



Leicestershire Municipal Waste Management Strategy

Strategy Update 2011

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Contents

1.	FOREWORD	5
2.	EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	7
	2.1. Why do we need a Waste Management Strategy?	7
	2.2. Our Strategic Vision	7
	2.3. Challenges and solutions	7
3.	INTRODUCTION	9
	3.1. What waste is generated in Leicestershire?	9
	3.2. Why do we need a Municipal Waste Management Strategy?	10
4.	MUNICIPAL WASTE SERVICES 2006 – 2011	12
	4.1. Where have we come from?	12
	4.2. How is the service delivered now?	13
	4.3. What is in your bin?	15
5.	ACHIEVING SUSTAINABLE WASTE MANAGEMENT	17
	5.1. Waste Strategy for England 2007	17
	5.2. Waste Framework Directive	17
	5.3. Review of Waste Policy in England 2011	17
	5.4. Managing carbon	18
	5.5. The Landfill Directive	18
	5.6. Improving efficiency in service delivery	19
	5.7. Regional self sufficiency & proximity principle	19
	5.8. Waste Strategy & the Planning Process	19
6.	VISION & OBJECTIVES OF THE MUNICIPAL WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY	20
7.	WASTE PREVENTION & PREPARING FOR REUSE	22
	7.1. Proposed actions on waste prevention and reuse	22
	7.2. Measuring and monitoring waste prevention and reuse	24
8.	RECYCLING & COMPOSTING	25
	8.1. Proposed actions on recycling and composting	25
	8.2. Recycling and composting target	26
	8.3. Measuring and monitoring recycling and composting	27
9.	RESIDUAL WASTE TREATMENT & DISPOSAL	28
	9.1. Residual waste treatment and disposal capacity	28
	9.2. Reacting to change	29
	9.3. Proposed actions on residual waste treatment and disposal	29
	9.4. Residual waste treatment and disposal targets	29
	9.5. Measuring and monitoring residual waste treatment and disposal	30
10.	WIDER WASTES	31
	10.1. Trade waste	31
11.	WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP	32
	11.1. Working together	32
	11.2. External partnerships	32
	11.3. Leading by example	32
	11.4. Monitoring	32
12.	WHERE WILL THE STRATEGY TAKE US?	33
13.	MUNICIPAL WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY ACTION PLAN	34
	13.1. Short term up to 2013	34
	13.2. Medium term 2013 to 2016	34
	13.3. Long term 2016 to 2020	35
14.	MONITORING & REVIEWING OF THE STRATEGY	36
15.	GLOSSARY OF TERMS & ABBREVIATIONS	37

List of figures and tables

Figure 1: Estimate of the composition of waste in the East Midlands	10
Figure 2: The Waste Hierarchy	11
Figure 3: Chart showing percentage of household waste sent for reuse, recycling & composting (formerly National Indicator 192) between 2002/03 and 2010/11	13
Table 1: Summary of the predominant recycling and residual collection systems operated by each of the Leicestershire waste collection authorities	13
Figure 4: Composition of Household Waste collected at the kerbside in Leicestershire (2009/10)	15
Figure 5: Composition of Residual Household Waste collected at the kerbside in Leicestershire (2009/10)	16

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Project Manager:

Signature:
 Printed Name:
 Position:
 Date:

Project Executive:

Signature:
 Printed Name:
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1. Foreword

Waste matters. We live in a world that is consuming resources at a rate which the planet cannot sustain and waste is one of the biggest challenges facing all of us.

Nationally, the government is looking closely at how we manage waste. Local authorities, businesses and communities are being asked to play a part in tackling rubbish and using resources more responsibly.

Here in Leicestershire, the County, district and borough councils work together as the Leicestershire Waste Partnership (the Partnership). We manage the collection and disposal of waste in the County and one of our biggest priorities is to reduce the amount of rubbish we send to landfill.

In 2006, our Strategy detailed our aims to prevent waste in the first place, encourage reuse of materials, increase recycling and composting, and treat what's left over before disposal.

In the last five years we have achieved a great deal. Our district and borough councils have invested in recycling collections and a range of materials can be recycled by householders at their kerbside and local bring sites. Alongside this, improvements at Recycling and Household Waste Sites (RHWS) have helped residents recycle even more.

An innovative Mechanical Biological Treatment facility has been built in the county to divert even more rubbish from landfill in the medium term.

So far all of our challenging targets have been met, making Leicestershire one of the top performers for recycling and composting with rates of over 54% – well above the national average.

This is a fantastic achievement, made possible through the hard work of residents and the dedication of our local authorities to provide quality services. However, the challenge of meeting future targets is very real, particularly given the financial difficulties we all face.

We're living in a rapidly changing world. This update of our waste Strategy considers the current issues facing local areas and explores our options for the future. It takes account of changes to legislation and good practice since the 2006 Strategy was adopted and considers the current economic climate and how this might impact upon our waste services.

You will find within this updated Strategy a continued commitment to reduce waste, recycle more and minimise our reliance on landfill.

We describe in the following pages our aim to manage waste in a way which meets the needs of Leicestershire's residents now and in the future. We will do this by providing high quality, coordinated services, which offer value for money.

We have considered the need to be flexible – and allow for new technology or changes in law. We will continue to lobby for the sustainable management of waste and resources.

We are aware of the importance of reducing carbon and we remain committed to managing Leicestershire's waste within the county or at nearby suitable facilities. Alongside this, we will work with local communities to raise awareness of wider environmental issues.

Building strong partnerships with our communities is at the heart of our waste Strategy. But we realise that, as local authorities, we must set an example. So as you read on, you will see a

commitment to reduce our own waste, buy responsibly, and to reduce our impact on the environment.

Overall, this updated Strategy sets out how our management of waste will contribute to environmental, social and economic well-being in Leicestershire.

Chair, Leicestershire Waste Partnership

Final Draft

2. Executive Summary

This updated Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (the Strategy) sets out how the Partnership intends to manage municipal waste up to 2020. It builds upon the previous Strategy adopted in 2002, and revised in 2006, and takes account of developments since then, including changes in Government policy and work within Leicestershire that has significantly increased recycling and composting over the last ten years.

This Strategy update sets out the current position and objectives for the Partnership. It also sets out actions and targets which will form the basis for delivering those objectives.

The Strategy sets out the high-level actions and initiatives required to deliver the targets and objectives and will be accompanied by an Action Plan. The Action Plan will be a 'live' document that will require adaptation and modification in response to any fundamental changes to factors influencing the delivery of the service. Examples include: operational factors such as changes in waste quantities and composition; technological developments; changes in law or policy, and; the actual timing and performance of planned initiatives.

2.1. Why do we need a Waste Management Strategy?

Partner authorities work together to deliver waste and recycling services in Leicestershire. The Strategy enables the Partnership to jointly consider the type of services we would like to deliver, defines our vision and means by which those services might be delivered up to 2020.

The delivery of waste management services tend to be underpinned by long-term contracts of typically between 7 and 25 years, depending on the service and level of investment. It is therefore imperative that the Partnership undertake sound medium and long-term planning in order to meet national regulations and requirements as well as the needs of residents.

2.2. Our Strategic Vision

Leicestershire is pursuing a clear vision for sustainable waste management and resource use. Through the delivery of high quality, efficient services, waste should first be prevented from arising, be reused, recycled or composted. Any residual waste that has not been reused, recycled or composted should be treated before disposal so that further value can be recovered and so that the impact of final disposal is minimised.

Through the collaborative efforts of the Partnership, and in partnership with others, a majority of Leicestershire's waste will continue to be recycled, waste production will be in decline and local communities will be taking responsibility for the waste they produce.

2.3. Challenges and solutions

Since the establishment of the Partnership in 2002, recycling performance and the range of waste services offered to residents has been significantly improved, however, there remain many challenges ahead in meeting the Partnership's objectives in a stringent economic climate.

In keeping with a best practice approach to delivering and facilitating waste management services, the Partnership is committed to tackling climate change and wider environmental concerns and has sought to positively impact on those agendas where it is practical to do so.

The Partnership aspires to achieve a recycling rate of 58% for Local Authority Collected Waste by 2017, placing us at the forefront of performance nationally, but acknowledges that this level of recycling will be in part dependent on markets and regulatory guidance. We want to deliver the highest recycling rates we can whilst offering value for money and this means providing comprehensive services, which residents use to their full potential.

The eight partner authorities within the Partnership have committed to lead by example, expanding and consolidating services operating internally within council buildings, supporting staff of partner organisations to support the same strategic vision. The Partnership has also adopted a 'Waste Reduction Standard' which seeks, through purchasing policies and practices, to drive out any wasteful practices and improve cost effectiveness.

Final Draft

3. Introduction

This document is the updated Leicestershire Municipal Waste Management Strategy (the Strategy), developed by the Partnership. It is a joint Strategy for Blaby District Council, Charnwood Borough Council, Harborough District Council, Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council, Leicestershire County Council, Melton Borough Council, North West Leicestershire District Council and Oadby and Wigston Borough Council. Collectively, these local authorities comprise the Partnership.

The first Strategy was adopted by the Partnership in 2002 and a significant revision was undertaken in 2006 outlining how the Partnership planned to manage waste up to 2020.

This update remains consistent with the 2006 Strategy, although the document has been substantially restructured. Amendments that have been made take into account current good practice and reflect the latest thinking in relation to sustainable waste management. A formal determination process has been undertaken to ensure that this update remains consistent with the aims and objectives of the 2006 Strategy and that there are no new significant environmental impacts.

