



Harborough District Council

Waste and Recycling Strategy 2011 – 2022

Forward

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Foreword by Cllr Steve Charlish, Portfolio Holder for Waste and Recycling

Over recent years, Harborough District has made significant progress in reducing the impact of waste on the environment. The Council is one of the top performing authorities in the Country, recycling or composting over 58% of the waste produced during 2010/2011.

Although the Council is already exceeding the national target to recycle 50% of waste from households by 2020, it must continue to build on its achievements to date in order to reduce the impact further. The Harborough District still sent over 14,000 tonnes of waste to landfill last year. The ultimate aim is to achieve a 100% recycling rate. This task is daunting and financially challenging however, through the implementation of this strategy it is hoped that we can move closer to our aspirations by recycling/composting 70% of our waste by 2022. This will need to be achieved by improving our services throughout a period when we need to reduce our costs.

The Waste and Recycling Strategy 2011-2022 will promote waste minimisation and reuse and will introduce a restructured waste collection service with an emphasis on the efficient and effective collection of recyclable materials. Harborough will aim to remain as one of the top recycling councils in the country.

1. Waste Management Overview

Introduction

Harborough District covers an area of 238 square miles of rural south and east Leicestershire. It lies within the East Midlands Region, bordering Warwickshire to the west, Northamptonshire to the south and Rutland to the east. Harborough borders 4 other Leicestershire district authorities, namely Charnwood, Melton, Oadby and Wigston and Blaby, and adjoins the east of Leicester City at Bushby, Scraftoft and Thurnby.

The District's population of 82,800 (mid-2008 estimate) is split between the two market towns of Market Harborough and Lutterworth (37%), large villages of Broughton Astley, Great Glen, Kibworth and Fleckney (27%) and Bushby, Thurnby and Scraftoft part of Leicester's Urban Fringe (6%). The remaining 30% of the District's population live in the smaller rural settlements, 71 of which have a population of less than 500.

Harborough District Council (HDC) is a Waste Collection Authority (WCA) and is responsible for the collection of municipal waste within the district boundaries. As the WCA, HDC also has responsibility for the recycling of household wastes, through a combination of local bring-bank facilities and kerbside collections.

Harborough District Council's (WCA) responsibilities

- Waste collection (statutory)
- Providing and managing recycling bring banks (non-statutory)
- Street sweeping and litter collection (statutory)
- Providing and managing kerbside recycling schemes (statutory)
- Providing a trade waste collection service (if requested)

Purpose of the Waste Management Strategy

The Waste Management Strategy is a framework of how HDC intends to manage the municipal waste produced within the District, for the next eleven years, the overall aim of which will be to promote and implement sustainable waste management. It lists the key strengths of the current service and challenges to be faced. It also provides a vision for the future and sets out how this will be achieved through an action plan with clear measurable and achievable targets.

Period covered by the Waste Management Strategy

The HDC Waste Strategy is intended to cover the period 2011 to 2022, however it will be subject to review after five years. The need to review the Strategy outside of the five year interval might occur in any of the following circumstances;

- The chosen collection option cannot be executed
- Changes to European, national or local policy
- Local/National targets not being met.

Why is a Waste Management Strategy Needed?

The UK produces, and disposes of, a huge amount of waste material. A substantial proportion of this is still sent to landfill or not reused in the most effective way. Although great improvements have been made in recent years with the introduction of recycling collections etc, more needs to be done to ensure that our communities realise the benefits of a less wasteful society. In order for the Council to understand and respond to the future challenges in waste and recycling it needs a clear direction from which its future actions and decisions will be influenced.

National Waste Strategy Review 2011

In June 2011, the Government published the findings of its Review of Waste Policy, setting out its policies and a series of actions designed to help move towards a zero waste economy in England.

