

Waste Management Quick Guide

August 2007 update



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WASTE MANAGEMENT QUICK GUIDE

Section 1: Introduction

Introduction

This Waste Management Quick Guide has been developed by a number of specialists over a number of years. This latest review, August 2007, builds on what has gone before. Its purpose is to provide colleagues with sufficient basic information to support them and give them confidence when carrying out specialist waste management work with councils.

This Quick Guide is aimed to be a useful reminder on current issues regarding waste management together and an over view for colleagues who maybe less-familiar with waste management services.

This Quick Guide does not replace any specialist products or Criteria for Judgement.

Waste management is basically a simple service. It is **NOT** rocket science. But it is a service that local people expect high standards from. Locally, people want and expect streets and other areas to be free of litter and their bin to be emptied on time with little disruption. But of course, there is a lot more to it including diversity, access, resolving in-equalities, balancing national and local priorities, regeneration and reducing crime and disorder.

Things are changing rapidly in waste, driven by national and European legislation, increasing costs and greater public awareness. It is further complicated by different arrangements across England involving local district councils, county council or 'regional' disposal authorities (or not) and regional assemblies, Government targets for all councils, and landfill allocations for some councils, legislation requiring some councils to produce joint waste management strategies but exempting others.

To understand this it is best, for a few moments, to work out who does what, why they do that and what impacts on them.

A brief history – it's all happened before

Waste has been formally managed for a long time. This table gives just some of the key or interesting dates. They are not relevant for any inspection work other than to indicate that 'nothing is new'.

- First landfill site recorded over 3000 years ago
- First municipally run landfill site 500BC in Athens – and ban all waste being dumped within a mile of the city walls.
- 1297 - First waste law passed in Britain – made it requirement to keep the front of houses clean.
- 1354 - Local councils start to pay the street cleaners to remove waste weekly – becomes the weekly refuse collection. Waste dumped (composted) on farm land. (First recorded use of compostable waste in UK)
- 1515 - Strafford-upon-Avon court record show that Shakespeare's father was fined for 'depositing filth in a public street'.
- 1800's 'Dustmen' collected the ash from coal fires. The dust was taken to dust-yards. Sieved for metals, and then ash and clinker used for brick making (effectively a Materials Recovery Facility!)
- 1970 – Schweppes end reusable bottles
- 1971 - Drums of cyanide waste are dumped at abandoned brick kiln near Nuneaton, leading to a huge public outcry. (first real public concern about fly tipping)
- 1990 - 'This Common Inheritance' published.
Environmental Protection Act 1990 separates waste regulation from operational work in local authorities and implements more regulations and controls.
- 1992 - The Duty of Care is introduced - those who deal with waste are now given a duty to care for it.
- 1996 - Making Waste Work published - confirms the target of 25% of household waste to be recycled by the year 2000.
The landfill tax is introduced - £7 per tonne on active waste going to landfill
- 1997 - The Producer Responsibility Obligations (Packaging Waste) implemented,
- 1999 - The Government releases "A Way with Waste", a draft waste strategy for England and Wales.
- 2000 - A finalised waste strategy for England and Wales - "Waste Strategy 2000" - published, revising national targets for the recycling or composting of household waste: 25% by 2005, 30% by 2010, and 33% by 2015.
- 2003 - Household waste recycling act – makes recycling a statutory service from 2010
- 2005 - Clean neighbourhoods act – strengthens council's power to keep land clean and deal with those responsible for not keeping their own land clean

Waste Today

Dealing with waste is complicated by the raft of differing bits of legislation and a confusing array of titles and descriptions for waste. It is not necessary to know the full range of terms, but the following broadly outlines what means what¹.

Different terminology is used in different bits of legislation. These are the terms used in UK legislation.

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Household waste • Commercial waste • Industrial waste • Construction and demolition | } | <p>DESCRIBE WHERE THE
WASTE COMES FROM/ THE
OWNER OF THE WASTE</p> |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|

NB: at any one time, waste only falls into one of the above descriptions, although it can change. E.g. waste is either household or commercial, it can not be both. It can change ownership – e.g. you hire a skip. You put household waste into it. The private skip company takes it away, it becomes commercial waste!

Elsewhere you may hear the following terms used. Some, such as municipal waste, are found in European legislation.

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|----------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Municipal waste • Biodegradable waste • Clinical waste • Hazardous waste • Recyclable waste | } | <p>DESCRIBES PROPERTIES
OF THE WASTE</p> |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|----------------------------------------------|

Household Waste

Household waste is defined legally. Councils may handle other types of waste, such as commercial and industrial. But the definition of household waste is important because it is this waste, and only this waste, that is used when calculating the BVPIs, and when assessing whether they have met their targets.

Household waste includes:

- ◆ Waste collection rounds (including separate rounds for collection for recyclables)
- ◆ street cleansing and litter collection
- ◆ bulky waste collections *
- ◆ Hazardous household waste collections *
- ◆ household clinical waste collections
- ◆ garden waste collections *

¹ You can find a whole range of information in the DEFRA guide to local authorities at <http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/waste/localauth/index.htm>

- ◆ drop-off/bring systems (bottle banks), including public tips
- ◆ Any other household waste collected by the authority

But does not include:

- ◆ Fly tipped waste (although the WCA has to collect it if on public land, and the WDA has to dispose of it if collected by the WCA)
- ◆ Rubble;
- ◆ Abandoned vehicles, although it is often dealt with as a waste issue;
- ◆ Incinerator residues;
- ◆ Beach cleansing wastes;
- ◆ Home composted waste;
- ◆ **Re-used** 'waste' material.

The last item (re-used waste) is important because it effectively excludes clothes (such as those handled by charity shops) from being waste. Effectively this is saying (in simple terms) that if something is going to be re-used (rather than recycled) then it is not waste. You ought to be aware that this only applies really for household waste.

Some items of household waste have to be collected free of charge to householders. Councils can charge for the collection (but not disposal) of other items of household waste. These are marked with an asterix.

*There is other waste which is classed as household waste. Although not relevant for many inspections, it is worth noting that waste from schools, prisons, hospitals, etc, can be classed as **household** waste for which a charge can be made for the collection of it, but not for the disposal. There are issues embedded within this and, the best advice is, if you come across an issue that needs more investigation then seek clarification from the Regional Service Lead before proceeding.*

When considering the **EU Landfill Directive** councils need to consider all the waste they collect – including commercial and industrial. This is called 'Municipal Waste' (see later).

It is also worth remembering that

- ◆ Household waste can also be hazardous, clinical, etc.
- ◆ Household waste must be disposed of free of charge (to householder)
- ◆ A charge can be made for the collection of lots of household waste, but the basic refuse collection must be free to householders.
 - ◆ WCAs can charge for bulky waste collections (but don't have to)
 - ◆ WCAs can charge for garden waste collection (but don't have to)
- ◆ WDAs must provide civic amenity sites for people who live in the area to use without a charge (to dispose of their own household waste)
 - ◆ Can refuse to accept people from neighbouring councils (on the basis that their statutory duty only extends to providing a site for people who live in their area).

Who does what

Different councils have different responsibilities across England (all Welsh councils are unitary councils). For the operational issues of waste management, there are Waste Collection Authorities (WCA) and Waste Disposal Authorities (WDA).