3.1. What waste is generated in Leicestershire?

The Strategy addresses all of the waste arisings within Leicestershire that come under the heading of Local Authority Collected Waste¹. This includes waste produced by households (including street sweepings, litter and waste collected at Recycling Household Waste Sites), as well as some commercial wastes, waste from municipal buildings and cleared up fly-tips.

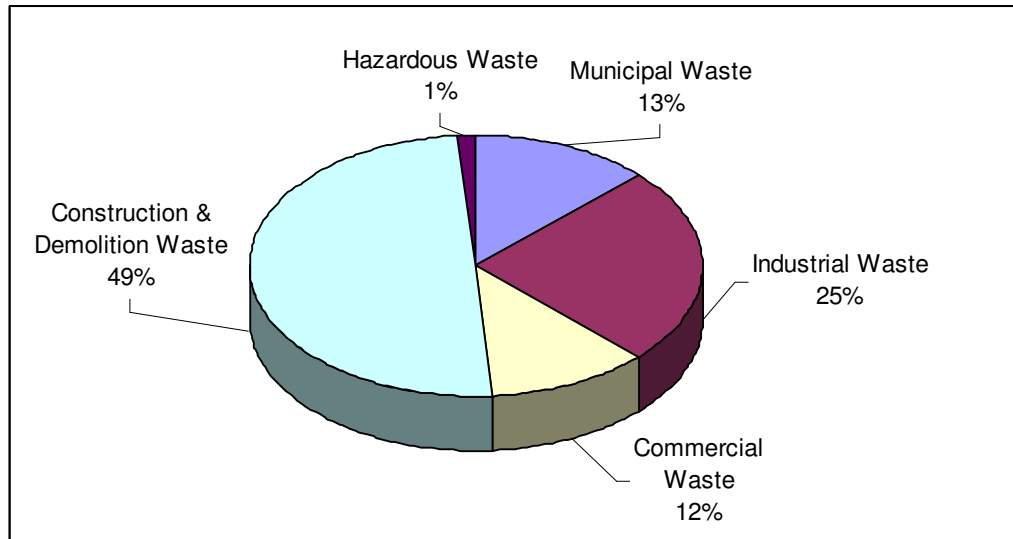
In Leicestershire we generate around 315,000 tonnes (2010/11) of household waste a year. This waste is collected by the district and borough councils and via the County Council run Recycling and Household Waste Sites. In addition, around 31,000 tonnes of non-household waste is collected and managed by partner authorities. Collectively, all the waste managed by the Partnership is termed "Local Authority Collected Waste".

The following diagram illustrates the main sources of waste in the East Midlands, including approximate proportions of the waste².

¹ It should be noted that the term 'Local Authority Collected Waste' (LACW) is introduced because of the amended definition of municipal waste. The Partnership has the most control over waste for which it has the responsibility to collect and therefore the focus of the ambition of this Strategy is with regard to LACW, which is consistent with the 2006 Strategy. The new definition of Municipal Waste (which aligns the UK with the rest of Europe), also includes wastes that are similar to those from households and in some instances the local authorities have no control over how these are managed. It is acknowledged that the Partnership does have a role in supporting the management of other waste streams (see section 10 'Wider Wastes').

² Source: Waste Management Capacity in the East Midlands Report June 2009

Figure 1: Estimate of the composition of waste in the East Midlands



As can be seen from Figure 1, Construction & Demolition wastes and Commercial & Industrial wastes comprise the majority of waste arisings. This waste is usually managed by individual contracts between the producer of the waste (the business) and a private waste contractor. The private waste contractor will collect and may also treat / dispose of the waste. The Partnership plays a more restricted role for these waste streams as they are not under its control. However, this Strategy seeks to use the Partnership's influence to try and improve the management of these wastes (which are mostly landfilled at present) in addition to those for which the Partnership has direct control. This is a theme running through this Strategy, and is consistent with Government policy in this area.

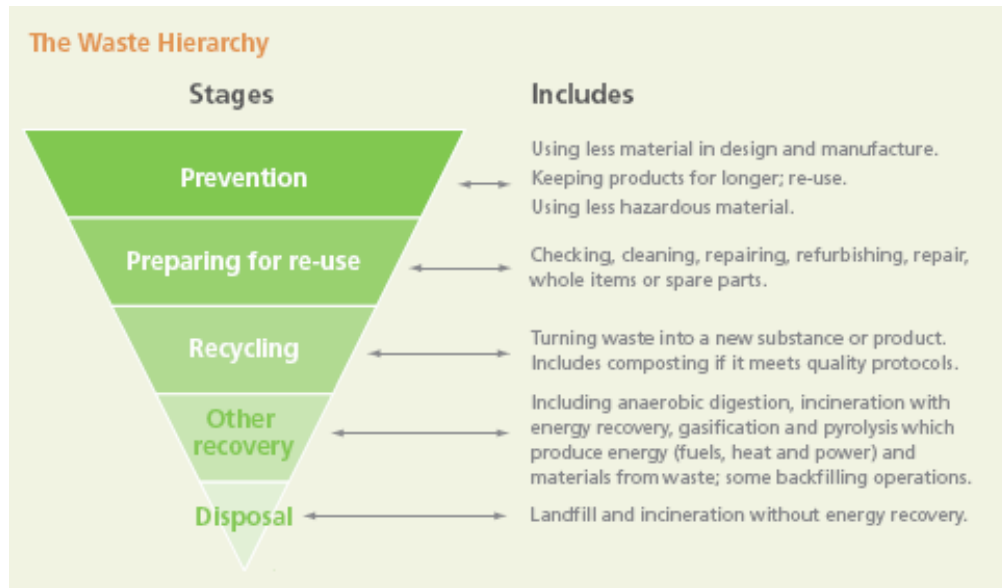
After these waste streams, Local Authority Collected Waste is the main remaining waste stream in Leicestershire, and it is the duty of the Partnership to collect, manage and dispose of this waste.

3.2. Why do we need a Municipal Waste Management Strategy?

We are all contributing to the waste that is generated across the county and an unsustainable use of resources at current rates. Managing waste in a more sustainable way, in a climate of increasing costs and environmental considerations is therefore a high priority. Increasingly we are trying to reduce the amount of waste generated to lower these financial and environmental burdens, and place more emphasis on using waste that is produced as a resource that can be utilised, for example by recycling, composting and recovering energy from it.

This Strategy applies these sustainability principles, which are encapsulated in the waste management hierarchy as set out in the diagram below (Figure 2), and provides a clear and concise guide for the strategic management of most wastes.

Figure 2: The Waste Hierarchy³



These approaches require continued investment in new initiatives, collection systems and treatment facilities, which can take a long time to implement and need careful consideration in order to be successfully delivered as part of an integrated service. Furthermore, there is an increasing amount of environmental legislation designed to reduce our impact on the environment and encourage a more sustainable way of living (see the 'Achieving Sustainable Waste Management' section of this document). The Strategy seeks to provide a structured and coordinated implementation plan for the delivery of actions and services to respond to each of these challenges.

³ Government Review of Waste Policy in England 2011

4. Municipal Waste Services 2006 – 2011

4.1. Where have we come from?

This updated Strategy sets out the Partnership's plans for managing waste until 2020, however it is valuable to understand the journey waste management services have taken since the Strategy's last major review in 2006.

In the 2006 review a number of challenging targets were established and the accompanying Action Plan detailed a number of initiatives designed to increase the reuse, prevention and recycling of waste. The Action Plan was designed as a 'live' document so that the Partnership could react and respond to the ever changing political, financial and environmental context it works in.

In 2006, it was expected that the amount of waste produced in Leicestershire would increase by around 2% per annum. However, waste growth has actually decreased at an average rate of 1.5% between 2006/07 and 2010/11. It is likely that a large proportion of this reduction has been caused by the downturn in the worldwide economy, however, a series of waste prevention initiatives have also contributed, along with improvements implemented at the RHWS.

The development of the Waste Prevention and Reuse Plan in 2007 has allowed the Partnership to deliver many of the initiatives identified in 2006, whilst also being reactive to change. It includes a range of initiatives designed to encourage residents to reuse and prevent waste. This suite of activities has included a broad range of high profile promotional campaigns, including the Reuse Campaign, Love Food Hate Waste promotion and a variety of real nappy initiatives.

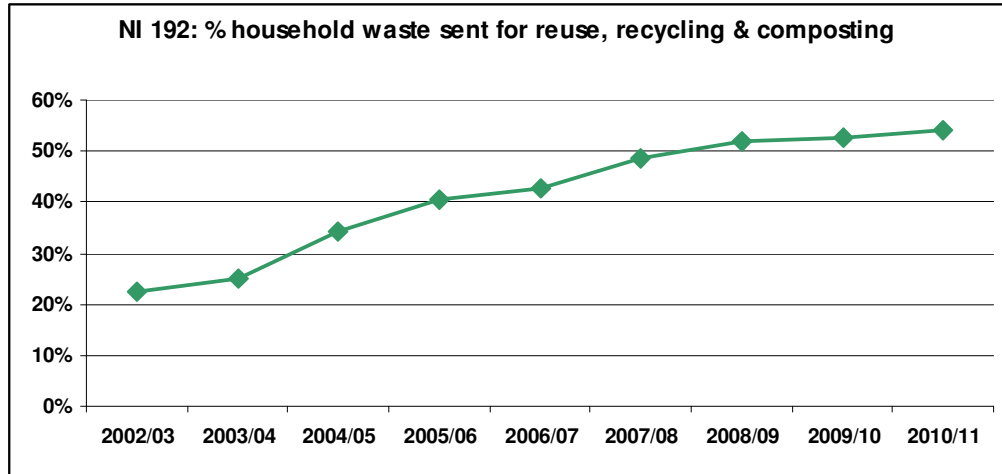
Since 2006, and in line with the growing importance of community engagement, two initiatives have been established that enable residents to get involved by volunteering. The Master Composter scheme saw volunteers recruited to promote the benefits of home composting in the county. Following the success of this scheme, a second programme has recently been implemented, where residents promote a range of waste prevention and reuse messages as a Waste Action Volunteer. Around 80 volunteers have been recruited across both schemes so far, providing valuable support to partner authorities.

