

## **COUNCILS WASTE PLANS GIVEN GREEN LIGHT**

Revised plans for how District Councils will deal with our waste have been given the go-ahead by the DOE.

“New recycling and treatment facilities will help to ensure that Councils continue to make progress towards key EU targets for diverting waste from landfill,” said Richard Rogers, Chief Executive of the Environment & Heritage Service (EHS).

“The District Councils have already made good progress in recycling much of our household waste and have effectively met the recycling target set in the first Waste Management Strategy, recycling almost 25% of all household waste,” he said.

The revised Waste Management Plans have been prepared by the 3 District Council Partnerships and include the provision of additional bins and centres for recycling and composting and the development of new infrastructure to maximise the recovery of recyclable materials and energy from the residual waste stream. Considerable effort will also be put into encouraging waste prevention and resource efficiency.

Richard Rogers said “I want to commend the District Councils for their efforts to date in increasing waste recycling, from 4.9% in 1998/99 to 24.4% in 2005/06 and in meeting their allowance targets for diverting waste from landfill.

“They have now prepared more comprehensive Waste Management Plans with higher levels of service and new technologies required to meet challenging landfill diversion targets and minimise the health and environmental impacts of the waste we produce.

“The proposals for recovering energy from our waste are very timely as we address climate change and the options for alternatives to fossil fuel combustion.

“I would encourage the public and businesses to continue to support the efforts to reduce the amount of waste we produce and recycle whatever we can.”

More information on recycling performance can be found at [www.ehsni.gov.uk](http://www.ehsni.gov.uk)

## **NOTES TO EDITORS:**

1. The Councils are divided into three Partnerships. Each Partnership has developed an individual Plan in response to the demands in their specific regions: the North West Region Waste Management Group, arc21 (Eastern Waste Management Partnership) and SWaMP (Southern Waste Management Partnership).
2. The key to this achievement has been partnership and co-operation at all levels: individual Councils and between the Councils and the DOE.
3. The 2002 NI Waste Management Strategy had set a household waste recycling target of 25%.
4. The aims and objectives of the 2006 Waste Management Strategy are as follows:  
The aim of the Waste Management Strategy is to help us manage waste and resources effectively. This means using material resources in a way that reduces the quantities of waste produced and, where waste is generated, to manage it in a way that minimises its impact on the environment and public health and contributes positively to economic and social development.  
In support of this aim, the key objectives of this Strategy are:
  - to move from waste towards resources management;
  - to demonstrate Government's commitment by setting an example to other sectors of good waste management practice and by using its purchasing power to drive change;
  - to prevent waste, where possible;
  - to use the necessary Government powers (legislative, regulatory and economic) to ensure improved waste management practices
  - to maximise recycling and recovery of those materials which enter the waste stream;
  - to develop an integrated network of regional waste management facilities that represent value for money for Northern Ireland;
  - to attract investment, support economic development and create opportunities for increased employment and wealth creation

- to improve data to support investment and facilitate monitoring;
- to maintain a regulatory framework which supports those businesses that work towards more efficient and sustainable use of resources; and
- to promote, encourage and facilitate public action through providing the opportunity to contribute to environmental protection at individual and household levels.

## **5. Primary Targets**

- Recycling and composting of household waste to be at:
    - 35% by 2010;
    - 40% by 2015;
    - 45% by 2020.
  - 60% of commercial and industrial waste to be recycled by 2020.
  - Reduce the quantities of biodegradable municipal wastes being landfilled to 75% of 1995 baseline levels by 2010, 50% by 2013 and 35% by 2020.
- 6.** A summary of 2005/06 Municipal Waste Statistics is available at [www.ehsni.gov.uk](http://www.ehsni.gov.uk).

Further media enquiries contact DOE Press Office Tel 90540003.