Waste collection authorities

- ◆ Empty dustbins
- ◆ **Clean streets**
- ◆ Offer bulky waste collection – if requested
- ◆ Offer commercial waste collection – if requested
- ◆ Have a statutory recycling target

Waste disposal authorities

- ◆ Arrange for the disposal of household waste collected by the district councils
- ◆ Provide civic amenity sites (some WCAs provide in Met areas – where the WDA is a separate authority).
- ◆ Have a statutory recycling target which includes the activities of their WCAs

Who's who

	District Councils	County Councils	Unitary Councils	Metropolitan councils
Waste Collection Authority	Yes	Never	Yes	Yes
Waste Disposal Authority	No	Yes	Yes	Sometime/ maybe*

* Metropolitan councils – all Mets are waste collection authorities. Some, such as west midland councils, are also the waste disposal authority. In other areas there are separate waste disposal authorities who are funded by levying a charge on their constituent district councils. For metropolitan areas, there are the following dedicated WDAs, which have been set their own recycling targets and LATs allowances: Greater Manchester WDA; Merseyside WDA; West London; Western Riverside London; North London; East London.

Section 2: Legislation and impacts on service

Commentary

Waste management is changing rapidly. This is largely due to changes in legislation that has

- ◆ Increased the cost of disposing of waste through year on year increases in the **landfill tax**;
- ◆ set statutory **recycling targets** for councils to meet based on the percentage of waste recycled;
- ◆ started to restrict the types and amounts of waste that can be landfilled through the **landfill directive** and **Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme (LATS)**,
- ◆ given councils new and enhanced powers to keep their areas clean (the Clean Neighbourhood Act); and
- ◆ increased awareness of waste management for both the public and councillors.

Recycling is now, often, a priority for a council. This has not always been the case.

Recycling schemes are developing rapidly across the country, and national recycling rates have increased significantly over the last two years. This trend is likely to continue for the next few years.

The following is a brief update on legislation and factors affecting councils.

Recycling targets

Councils have all been set statutory targets concerning the percentage of household waste recycled and / or composted.

All waste authorities have targets, based on 1998/99 levels

- ◆ Double the 98/99 per cent by 2003/04
- ◆ But with a minimum of 10 per cent
- ◆ Triple the 98/99 per cent by 2005/06
- ◆ But with a minimum of 18 per cent
- ◆ And (now) with a maximum of 30 per cent (was 40 per cent)

For 2003/04

- ◆ 168 councils missed their target
- ◆ 32 failed to reach 10 per cent. Metropolitan councils fared worse – ten of the bottom 11 were metropolitan councils
- ◆ councils which failed to meet their targets were written to by DEFRA. Councils which failed to meet 10 per cent were required to inform DEFRA of what steps they were taking to meet their 2005/06 targets.

Trends for recycling

When considering the trends and progress a council is making with respect to recycling, both BVPIs for recycling and composting (82a and 82b) should be added together to give a total percentage that has been diverted from landfill.

Analysis has shown that there has been a statistically significant year on year improvement, since 2000/01, in the percentage of waste recycled and composted. Whilst the maximum levels have remained pretty much constant, the minimum, and all quartiles have improved. The mean (average) has increased from 11.4 per cent in 2001/2002 to 17.2 per cent in 2003/04 (all England). This is important because it shows that the majority of councils are improving. When inspecting councils this needs to be taken in to consideration particularly if looking at current figures or unaudited data.

Best and worst at recycling

Just to illustrate the variance in recycling rates across England, for 2005/064

	Top	Bottom
District Councils Range 52% - 12%	North Kesteven DC 52%	High Peak 12%
County Councils Range 43.5% - 26%%	Cambridgeshire 43.5%	Durham 26%
Mets/Unitary 39% - 8.8%	Isle of Wight 38.8% Bexley 37.7%	Tower Hamlets 8.8% Middlesborough 11.5%

Integrating recycling and refuse (see later): Nine of the top 10 councils for the amount of household waste recycled collected waste every other week with some form of recycling taking part on alternate weeks. The other collected organic waste weekly at the same time as the refuse collection.

Waste Minimisation

BVPI84 gives an indication as to how much waste is produced per person.

The basic rule is that a low BVPI84 is better than a high figure, but this can be influenced by a poor level of service, so quality of service should also be taken in to account.

There are lots of factors that affect these figures, especially in district council areas where the figure does not include the household waste taken to civic amenity sites (consequently, a poor ca site service could push the figure up for district councils, and conversely a good ca site service could help suppress the figure for a district council).

There is currently no (really important) legislation concerning waste minimisation even though it is generally accepted as better than recycling and DEFRA have issued guidance on waste minimisation which re-iterates that minimising and re-using waste is better than recycling. Minimisation does benefit councils by:

- ◆ reducing the amount of waste that requires disposing of. This is particularly relevant as waste disposal costs are rising. In one metropolitan council, they were spending £700,000 more a year in disposing of waste compared to if they collected the equivalent of the median waste level.
- ◆ reducing the amount of waste generated also helps with the Landfill Directive.

Landfill Directive

The Landfill Directive is European legislation which is implemented in UK through a range of legislation of which the Waste Emissions Trading Bill is the most relevant for local councils.

The Landfill Directive requires the reduction in the amount of **municipal** biodegradable waste sent to landfill. The national targets are:

- ◆ reduce BMW to 75% of 1995 arisings by 2010
- ◆ reduce BMW to 50% of 1995 arisings by 2013
- ◆ reduce BMW to 35% of 1995 arisings by 2020

You will notice that these are absolute values. To meet England's requirements, each WDA has been set a level for the amount of biodegradable municipal waste they can landfill. This level reduces each year from 2005/06 to 2020.

- ◆ 121 Councils affected – all WDAs
- ◆ Have been set allowances for the amount of biodegradable waste they can send to landfill
- ◆ Amount decreases each year until 2020
- ◆ Allowance can be traded. This is known as the **Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme (LATs)**. This can help councils meet their obligation by
 - ◆ Banking unused allowances for use in future years *. This is particularly relevant since the allowance decreases each year – based on the national targets.
 - ◆ Borrowing up to 5 per cent from next years allowance for use now *. Useful if a council has a new scheme about to start – so future years will see less being landfilled.
 - ◆ Sold/bought/swapped from other councils – see below

* Does not apply on years when the European directive requires UK to comply (2010; 2013; 2020)

Selling / buying / swapping

If a WDA does not need all of their allowance, they can sell, swap or give away the remainder to others who may need to dispose of more than their allowance. Similarly, an authority that landfills a lot of their waste can buy permits from other authorities. The exact nature of an arrangement will be entirely up to the councils concerned (and as a note for any auditor, they are VAT exempt!) and could include money, capacity elsewhere, promise notes for the future, etc.

The particular relevance is that a council who diverts waste in excess of their targets **may** recover some money – councils who incinerate a lot of their waste, for example, are in a very good position as they already have surplus allocations available. Likewise, a council who can see that they will not have sufficient allocations can plan to meet their obligation by either building new plant and introducing new schemes, or buying allocations from other councils.

- ◆ If council landfills more than their available allowance then they will be fined £150 for every tonne over their allowance.

There are differing views about LATS

LGA view

- ◆ No major impact for first few years
- ◆ Predict major impact 2008/2009 when they reckon demand for landfill capacity (the allocation to tip) will outstrip the availability
- ◆ Expect some councils to receive fines

DEFRA view

- ◆ No councils should be fined
- ◆ Can use borrowing and banking to help.
- ◆ Should take prompt action now regarding the 'easy' elements – garden waste; paper; card; wood and bank unused allocations.

Either way, it is clear that WDAs need to be planning and putting arrangements in place for this NOW

Waste management strategies

Does a council have to have a waste management strategy?

Yes, all Councils are required to have, or be part of, a waste management strategy since April 2005.

Councils are required to work together to produce a joint waste management strategy across the county.