As well as progress made to increase waste reuse and prevention, Leicestershire has significantly increased the amount of waste recycled and composted. In 2006/07, the Partnership recycled 42.68% of waste. In recent years, Leicestershire has consistently been among the highest performing areas for reuse, recycling and composting in the country, and was best performing nationally in 2008/09 and in 2009/10. In 2010/11, it achieved its highest ever performance of 54.02%.

The seven waste collection authorities within the Partnership have enhanced and consolidated the coverage and range of recyclable materials offered to residents via kerbside collection schemes and have increased the number of 'bring bank' recycling points. Likewise, the County Council as the disposal authority has expanded the recycling infrastructure at all of its fourteen Recycling and Household Waste Sites (RHWS) including a major redevelopment of five of them.

Figure 3 shows how the collective recycling and composting performance has increased since 2002/03 when the original Strategy was adopted.

Figure 3: Chart showing percentage of household waste sent for reuse, recycling & composting (formerly National Indicator 192) between 2002/03 and 2010/11



This high level of recycling performance has been achieved through a combination of investment in comprehensive kerbside collections, improving RHWS, offering a suite of promotional and communication activities and most crucially through the active participation and uptake of the services by the residents of Leicestershire.

4.2. How is the service delivered now?

Currently the seven collection authorities within the Partnership operate a range of kerbside collection schemes, as outlined in Table 1. Partner authorities have and will continue to improve service provision, so the information below should be considered a ‘snap-shot’ of current services.

Table 1: Summary of the predominant recycling and residual collection systems operated by each of the Leicestershire waste collection authorities

	Dry Recycling	Garden Waste	Food Waste	Residual Waste
Blaby DC	Fortnightly collection using a combination of boxes and 140 litre wheeled bin receptacles, accepting: glass, cans, foil, plastics, paper, cardboard, batteries aerosols and small WEEE. Textiles collected fortnightly by the charity Mind.	Collected via a wheeled bin on a fortnightly frequency. ‘Opt in’, paid service.	No separate collection.	Collected weekly using 140 litre wheeled bins. There is a charge for larger bins or additional ‘side waste’ sacks.
Charnwood BC	Alternate week collection using a wheeled bin accepting: glass jars and bottles, cans, foil, aerosols, paper, cardboard and a wide variety of plastics including film and tetrapaks. Textiles collected fortnightly by the charity Mind.	Green waste collected fortnightly on an ‘opt in’ basis using 240 litre wheeled bins available for an annual fee.	No separate collection.	Collected fortnightly via a 140ltr or 240 litre wheeled bin.

	Dry Recycling	Garden Waste	Food Waste	Residual Waste
Harborough DC	Weekly collection is provided using blue and green boxes, accepting glass, cans, paper, aerosols and foil. Cardboard is collected via the green waste wheeled bin. There is no kerbside collection for plastics or textiles.	Collected fortnightly. A 240 litre green wheeled bin is provided and cardboard may also be placed with the green waste.	District-wide weekly collection of food waste using a caddy.	Collected fortnightly via a 240 litre wheeled bin.
Hinckley & Bosworth BC	Fortnightly collection using a wheeled bin and inner caddy accepting glass, cans, paper, card and most plastics, drinks cartons, batteries and textiles.	Collected via a 240 litre brown bin on a fortnightly basis.	No separate collection.	Collected fortnightly via a 240 litre wheeled bin.
Melton BC	Collected weekly via a box collection, accepting glass, cans, foil, paper, card, plastic bottles and batteries. Textiles are also collected when bagged separately and placed in the grey box.	Collected fortnightly using a 240 litre brown wheeled bin.	No separate collection.	Collected fortnightly via a 240 litre wheeled bin.
North West Leicestershire DC	Collected fortnightly using a combination of boxes and bags accepting glass, cans, paper, card, foil, textiles and mixed plastics.	Collected fortnightly in a 140ltr or 240 litre wheeled bin.	No separate collection.	Collected fortnightly in a 240 litre wheeled bin.
Oadby & Wigston BC	Collected using a sack weekly, accepting cans, paper, card, textiles, tetrapak, foil and all rigid household plastics. Glass is collected fortnightly in a box.	Collected from all appropriate households using a reusable sack on a fortnightly basis.	No separate collection.	Collected via sack, and on a weekly frequency, with a maximum of three sacks per week.

In addition to kerbside collection services, the district and borough councils operate over 330 'bring bank' recycling points across the county.

Changes have also been made at the RHWS so they segregate more for recycling and composting than they do for disposal thereby achieving high levels of performance. The household waste recycling and composting performance achieved at the RHWS for 2010/11 was 74%.

The materials currently separated for recycling and composting at the fourteen RHWS include:

- Plastics
- Plastic bottles
- TVs and monitors
- Small electrical appliances
- Batteries
- Garden waste
- Mobile phones
- Large electrical appliances
- Cardboard beverage packaging
- Tapes and discs
- Scrap metal
- Car batteries
- Spectacles
- Wood and timber
- Food tins and drink cans
- Foil
- Plasterboard
- Cooking oil
- Cardboard
- Paper
- Mixed textiles and clothes
- Glass bottles and jars
- Used engine oil

Alongside increasing performance in recycling and composting, the County Council is responsible for the treatment and disposal of over 170,000 tonnes of residual waste (2010/11). In accordance with the waste hierarchy and this Strategy's objectives (see 'Vision and Objectives' section) the Partnership is moving away from landfill of untreated wastes, and the County Council has procured capacity at a Mechanical Biological Treatment (MBT) facility that came into operation in October 2010 to treat up to 50,000 tonnes of residual waste per year. The new facility processes residual waste collected by district and borough councils, which currently cannot be collected for recycling or composting.

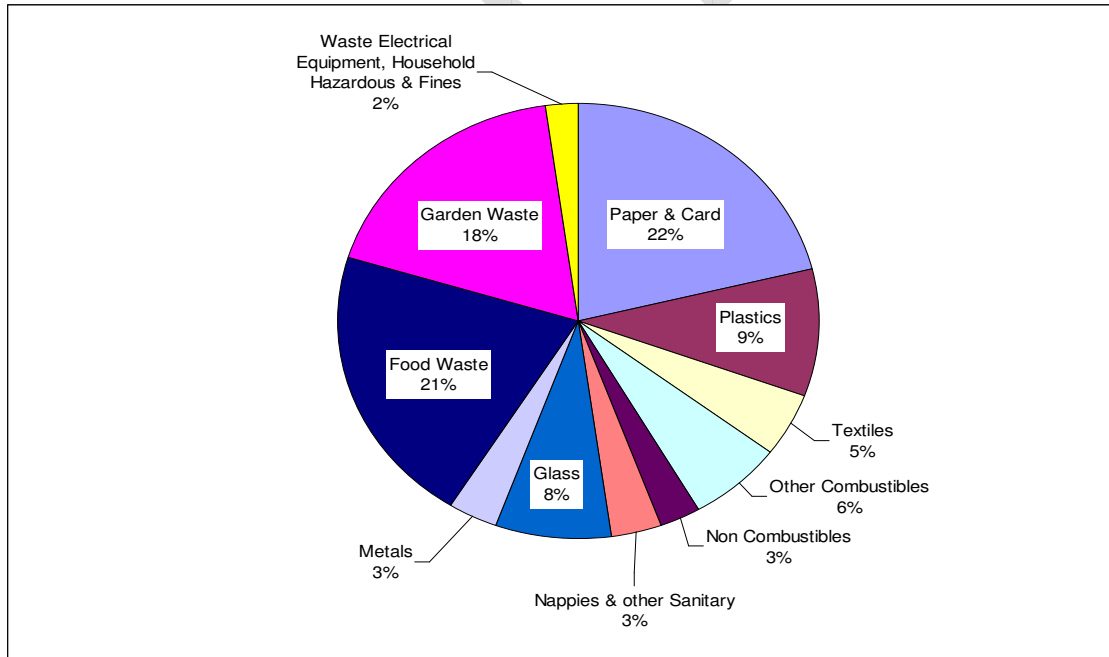
4.3. What is in your bin?

The varied composition of Local Authority Collected Waste is one of the challenges of managing the waste stream in a manner that is environmentally and economically acceptable. In supporting the process of identifying suitable collection and treatment options for Local Authority Collected Waste in Leicestershire, the Partnership conducted compositional analysis exercises in 2007/08 and 2009/10 to understand the nature and proportions of our waste streams.

The analysis in 2009/10 showed that the waste collected from households in Leicestershire from the kerbside, including residual (i.e. black bin / bag), recycling and garden waste; mainly consisted of paper and card (22%), food waste (21%) and garden waste (18%).

The chart below depicts the compositional breakdown of all materials collected at the kerbside.

