Cumbria Waste Management Partnership

The Cumbria Waste Partnership has been developing over the last 12 months or so in order to bring together both the county council and district councils within Cumbria. The desire of the partnership is to ensure that we work together to develop the best possible services for the people of Cumbria, and that we manage waste in the best possible way.

Much has happened since the first meeting of officers back in June 2004 and much has been achieved. A number of these achievements have been highlighted in this issue of Review.
Joint municipal waste management framework document

The framework document agreed between the county and district councils includes a range of activities designed to achieve high quality waste management in Cumbria, including:

1. Exceeding our statutory recycling targets through the development of a joint recycling plan
2. Achieving a recycling and or composting rate of 60% plus across the civic amenity site network

3. Delivering a waste awareness and minimisation programme across the county
4. Providing high quality waste collection services and facilities
5. Providing appropriate, suitably located waste treatment and final disposal facilities

Details of this framework are available on the county council’s internet site at:
http://www.cumbria.gov.uk/CouncilMeetings/Content/Public/2941/38398101255.pdf

Partnership visits

A number of visits have been made to waste management facilities to improve our understanding of the technology used to reduce, recycle and dispose of waste.

On the 1st July members of the partnership board visited the Premier Waste digester plant in Durham.

This visit provided an opportunity to gain an understanding of the scale of the plant, its diversion capacity, the price and funding possibilities, and to discuss the issues relating to the outputs from the process.

The group also visited a transfer station in Hexham. The site incorporated a recycling centre which has recently introduced a permit scheme designed to remove commercial waste from the household waste stream.

On the 13th July, both county and district council Members and officers visited the NEWLINCS Integrated Waste Management Facility in North East Lincolnshire.

The IWMF features composting; recycling of glass, plastic, cans and newspapers; and an energy from waste plant.

On the 25th July, officers from Allerdale Borough and Cumbria County Councils visited a glass recycling and reprocessing site in Alloa, Scotland.

As well as being given a complete tour of the facility, Allerdale Borough Council were provided with a glass recycling education pack for use in local schools.
What is LATS?

The UK’s landfill allowance trading scheme (LATS) - part of the Waste Emissions and Trading Act, is part of the UK government’s response to the EU landfill directive 1999. The EU directive requires member states to reduce the amount of biodegradable waste going to landfill by 25% by 2010, 50% by 2013 and 75% by 2020 compared to 1995 tonnages.

Under LATS, we are set allowances for the amount of biodegradable municipal waste we can send to landfill each year until 2020. This year we have an allowance of 171,647 tonnes — this must reduce by 70% by 2020 to just 51,422 tonnes.

LATS means FINES

For every tonne of biodegradable waste over the allowance that goes to landfill, waste disposal authorities across the UK will be fined £150. This fine is in addition to the cost of landfill and landfill tax.

We must reduce the amount of biodegradable waste going to landfill.

Biodegradable municipal waste - what counts?

Biodegradable municipal waste includes the following items:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Waste Type</th>
<th>% of Cumbrian municipal waste</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kitchen waste</td>
<td>19.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garden waste</td>
<td>9.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper</td>
<td>21.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Card</td>
<td>5.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disposable nappies</td>
<td>2.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wood</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Textiles</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It does not include glass, plastic, metal or rubble

Why biodegradable waste?

Apart from the fines that we will incur if we do not reduce the amount of biodegradable waste going to landfill, the environmental impact is significant. Biodegradable waste produces methane in landfill sites — a gas 21 times more powerful than carbon dioxide as a greenhouse gas.

Protecting our planet

REDUCE ● REUSE ● RECYCLE
The partnership is currently focusing on 6 key areas and through working groups has developed action plans. The 6 key areas are as follows:

- Household waste recycling centres
- Waste prevention
- Communications
- LATS
- Collections and recycling
- Waste treatment

The action plans have been presented to the board and approved and work is in hand to deliver against the agreed actions. We aim to focus on the developments of each action plan in future issues of this newsletter.

Details of these groups are shown in the organisational chart below.

The partnership consists of the partnership board of elected Members from each authority and representatives from relevant organisations and also a supporting officer group. Membership of these include:

**Partnership board**

- **Chair**: J R Richardson  
  CCC

- **Members**
  - J Askew  
  ABC
  - J Waiting  
  BBC
  - R Bloxham  
  CarCC
  - A Holliday  
  CBC
  - B Metz  
  EDC
  - B Woof  
  SLDC

- **Partner organisations**
  - T Hindle  
  EA
  - D Kendal  
  NWWF
  - J S Donaldson  
  GONW
  - J Whitaker  
  ENCAMS

**Officers group**

- **Key contacts**
  - R Denby  
  ABC
  - I Laird  
  BBC
  - M Gardner  
  CarCC
  - G Harrison  
  CCC
  - J Carol  
  CBC
  - A Yates  
  EDC
  - P Turner  
  SLDC

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**Key**

- **ABC**: Allerdale Borough Council
- **BBC**: Barrow Borough Council
- **CarCC**: Carlisle City Council
- **CBC**: Copeland Borough Council
- **CCC**: Cumbria County Council
- **EDC**: Eden District Council
- **EA**: Environment Agency
- **ENCAMS**: Environmental Campaigns
- **GONW**: Government Office North West
- **NWWF**: North West Waste Forum
- **SLDC**: South Lakeland District Council

If you would like any additional information on any of the articles featured in this months Review then please contact the Cumbria County Council waste management team on:

- Waste.management@cumbriacc.gov.uk
- 01228 607644