The following are exempt (note: this has been changed from previous editions)

- ◆ 'excellent' councils, OR
- ◆ Councils who met their more recent recycling target in AND
- ◆ WDAs who meet their LATS obligation (from 2006 onwards)

There is obviously a tension where some councils within a county area maybe exempt and others required to produce a 'joint' strategy. There is the potential for whole county areas to be exempt if

- ◆ The WDA has met its most recent recycling targets and, from 2006/7 has met its LATS obligation AND
- ◆ Half the waste collection authorities have met their latest recycling targets and the remaining waste collection authorities agree to seeking an exemption OR
- ◆ All the waste collection authorities agree to seeking an exemption

The councils need to apply to the Secretary of State for county wide exemption.

It remains unclear how this will impact on joint strategies, but there is obviously the potential for tension especially between councils who will need to have a joint strategy in place and those for whom it is discretionary. Exemption lasts until the condition giving rise to the exemption has not applied for two consecutive years. Again, it is unclear how this may impact on a council who has to 'join' an established strategy after an exemption lapses.

It is interesting and important to recognise what counts as a valid waste strategy. This is the direct quote from the guidance.

*'...a strategy is not simply a finalised document but an ongoing process of forward thinking and planning to meet the demands of the future. We do not necessarily expect local authorities to have in place a complete, updated, strategy by April 2005. However, local authorities are obligated to have in place a joint strategy by that date and Defra expects non-exempt authorities to **demonstrate**, through a **brief statement**, the **active steps** that they have taken to develop their joint strategy and **give a synopsis of what progress has been made** and what further development is planned.'*

Finally, council's no longer need to produce a **Recycling Plan**.

Landfill tax

This is a tax paid per tonne of waste sent to landfill sites. Mixed household waste tipped at a landfill site attracts this tax. In April 2007 the tax will be equivalent to £24/tonne and will increase by £8/tonne each year. This means that in April 2008 the charge will be £32/tonne, increasing to £40/tonne in April 2009 and to £48/tonne in April 2010.

The tax has been increasing year-by-year for some time now, and has the impact of making alternatives, such as recycling, composting or incineration, most cost effective than disposing of in landfill. WDAs should be planning for these increases which, together with LATS, etc, can increase costs significantly over the next few years.

WCAs should be working with their WDAs to ensure that the waste services deliver value for money now and have suitable arrangements for the future.

- ◆ E.g. a council landfills 300,000 tonnes of waste a year. Landfill tax alone costs £7.2m million (300,000 x £24 = 7.2m)
- ◆ If they recycled/composted 100,000 tonnes (33% recycling rate) this would reduce the landfill tax by £2.4 million). Next year there would be a reduction of £3.2 million (assuming no increase in recycling), and total waste levels remaining static.

Household waste recycling act (2003)

- ◆ Not massively relevant, but a council may mention it. It is one of the pieces of legislation that has helped increase the profile of waste management.
- ◆ DEFRA issued guidance on this in April 2005. A copy can be found at <http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/waste/legislation/hwra/index.htm>
- ◆ Requires WCAs to collect at least two materials for recycling direct from the householder, but does not come into force until 2010.
- ◆ Councils should achieve it easily due to recycling targets, landfill tax and landfill allowance scheme
- ◆ BUT will have effect of making recycling collections compulsory
- ◆ NOTE: loads of exemptions around cost and 'comparable alternative arrangements'. This is important, and similar arrangements are in place for refuse collection. Some councils are already taking a flexible approach – e.g. offering collection points for maisonettes, flats, etc, rather than trying to collect direct from the household. This is perfectly acceptable within the act

Power of direction

- ◆ Waste Disposal Authorities can 'direct' waste collection authorities to collect certain types of waste separate from other wastes
- ◆ This will help disposal authorities to meet their obligations under LATS
- ◆ The presumption is that the disposal authority and collection authority will agree, through discussion, the best way to proceed. If that does not work then the disposal authority can direct the collection authority, but the disposal authority is required to ensure that the collection authority is financially no worse off by complying with the direction.

Clean Neighbourhoods Act 2005

This act was published in December 2004 and received Royal Assent on 7 April 2005.

Nuisance and Abandoned Vehicles

- gives local authorities the power to remove abandoned cars from the streets immediately;

- creates two new offences to help local authorities deal with nuisance parking: offering for sale two or more vehicles, or repairing a vehicle on the road as part of a business.

Litter and refuse

- makes it an offence to drop litter anywhere, including private land and rivers, ponds and lakes and confirms that cigarette butts and discarded chewing gum are litter;
- gives local authorities new powers (litter clearing notices) to require businesses and individuals to clear litter from their land;
- strengthens existing powers for local authorities to require local businesses to help clear up litter they generate (street litter control notices);
- enables local authorities to restrict the distribution of flyers, hand-outs and pamphlets that can end up as litter.

Graffiti and fly-posting

- strengthens the legislation to make it harder for beneficiaries of fly posting to evade prosecution (it does this by removing the exemption under the Town and Country Planning Act that the fly posting was done without their knowledge or consent);
- extends graffiti removal notices (as introduced by the Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003) to include fly-posting;
- improves local authorities powers to tackle the sale of spray paints to children;
- enables local authorities to recover the costs of removing illegal posters.

Waste

- amends provisions for dealing with fly-typing by:
 - removing the defence of acting under employer's instructions
 - increasing the penalties
 - enabling local authorities and the Environment Agency to recover their investigation and clear-up costs
 - extending provisions on clear up to the landowner in the absence of the occupier.
- gives local authorities and the Environment Agency the power to issue fixed penalty notices (and, in the case of local authorities, to keep the receipts from such penalties):
 - To business that fail to produce waste transfer notes
 - To waste carriers that fail to produce their registration details or evidence they do not need to be registered
 - For waste left out on the streets (local authority only)
 - Introduces a more effective system of stop, search and seizure of vehicles used in illegal waste disposal; and enabling courts to require forfeiture of such vehicles.
- introduces a new provision covering the waste duty of care and the registration of waste carriers
- introduces a new requirement for site waste management plans for construction and demolition projects
- repeals the divestment provisions for waste disposal functions to provide greater flexibility for local authorities to deliver waste management services in the most sustainable way
- reforms the recycling credits scheme to provide increased local flexibility to provide incentives for more sustainable waste management.

Crime and Disorder

- ◆ requires local Crime and disorder Reduction Partnerships to take anti-social behaviour affecting the local environment into account in developing crime and disorder reduction strategies.
- ◆ Gives local authorities new powers to deal with alleyways affected by anti-social behaviour.

Fixed Penalty Notices (Fines)

- ◆ Makes greater use of fixed penalties as an alternative to prosecution, in most cases giving local authorities the flexibility to set their own rates (in some cases)
- ◆ gives parish councils the power to issue fixed penalties for litter, graffiti, fly posting and dog offences;

Dogs

- ◆ replaces dog byelaws with a new, simplified system which will enable local authorities and parish councils to deal with fouling by dogs, ban dogs from designated areas, require dogs to be kept on a lead and restrict the number of dogs that can be walked by one person.
- ◆ Gives local authorities sole responsibility for stray dogs (previously this responsibility had been shared between local authorities and the police. The change will come into force only when the transfer of resource has been agreed).