Figure 4: Composition of Household Waste collected at the kerbside in Leicestershire (2009/10)



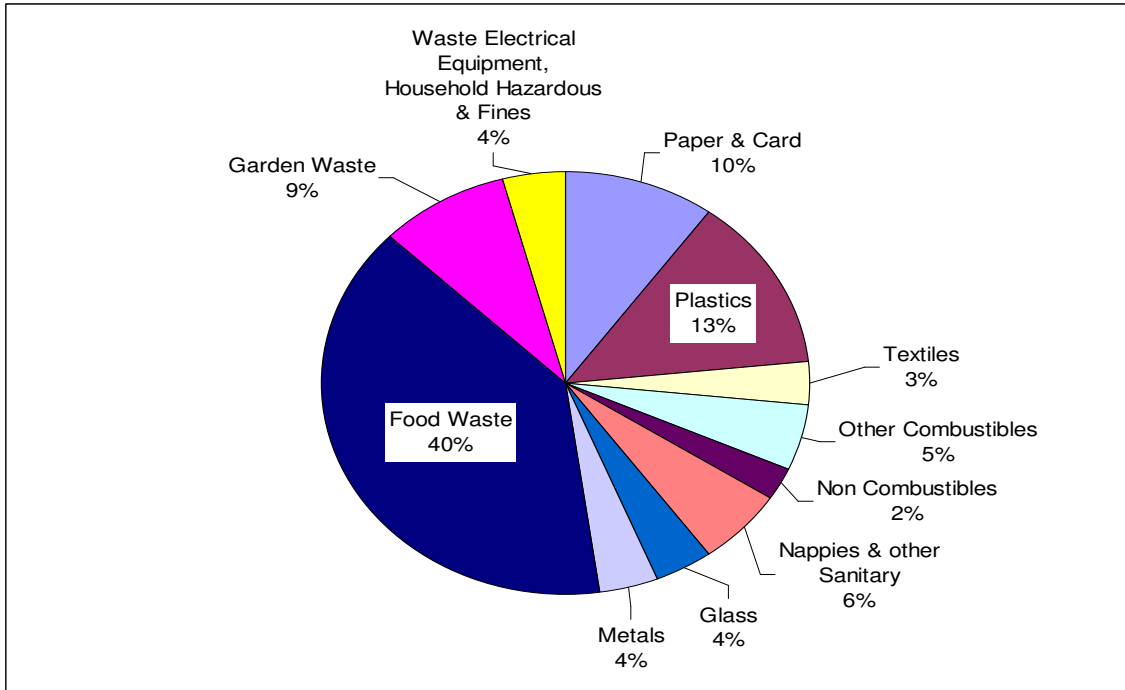
This shows the range of waste that is collected from the kerbside across Leicestershire.

A separate analysis of the residual waste only (everything left after recycling and composting i.e. 'black bin / bag' waste) found that approximately 18% by weight was potentially recyclable under

the current kerbside schemes. It also quite clearly showed that food waste at 40% made up a significant proportion of the residual waste.

The chart below shows the compositional breakdown of this black bin / bag waste.

Figure 5: Composition of Residual Household Waste collected at the kerbside in Leicestershire (2009/10)



The compositional analysis of waste provides valuable data to allow the Partnership to develop suitable waste services. In particular, the information shown in Figure 5 demonstrates that despite already high levels of recycling and composting performance, there remains a proportion of material that can still be recycled or composted.

5. Achieving sustainable waste management

There is an increasing amount of legislation focussed on the management of our wastes notably to encourage improved use of resources and to reduce the amount of waste and its harmfulness.

Some guiding principles and policies that may be considered as drivers for the sustainable management of waste are described in this section. The focus is on changes and updates to policy and legislation that have taken place since the 2006 version of the Strategy was adopted, although key pre-existing principles and legislation are referenced for completeness. These influences have guided the development of this updated Strategy.

5.1. Waste Strategy for England 2007

Waste Strategy for England 2007 (also known as WS2007) sets out national targets for recycling of household waste including a target of 40% recycling by 2010, 45% by 2015 and 50% by 2020. The Partnership already exceeds the national recycling target of 50% set for 2020.

WS2007 also includes targets for *recovery*, a term meaning recycling / composting and also including energy recovery from wastes, and these targets are set at a national level for 53% by 2010, 67% by 2015 and 75% by 2020.

5.2. Waste Framework Directive

The Waste Framework Directive (WFD) is the primary European legislation for the management of waste. The WFD was revised in 2008 and has been implemented in England through the Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011. The key changes that impact on the management of Local Authority Collected Waste include:

- The introduction of an updated waste hierarchy (see Figure 2), which acts as a 'priority order' in waste management legislation and policy. This means that all decisions about waste management, policy and infrastructure must take the waste hierarchy into account;
- The requirement to set up 'separate collections' of waste for at least paper, metal, plastic, and glass by 2015;
- A target to recycle 50% of waste from households by 2020;
- A target to recover 70% of construction and demolition waste by 2020.

There remain some uncertainties as regards the interpretation of recycling under the revised Waste Framework Directive. This is notably the case with reference to organics composting and digestion, and also in terms of the Defra interpretation of 'separate collection' for recycling. The figures and projections within this Strategy update are based on the current status quo in the absence of a clear position in this regard.

5.3. Review of Waste Policy in England 2011

The Review of Waste Policy in England 2011 looked at all aspects of waste policy and waste management in England with the aim of ensuring the right steps were being taken to move towards a 'zero waste economy'. The review restates the Government's commitment to ensure that the UK meets its EU obligations as a minimum. The key outcomes of the review are:

- The intention to remove the Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme at the end of the 2012/13 scheme year, leaving landfill tax as the key driver for diverting waste from landfill;
- A commitment to meet the EU revised Waste Framework Directive target to recycle 50% of waste from households by 2020;
- Encouragement for local authorities to make it easier for small and medium size enterprises (SMEs) to recycle, including the introduction of a new Recycling and Waste Services Commitment for businesses;
- A commitment to consult on introducing restrictions on the landfilling of wood waste (with further consultations on textiles and biodegradable waste planned for the future);
- A further consultation with local authorities on the future of Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategies (JMWMS), including the possible removal of the statutory duty to produce JMWMS;
- Encouragement for councils to provide weekly collections of 'smelly' waste;
- Support for rewarding or recognising householders for 'doing the right thing' in relation to waste reduction and recycling;
- Support for anaerobic digestion as a means of dealing with food waste, including the launch of an Anaerobic Digestion Strategy and Action Plan;
- The promotion of a carbon metric reporting tool to help councils report the environmental impacts of waste management in carbon terms.

5.4. Managing carbon

A fundamental challenge facing the world is the dangerous threat of climate change. Climate change occurs because of changes in the amounts of greenhouse gases⁴ (carbon dioxide, methane, and others) in the atmosphere. The increase of greenhouse gases has been observed through sampling and testing and it is widely accepted that this has contributed to a 0.6°C⁵ rise in temperature over the last century. The ten warmest years of the last century were recorded in its last fifteen years.

Waste management has a role to play in mitigating the emissions of carbon (or greenhouse gases) through application of the waste hierarchy. Landfilling of wastes is a major contributor to methane emissions in the atmosphere, and the most significant negative impact from waste management activity. The waste sector is estimated to account for approximately 3%⁶ all of direct UK emissions. Conversely, prevention, reuse, recycling and energy recovery can all have a role in reducing carbon emissions. This can be a difficult area to quantify, but tools are available to assess impacts in this area, known as Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) tools. The Review of Waste Policy in England 2011 aims to target waste streams with high carbon impacts, promote resource efficient product design, promote use of life cycle thinking and promote measurement and reporting of waste management in carbon terms including the development of a carbon metric tool.

5.5. The Landfill Directive

Part of the Government and EU response to managing the contribution of waste management to climate change was to introduce the Directive on the Landfilling of Waste (the 'Landfill Directive') as implemented into UK legislation. This sets targets for reducing the amount of biodegradable

⁴ Greenhouse gases are usually measured in Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) equivalents, and hence we often talk about managing 'carbon', although the actual aspect being discussed may be methane (CH₄) or some other greenhouse gas.

⁵ Climate Change & Waste Management: The link, Defra 2007

⁶ "Direct emissions from the waste management greenhouse gas inventory sector in the UK accounted for 3.2% of the UK's total estimated emissions of greenhouse gases in 2009", Defra 2011

municipal waste (BMW) going into landfill as this is responsible for the damaging methane emissions that form the greatest climate change impact from waste operations.

The Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme (LATS) introduced fixed allowances for waste disposal authorities (e.g. Leicestershire County Council) for landfilling of biodegradable municipal waste. For each tonne of BMW landfilled without an allowance, the Government could levy a fine of £150. The Government announced as part of the Review of Waste Policy in England 2011 that it intends to remove LATS at the end of the 2012/13 scheme year. The County Council has consistently met its target for diverting the required tonnage of BMW from landfill and is forecast to meet its obligations up to and including 2012/13.

The removal of LATS leaves landfill tax as the key driver for diverting waste from landfill. Landfill tax is currently (2011/12) £56 per tonne, and will increase by £8 per tonne each year reaching £80 per tonne by 2014/15. The level of landfill tax increase per year beyond 2014/15 has not been confirmed.

5.6. Improving efficiency in service delivery

Over the last five years national Government has been driving a programme of improving efficiency in the delivery of all local services, seeking year on year improvements and establishing support programmes to promote best practice in service delivery. This is a particularly difficult area for waste management services due to the increasing demands and targets on the service meaning higher performance is also required, notably in areas such as recycling.

Key mechanisms to improve the efficiency of local services include partnering with other sectors, benefiting from economies of scale, improving logistics and planning and using procurement wisely to benefit from the market. The government's Localism Bill aims to deliver greater powers for local communities to plan and ensure the delivery of services appropriate to their area.

5.7. Regional self sufficiency & proximity principle

The principle of regional self sufficiency is to manage the waste arising in a 'region' within the same 'region', thereby reducing travel impacts and establishing the link between waste producers and the infrastructure required to manage that waste. This is linked to the proximity principle, which states that waste should be managed close to its source of origin. Whilst the Strategy does not define the location of sites for waste management infrastructure these factors are implicit in the options selected and approach taken.

