Recovery is an excellent use of many wastes that cannot be recycled and could otherwise go to landfill. The Review gives a focus on one specific recovery process, anaerobic digestion. Whilst this form of treatment works very effectively with certain waste streams (i.e. food waste), LARAC believes that other energy recovery processes should be considered alongside the work proposed for AD.

LANDFILL

LARAC concurs with the view that landfill should be the last resort for biodegradable waste, and that additional legislative measures may, in the future, be necessary to ensure wastes,



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that are considered resources are kept out of landfill. The views of key stakeholders on potential landfill bans for key materials has already been recently undertaken. It is therefore unlikely that further consultations will tease out any significant new views. LARAC sees limited value in repeating the exercise.

As discussed earlier, LARAC welcomes the abolishment of the Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme set out in the Review and supports the continued use of landfill tax at high levels.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND PLANNING

Once again, there are many words in the section on the issues around planning policy but very little substance. LARAC shares with ESA, anxiety that dismantling regional planning and replacing it with local accountability for planning strategy will lead to there being areas where local opposition will make it impossible to install the waste treatment facilities that are needed. Against the backdrop of reducing resources and therefore reducing capacity for strategic planning, the "duty to cooperate" in the Localism Bill could easily just become a box to tick.

It is pleasing to see that the Review highlights the importance of good and up to date information and data. A raft of excellent work has been undertaken over the past few years, particularly in relation to national statistics on Industrial and Commercial waste. There is a fear however, that without the continued funding required to sustain these data sets, information will rapidly become out of date and of diminishing use in the future. Provision of information from waste operators is in principle a good idea but does run contrary to the Government's pledge to reduce administrative burden. Moreover, the proposed change to section 108 of the 1995 Environment Act will serve to make it more difficult for local authorities to obtain compositional data.

The commitment within the Review to establish a new Green Investment Bank is certainly a step in the right direction to encouraging the increase in sustainable technologies bought to market by the private sector. LARAC looks forward to hearing further details on how this will progress.

NEXT STEPS

Further details on how many of the commitments in the review will be delivered and when would be welcomed by LARAC as the next step.