Noise

- ◆ gives local authorities new powers to:
 - ◆ Deal with burglar alarms
 - ◆ Impose fixed penalty fines on licensed premises that ignore warnings to reduce excessive noise levels
- ◆ gives local authorities greater flexibility in dealing with noise nuisance

BVPI 199 - Cleanliness

- ◆ This is a new BVPI for 2003/04 that requires all waste collection authorities to survey their area to grade the cleanliness of it. They do this by grading at least 300 different areas ('transects'), three times a year. For 2003/04 the idea is to set a baseline with statutory targets to improve the level of cleanliness, so that by 2005/06 the proportion of relevant land that is 'significantly or heavily' deposited with litter is reduced by 15%, and that concentrated improvements have been made in neighbourhoods with the greatest need – so that no more than 30% of relevant land has 'significant or heavy deposits' of litter and detritus.
- ◆ To be extended to include graffiti and fly tipping
- ◆ There is a 'wealth' of information behind the calculation of this indicator which a council should be using to help develop and improve their cleansing service. Some councils have integrated the collection of the BVPI data with general checking on the cleanliness of the area.

WEEE directive

- ◆ Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive
- ◆ EU target of 4kg/household/year of equipment recovered
- ◆ Legislation covers a number of other areas, such as banning some heavy metals from July 2006, and manufacturer's are banned from preventing the re-use or recycling of products (such as 'killer chips') (note: the DTi has recently confirmed that printer cartridges are not classed as electronic equipment)
- ◆ Manufacturer's are responsible for meeting this, not local councils

Packaging Directive

- ◆ Places requirements on packaging manufacturers and retailers
- ◆ No direct impact on councils
- ◆ Effectively provides some stability in the market for reclaimed/recycled products

Other bits

The Environment Protection Act (1990) is still the main act that covers the collection and disposal of household waste and the cleaning of relevant land, although bits superseded or revoked by the Clean Neighbourhoods Act 2005.

The Controlled Waste Regulations (1992) provides details of what is and is not household/commercial and industrial waste.

Cleansing

Street cleaning is relatively straight forward although the EPA requires zones to be identified, specifying the level of cleansing that will be delivered. However, these are meant to be a tool to keep the area clean, not something to hide behind. The data from BV199 linked with the Clean Neighbourhoods Act gives councils considerable information and powers to ensure that areas are kept clean.

Composting

Composting of green and garden waste is becoming popular with councils who see it as a quick and easy way of meeting recycling targets.

The composting of waste that may contain meat has been more complicated as traditional 'windrow' composting systems have not been acceptable for treating this type of material.

In-vessel composting systems (see glossary) can be approved as an appropriate method of dealing with waste containing meat (or 'animal by-products'). The state veterinary service (yes bizarre, but they do approve these plants, as well as still

requiring all the normal planning approval and Environment Agency agreements) has started to approve some plants already.

In-vessel systems tend to be at least £10 to £15/tonne more expensive than simple windrow systems, but this cost difference is likely to reduce over time.

Section 3: Questions and Answers

These are some of the questions that have been asked, and the answers given!

Q: What is the real position about alternate week collections?

This is a very complicated situation that has involved Government select committees, media campaigns and even campaigning at local elections.

The premise is that by collecting waste one week and recyclables the next week, people are encouraged to recycle more and costs do not increase. However, things are rarely that simple.

There are many variations of the alternate week collection. Some simply collect waste one week and recyclables the next – the householder gets one collection a week. Others are more complicated, perhaps collecting recyclables every week, then collecting garden waste and refuse on alternate weeks.

As with most things, if done well, there are very few complaints about alternate week collections, but if done badly then local residents can be affected by the poor service. Particular examples, where alternate week collections have struggled, include

- Poor provision for flats and buildings with communal bin stores;
- Poor planning which leads to bins being delivered early, or not at all, or the council being unable to respond to the deluge of calls/complaints
- Lack of flexibility for residents with problems accommodating the new bins

Where it works well, alternate week collections increase the amounts recycled dramatically. 90 per cent of the top recycling councils operate an alternate week collection scheme.

But why do they seem to work?

In reality, an alternate week collection simply restricts the amount of waste a householder can throw away. It makes it as easy, or even easier, to recycle than not recycle.

It is based on the fact that the average householder has over 50 per cent recyclable waste in their bin. But there are always some householders who fall outside this average – perhaps because they have young children, or rely on a lot of heavily packaged ready meals.

Alternate week collections will not suit all councils or all areas. They do not always offer the best solution (see below, about green waste) but where they have been implemented well have been successful in increasing the amounts of waste collected for recycling.

Q: What are the health effects of a fortnightly refuse collection?

It is not for the Audit Commission to comment on the health impacts of a fortnightly refuse collection. The relevant points, however, are WCAs have to collect waste from households. However, they can require that householders separate waste into different components.

The weekly refuse collection is really historical, and can be tracked back to the 14th century when streets started to be cleaned weekly.

The minimum life cycle of the fly is 14 days in the UK, so a fortnightly collection should be okay providing waste is wrapped before putting in the bin.

Councils can help by sorting out problems that may arise. Some councils have minimised problems by offering to clean our bins that may have got contaminated or suffered for fly infestation (which almost certainly would have started because somebody did not wrap food, or that flies had already laid eggs on the food before it was thrown away); and filters which reduce any smell from the bin.

A fortnightly collection does require a higher level of reliability and planning than a weekly collection. Councils need to consider

How they will deal with bank holidays – simply missing a collection is not going to be adequate

An approach to missed bins (many councils often asked if the person could hold on to the waste until the next collection – this would be a month gap)

Informing people of what weeks the different collections will be on

Seasonal variance between the different waste streams – especially if garden waste is being collected.

Q. What about collecting garden waste?

A number of district councils have increased the amounts of waste they recycle and compost by starting garden waste collections. This has received some criticism because it can lead to more waste being collected, and there is no statutory requirement for councils to collect garden waste.

Some councils have collected garden waste for a long time, even if it was not always composted. Other councils have never collected garden waste.

Whether it is sensible to collect or not is still out for debate. There are some interesting facts though. Take Daventry dc, for example. They are a beacon council, but most of their achievement is through garden waste collected for composting. A neighbouring council does not offer a garden waste collection. Both councils recycle almost identical amounts (in terms of weight per person) of dry recyclables, and both councils send to landfill the same amount of waste. Neither council, however, has worked what happens or happened to the green waste that Daventry collects and the other council doesn't!

We hope to add more to this section in October 2007. In the meantime, see also below about waste minimisation.

Q: What does the latest research tells us about the impact of incineration?

A good question, and I would be lying if I said that there was an agreed answer. It remains a contentious area in which different people (with different agendas) have a very different view. I will try and give an unbiased view.

First of all, incineration (with energy recovery) is better than landfill but not as good a recycling or composting. There are different technologies for incineration, and different types of waste that are burnt, which makes it very hard to generalise.

Basically, the same rules apply for all waste:

1 - sorting before collection increases collection costs (and environmental impact) but reduces impact of disposal.

2 - less sorting reduces collection costs but increases costs and environmental impact on treatment/disposal.

Therefore, a simply collection system that takes all waste and simply puts it in a landfill has been cheap, but is not very good for the environment. However, there are over 500

common materials found in the domestic waste bin and it is obviously not practical to offer 500 different collections, or expect the public to sort into 500 materials!

Burning mixed waste is no longer really sensible practice. For a long time, councils with incinerators have had poor recycling rates. Things are beginning to change. Coventry, for example, reduced NOX emissions from their incinerator by removing green waste - which is now composted - and improved the efficiency of their incinerator (green waste contains lots of water and dragged the temperature of the furnace down, which meant that gas had to burnt alongside the waste!)

Modern incinerators are very clean, and very carefully monitored. Air pollution levels are very low - the most common concern is Dioxin. The level of dioxin allowed in incinerator smoke is typically determined by the **minimum** that can be detected. There are other sources of dioxins, such as cigarettes, bonfires and other industrial processes.