5.8. Waste Strategy & the Planning Process

The Waste Core Strategy and Development Control Policies document was adopted in October 2009 and covers the County of Leicestershire and the City of Leicester areas. This is the key planning document for dealing with new waste development for all waste streams, including Municipal, Construction & Demolition and Commercial & Industrial wastes. It sets out the capacity of new waste facilities required to treat these wastes and broadly indicates where these facilities should be located. The total amount of capacity required is based on the principle that sufficient capacity will be provided to manage the equivalent of waste arising in the plan area, whilst recognising that there will be movement of waste to facilities both into and out of the plan area.

6. Vision & Objectives of the Municipal Waste Management Strategy

Leicestershire is pursuing a clear vision for sustainable waste management and resource use. Through the delivery of high quality, efficient services, waste should first be prevented from arising, be reused, recycled or composted. Any residual waste that has not been reused, recycled or composted should be treated before disposal so that further value can be recovered and so that the impact of final disposal is minimised.

Through the collaborative efforts of the Partnership, and in partnership with others, a majority of Leicestershire's waste will continue to be recycled, waste production will be in decline and local communities will be taking responsibility for the waste they produce.

This Strategy has 12 objectives which support this vision, as set out below:

- ❖ **Objective 1:** Manage materials in accordance with the Waste Management Hierarchy – in order of preference, prevention, preparing for reuse, recycling, other 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 reduce and 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 & the community sector to educate residents in environmental matters (including climate change, energy and resource management) and encourage engagement with waste prevention, reuse and recycling 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. Consider local / regional supply chain and markets for recycle and other secondary raw materials;
- ❖ **Objective 11:** As local authorities, set an example by preventing, reusing, recycling and composting our own waste and use our buying power to positively encourage sustainable resource use; and
- ❖ **Objective 12:** Continually seek to reduce carbon emissions, including the potential for renewable or low carbon energy generation to improve the impact of the service on climate change.

The following sections of this document explore each level of the waste hierarchy (Figure 2) in turn and explain the proposed actions and targets for delivering service improvements in line with the Strategy Vision and objectives.

7. Waste Prevention & Preparing for Reuse

Since the 2006 Strategy was adopted, the Partnership has implemented a comprehensive suite of high profile campaigns and initiatives focussed on waste prevention and reuse through the Partnership's Waste Prevention and Reuse Plan. Initiatives have included:

- Reuse campaign;
- Love Food, Hate Waste campaign;
- Subsidised compost bins and food waste digesters (e.g. Green Cones);
- Recruitment of Master Composters and Waste Action Volunteers.

Going forwards, the Partnership has decided that waste prevention and reuse activities should continue to focus in the first instance on reducing the amount of biodegradable waste entering the household waste stream and on increasing the amount of reuse within Leicestershire. This will be delivered by continuing to promote the Love Food Hate Waste campaign, actively promoting home composting and the use of food waste digesters, continuing to work with volunteers, and maintaining Leicestershire's Reuse Campaign and associated promotion of reuse at the RHWS and of bulky collections.

7.1. Proposed actions on waste prevention and reuse

The following actions are planned by the Partnership to reduce waste arisings in Leicestershire and to encourage reuse activity:

1. Food Waste Prevention Campaign

The Partnership will continue to promote the Love Food Hate Waste campaign in association with WRAP (Waste & Resources Action Programme) and its national campaign. This campaign is designed to promote purchasing practices and cooking behaviours that will reduce the amount of food waste arising for disposal. Based on previous experience, a successful campaign should prevent around 2,000 tonnes per year of food waste arising over the period of the Strategy. This will also save on the wider environmental impacts of food production, processing and transportation.

2. Home Composting and Digestion Campaigns

The Partnership will promote take up of home compost bins to residents and primary schools in the county. For every additional household that uses a home compost bin, it is estimated that 1.35 tonnes of garden and kitchen waste, will be diverted from the waste stream over the life of the Strategy. The use of food waste digesters will also be promoted. The Partnership will continue to support the Master Composter scheme which trains local volunteers to help spread the composting message across the county and to provide information and encouragement to residents to successfully use their compost bin and/or food waste digester.

3. Waste Action Volunteers

In line with Objective 9, to encourage the community to engage with waste prevention and reuse initiatives, the Waste Action Volunteer scheme will continue. The scheme will train local volunteers on a range of waste prevention, reuse, recycling and wider environmental topics. The scheme will increase the level of engagement with residents in our campaigns and the take up of the positive waste behaviours they are promoting.

4. Schools Waste Prevention and Reuse

The Partnership will work with local schools, colleges and universities to emphasise the importance of waste prevention and reuse. It will support the Sustainable Schools Framework and Eco Schools, through the Waste Certificate, which has been developed as part of a wider behavioural and sustainable development education approach. Other initiatives such as a schools composting activity will also be promoted.

5. In-house Waste Prevention and Reuse

The Partnership will continue to lead by example when it comes to waste prevention and reuse by putting in place the necessary environmental policies, and implementing a range of in-house waste prevention and reuse initiatives to reduce the amount of waste it produces and to increase the levels of reuse and recycling of its waste. This will be delivered through, for example, sustainable procurement and environmentally friendly office practices and the use of Freeuse LA, a local authority reuse website. The Partnership has developed the Waste Reduction Standard to provide a framework by which this action can be delivered.

6. Reuse Campaign

The Partnership will continue to promote a Reuse Campaign. The campaign will promote and increase awareness of the range of activities residents can do to reuse items rather than throwing them away, such as donating furniture to Furniture Reuse Organisations and charities, using the www.Freeuseit.org website and other reuse websites or selling items at a car boot sale. Extracting items from the waste stream for the purpose of reuse should also contribute to other priorities of the partner authorities such as supporting low-income households.

7. Support for Reuse / Refurbishment – via RHWS and Bulky Waste Collections

The Partnership will continue to explore ways of increasing reuse at the RHWS and from the district and borough council bulky collection services. The Partnership will work with its contractors to build on the success of the reuse auctions that take reusable items from most of the RHWS in the county. The reuse auctions currently divert an average of 7 tonnes of waste from landfill each month. The Partnership will seek to work with local Furniture Reuse Organisations, charities and other organisations to reuse furniture, white goods and other items collected by the district and borough councils, where this is the most appropriate economic and environmental option.

8. Real Nappies Campaign

Promotion of the use of real (cloth or reusable) nappies in preference to disposable nappies will continue, in order to reduce waste arisings from this source. Typically, around 2 - 3% of household waste comprises of disposable nappies. In the case of Leicestershire, this is equivalent to around 6,000 tonnes of waste or 40 million disposable nappies each year.

9. Junk Mail Prevention Campaign

The No Junk Mail campaign will continue to be delivered. It makes residents more aware of the steps they can take to reduce the amount of junk mail that they receive. Schemes such as the Mail Preference Service (MPS) and the Royal Mail opt out scheme will be promoted as well as other practical steps.

10. Lobby Government and Business on Waste Prevention & Reuse

The Partnership will engage with and lobby Government and businesses on waste prevention and reuse issues as appropriate. It will also take a lead role in supporting national / regional campaigns at a local level. The Partnership will seek to make businesses more aware of waste prevention, reuse and associated issues. In addition, efforts will be made to reduce the amount of commercial waste entering the household waste stream, through promotional activities around RHWS, fly-tipping, household kerbside bins and street litter bins.

7.2. Measuring and monitoring waste prevention and reuse

Waste prevention and reuse activities are difficult to measure with accuracy, due to the variety of factors influencing waste arisings and residents' behaviour. These factors also limit the manner in which the Partnership can influence these overall arisings and behaviour. The Partnership recognises the challenge, but also is aware of the importance of reducing the amount of waste in order to improve environmental performance.

Mechanisms will be put in place to record and measure the waste prevention and reuse performance of activities that fall within the control of the Partnership (e.g. sale of home composting units, Freeuse and bulky collections). This performance will be assessed against the wider local and national recycling and composting performance, and levels of waste arisings, to give an indication of the likely waste prevention and reuse performance for Leicestershire.

In the course of delivering the Strategy and associated Action Plan, the Partnership will assess the degree of success of the waste prevention and reuse initiatives implemented. To gauge the success of these initiatives, the Partnership will measure and monitor the following indicator:

- Kilograms of household waste per household

The Partnership aims to achieve a continuous improvement (i.e. a year on year decrease) against this indicator. If monitoring shows that there is insufficient progress in this area, the Partnership will consider undertaking additional actions and corrective measures.

8. Recycling & Composting

As described in Section 4, since this Strategy was last reviewed, the Leicestershire Waste Partnership has significantly improved its household waste recycling and composting performance from 42.68% in 2006/07 to 54.02% in 2010/11.

This high level of recycling performance has been achieved through a combination of investment in comprehensive kerbside collections, improving RHWS, offering a suite of promotional and communication activities and most crucially through the active participation and uptake of the services by the residents of Leicestershire.

The national target for the recycling and composting of household waste is 50% by 2020. As the Partnership is already achieving rates in excess of the national target for household waste, an ambitious local target of 58% recycling and composting of Local Authority Collected Waste (previously referred to as Municipal Waste) by 2017 has been set (see Section 8.2).

A range of actions will be required to deliver the Partnership's composting and recycling target. These are outlined in the next section.

8.1. Proposed actions on recycling and composting

The following actions are planned by the Leicestershire Waste Partnership to increase recycling and composting:

1. Addition of further recyclables to kerbside recycling systems

The Partnership will explore the incorporation of additional materials into kerbside collections (where these are not already collected) including aerosols, foil, plastic film, other plastics, tetrapaks, batteries, textiles, and small waste electronic and electrical equipment. Incorporating these materials into kerbside recycling systems will have a beneficial carbon impact.