The review highlighted the following principle commitments, of which the following were of particular relevance to HDC as a Waste Collection Authority;

Sustainable Approach To The Use Of Materials

- Prioritise efforts to manage waste in line with the waste hierarchy and reduce the carbon impact of waste;

- Develop a range of measures to encourage waste prevention and reuse, supporting greater resource efficiency;
- Work to overcome the barriers to increasing the energy from waste which Anaerobic Digestion provides, as set out in the new AD strategy;

Householders and Businesses

- Support initiatives which reward and recognise people who do the right thing to reduce, reuse and recycle their waste.
- Work with councils to increase the frequency and quality of rubbish collections and make it easier to recycle;
- Encourage councils to sign the new Recycling & Waste Services Commitment, setting out the principles they will follow in delivering local waste services;
- Protect civil liberties by stopping councils from criminalising householders for trivial bin offences, while ensuring that stronger powers exist to tackle those responsible for fly tipping and serious waste crime;

Other key actions mentioned in the National Waste Strategy Review 2011

- The Government will work with councils to meet households' reasonable expectations for weekly collections, particularly of smelly waste.
- Increase recycling rates in line with the revised waste framework directive target to recycle 50% of waste from households by 2020.
- The Government will work with and support businesses, local authorities and third sector organisations to help reduce avoidable food waste
- Waste & Resources Action Programme (WRAP) will support councils who want to work with local businesses to explore how the necessary street infrastructure can be funded to allow recycling on the go to grow.
- The Government will be working with local councils to increase the frequency and quality of rubbish collections and make it easier to recycle
- We will encourage councils to sign up to the new Recycling and Waste Services Commitment.

£250m for councils to support weekly bin collections

On 30th September 2011, Communities Secretary Eric Pickles announced a new fund to deliver a weekly collection of household waste

The new Weekly Collections Support Scheme will both support weekly collections and enable councils to invest in schemes and projects that will benefit the environment including through raising recycling rates. In the coming months councils will be invited to submit innovative bids for funding. However, it is for each local authority to decide which collection system is more appropriate for local circumstances.

Leicestershire Municipal Waste Management Strategy 2006

The County Council and the seven District and Borough councils working together as the Leicestershire Waste Partnership have produced a Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for the period.

This Strategy sets out the current position and the objectives for the Partnership. It also lays down policies which will form the basis for delivering on those objectives.

This Strategy has as its principal aims a set of Core Objectives, set out below:

Objective 1: Manage materials in accordance with the Waste Management Hierarchy – in order of preference, prevention, re-use, recycle/compost, recovery, disposal - except where costs are prohibitive, or where the environmental consequences can be demonstrated to be negative;

Objective 2: Manage resources and waste in a way that meets the needs of Leicestershire's residents now without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs;

Objective 3: Deliver quality services which offer value for money overall, in the long term as well as the short term;

Objective 4: Ensure that services are flexible enough to allow new technological developments and new legal requirements to be accommodated, and to ensure that the desire to move waste up the Waste Management Hierarchy is not compromised;

Objective 5: Work together to research and develop coordinated services and infrastructure for waste collection, treatment, transfer and disposal;

Objective 6: Aim to manage residual waste within the County where this is consistent with the proximity principle and to manage all other waste at the nearest appropriate facility by the most appropriate method or technology;

Objective 7: Consider approaches to managing waste from commercial and industrial sources where this contributes to the overall environmental, social and economic wellbeing of Leicestershire Residents;

Objective 8: Lobby and work with others, in particular on the issue of waste prevention, including commercial, statutory, non-governmental, academic and community based or not-for-profit organisations in pursuit of the Partnership's vision of sustainable waste and resource management;

Objective 9: Work closely with the community & community sector to educate residents in waste-related matters and encourage engagement with waste prevention and reuse initiatives;

Objective 10: Promote the economic and employment opportunities of sustainable waste management where this is consistent with the principles of sustainable development and best value; and

Objective 11: As local authorities, set an example by preventing, re-using, recycling and composting our own waste and use our buying power to positively encourage sustainable resource use.

Leicestershire Environment Hub

During 2010 a Peer Review Process took place in order to consider the effectiveness of joint working arrangements across Leicestershire. The review concluded that

“In order to have the biggest impact, the team believes that a new, fit for purpose Strategic Environment Board should be formed, with three supporting delivery partnerships: Climate Change; Waste / Cleaner; Natural and Historic Environment. This high level Board will engage with key relevant partners, identify key environmental priorities, set the vision and strategy, and direct resources, acting as the “voice” and influence for the key environmental delivery partners within Leicestershire.”