Landfill sites are also sources of pollution, but are less controlled. CO₂/CO, pathogens, etc, all come from landfill sites. Recycling is not perfect itself. But then again, all manufacturing processes have an impact.

Broadly speaking, councils have to find a balance between efficiency in collection and efficiency in treatment/disposal. The exact balance will differ in different areas. In most areas, eventually, there will be a balance between recycling/incineration (or some similar treatment) and landfill.

The importance is not to embark on arrangement that will prevent another taking place. Incineration has typically been a culprit in this - the contractor requires, say, 100,000 tonnes of waste a year to operate the incinerator. This is the big difference between incinerators and other treatments.

A landfill waste will simply last longer if not as much waste is delivered. (The cost per tonne may increase with less waste because of fixed costs - salary and plant, and there maybe planning requirements to fill a site within x years. But the basic premise is - you have a whole, it stops being a landfill site when it is full).

Recycling is the same. You may have a plant that runs most efficiently at a certain tonnage, but it will run at a lower rate if needed.

Incinerators, however, need a regular supply of waste. They are very similar to a power station. They run most effectively at a constant rate - keeping the furnace at a constant temperature, burning 24 hours a day. If the waste is not there you can't switch them off for a few hours.

What I would expect to see would be:

- ◆ An analysis of what waste there is, and what the scope for recycling is
- ◆ A programme to roll out recycling
- ◆ An understanding of the residual waste that will be left, and the best option for dealing with this.

On current thinking, it would look like this:

- ◆ Recycle/compost a broad range of materials - paper, glass, metals, some plastics, some textiles, garden waste and sooner or later kitchen waste, and some additional facilities for items such as electronic equipment, etc
- ◆ Some form of treatment for the residual - this maybe incineration, pyrolysis, etc
- ◆ Landfill for the residual waste.

Q: A council has been critical about our judgement that they are not doing enough on waste minimisation. What should they or could they have done?

Why (district) council's collect a lot of waste:

- ◆ There is a growing amount of evidence to show a link between the capacity of the waste collection and how much waste is collected. Wheeled bins have an impact of increasing the amount of waste collected. (A number of years ago I did a piece of research in Leicestershire – before kerbside collections were wide spread – which showed that districts with wheeled bins were collecting, typically, 163kg of waste per person more than those with bag collections (the details are below).
- ◆ There is a role, in two-tier councils, for the provision of civic amenity sites. For district councils, waste delivered to a civic amenity site is not included in their BVPI calculation. If there is a poor provision of sites (which could mean anything – limited opening hours, a long way away, not easy to use...) then it would appear that more waste falls to the district council to collect.
- ◆ Councils that introduce garden waste collections (for composting) generally increase the amount of waste they collect. There is a trade off – which varies for each district council – as to where this waste comes from. Ashfield DC, for example, commissioned a Mori survey before introducing their garden waste collection, which reported that 10 per cent home composted; 50 per cent took waste to the civic amenity site and 40 per cent threw their garden waste in the (waste) bin.

What some council's have done

- ◆ Restricted the amount of waste they will accept – not taking side waste and closed lid policies are a start but still leave 240 litres of waste capacity a week (or 12,480 litres a year). If you add a 55 litre recycling box then the council has increased the capacity of the refuse collection – even if the collection is fortnightly then the capacity for refuse collection has increased by 11% (in terms of volume). Some councils have managed to introduce dry recycling collections on alternate weeks, and reduce the frequency of the refuse collection (although most do it linked with a garden waste collection)
- ◆ Real promotion of home composting (not just supplying bins, but real support) – although again, if there is not some link to reducing capacity of the refuse collection service then waste levels generally rise again
- ◆ Sampled waste bins to find out what is in the bin so that they can target recycling and waste reduction initiatives.
- ◆ Actively promoted real initiatives such as the mail preference service and the Royal Mail's door to door service (to stop unaddressed mail being delivered) – this is an interesting issue as many councils use the Royal Mail to deliver their promotional literature – I know of a few who use it for the recycling literature – perhaps why it is not promoted as heavily?
- ◆ Use WRAP – they are actively funding both home composting schemes and real nappy schemes (nappies account for between 2 and 4 per cent of household waste – but up to 50 per cent in households using disposable nappies)
- ◆ Take action to remove non-household waste from the waste stream (such as trade waste)
- ◆ Blaby DC decided they wanted to retain a weekly refuse collection when they introduced their kerbside collection (most Leicestershire councils have opted for an alternate week wheeled bin service), so they supplied 140 litre wheeled bins – instead of 240 litre. They have managed to remain collecting

low amount of household waste. Leicester City Council have 240 litre wheeled bins but are slowly (as they get damaged) replacing them with 140 litre bins.

Q: Can a council really do any thing about the amount of waste collected?

Councils are partly constrained in really effective waste minimisation actions by having to provide a universal and 'free' (at the point of delivery) refuse collection service, and (for WDAs) having to provide sites where householders can deposit their household waste free of charge.

That said, there are real actions that councils can take.

Encourage: helping promote and encourage waste minimisation actions such as home composting; cotton nappies (nappies can account for up to 4 per cent of household waste collected from the home); reusing plastic carrier bags; milk in returnable bottles, etc. There are all sorts of good examples of schemes, but a lot of councils do not assess the effectiveness of their schemes. WRAP (www.wrap.org.uk) are currently working on assessing the effectiveness of promotional schemes.

Actions: bizarre as it may seem, but the evidence shows that a bigger bin leads to people throwing away more waste. There is still disagreement about the actual reasoning for this, but it is undeniable that a weekly refuse collection with a large wheeled bin collects more waste than areas with smaller bins, less frequent collections or on a (smaller) traditional bin. Whilst some waste is probably directed elsewhere (for example, taken to the civic amenity site), there was evidence that fewer households participated in home composting in areas offered a weekly wheeled bin refuse collection compared to areas offered a weekly refuse collection using black bags.

Other actions can also have an impact on changing peoples habits; simply restricting the amount of waste that will be taken (such as closed bin lid policy, no side waste or a maximum number of black bags) all help.

Some councils have been more progressive – such as only emptying the refuse bin on a fortnightly basis or issuing smaller (than the traditional wheeled bin – which is 240 litres in volume) bins.

It is also worth noting that research has shown that smaller households produce more waste per person than larger households (so an area with predominantly one and two person households, for example, is likely to produce more waste per person than an area of more traditional housing types.)

Q: Is waste from schools classed as household waste?

Yes, waste from schools is classed as household waste. However, it is a bit more complicated than that!

It is household waste if collected by the waste collection authority (or its agent) but not if collected by a commercial company. The waste collection authority can make a 'reasonable' charge (to cover the cost it incurs in collecting the waste, plus relevant overheads) but can not make a charge for disposing of the waste.

You are most likely to come across this where schools may collect waste for recycling. This is household waste that **should** be counted against their targets.

Q: Are there any cultural and religious issues associated with recycling?

This answer/guidance is based on research conducted by the Berkshire waste partnership. The exact issues identified may not be relevant to all ethnic communities across England.

While there are clearly differences between the Pakistani (mainly Muslim) community and the Indian (mainly Hindu) community there are a number of common issues:

- ◆ Both communities tend to buy fresh meat and vegetables at local shops so there is a relatively low use of food packaging materials
- ◆ Muslims do not drink alcohol and its use among Hindus is limited. Milk is normally bought in cartons, not bottles. The amount of glass generated by these communities is therefore relatively low
- ◆ Both communities are happy to donate second hand clothes but would not buy them as this is seen as being something for poorer or lower caste people
- ◆ While there is a level of understanding about the issue of waste the link to the role that the individual can play is not necessarily made. This relates to a lack of information in the appropriate form and language and a lack of encouragement 'no-one has ever come to talk to us about this before'
- ◆ Many immigrant communities, because of financial constraints, have moved into areas of high density housing with small or no gardens and maybe little kitchen storage space. As a result there has simply not been the room to develop a composting culture. In addition there is no cultural tradition of recycling as there has been little need – for instance in Pakistan food waste would be eaten by the pigs.
- ◆ The re-use of all materials (simply because of need) is a fundamental part of life in the Asian sub-continent and doesn't require a specific 'effort'.

