



# Gwynedd Council

## Introduction to a Draft Strategy for the Management of Municipal Waste

### **1. BACKGROUND**

- 1.1. The Assembly expects each unitary authority in Wales to produce a Municipal Waste Management Strategy to show how it will deal sustainably with the management of municipal waste in future. There is a need for the Strategy to show how the Council intends meeting recycling and composting targets and so on which are in the National Waste Strategy for Wales – “Wise About Waste”.

### **2. RECYCLING AND COMPOSTING TARGETS**

- 2.1. It will be necessary to meet the following targets with municipal waste in the years to come: -
- by 2006/07 achieve at least 25% recycling/composting with a minimum of 10% composting and 10% recycling.
  - by 2009/10 achieve at least 40% recycling/composting with a minimum of 15% composting and 15% recycling.
  - By 2010 to reduce biodegradable municipal waste landfilled to 75% (by weight) of that produced in 1995.
  - by 2013 to reduce biodegradable municipal waste landfilled to 50% (by weight) of that produced in 1995.
  - by 2020 to reduce biodegradable municipal waste landfilled to 35% (by weight) of that produced in 1995.
- 2.2. Only compost derived from source segregated materials count towards the composting targets. The recycling and composting targets for 2003/04 were met.

### **3. TARGETS IN TERMS OF WEIGHT**

- 3.1. These are the targets for Gwynedd in terms of tonnes, rather than percentages: -
- compost and recycle at least 11,850 tonnes in 2003/04 (actual figure was 12,680 tonnes)
  - compost and recycle at least 22,100 tonnes in 2006/07
  - compost and recycle at least 38,750 tonnes in 2009/10

### **4. THE WASTE HIERARCHY**

- 4.1. The National Waste Strategy established the following hierarchy for dealing with municipal waste: -
- prevent waste production

- minimise production of waste
  - re-use
  - recovery of materials
  - energy recovery
  - disposal
- 4.2. The Draft Waste Strategy in general follows the above hierarchy, other than perhaps with energy recovery. A regional facility would be required for energy recovery but as there is no firm information about such a scheme, that has not been included as part of the Draft Strategy.

## **5. MEETING TARGETS**

- 5.1. The targets referred to in point 2.1. relate basically to improving performance in three areas, namely: -
- (i) recycling waste
  - (ii) composting waste
  - (iii) reducing the amount of biodegradable municipal waste sent to landfill

A concise explanation is given below of how the Draft Strategy envisages that targets in the three areas will be met.

- 5.2. Paper, cardboard, plastic, glass and textiles can be recycled from domestic waste. The Council already has arrangements in place to recycle paper, glass, textiles and cans, so to improve on performance in the recycling field the Strategy proposes: -
- (i) raising awareness of the need to recycle
  - (ii) expanding the kerbside collection service to more homes
  - (iii) providing more bring banks in rural areas where a kerbside service cannot be easily provided
  - (iv) establishing a network of household waste recycling centres (or civic amenity sites) as experience has shown that over 60% of the waste received at such centres can be recycled. The centres will also be needed to meet new requirements with hazardous waste and electrical waste.
  - (v) Expand the kerbside service to include collecting cardboard and plastic bottles
  - (vi) Develop two materials recycling facilities to deal in particular with cardboard and plastic, but also to collect other materials together for transporting to recycling merchants.
- 5.3. The Draft Strategy takes into account that only compost produced from materials separated at source can count towards the composting targets. The Draft Strategy therefore envisages meeting the composting targets through: -
- (i) expanding the trial service in Dwyfor for the collection of green waste to the rest of Gwynedd
  - (ii) composting the green waste received in the household waste recycling centres
  - (iii) developing “in-vessel” composting facilities on two sites.

- (iv) after developing the “in-vessel” composting facilities, adding the collection of kitchen waste to the garden waste collection service.
- 5.4. One has to be practical and accept that not everybody will make full use of recycling services. The Draft Strategy acknowledges that some papers, kitchen and garden waste, textiles and so on will remain in the residential waste, and that a way will be needed to deal with that to meet with targets from 2010 onwards to reduce the biodegradable municipal waste sent to landfill. The Draft Strategy proposes dealing with that by composting the fines waste produced through the pulverising process by equipment already in place on disposal sites at Harlech, and at Llwyn Isaf, Clynnog.
- 5.5. The Draft Strategy refers to associated elements of work, but points 5.2, 5.3 and 5.4 above note the main points.

## 6. PRIORITIES

- 6.1. The priorities with regard to a programme of work to meet the targets are as shown below. The situation with the Cilgwyn landfill site may result in the priorities having to be changed slightly.
- a) Short Term – 2004/05 to 2007/08**
    - installing additional bring facilities
    - expansion of the kerbside recycling scheme
    - expansion of the green waste collection service
    - start on the work of establishing a network of household waste recycling centres
    - establish a Materials Recycling Facility
  - (b) Medium Term – 2007/08 to 2008/09**
    - complete installation of additional bring facilities
    - complete the work of establishing a network of household waste recycling centres
    - establishing two sites for “in-vessel” composting
    - expansion of the green waste collection service to include kitchen waste
    - establish a second Materials Recycling Facility
    - expansion of the kerbside recycling service to include plastic and cardboard
    - establish arrangements on one site to deal with residual waste
  - (c) Longer Term – 2009/10 onwards**
    - Establish arrangements to deal with residual waste on a second site
- 6.2. It is clear that there will be substantial costs with developing the facilities shown above. A suitable level of financial support from the Assembly will be required, and it will also be necessary to look for grants to help with the costs.

## 7. CONTACT POINT

- 7.1 If you want further information, contact Peter Evans on phone number 01286 679404 or by e-mail to [peter@ifionevans@gwynedd.gov.uk](mailto:peter@ifionevans@gwynedd.gov.uk)