The new structures suggested in the conclusion are currently being considered for implementation.

2. Waste and Recycling Strategy for Harborough

This Waste and Recycling Strategy for Harborough supports both the Leicestershire Waste Strategy and the National Waste Strategy Review 2011. It is a statement of HDC's intent to address the issues that are central to the effective management of our resources. It outlines the key activities that will take place and a timetable for implementing the changes that are necessary to provide a waste collection service, based on excellence and efficiency.

Current waste management arrangements

Harborough Waste Collection service is outsourced to Focsa (UK) Ltd under the Environmental Services Contract (this also includes street cleansing and grounds maintenance). The contract was let in 2009 and is for 7 years with an option for a further extension of 7 years.

The authority operates an alternate weekly collection of green and residual waste. Recycling (including food waste) is collected on a weekly basis. The current kerbside collection scheme uses 5 containers or receptacles for source separated material.

Container Type	Collection Frequency	Material Collected
Green Bin	Fortnightly	Grass cuttings, leaves, flowers Shrub clippings and prunings Cardboard
Black Bin	Fortnightly	Any non-recyclable waste
Green Box	Weekly	Glass bottles and jars Drinks cans and food tins Aerosols and clean foil trays
Blue Box	Weekly	Newspapers and magazines Phone directories & catalogues Computer & stationery paper Junk mail (plastic wrapping removed) Shredded paper (wrapped in newspaper or a paper bag) Paperback books
Brown Caddy	Weekly	Fruit and vegetables Meat, fish, bones, solid fats Cooked or uncooked food Bread, pasta, cereals, rice etc. Tea bags and coffee grounds Dairy products and eggshells Pet food Compostable Bags

Harborough is currently in the top ten local authorities in England and Wales for recycling performance with a total recycling rate of 58.1% (unaudited figures). The 58.1% recycling rate comprises of a composting rate 39.34% (green and food waste) and a dry recycling rate of 18.7%

A total of 34,893.45 tonnes of domestic waste was collected during 2010/2011. Of that figure, 14,526.20 tonnes was sent to landfill this figure includes 4,842.38 tonnes which was sent for Mechanical Biological Treatment (MBT). This produces a compost like output which is still categorised as landfill by the EU).

The amount of domestic waste that the district sent to landfill has reduced significantly in recent years with the introduction on new initiatives around waste minimisation and recycling.

In addition to the kerbside collection service, waste materials are also collected at 55 bring sites located throughout the district. Materials collected include some of those covered by the kerbside recycling scheme, and some not covered by the scheme i.e textiles and plastics.

3. Strengths and Challenges

Key Strengths

HDC already has an excellent overall composting/recycling rate of 58.1%.

A diminishing amount of waste sent to landfill and reductions in the amount of waste and recycling produced per household per year.

Harborough's composting rate is the best in England (Quarter 1, 2010-2011) and was nearly 7% higher than the second best performing authority.

The Council is already achieving national and EU targets for Waste and Recycling.

A long and successful track record of providing a kerbside recycling service to residents.

Within the Council there is strong political will and cross party support for further improving the performance of the Council's waste management service.

Positive relationship between the Council and its waste collection service provider, Focsa.

Excellent partnership working between HDC and other stakeholders including the Leicestershire Waste Partnership, other district authorities, and Leicestershire County Council (LCC) the waste disposal authority (WDA).

Key Challenges

Making the best use of collected materials e.g. kerbside collection of cardboard is via the green waste bin. This material is composted and is included in our recycling figures, however, the material could be reused to realise a higher value and environmental benefits.

Improving our dry recycling performance. Whilst our overall recycling rate is good, the dry recycling performance has room for improvement. HDC's unaudited dry recycling figure is 18.7% whilst the higher performers are achieving 40%.

Expanding the range of materials collected at the kerbside. A major omission from our current scheme is the collection of plastics. (there are 11 types of plastic, 7 of which are recyclable).