Additionally, some council's have provide specific collection arrangements to suit local communities, or to meet cultural and religious festivals. Hackney, for example, provides specific Passover collections for their Orthodox Jewish communities at Passover time.

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Section 4: Jargon and Glossary

Abandoned vehicles	Unwanted car that has been illegally dumped. These are grouped in 'wrecks' and 'runners'. This is an ongoing problem due to falling scrap prices.
Aerobic	Composting by one set of bacteria that need oxygen to work (see Composting)
Anaerobic	Composting by another set of bacteria that grow when all the oxygen has been used up by the first set of bacteria (see Composting)
Animal by-products	Waste which contains animal carcasses, parts of animal carcasses or products of animal origin (or has been in contact with these) or which originates from premises where they are handled or where foodstuffs containing or coming into contact with them are prepared or produced. This therefore includes any food or kitchen waste from most households.
Assist list	A list maintained by the council of people who need help to get their bin emptied (e.g. people unable to move wheeled bin to collection point). Important for councils compliance with disability act. Check that it is updated correctly.
Back door collection	Collection of refuse from the location where the householder normally keeps the bin or bags (i.e. not collected at the edge of the property)
Barrow orderly	A street sweeper equipped with a wheeled barrow plus brushes. No mechanisation involved.
BATNEEC	Best Available Technology Not Entailing Excessive Cost: i.e. doing the best you can but only as far as existing budgets can afford to go (See BPEO)
BPEO	Best Practicable Environmental Option: i.e. doing the best you can that fixes/ minimises the environmental problems, and not allowing cost to be the main factor – but it must still be practicable.
BMT	Biological Mechanical Treatment – a disposal method whereby waste (either sorted or mixed) is treated by a variety of process – often involving some form of 'composting' but where the end product is not compost (it may look like compost, but would not meet the standard for compost).
Bin round	A planned route for refuse collection. Each refuse wagon typically has 5 rounds a week, one for each day, typically totalling 6-7,000 households for the week.
Bioaerosols	Tiny droplets of fluid vapour floating in the air, coming from plant/ animal materials – which may carry diseases.
Biodegradable	Any material that can naturally decompose, e.g. garden waste, kitchen waste, paper, cardboard.
Bottle banks	Recycling banks for the public to visit to deposit glass bottles and jars for recycling
Bottom ash	The ash that drops out of the bottom of an incinerator. Is often used to cover over newly landfilled rubbish, or in concrete manufacture. It is sterile and relatively clean.
Bring Sites	Collection of receptacles to which the public bring items for recycling, e.g. glass, cans, paper, plastics, motor oil, clothing

Britain in Bloom	A national campaign in which councils compete on the basis of cleanliness of the streets, the quality and abundance of floral displays, and other good practices in maintaining a quality street scene
Bulky waste collections	Collection by arrangement of large household items for disposal; may be subject to a charge, and/or there may be a limit on the number of items that can be taken away. Some items may not be taken (e.g. asbestos, soil, rubble).
CA site	See Civic amenity site
CCT	See Compulsory Competitive Tender
Cess pits	Some houses have large underground tanks for foul sewage, and the council may provide a service to empty these. Not very common these days.
CFC	Chloro Fluro Carbon – found in old fridges, used as the chemical that keeps everything cold, and also within the insulation. The main chemical responsible for the hole in the ozone layer.
Channel sweeping	Sweeping of roadside gutters, usually using large mechanical sweeper machines. Main roads are swept when the traffic is quiet i.e. very early in the morning.
Channels	Roadside gutters (see Gully)
Chipper	Machine that slices and chips branches. Often used when clearing highway verges and trimming hedges, to reduce the volume of waste.
Civic amenity site, or CA site, or Household Waste and Recycling Centre	Council-provided facility for the public to bring their rubbish for disposal. Often incorporate Bring Sites . Commonly called the 'tip' or the 'dump'. Good design should make it easy and safe to dispose of waste, especially by keeping cars and lorries separate. Hot issues: too few CA sites ; low recycling rates; long queues of cars at weekends; trade waste being smuggled in as household waste.
Clean up campaigns	Council service where at set times householders in an area can put out just about anything (other than banned items like asbestos, etc) and it will be taken away free by a roving refuse wagon. These events usually happen on a Saturday, and last most of the day. NOT considered very good for waste minimisation, but may cut down on requests for bulky waste collections.
Clinical Waste	Waste such as medical dressings, soiled items, packaging from medical dressings, old medicines, used syringes, etc. Each council has a list of a few hundred people who each week put out a yellow bag and it is collected by a special vehicle, and usually disposed of by high temperature incineration.
Commercial Waste	Waste produced by businesses, shops, industry. Involves a payment by the shop to whoever empties their trade waste bin.
Comingled	Different types of waste materials collected mixed together (e.g. a comingled kerbside will take paper, cans and plastics all in a single bag or bin)
Community Recycling Network	A national network of voluntary sector organisations dedicated to promoting and running recycling schemes. In some places these have grown into large and professional operations that do all the kerbside recycling for the council.
Compliance Scheme	Organisation set up to help businesses meet the requirements under the Packaging Regulations .

Compost	A soil improver and fertiliser made by the rotting of biodegradable matter, typically vegetation but also kitchen waste, manure, paper and cardboard.
Composting	Making compost . Can be done by individuals in their garden, or by farmers, or on a commercial scale. Anaerobic composting is done without the use of air while aerobic composting is done with air.
Compulsory Competitive Tendering	Requirement to submit certain council services to external market testing. Most services were subject to this, and some contracts are still operating. Tends to specify inputs, and can lead to tension where the Council and contractor concentrate on meeting contractual requirements without consideration to what is actually happening or what the council now wants to happen!
COSHH	Control Of Substances Hazardous To Health: regulations governing how substances must be stored, transported, handled, etc. to protect peoples' health
Curtilage	See Kerbside
Digester	A large enclosed container in which anaerobic composting is carried out. Produces methane as a byproduct.
Dioxins	Dangerous chemicals produced by incineration (including bonfires) that can be lethal if they build up in people's bodies over time.
Dog fouling	Dog poo (what else is there to say?). Councils typically deal with this via the street cleansing crews and/or the Dog Wardens service.
Eddy Current Separator	A device that removes the aluminium (cans and foil) from waste. Often found in MRFs.
EfW	See Energy from waste
ELV	End of Life Vehicle. In England, a Directive will place a responsibility on vehicle manufacturers to recover vehicles that have reached the end of their life.
ENCAMS	Formerly the Tidy Britain Group, and Going for Green, who merged together
End markets	Companies that use recycled material in their production processes. Also, though, companies who can dispose of waste (e.g. in a landfill). In other words, another organisation that the council can give/ sell/ pay to take selected types of wastes away. Without robust end markets, no aspect of waste management is possible.
End of Life Vehicle Directive	See ELV
Energy from Waste, or EfW	The process in which waste is incinerated as a way of disposing of it, and the resulting heat is used to generate electricity or to heat large numbers of homes and buildings nearby. The incineration process is tightly regulated by EU rules, and they have to have desulphurisation scrubbers fitted to remove most of the SO ₂ and NO _x from the smoke going up the chimney. Tends to be unpopular with the public. See fly ash and bottom ash
Environment Agency	Government quango that brought together the National Rivers Authority (i.e. water pollution), the Waste Regulation Authority (i.e. land pollution), and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Pollution (i.e. air pollution). Now regulates all aspects of environmental protection.