2. Improve 'static' recycling at Recycling and Household Waste Sites, bring sites and 'on-street' recycling bins

Recycling and composting performance at the fourteen RHWS is already high (73.81% in 2010/11). Leicestershire County Council will seek to continually improve performance at the RHWS by separating more materials for recycling.

The Partnership will also explore the development of additional 'on-street' recycling bins and bring sites at suitable locations throughout the county. This is in line with recommendations in the national Review of Waste Policy 2011. Extra materials (e.g. aerosols, foil and mixed plastics) may also be added to pre-existing bring sites where practicable and economic to do so.

3. Consider introduction of chargeable green waste collections

At present, two Leicestershire district and borough councils (Blaby District Council and Charnwood Borough Council) offer a chargeable kerbside green waste collection. The remaining five district and borough councils offer a free service. Due to the current economic climate and the stringent public sector funding cuts, the Partnership will consider introducing chargeable green waste collections across parts of the County. This option may suppress recycling rates, although as outlined in the Waste Prevention and Reuse section, the Partnership will continue to promote the take up of home composting bins as an alternative to green waste collections and to move waste up the hierarchy.

4. Improve levels of trade waste recycling

Five of the seven district and borough councils in the Partnership currently offer limited trade waste recycling services. The proposed abolition of LATS at the end of the 2012/13 scheme year will remove a barrier to increasing trade waste collections and will enable local authorities to offer improved waste and recycling services to businesses.

The Partnership will investigate the feasibility of expanding and improving trade waste services offered to local SMEs (see Section 10.1) in line with national Review of Waste Policy 2011, which supports improving the collection of waste from smaller businesses.

5. Expand recycling of street sweepings

Street sweepings are made up of a number of materials, including a proportion of biodegradable waste (e.g. leaves) that have the potential to be composted. A number of the Leicestershire district and borough councils currently compost a proportion of their street sweepings. The Partnership will explore opportunities to expand the recycling and composting of street sweeping material.

6. Improve the performance of existing kerbside recycling systems

Getting the most out of the current kerbside recycling systems is a cost effective option for improving recycling performance. The Partnership will look at a range of measures to improve the performance of current recycling schemes, including increasing communications activity or providing smaller residual waste containers (i.e. black bags / bins), thereby encouraging the use of recycling services.

7. Lobby Government on recycling issues

The Partnership will engage with and lobby Government and businesses on recycling and composting issues as appropriate. It will also take a lead role in supporting national / regional campaigns at a local level.

8. Consider future opportunities for food waste recycling

A significant proportion of the residual (black bag / bin) waste disposed of in Leicestershire is food waste. Since the 2006 review of the Strategy, food waste collection trials have been carried out in two district and borough council areas, leading to district-wide collections being introduced in the Harborough area. The economic climate and high costs associated with food waste recycling are currently inhibiting the expansion of food waste collections, however, the Partnership will continue to monitor opportunities for expanding food waste collections in the future.

8.2. Recycling and composting target

In line with the targets set in the 2006 Strategy, the Partnership will aim to put in place appropriate services and infrastructure to achieve recycling and composting rates of:-

- 58% of Local Authority Collected Waste by 2017

Delivery of the targeted level of recycling performance will exceed national targets by a considerable margin and maintain the position of Leicestershire as a leading light in recycling and sustainable waste management in the UK.

8.3. Measuring and monitoring recycling and composting

The Partnership report their recycling and composting performance on a quarterly basis through the national WasteDataFlow system. Although the Government stopped reporting national Indicator data at the end of 2010/11, the Partnership will continue to monitor performance against the former National Indicator 192 (percentage of household waste sent for reuse, recycling or composting) using data submitted to the WasteDataFlow system.

The Partnership will also report the level of Local Authority Collected Waste recycled and composted, on an annual basis.

Final Draft

9. Residual Waste Treatment & Disposal

Since the 2006 version of the Strategy was adopted, the amount of residual waste (i.e. black bin / bag waste) arising in Leicestershire has decreased significantly from 228,254 tonnes per annum in 2006/07 to 171,637 tonnes per annum in 2010/11. This decrease is linked to a number of factors, including:

- An increase in household recycling, composting and reuse from 42.68% in 2006/07 to 54.02% in 2010/11;
- An overall decrease in waste arisings due to the down-turn in the economy;
- The implementation of the Partnership Waste Prevention and Reuse Plan from 2007 onwards.

There has also been a decrease of approximately 20% in the proportion of residual waste that is sent to landfill for disposal between 2006/07 and 2010/11. Although this represents significant progress, continuing to send waste to landfill is unsustainable from an environmental perspective and is increasingly economically unattractive due to increases in landfill tax.

9.1. Residual waste treatment and disposal capacity

When the 2006 version of the Strategy was adopted, it was anticipated that the Partnership would require new biodegradable residual waste treatment capacity of 45-50,000 tonnes per annum by 2011/12 to meet targets under LATS (equivalent to residual waste treatment facilities with a capacity of at least 75,000 tonnes, as the biodegradable element of residual waste constitutes between 60% and 70% of the total).

In response to this requirement the County Council progressed an interim waste treatment procurement process. A medium term contract has been secured until 2015 (with an option to extend) with provision to utilise up to 50,000 tonnes per annum of Mechanical Biological Treatment (MBT) capacity. The MBT facility is located at the Cotesbach landfill site within the county, and is designed to reduce the biodegradability of residual waste and extract recyclable materials from the residual waste stream. In addition, the County Council has provisional arrangements in place to increase the tonnage to Energy from Waste facilities over the period covered by this Strategy.

In 2006 it was anticipated that 70-75,000 tonnes per annum of biodegradable residual waste treatment capacity (equivalent to residual waste treatment facilities with a capacity of 110,000 tonnes) would be required by 2015/16 to meet targets under LATS. To meet this need, Leicestershire County Council progressed a long-term waste treatment procurement project (which was supported by Private Finance Initiative (PFI) credits).

The PFI credits for the long-term waste treatment procurement project were withdrawn in October 2010 as part of the Comprehensive Spending Review. The withdrawal of the PFI credits by Defra had a significant adverse financial impact on the project and although various options to reduce the cost of the project were considered, these options were unable to fully compensate for the loss of the PFI credits. Therefore the project was considered no longer viable and Leicestershire County Council terminated the long-term waste treatment procurement project in July 2011.

9.2. Reacting to change

The Government announced as part of the Review of Waste Policy in England 2011 that it intends to remove LATS at the end of the 2012/13 scheme year. The County Council is currently in a position to meet its obligations under LATS for diverting the required tonnage of BMW from landfill up to and including 2012/13. The removal of LATS thereafter would leave landfill tax as the key financial driver for diverting waste from landfill.

There is sufficient flexibility within the County Council's current contracts to meet the short to medium term requirements for residual waste treatment and disposal, utilising a combination of Mechanical Biological Treatment, Energy from Waste and landfill capacity.

Due to a combination of increased recycling performance and lower waste arisings than envisaged in the 2006 projections, there is no necessity to implement new residual waste procurement process(es) at the current time. However, there is uncertainty around the long term levels of growth in waste arisings. It is expected that the current decline in waste arisings is unlikely to continue in the long term and that there could be a return to waste growth in the future linked to economic recovery.

The County Council will develop plans to ensure that waste can be effectively managed in the future. These plans will take account of various waste growth scenarios. Should there be a return to growth in waste arisings, additional treatment capacity may be required. Any procurement to deliver this capacity will be undertaken in consideration of the waste hierarchy and other objectives within the Strategy.

9.3. Proposed actions on residual waste treatment and disposal

1. Develop a Residual Waste Disposal, Treatment and Transfer Plan

Leicestershire County Council will develop a Residual Waste Disposal, Treatment and Transfer Plan to assess future requirements for treatment capacity for the county's residual waste for the period up to 2020. This plan will be consistent with the Strategy objective of managing materials in accordance with the waste management hierarchy, except where costs are prohibitive, or where the environmental consequences can be demonstrated to be negative.

A number of factors will be considered in developing the Plan, including:

- Future growth in waste arisings;
- Future recycling and composting performance;
- Increases in the cost of landfill linked to increases in landfill tax;
- The future availability (and cost) of waste treatment capacity at existing or new facilities;
- The potential for landfill bans for various materials (including wood, textiles and biodegradable waste).

9.4. Residual waste treatment and disposal targets

In the 2006 Strategy, targets were set for the amount of residual municipal waste generated per person. The following targets were included:

- 325kg in 2010;
- 310kg in 2015; and
- 295kg in 2020

The 2010/11 performance against this measure was 266kg per person, exceeding the target for 2020. This level of performance is a result of factors outlined above.

9.5. Measuring and monitoring residual waste treatment and disposal

The Partnership will continue to monitor the targets for residual municipal waste generated per person over the life of the Strategy.

Given changes in Government policy that encourage local authorities to improve waste and recycling service provision for SMEs (as outlined in Section 10), it is possible that the amount of waste managed by the Partnership will increase following the planned removal of the Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme (LATS) in 2013.

Therefore the Partnership will focus on monitoring performance against the additional indicator (kilograms of household waste generated per household), as outlined in Section 7.

10. Wider Wastes

The consideration of wider wastes, for example wastes from commercial or industrial sources, in parallel with municipal waste management, can yield economic and environmental benefits. For example, waste treatment and recycling facilities often exhibit economies of scale (i.e. the larger the capacity of the plant, the lower the cost per tonne of waste going through it), and environmental gains can also be made through blending different waste streams to optimise plant performance.