Maintain and improve the reduction in the amount of waste produced in the district through periods of housing and population growth.

Delivering an enhanced, but financially deliverable service in a district that is large, rural and sparsely populated.

Making better use of "recycling on the go" type initiatives.

Minimising our Carbon Impact with a service that is heavily reliant on transporting waste in large vehicles.

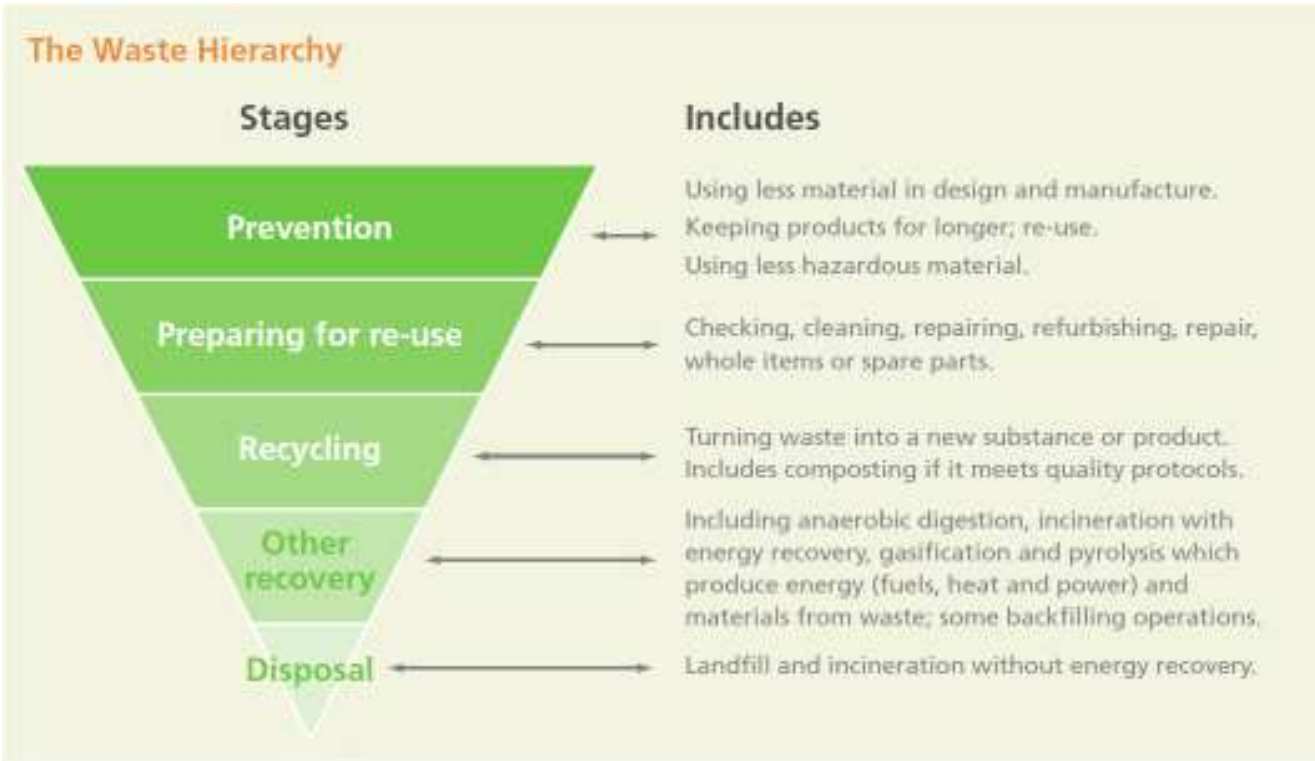
4. Vision, Guiding Principles and Strategic Objectives

Harborough District Council's vision is:

A district that excels in the management of its waste and minimises its impact on the environment.

Guiding Principles

The underlying principles of sustainable waste management are shown in the Waste Hierarchy. The Waste Hierarchy shows the most sustainable waste management practise of 'Prevention' at the top and the least sustainable option of 'Disposal' at the bottom. This Strategy has taken into consideration these principles which have guided the decision making process.