Environment Body/Trust	A charitable body empowered to receive bids for funding from landfill tax monies
EPA1990	See Environmental Protection Act 1990
EPA Code of Practice	Sets out street cleaning zones (1-12) and cleanliness standards (A (clean) to D (dirty)). Councils should be monitoring to this standard.
Environmental Protection Act 1990	The primary piece of legislation that governs all aspects of waste management
EPA Zone 13	Councils have the power to temporarily redesignate an area, such as a market place, so that when the market is happening the contractor has to achieve a quicker response time to littering. Once the market is over, the area reverts to its normal zoning and zone response times.
EURO III/IV	The European standard for new diesel engines for large vehicles. They produce fewer particulates than traditional. Euro IV is to become the new standard, and engines are already available which meet this.
Faeces	Bodily fluids excreted through the anus. (what do you want??) Technical terms used to describe dog poo.
Fly ash	The lightweight bits of ash from an incineration process that do not fall into the grate below but instead fly out of the chimney into the air. Incinerators have to ensure they capture most of the fly ash, but some does still get out.
Fly posting	Advertising posters and flyers stuck illegally onto public and private property
Fly tipping	Illegal disposal of rubbish and unwanted goods, often at the side of the road or in alleyways.
Fridge Mountain	Term used, by tabloids, to describe the stock piling of fridges. Resulted from lack of reprocessing capacity within the UK, to safely remove the foam from old fridges, after new EU legislation came into being on 1 st January 2002.
Graffiti	Writing or images, usually spray painted, on the wall and other surfaces
Greenhouse effect	The 'warming' of the Earth, caused by the burning of fossil fuels, and the release of carbon dioxide and methane.
Green waste	Garden refuse such as grass and hedge clippings
Grit bin	A storage container for rock salt, for spreading on to pavements during icy weather
Gully	Drainage points set underneath the roadside gutters. These have 'traps' in them to collect grit and other yucky stuff, and they have to be emptied regularly by the gully emptying machine (See gully emptying machine)
Gully emptying machine	Large machine that pumps clean water into a gully trap, sucks out the yucky stuff, and then pumps in clean water so there is no nasty niff from the drainage pipes. Bit like a loo really.
Home composting	Composting at home, usually in the garden
Household Waste	Waste from a domestic property, a residential home, an educational establishment, a caravan, premises forming part of a hospital or nursing home. There is a legal definition.

Household Waste and Recycling Centre	See Civic Amenity Site
In vessel	Processing of waste (e.g. composting) in a sealed container or building.
Incineration	Burning rubbish as a means of disposal. Also see Energy from waste .
Industrial Waste	Waste from industrial premises
Junk Mail	See Mailing Preference Service
Kerbside	A property boundary, typically where a property's drive or path meets the pavement or road. It has nothing to do with the kerb at the roadside edge of the pavement.
Kerbside participation rate	In an area served with a kerbside service, this is the % of households who choose to make use of the service. So for wheeled rubbish bins, participation rate will usually be 100%. For recycling collections, participation rates range from 30% to 90%.
Kerbside set out rate	The % of households who actually put out their recyclables for kerbside collection in any given week. Not all participating households will put out recyclables for every collection, so the set out rate is lower than the participation rate.
Landfill	A large hole in the ground, licensed to receive a range of types of rubbish. The bottom and sides will be lined to control leachate , and pipes may run through the rubbish below the surface to extract landfill gas .
Landfill Directive	This EU Directive requires the reduction of biodegradable waste going into landfills to 35% of the 1995 level by 2020
Landfill gas	Gas, usually methane , given off by rotting matter in landfill . Most landfill sites burn the methane to generate electricity – but a lot of methane is still not captured.
Landfill Tax	The Government levies tax on waste sent to landfill . There are two rates, £2 per tonne for inert waste, and £13 per tonne for other wastes (as at 1/4/2002). The Government plans to increase this figure every year by £1 until 2004; after then further increases are likely. The Landfill Tax is one of the reasons why councils that are Waste Disposal Authorities are paying more and more to dispose of the waste.
Landfill Tax Scheme	The companies that operate landfill sites can divert up to 20% of the money that has been collected as Landfill Tax . This money can be used for certain environmental projects, as long as 10% of the total cost is found from elsewhere, or paid by the Landfill operator themselves.
Leachate	Noxious liquid that oozes out of landfills, particularly when the waste in it contains a lot of biodegradable material.
Litter Control Zones	Councils have enforcement powers to make landowners keep their property clean (Street Litter Control Notices for commercial and retail premises, and Litter Control Areas for private land)
Litter picking	Picking up litter in the streets, roads and verges
Litter Plan	A plan the Council produces detailing cleaning standards across the Council area.
Litter Zones	12 types of areas specified by the EPA1990, the purpose being to set response times for four different grades of litter

Mailing Preference Service	A system for stopping junk mail. Contact them at
Mechanical shovel	Large mechanical digger with a big shovel at the front. Used routinely at landfill sites and at large-scale composting sites.
Methane	Produced inside landfills. A gas, the simplest hydrocarbon, CH ₄ , of the paraffin series, and a contributor to the ' green house effect '. Colourless, odourless and lighter than air, it burns with a bluish flame and can explode when mixed with air or oxygen.
Minimisation	Reducing the amount of rubbish created at source. The single most effective method for householders is to compost all biodegradable material.
Missed bins	Failure to collect household refuse at the allotted time/day. Can be deliberate, e.g. if the bin is overloaded. Can be because the householder has not put the bin or bags in the correct place, or put it out after the refuse wagon had visited. The definition of a missed bin can vary between different Local Authorities.
Mixed heridiment	Typically houses that have been subdivided into flats and bed-sits. Relevant to domestic collection when considering (a) capacity of bins needed, (b) participation in recycling schemes, (c) ensuring adequate promotion for recycling and changing collection days.
MRF	Materials Reclamation Facility. Where items collected for recycling are sorted.
MRF (clean)	Material does not include biodegradable products
MRF (dirty)	Material includes biodegradable products
MSW	Municipal Solid Waste, which is defined as <i>household waste</i> plus <i>trade waste</i> collected by the local council
Municipal Waste	Waste handled by, or on behalf of, the Council.
National Recycling Targets	<p>The Government has set national recycling targets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To recycle or compost at least 25% of household waste by 2005 • To recycle or compost at least 30% of household waste by 2010 • To recycle or compost at least 33% of household waste by 2015 <p>To achieve this, Statutory Performance Targets have been set for each and every local authority with statutory duty in waste management.</p>
Night soil	A few councils still have properties in their area where the loo is in an outhouse that has no cesspit, and so the council provides a service to collect the waste and then dispose of it. Yuk! Think about deprivation and the cost of providing this service.
Oil banks	Recycling banks for engine motor oil (but not normally for cooking oil). These are typically found at CA sites
On board weighing	The emptying of wheeled bins into a wagon and whilst doing it the contents of the bin are weighed. With the right software the data can be directly recorded in a database, thereby building up an accurate profile of the waste being collected from each property.
Ozone layer	Layer of ozone around the earth that filters out rays from the sun that cause sun cancer.