Government policy is also promoting closer synergies with the combined management of different waste streams, and whilst it is only a duty of the local authority to manage municipal waste, there are a number of approaches that can be taken to support the management of wider wastes. The Partnership will explore approaches such as:-

- Education on waste prevention, preparing for reuse and recycling of wider wastes
- Consideration of wider wastes in procurement / feasibility studies
- Develop trade waste services (see below)

10.1. Trade waste

Where commercial waste is collected by or on behalf of a local authority, this is usually referred to as 'trade waste' and is an element of Local Authority Collected Waste (see Section 3.1). At present a variety of trade waste services are offered by the different collection authorities in the Partnership.

This Strategy seeks to increase the amount of trade waste collected for recycling. New trade waste collections offered to businesses are currently limited to recycling collections as a result of LATS thereby limiting the customer base. The planned removal of LATS in 2012/13 could enable the collection authorities of the Partnership to offer a complete collection service to SMEs. This would open up a greater market, and thereby attract SMEs due to the greater convenience and competition of collection services on offer, and will enable the authorities to extract value and environmental benefit from waste that may have otherwise been previously landfilled.

Expanding trade waste collection services represents a policy direction change from the 2006 Strategy, largely as a result of the planned removal of the LATS regime (which dis-incentivised local authority trade waste collections) and recent encouragement by Government⁷. The benefits from recycling and sustainable management of trade wastes, combined with the rising costs of disposal (through the landfill tax) could result in an attractive solution to SMEs for managing their wastes.

⁷ Government Review of Waste Policy in England, Defra 2011

11. Working in Partnership

11.1. Working together

The Partnership has a track record of mutual support and co-operation, and partner authorities will continue to work together to provide residents with high-quality, efficient services. This updated Strategy will provide a foundation for continued joint working.

To deliver this Strategy, it is recognised that effective engagement with stakeholders is essential. The Partnership developed a Communications Framework in May 2008 to set out how the Partnership will communicate its aims and key messages to internal and external stakeholders. Partner authorities have and will continue to work together on communications campaigns in order to deliver strong, coherent messages to the public. This will include further development of the Partnership brand, including the www.lesswaste.org.uk website.

The role of education will also play an important role in ensuring successful delivery of Strategy objectives by helping to ensure that residents are aware of the services available to them, and by changing behaviour to promote increased recycling. This will take place as part of communications campaigns, but also through direct engagement with schools and community groups.

It is also recognised that partner authorities have a stronger voice when working together, and as such, the Partnership will continue to lobby Government through submission of joint responses to consultations.

11.2. External partnerships

Partnership working between different groups and sectors is becoming increasingly important. The Partnership will continue to explore opportunities to work with others, including 'third party' and community groups, wherever practical, efficient and within the public interest. There are already several successful examples of this, such as the Master Composters scheme (Section 7), which promotes home composting, and partnerships with Furniture Reuse Organisations to reuse furniture gathered through kerbside bulky waste collections (Section 7). We will also continue to build links with other partnerships and local authorities, in order that information and examples of best practice can be shared, and joint working opportunities can be explored.

11.3. Leading by example

It is important that partner authorities be positioned to lead others by example, with improving environmental office practices. A commitment has been made by partner authorities to the Waste Reduction Standard, which establishes a framework for improved environmental policies and practices, including greater levels of recycling and sustainable procurement (see Section 7.1).

11.4. Monitoring

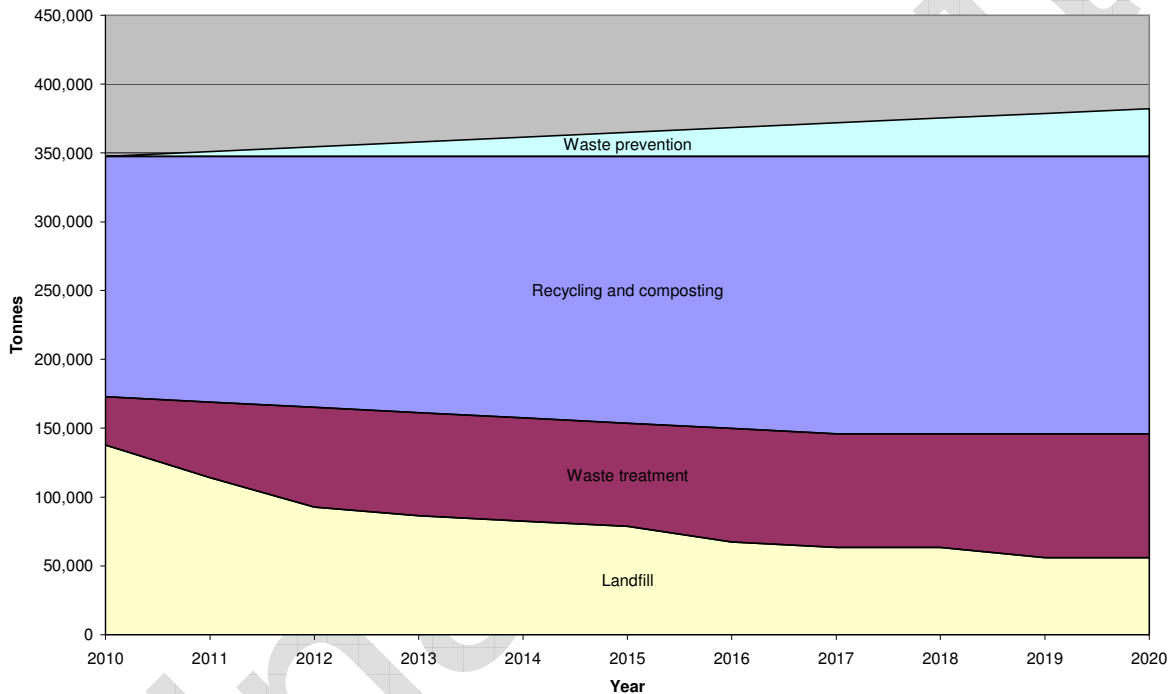
The Partnership will continue to work together and will meet regularly at both a Member and officer level to monitor progress. It will also provide an update on joint working as part of regular reporting against the Strategy Action Plan.

12. Where will the Strategy take us?

The objectives and actions in this Strategy are designed to elevate the management of waste up the tiers of the waste hierarchy. This will result in more waste being prevented, prepared for reuse, recycled, composted and treated; and less waste sent to landfill.

This is demonstrated by the waste flow model below (Figure 7), which shows how the actions proposed may impact upon the amount of waste being managed over the lifetime of the Strategy.

Figure 7: Leicestershire Indicative Waste Flow Model 2010-2020⁸



It shows that Leicestershire already recycles and composts over half of all household waste and will increase this further. Over time, a significant increase in the amount of waste sent for treatment will reduce the amount of waste that is sent to landfill, in line with the waste hierarchy.

⁸ It is assumed that total waste generation will remain constant over the reporting period. An underlying assumption is that there will be an increase of 2740 (c.1%) households per annum during the period, meaning that the waste generated per household is declining (illustrated by the waste prevention segment).

13. Municipal Waste Management Strategy Action Plan

This updated Strategy presents a range of high-level actions covering the short, medium and long term, which will be implemented over the period up to 2020. This Strategy update will be supported by a detailed Action Plan, setting out how the Partnership will achieve its strategic objectives. The Action Plan is intended to be a living document and will be monitored and updated on an on-going basis. Where the Action Plan monitoring identifies that insufficient progress is being made in a particular area, then additional actions / corrective measures may be introduced to rectify any shortfall.

The Action Plan will contain the following:

- Time-bound actions and targets to achieving the strategic objectives
- Details of who will be responsible for each action
- Details of the resources to be allocated to each action
- Details of the monitoring and revision procedures

Outlined below are the key strategic actions over the short, medium and long term, that will inform the development of the accompanying Action Plan:

13.1. Short term up to 2013

- Implement a range of waste prevention and reuse campaigns
- Implement measures to improve reuse and refurbishment via RHWS and bulky collections
- Implement measures to improve waste prevention and reuse within partner authorities
- Lobby both Government and businesses to reduce the amount of waste generated and increase recycling and composting
- Consider introduction of green waste charging
- Commence implementation of a range of measures to improve recycling performance
- Introduction of communications campaign to improve performance of current recycling schemes
- Consider opportunities for greater joint working / more efficient delivery of services (including greater harmonisation of collection services)
- Commence work programme on wider wastes management
- Leicestershire County Council to develop a Residual Waste Disposal, Treatment and Transfer Plan
- Consider, and implement where appropriate, actions from the Residual Waste Disposal, Treatment and Transfer Plan
- Consider the introduction of a carbon metric for the measurement and reporting of the carbon impact of waste management (pending Government guidance)

13.2. Medium term 2013 to 2016

- Implement a range of waste prevention and reuse campaigns
- Implement measures to improve reuse and refurbishment via RHWS and bulky collections
- Implement measures to improve waste prevention and reuse within partner authorities

- Lobby both Government and businesses to reduce the amount of waste generated and increase recycling and composting
- Review potential for food waste collection and treatment
- Consider introduction of green waste charging as appropriate
- Continue implementation of a range of measures to improve recycling performance
- Continuation of communications campaign to improve performance of current recycling schemes
- Consider, and implement where appropriate, actions from the Residual Waste Disposal, Treatment and Transfer Plan

13.3. Long term 2016 to 2020

- Implement a range of waste prevention and reuse campaigns
- Implement measures to improve reuse and refurbishment via RHWS and bulky collections
- Implement measures to improve waste prevention and reuse within partner authorities
- Lobby both Government and businesses to reduce the amount of waste generated and increase recycling and composting
- Continue implementation of a range of measures to improve recycling performance
- Continuation of communications campaign to improve performance of current recycling schemes
- Review introduction of green waste charging
- Review the Residual Waste Disposal, Treatment and Transfer Plan

14. Monitoring & Reviewing of the Strategy

The Municipal Waste Management Strategy will be updated every 5 years or where a substantial change in legislation, policy or other circumstance warrants, an update outside of that timescale will take place.