The Waste Hierarchy
 Source: Government Review of Waste Policy in England 2011

Strategic Objectives

The Council has six strategic objectives in producing this strategy:

1. To provide a waste and recycling collection service that is simple, scalable and increases the dry recycling rate.
2. To provide a waste and recycling service that can recognise the financial constraints on HDC and make collections more effectively and efficiently.
3. To encourage change within the community to move the management of waste higher up the waste hierarchy.
4. To manage waste in a way that minimises the environmental impact on our citizens.
5. To act as community leaders and manage Council waste in an effective manner.
6. To examine how the Council can manage waste collected on streets and in parks more effectively.

5. How will the Strategy work and how will performance be measured?

How will the action plan be monitored?

Actions arising from this Strategy and Action Plan will feed into the Portfolio Plans for the Environmental Services Portfolio Holder. Progress against any actions will be monitored using the Council's TEN Performance Management System. Progress will be reported at the half year and end of year through the Council's Scrutiny programme.

Where are we today?

A Baseline Report is available at Appendix D to this strategy. The report provides full details of the Council current performance and operational activity.

Where are we aiming for?

The primary aims of this project are:

1. To maintain our position as one of the top performing local authorities in England and achieve a 70% recycling and composting rate by 2022. In particular improvements should be realised in our dry recycling rate.
2. To see ongoing reductions in the overall amount of waste produced (Kg per household).

3. To evaluate and improve our on-street and internal recycling arrangements.

6. Waste and Recycling Strategy -Action Plan

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE	ACTION	MEASURE OF SUCCESS	IMPLEMENTATION DATE	PERFORMANCE MEASURE
<p>1. To provide a waste and recycling collection service that is simple, scalable and increases dry recycling rate.</p> <p>2. To provide a waste and recycling service that can recognise the financial constraints on HDC and make collections more effective and efficient.</p>	To provide a full Business Case to consider changing from the current collection method to a co-mingled collection. Consideration should be given to financial and performance advantages. The options presented should include the provision to collect material not covered by the current arrangements	The full Business Case is considered by the Executive at the earliest opportunity.	ASAP	The full Business Case is considered by the Executive at the earliest opportunity.
	In accordance with the above, develop a Bin Policy than minimises the costs of providing new and replacement bins	A Bin Policy is developed and adopted by the Council	March 2012	Bin Policy adopted by the Council. A 50% reduction in the costs of providing replacement/ new bins.
	To undertake an assessment of current HDC operations using LEAN or other	Assessment of current internal processes undertaken. Part of the Future Options/	August 2012	Increase responsiveness and customer satisfaction.

	operations management techniques to improve internal processes.	Transformation Programme.		
3. To encourage change within the community to move the management of waste higher up the waste hierarchy.	To work with our partners and deliver co-ordinated waste reduction campaigns throughout the year.	To deliver a minimum of 6 campaigns every year. Options include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Real Nappies • Love Food Hate Waste • Xmas Trees • WEEE roadshows • Re-use Bags 	April 2012	To see year on year reductions in the amount of waste produced (kg per household) Monitored through <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TEN • Portfolio Reports
	Develop a Waste Management Communications Plan	A Waste Management Communications Plan is produced annually and communication with residents is effectively managed through all channels	April 2012	To see year on year reductions in the amount of waste produced (kg per household) Monitored through <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TEN • Portfolio Reports
	Enhance the information available on the Council's website	Better information available through the website.	June 2012	Number of website hits Monitored through <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TEN • Portfolio Reports
6. To examine how the Council can manage	HDC to develop and evaluate the option of	Recycling on the Go scheme considered for	October 2012	Reduction in the amount of waste sent to landfill

<p>waste collected on streets and in parks more effectively.</p>	<p>introducing a “Recycling on the Go” scheme for its streets, parks and open spaces.</p>	<p>implementation</p>		<p>from our on-street and park bins throughout the district.</p> <p>Monitored through</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TEN • Portfolio Reports
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