Packaging Regulations	Regulations that require businesses that use more than 50 tonnes of packaging a year to reuse, recycle or recover a percentage quotas of packaging material
Parish picker	Some Parish Councils hire a litter picker, called a parish picker, to keep on top of littering hotspots
Point of storage	The place where a household keeps its rubbish, i.e. the wheelie bin, or a dustbin
Pooling of Targets	A mechanism that allows different councils to join together and agree new recycling targets, in place of the Statutory Performance Targets . The overall amount of waste that is recycled remains the same. The Government will announce new targets, where it accepts Pooling arrangements, during November 2002.
Public Service Agreement	PSAs require a minimum of 17% recycling as a target (for waste based agreements). This does not supersede in any way the Council's Statutory Performance Targets .
Putrescible	Something which will rot; see biodegradable
RDF	Refuse Derived Fuel – a fuel made from processed and sorted waste.
Real nappies	Not disposable, designed to be collected and washed (by a nappy laundering service, or washed at home) and re-used. The right choice for responsible parents!
Recovery	The recovery of energy from waste, usually by incineration with the heat being used to generate electricity or district heating
Recycling	Re-using materials by breaking them down into a more basic form and remanufacturing them
Recycling Credits	<p>There are two types of recycling credits, the main type being 'disposal credits', which are payments made by a Waste Disposal Authority (e.g. a County Council) to a Waste Collection Authority (e.g. a District or Borough Council) for every tonne recycled and therefore not having to be disposed of. The amount is based on the savings made in not having to dispose of the waste – typical values are between £25/tonne to £40/tonne.</p> <p>The other type are 'collection credits' which are voluntary and maybe paid by a Waste Collection Authority to charities who collect waste for recycling, which therefore saves the WCA the cost of collection.</p>
Recycling Plan	Waste Collection Authorities have a statutory duty to have a strategy for recycling. However, the time-scale has been relaxed where a Waste Management Strategy has been/is being prepared.
Recycling Rate	The percentage of household waste arisings that are recycled or composted. (Home composting is excluded from this.) Calculated by adding BVPI82a and 82b together.
Rollonoff	A type of skip that (intentionally) rolls on and off the back of a lorry
Schools Waste Action Club	Schools Waste Action Club is a package for schools, which provides practical advice and help on waste reduction and recycling initiatives within the school itself, through a Waste Watch Schools Waste Action Club development worker
Screener	A large machine with a mesh to screen material. Typically used for screening composted green waste.

Shredder	A machine with flailing hammers inside that smashes material to bits
Side waste	Rubbish, usually bagged, put out in addition to a standard dustbin or wheelie bin. Many councils refuse to collect side waste (though some do collect it in practice even if the policy says they don't)
Skip	Large receptacle for rubbish; many different sizes
Special collections	One-off collections of bulky household waste items. Some councils charge for these. In recent years the number of special collections have shot up for councils that do not charge, possibly due to steep increases in skip hire charges.
Splitter island	Small kerbed area in the middle of a road
Statutory Performance Targets	Targets set by the Government for each council for their recycling rates, typically 18% by 2003/04 and 27% by 2005/06. Precise targets vary for each council. It is highly likely that further, higher targets will be set in later years, heading towards 40-50% recycling rates.
Street Litter Control Notices	Street Litter Control Notices for commercial and retail premises, and Litter Control Areas for private land, can be issued where a council finds land it does not own is prone to littering
Sustainable Development	Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generation to meet their needs.
Task and Finish	Common work method for refuse collection crews, and some street cleaning crews, Once the work has been completed, the operatives are free to go home, Look at reliability (missed bins) and cleaning standards.
Thermal Treatment	Treating waste with heat. The most common is incineration, but may also include autoclaving (sterilising with steam) and pyrolysis (heating without air – the same process by which the old town gas was made), and other new technologies being developed.
Tidy Britain Group	Advice group now known as ENCAMS
Tip Times	The times during the day when landfills and other waste disposal facilities are open
Tradable Permits	Mechanism the Government will use to restrict the amount of biodegradable waste landfilled by WDAs . The permits can be bought and sold between WDAs .
Trade waste	Waste that has arisen in a business, shop or industry. Also includes waste taken away from a house by, for example, a builder, plumber or kitchen fitter.
Transfer Station	A place where refuse lorries tip their waste, which is then reloaded into much larger lorries (or in some cases trains or river barges) and sent far away to a disposal facility such as a landfill
Vehicles green machine	– A small pavement sweeper machine with two rotating brushes at the front and a vacuum underneath. Operated by a worker, normally walking behind. See Vehicles-Schmidt
Vehicles hiab	– A special crane lorry with two separately controlled hydraulic chains. Used to empty recycling banks.
Vehicles RCV	– Refuse collection vehicle
Vehicles Schmidt (make)	– Pavement sweeper machine with two rotating brushes at the front and a suction 'hoover' underneath. One or two workers sit inside a cab whilst operating it.

Vehicles skip lugger –	Lorry that ferries skips around
Vehicles split bodied –	Refuse lorry with two compartments side by side at the back. Used when a council has one wheelie bin for refuse and another for recyclables, and wants to collect them both in one trip.
Vermin	Pests, rats, mice etc.
Waste Collection Authority (WCA)	WCAs have a statutory duty to provide waste collection services to the local community. District and Metropolitan council's and Unitaries are WCAs
Waste Disposal Authority (WDA)	WDAs have a statutory duty to dispose of Municipal waste collected in their area. County Councils and Unitaries are WDAs
Waste Hierarchy	<p>There is a pecking order of what is environmentally the best thing to do with waste. In descending order of merit:</p> <p>Reduce: minimise the amount of waste arising in the first place</p> <p>Reuse: find ways of reusing waste, without reprocessing it</p> <p>Recycle/compost: process the waste to remake the original item, or compost it</p> <p>Recovery: recover the energy in the waste, by incinerating it, and make electricity or heating for homes and businesses</p> <p>Landfill with energy recovery: after landfilling the waste, methane coming out of the landfill is captured and used to make electricity</p> <p>Landfill without energy recovery</p>
Waste Local Plan	See Waste Planning Authority
Waste Management Plan/Strategy	A strategy for the management of wastes, including all the various collection, handling, storage, processing, and final disposal activities. Usually produced by the WDA in partnership with the district councils. Unitary Councils are expected to produce their own strategy, although they can join with others, such as the neighbouring County, and produce a joint strategy.
Waste Planning Authority	The Waste Disposal Authority (e.g. a County Council) will also be the Waste Planning Authority, in which a 10 year plan (the Waste Local Plan) is maintained setting out how and where waste may be processed or disposed of
Waste Regulation Authority	Part of the Environment Agency, the WRA regulates solid waste
Waste Watch	National group that promotes reduction, reuse and recycling of waste
WEEE Directive	Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive. Does not place any direct responsibility on councils.
Wheeled bins	Large plastic household rubbish bins with wheels on; also called wheelie bins. Used in conjunction with specialist refuse collection vehicles with lifting and tipping mechanisms. Various sizes (litres): 120, 140, 240, 360, 770, 1100, 1240. Most councils use 240 litres for householders (although some use 360 for 'large' householders. Some a giving smaller to try and encourage more recycling – such as Blaby, Kirklees).
White Goods	Phrase used to describe large appliances normally found in the kitchen (such as fridges, washing machines, etc).

Windrow	A large, long pile of green waste piled up (normally at least 2m high) for aerobic composting, usually outdoors at large composting sites. Not home composting.
WRAP	Waste Recycling Action Programme – national organisation seeking to encourage more stable end markets for recycling.
WREN	Waste Recycling Group's (a large waste management company) Environment Trust, operated under the Landfill Tax Scheme