

## **ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE**

**Date:** Wednesday 18 December 2002  
**Time:** 9.15 am to 12.00 pm  
**Venue:** Committee Room 3, National Assembly Building

### **WALES WASTE STRATEGY ACTION PLAN**

#### **Purpose**

1. To provide an outline of the key actions by the Assembly Government to implement 'Wise About Waste' and to seek advice on some approaches.

#### **Background**

2. Wise about Wales is a statutory plan that meets a wide range of domestic and EU requirements.

3. The Prime Minister's Strategy Unit has recently concluded its study on municipal waste in England. The report includes recommendations on policy areas that are not devolved, most notably fiscal measures. The recent Pre-Budget Report announced proposals for the Landfill Tax for 'active' waste to be raised to £35 per tonne at a rate of £3 per tonne increase per annum from 2005/06. The current level of Landfill Tax is £13 per tonne. The Report also identifies that the Assembly Government will take over in 2003/04 the Wales share of the Landfill Tax Credit Scheme monies that can go towards a public spending programme to encourage sustainable waste management.

4. The Committee is invited to note that the Waste and Emissions Bill, introduced into Parliament, includes provision for the National Assembly to introduce through Regulations:

- a municipal biodegradable waste (BMW) allowance scheme to limit the amount of BMW that is landfilled by each local authority; and
- a statutory requirement for each local authority to produce a Municipal Waste Management Strategy and to provide waste management data.

5. Consideration is to be given to how the allowance scheme will work and the Assembly Government shall be consulting in due course. The Assembly Government has produced draft guidance with the WLGA on municipal waste management plans. Authorities have been asked to provide such plans by November 2003.

6. To help us understand the potential barriers to the successful delivery of Wise About Waste, we have carried out a risk assessment. This with the actions to ensure that any barriers are overcome effectively, are outlined in Annexes A-D. These actions take into account the views of the Wales Waste Forum, which met on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2002.

### **Specific issues for the Committee to consider**

7. The views of the Committee are sought on the following points:

8. Revised terms of reference for the Wales Waste Forum The Forum was initially set up to advise on the development of the National Waste Strategy for Wales. It is now proposed to continue with the Forum of key waste stakeholders with the objectives of:

- advising the Assembly Government on the implementation, monitoring and review of the Waste Strategy within the context of the overarching SD Scheme;
- encouraging the development of partnerships to ensure the most cost effective means of delivering the Strategy, minimising environmental impacts and maximising social and economic benefits;
- advising on ways to encourage public acceptance of new waste management methods.

8. The Committee is invited to comment on Waste Forum's objectives.

9. Progress on regional waste planning arrangements The three regional groupings involving all Welsh Unitary Authorities have produced their regional waste assessments to deadline. The next stage in the process of finally producing regional waste plans will be to consider options for the future management of waste in each region, and the nature and possible location of the new facilities needed.

10. The Committee is invited to comment on whether they consider that the planning arrangements (see Annex B for further details) are adequate to ensure that the necessary waste management infrastructure is developed in time in Wales.

11. Sustainable Business Action Plan As outlined in Annex D, 'Sustainable Business Wales' sets out what will be done by the Assembly Government, and its main partners, to improve support to Welsh business in their efforts to generate sustainable economic

growth.

12. The Committee is invited to consider whether further action is required to ensure that Welsh businesses respond to the challenges and take advantage of the opportunities presented in the Waste Strategy.

## **Recommendation**

14. The Committee is invited to note the actions being taking on key delivery areas in the Waste Strategy and to offer views.

**Dr.A.W.G.Rees,**

**Waste Strategy Unit**

**December 2002**

## **ANNEX A**

### **IMPROVING THE MANAGEMENT OF MUNICIPAL WASTE**

#### Challenges:

- meet EC Directive targets for the recycling of packaging waste and for limiting the amount of biodegradable municipal waste (BMW) landfilled;
- ensure that waste minimisation, recycling and composting are the principal methods used to meet the targets with the use of energy from waste minimised where feasible;
- move from the current level of municipal waste recycling and composting of 7% (2000/01 figure) to 40% by 2009/10;
- reduce the production of household waste by 2010 to 1998 levels;
- meeting the tougher 2013 and 2020 BMW diversion targets will require significant efforts in waste minimisation and even higher rates of recycling and composting, and/or the use of other techniques to manage residual waste (e.g. mechanical biological treatment or energy from waste);

## Risks:

That local authorities will fail to meet the targets because of:

- the short timescales involved and the scale of the changes that are necessary;
- failure to secure the co-operation of the public in separating out materials for recycling and composting;
- lack of funding for investment to make the necessary changes.

## Actions by the Assembly Government:

The Assembly Government is assisting local authorities to meet the targets through:

- the £67m special grant for 2002 to 2005;
- the production of joint (with the WLGA) guidance on municipal waste management strategies;
- active participation in the 5 partnership 'High Diversion Exemplar' projects which aim to recycle/compost more than 50% of municipal waste by March 2006 and to share good practice with the rest of Wales;
- £2.4m in 2002/03 for fridge recycling/disposal;
- £700,000 to support a Waste Awareness Wales education programme led by the WLGA in partnership with Keep Wales Tidy.
- £5000 co-funding of a study into civic amenity site use by traders and consequent effects on recycling rates.