The 2006 Strategy had a requirement to formally include the residents of Leicestershire and stakeholders in any revision to this Strategy. This version of the Strategy is an update rather than a revision and therefore remains consistent with the original aims and objectives of the 2006 Strategy. The Partnership authorities will follow the principle of involving communities 'up front', in advance of any formal revision being made to this Strategy.

Interim and long-term targets form a major component of the Strategy and these will be monitored and reported on an annual basis to determine overall performance against key Strategy areas. In addition, the actions in the Action Plan will have their own individual targets which will be monitored on an annual basis to ensure they are being achieved.

15. Glossary of Terms & Abbreviations

Alternate Weekly Collection (AWC)	Alternate weekly collection typically involves the collection of household residual wastes every other week, whilst during the intervening week's recyclables and/or green wastes are collected.
Biodegradable Waste	This is waste that is able to decompose through the action of bacteria or other microbes, including materials such as paper, food waste and garden waste.
Biodegradable Municipal Waste (BMW)	The fraction of municipal waste that is capable of undergoing anaerobic or aerobic decomposition and will degrade within a landfill, giving rise to landfill gas emissions, primarily methane. It includes, amongst other materials, food waste, green waste, paper and cardboard.
Bring Site / Bank	A bring site or bring bank is a localised collection point for recyclables such as glass, paper, cans, etc.
Bulky Waste	Waste is considered 'bulky' if weighs more than 25kg or any item that does not fit into the householder's bin; or if no container is provided, a cylindrical receptacle of 750mm in diameter and 1m high.
Carbon Dioxide Equivalents	An indicator used by WRATE as a measure of what mass of greenhouse gases are estimated to contribute to global warming, a relative scale that compares emissions to carbon dioxide equivalent units.
Commercial Waste	Commercial waste arises from premises used for trade, business, sport, recreation or entertainment, but excluding municipal and industrial waste.
Composting	The degradation of organic wastes in the presence of oxygen to produce a fertiliser or soil conditioner. This can either be an enclosed process (in-vessel) or operated as an open windrow process.
Construction & Demolition Waste	Is waste that consists of such materials as soil, concrete, and bricks. It is not classified as either household or garden waste.
Dry Recyclables	Materials such as paper, glass, textiles and cans that can be collected through kerbside schemes or bring banks.
Eco Schools	Eco-Schools is an international program of environmental and sustainable developmental education for schools.
Energy Recovery	The process of extracting energy from waste using a variety of technologies including incineration, where electricity generation takes place via the heat generated by the combustion of the waste or the methane gas extracted from a landfill site.
Fortnightly Collections	Fortnightly collections typically involve the collection of household wastes or recyclables every other week.
Furniture Reuse Organisation (FRO)	A charitable organisation that works to environmental and social aims and seeks to reduce poverty by helping households in need access furniture, white goods and other household items at affordable prices by repairing and reusing furniture.
Green Waste	Vegetation and plant waste from household gardens and public parks and gardens.
Hazardous Waste	Any waste defined as hazardous as prescribed by the List of Wastes (England) Regulations 2005 (SI 2005/895).
Household Waste	Waste from domestic properties including waste from residual refuse collections, material collected for recycling and composting, plus waste from educational establishments, nursing and residential homes and street cleansing waste.

Industrial Waste	Waste from any factory and from any premises occupied by an industry (excluding mines and quarries) and from works of construction or demolition.
Kerbside Collection	Any regular collection of recyclables from private households and from commercial or industrial premises. It excludes collection services requested on demand.
Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme (LATS)	A mechanism developed by Government to reduce the amount of biodegradable municipal waste (BMW) going to landfill. This mechanism imposes a reducing amount of landfill permits to each local authority, up to 2020. These permits are tradable and each allows deposit of one tonne of BMW into landfill. There are penalties for failing to satisfy these obligations. The Government plan to abolish LATS at the end of 2012/13.
Landfill Sites	Landfills are areas of land in which waste is deposited, which often consist of disused quarries. In areas where there are limited or no ready-made voids, the waste is deposited above ground and the landscape is contoured, which is named landraising.
Leicestershire Waste Partnership (the Partnership)	Is composed of the seven district and borough councils of Leicestershire, and the County Council, who work under a Memorandum of Understanding to collectively work towards its primary aim of improving the management of municipal waste in Leicestershire. Leicester City is an associate member as it has made its own arrangements for future waste management.
Life Cycle Assessment Tool	A Life Cycle Assessment Tool is used for assessing the potential environmental impacts of a product or service across its entire life cycle, or 'cradle to grave'.
Local Authority Collected Waste (LACW)	All waste collected by the local authority. This includes both municipal and non municipal fractions, such as construction and demolition waste. LACW is the definition that will be used in statistical publications, which previously referred to municipal waste
Love Food, Hate Waste campaign	Is a national campaign promoted by WRAP designed to encourage and assist people to reduce the amount of food waste that they produce.
Mail Preference Service (MPS)	The Mailing Preference Service is a free service set up and funded by the direct mail industry to enable consumers to have their names and home addresses in the UK removed from lists used by the industry (www.mpsonline.org.uk).
Master Composter	Master Composters are local people trained to spread the composting message in their local community.
Mechanical Biological Treatment (MBT)	A form of waste processing facility that combines a sorting facility with a form of biological treatment such as composting or anaerobic digestion. MBT plants are designed to process mixed household waste.
Municipal Waste	This includes all waste collected by a Waste Collection Authority, or its agents, such as waste from household, municipal parks and gardens, beach cleansing, commercial or industrial premises, and fly-tipping.
On-Street Recycling	Provision of "litter bin" style recycling receptacles for the types of materials occurring in urban retail or commuter type environments.
Preparing for Reuse	Checking, cleaning or repairing recovery operations, by which products or components of products that have become waste are prepared so that they can be re-used without any other pre-processing
Private Finance Initiative (PFI)	A particular form of Public Private Partnership (PPP) by which a public sector organisation contracts with a private sector entity to provide services of a specified quality over a sustained period.

Proximity Principle	Suggests waste should generally be managed as near as possible to its place of production, to minimise the environmental effect of transporting waste.
Recycling	Recycling involves the reprocessing of waste material, either into the same product or a different one. Many non-hazardous wastes such as paper, glass, cardboard, plastics and scrap metals can be recycled.
Recycling & Household Waste Site (RHWS)	Sites operated by the Waste Disposal Authority (under the Environmental Protection Act 1990) where residents within a specified area can dispose of their household waste, in particular bulky waste, free of charge.
Regional Self Sufficiency	Principle that most waste should be treated or disposed of within the region in which it is produced.
Reuse	Any operation by which products or components that are not waste are used again for the same purpose for which they were conceived
Royal Mail Opt-Out Scheme	A service provided by Royal Mail to help people stop receiving unaddressed mail delivered by Royal Mail to their home.
Separate Collection	Kerbside schemes where recyclables are collected separately to the ordinary household waste collection - by a different vehicle/part of the vehicle or at a different time.
Sustainable Development	Development that can meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
Sustainable Schools Framework	Is a national framework that introduces eight 'doorways' through which schools may choose to initiate or extend their sustainable school activity. It focuses on ways in which sustainable development can be embedded into whole school management practices and provides practical guidance to help schools operate in a more sustainable way.
Sustainable Waste Management	Means using material resources efficiently, to cut down on the amount of waste we produce. And where waste is generated, dealing with it in a way that actively contributes to the economic, social and environmental goals of sustainable development.
Treatment	This involves the physical, chemical or biological processing of certain types of waste to render them less harmful, to reduce their volume, or to recycle / recover certain materials.
Waste Action Volunteers scheme	A scheme that trains local volunteers on waste prevention, reuse, recycling and wider environmental issues in order to engage residents in these issues and to changing their behaviour so as to reduce the amount of waste they produce and its environmental impact.
Waste Certificate	The Waste Certificate has been developed by Leicestershire County Council and is designed to help schools achieve the waste section of the Eco School status. Schools are shown how to reduce their waste and gain recognition for their efforts.
Waste Collection Authority (WCA)	A local authority responsible for the collection of municipal waste. The WCA passes on the waste to the waste disposal authority that is tasked with the ultimate treatment and disposal of that waste.
WasteDataFlow system	Is the web based system for municipal waste data reporting by UK local authorities to government.
Waste Disposal Authority (WDA)	Were established in the UK following the Environmental Protection Act 1990. WDAs are responsible for the disposal of municipal waste. WDAs must manage waste which is collected by local councils.
Waste Planning	Is the authority responsible for assessing planning applications for waste

Authority (WPA)	operations and facilities and deciding whether or not to allow them to go ahead. This is usually the local county or unitary council.
Waste Prevention	Changing living practices or behaviour to avoid the generation of waste that would have otherwise occurred (e.g. reducing amount of food waste, using Real Nappies as opposed to disposables).
Waste Reduction Standard	Provides a framework for the Partnership to achieve its commitment within the Strategy for partners to set an example by preventing, reusing, recycling and composting their own waste and using their buying power to positively encourage sustainable resource use.
Weekly Collections	Weekly collections typically involve the collection of household wastes or recyclables every week.
WRAP (Waste and Resources Action Programme)	Is a Government supported organisation that works across the UK to help businesses and individuals reap the benefits of reducing waste, developing sustainable products and using resources in an efficient way.

Final Draft