

Summary

Leicestershire Municipal Waste Management Strategy



Why has a Waste Management Strategy been produced for Leicestershire?

Leicestershire authorities are required by Government to set out how they plan to best manage waste across the county. The Strategy will address the challenges posed by recent statutory recycling and composting targets, as well as address the long term requirements to divert larger quantities of waste away from landfill.

Leicestershire County Council and the seven District and Borough Councils of Blaby, Charnwood, Harborough, Hinckley & Bosworth, Melton, North West Leicestershire and Oadby & Wigston, recognise the potential benefits to be had from working together in partnership. As a result of this partnership, The Leicestershire Household Waste Management Member Steering Group was established in July 2002 and is made up of one Member and one council officer representative per authority.

With the help of opinion polling organisation MORI, Leicestershire residents were consulted on their opinion of how their household waste was currently dealt with and how it should be managed in the future. The key outcome of the consultation was that Leicestershire residents want to maximise recycling and composting before other treatment methods are considered.

It is hoped that the partnership will drive forward the delivery of the Strategy, which has now been produced, and develop new facilities and projects that will enable Leicestershire to achieve all its future targets.

What does it all mean for Leicestershire residents?

Last year residents in Leicestershire generated 330,000 tonnes of household waste. This means that every household threw away 1.3 tonnes of waste - That is the same weight as an average family car. Of all the waste thrown away 20% was either recycled or composted, through collections from your home and at a number of sites around the County.

Although 20% recycling seems high and puts Leicestershire's collective performance in the top 20% of Counties in the UK for recycling and composting, we still need to do more.

To increase recycling in Leicestershire the Government has set a target of recycling 33% of all residents' waste by 2006. Every year the amount of waste we throw away increases, so to meet the target, over the next 3 years we will need to almost double the amount we are recycling and composting. That's 136,700 tonnes of waste we'll need to collect to recycle or compost.

As well as a target for the County as a whole, each authority within the county has been set their own recycling targets that they must meet by 2006. The individual targets are shown in the table below:

| Authority | 2000/1 Recycling | | 2003/4 Recycling | | 2005/6 Recycling | |
|------------------------|------------------|--------|------------------|--------|------------------|---------|
| | % | tonnes | % | tonnes | % | tonnes |
| Blaby DC | 15 | 4,654 | 20 | 6,200 | 30 | 9,800 |
| Charnwood BC | 17 | 7,975 | 33 | 20,700 | 36 | 24,600 |
| Harborough DC | 9 | 2,578 | 10 | 3,400 | 18 | 6,300 |
| Hinckley & Bosworth BC | 9 | 3,335 | 18 | 8,200 | 27 | 13,100 |
| Melton BC | 25 | 4,570 | 33 | 6,700 | 40 | 8,400 |
| NWL DC | 6 | 2,440 | 16 | 7,900 | 24 | 12,600 |
| Oadby & Wigston BC | 16 | 2,507 | 33 | 7,000 | 36 | 8,100 |
| Leicestershire CC | | 33,584 | | 25,700 | | 53,800 |
| Leicestershire (Total) | 19 | 61,643 | 22 | 85,800 | 33 | 136,700 |

It doesn't all stop in 2006. Local Authorities have been set more targets from the European Union that will make us look at waste management over a much longer period in the future. Targets have been set that take us up to 2020, and will require us to completely change the way we deal with our waste. At the moment we landfill more waste than we recycle or compost, but this will have to change. In the future we will need to completely reverse what happens now and we will have to recycle and compost more waste than we send to landfill.

How are we going to do it?

The Waste Management Partnership in conjunction with consultants Envirospire have identified key policies that will guide the future changes to waste management in Leicestershire and help us to meet our Government targets. The policies are integral to each other and although they have been given a number, it does not indicate an order of priority.

● Policy 1

Reduce waste growth - Raise awareness of waste issues and the importance of waste reduction in order to slow the future growth in waste arisings.

● Policy 2

Meet the Statutory Recycling Targets: All partner authorities to strive to meet their individual performance targets in 2003/4 and 2005/6.

● Policy 3

Meet the Landfill Directive Targets of diverting waste from landfill - By focusing initially on increasing recycling and composting whilst keeping under review alternative treatment technologies that will enable the longer term targets to be met.

● Policy 4

Deliver Best Value.

● Policy 5

Local Sustainability - Local environmental issues will be considered, including opportunities to enhance the local economy and employment and minimise environmental and traffic impacts.

● Policy 6

Education and Awareness - Develop a waste management awareness campaign to support the provision of new services and investment in new facilities and to ensure public involvement at all stages.

The strategy is based on both a short and long term approach, and the actions required can be seen in the table overleaf.

| | Actions/Activities required |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Short Term (Up to 2006) | <p>Education and Awareness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Prepare and launch an education and awareness campaign ○ Actively promote waste reduction <p>Collection and Recycling</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Introduce green waste collection schemes and ○ Introduce/expand collections of recyclable materials from homes ○ Implement improved recycling and green waste facilities at the Recycling Household Waste sites <p>Facilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Have in place facilities to process for up to 50,000 tonnes per annum of green waste (around 35,000 tonnes per annum capacity exists at present) ○ Develop facilities to process 70-80,000 tonnes per annum of recyclable material <p>Research and Review</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Partnership Steering Group to monitor performance of Strategy against objectives and targets ○ Undertake review of Strategy in 2005 |
| Long Term (2006 to 2020) | <p>Education and Awareness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Continue to actively promote waste issues, including the reduction of waste <p>Collection and Recycling</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Expand range of recyclable materials collected from homes ○ Consider need to introduce the collection of kitchen wastes from homes ○ Increase recycling performance of the Recycling Household Waste sites <p>Facilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Develop capability to treat greater quantities of waste that is not recycled or composted ○ Consider/Provide thermal treatment capacity by 2013 <p>Research and Review</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Continue to review the Strategy at 5 yearly intervals ○ Continue to monitor progress on an annual basis |

It is easy to think that these changes to waste management won't affect you, or that there is nothing you can do to help, but that is not the case. We all create waste and therefore all have a part to play in helping to reduce the amount we produce and increase the amount that is recycled and composted.

The production of the Leicestershire Municipal Waste Management Strategy is just the first step, now the County, District and Borough Councils along with the residents of Leicestershire must work together to achieve the aims and targets of the Strategy.

The development of the Leicestershire Municipal Waste Management Strategy has been guided by the Waste Management Partnership which includes the following authorities:



BLABY DISTRICT COUNCIL



HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH
BOROUGH COUNCIL



Melton
Borough
Council



Oadby & Wigston
Borough Council