## Progress monitoring:

Progress towards meeting the targets will be monitored through:

- exercising powers proposed in the Waste and Emissions Bill to:
- monitor local authority compliance with the Landfill Directive targets to reduce obligations
- make mandatory the production of municipal waste management strategies by local

authorities; and

- make mandatory the submission of municipal waste data by local authorities;
- visiting each authority to examine what steps each has taken and what further guidance and assistance are necessary.

## **ANNEX B**

### **DEVELOPMENT OF AN ADEQUATE WASTE MANAGEMENT FACILITY INFRASTRUCTURE**

#### Challenges:

- the EC Waste Framework Directive sets a statutory requirement for the Assembly Government to take appropriate measures to establish an integrated and adequate network of waste disposal installations;
- the successful delivery of 'Wise About Waste', and the need to comply with a number of new EC Waste Directives, will critically rely upon the development of a whole new set of facilities for all types of wastes in Wales;
- public opposition to new waste management facilities.

#### Risks:

- the necessary investment will not be forthcoming;
- the development planning process will not make adequate provision for the delivery of the required infrastructure in time;
- the Regional Waste Plans will not be incorporated into Unitary Development Plans in sufficient time to assist the development of required infrastructure

#### Action by the Assembly Government:

The Assembly Government has taken the following measures to ensure that the necessary infrastructure is established:

- establishment of relevant policies and measures in Planning Policy Wales and Technical Advice Note 21 Waste (TAN 21);
- the establishment of 3 "joint regional arrangements" of planning authorities by May 2002;
- support for the production of 3 regional waste plans that are to be subject to consultation and agreed by the constituent local authorities by November 2003;
- the requirement for the incorporation of Regional Waste Plans into the Unitary Development Plan (UDP) at the earliest possible opportunity;
- financial support for investment in new waste facilities is provided through various Assembly funding schemes, including Objective 1 Priority 6 Measure 4 (Environmental Infrastructure), Regional Selective Assistance, Assembly Investment Grant, etc.;
- support for the waste management industry in Wales is also provided through the WDA's Environmental Goods and Services programme.

### Monitoring

The Waste Strategy Unit will monitor the establishment of the infrastructure and the way in which local authority UDPs implement the requirements of TAN 21. Particular note will be taken of the requirement for UDPs to ensure that appropriate sites or types of locations are identified for the waste management facilities that are required.

## **ANNEX C**

### **DEVELOPMENT OF ADEQUATE MARKETS FOR RECYCLATE AND COMPOST**

#### Challenges:

Actions by local authorities and businesses to increase recycling and composting will lead to greatly increased tonnages of recyclate and compost being produced in Wales. This will require the expansion of existing markets, and the development of new ones, for these 'secondary' materials.

#### Risks:

- Adequate, local markets may not be developed at the same pace as the materials will

be produced;

- Practical monitoring of market development is difficult due to the number of organisations involved across Wales.

### Actions by the Assembly Government:

The Assembly Government is taking the following measures to ensure that the necessary markets for recycle and compost are established:

- contributing £1.65m towards the UK Waste and Resources Action Programme's (WRAP) overall £55.5m funding for the years 2001-2004;
- contributing £200,000 towards the £1.65m "Creating Welsh Markets for Recycle" (CWMRe) project being run by The Wales Environment Trust (WET) with other funding from Objective 1 and 2, and Landfill Tax Credits;
- ensuring that guidance is provided to the public sector on the procurement of recycled and composted products;
- implementing initiatives to expand the use of secondary aggregates in Wales.

### Monitoring:

The Waste Strategy Unit, in collaboration with the WDA, WET and WRAP will monitor as far as possible the development of recycling and composting markets in Wales in relation to the supply of materials from the municipal, commercial and industrial waste streams.

## **ANNEX D**

### **BUSINESS RESPONSE TO THE CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES.**

#### Challenges/opportunities:

The Strategy:

- does not impose any additional burdens on businesses in Wales beyond those that are already applied through current and forthcoming EU and UK legislation;

- challenges and encourage businesses to meet sustainable waste management targets; many of these have been set in anticipation of the likely direction of future EC waste legislation;
- outlines what businesses will have to do to meet the requirements of recently introduced and forthcoming UK and EC waste legislation;
- identifies that there are many opportunities to save money and become more competitive through adopting more sustainable waste management practices
- identifies that there are also substantial opportunities for businesses that can provide sustainable waste management solutions for other companies.

### Risks:

There is a risk that lack of awareness and the necessary support may mean that businesses in Wales will fail to meet the challenges identified in the Strategy, and will also fail to grasp the opportunities.

### Action by the Assembly Government:

The Assembly Government is promoting the following actions to enable businesses to meet the challenges and opportunities identified in *Wise About Waste*:

- issuing for consultation the 'Sustainable Business Wales' action plan which sets out what will be done by the Assembly Government, and its main partners, to improve support to Welsh business in their efforts to generate sustainable economic growth;
- ensuring that the UK Envirowise waste minimisation programme is delivered effectively in Wales;
- supporting the Green Dragon (Environmental Management) Standard scheme;
- providing £0.5m to the "EM4Wales" environmental support programme to help achieve the target of 500 businesses implementing Environmental Management Systems in Wales;
- supporting the WDA's Environmental Goods and Services Programme in which waste management is a key sector;
- providing general awareness raising e.g. through seminars, articles in the media and a

dedicated web site.

## Monitoring

Identifying ways to monitor the response of business to the challenges and opportunities identified in the Waste Strategy will need to be addressed in the development of the final Sustainable Business Action Plan.