

Appendix 1

Is Recycling sorted? Cylch Annual Conference 25/26 October 2006, Ewloe, Flintshire

Outcomes from Conference Day 2

Interactive Welsh Assembly Government Waste Strategy Review Day

Jasper Roberts, Head of Waste Management, Welsh Assembly Government gave a presentation on the proposed review of the Welsh Assembly Government Waste Strategy. He identified a number of areas that were being considered for review.

Additional areas were identified by Conference delegates to give 12 topics. Groups of 5 to 10 people then considered the topic to identify more specific issues/insights. They then provided recommendations for consideration within the review.

1. Reducing Household waste		
Ref	Issue/topic	Recommendation
1.1	Product life education Producer and consumer lifecycle	- Invest R & D into sustainable or zero packages - role of children influencing parents
1.2	Need for National standards in collections	Bin volume , colours, collection logistics
1.3	Linkage of agendas: Waste, energy and carbon	Carbon audits to limit misuse Future generations legacy
1.4	Green garden waste - 'waste miles' - carbon cycle - good end use	Move up waste hierarchy (reduce at the top) - encourage wildlife gardening - school curriculum
1.5		Charge for all compostable garden waste or financial reward for home composting (canvas opinion first)
1.6	Total uniform coverage of service	More Civic Amenity sites Proximity principle
Group key message: <i>Is there WAG willingness to implement all these?</i>		

2. More and better recycling/composting

Ref	Issue/topic	Recommendation
2.1	Lack of understanding of the term 're-use'	Clear definition of 're-use' through education and public engagement
2.2	We need more home composting	Availability of grants for provision of home composting kits
2.3	Quality of end product needs ensuring	Implementation of the 'Cleanstream' standards
2.4	Standardise kerbside collection services	WAG to implement standardisation of kerbside collection service across Wales and apply best practice
2.5	Food waste and cardboard collections needed	Implementation of scheme to collect food waste and cardboard
2.6	We need more education	Establish an advisory committee
2.7		Provision of education at all levels for producer and consumer
2.8		Best practice field visits
2.9	Encourage the development of local markets	Proximity principle in practice
2.10	Social accounting audit	Decisions need to be made on the basis of real evidence

Group key message:
encouraging and motivating people

3. Costs and funding

Ref	Issue/topic	Recommendation
3.1	Changing behaviour follows the money	Hypothecate funding for collaborative schemes
3.2	New technologies need new investment Wales can't buy effectively if we all do our own thing	Hypothecate funding for 'approved' solutions
3.3	Money is not limitless and is going to be tighter	Need creative funding/prudent borrowing ideas
3.4		Regional fund needed to maximise resource use Make waste a Central programme
3.5		Incentivise cost savings/cost reduction
3.6		For Authorities – mandate that only sustainable products be bought
3.7	Raising taxes loses votes	Position is needed on fining those who don't play ball
3.8	'Accounting officer' concepts creates silo-mentality	Need to clarify the rules and reward positive behaviour
3.9	Concern that majority of those here think money is not an issue	Spell it out – get real!

Group key message:
Fail to sort this costs ££money. It's too important to delegate to local authorities

4. Reducing disposal of hazardous waste		
Ref	Issue/topic	Recommendation
4.1	The WEE problem!	Clear, concise guidance on implications of WEE
4.2	Too much use of chemicals in households	Emphasis on public education to reduce useage of hazardous household waste
4.3		Clear, consistent communication strategy (smart shopping)
Group key message: <i>Clear, concise smart shopping campaign (inc reduction)</i>		

5. Better public engagement and education		
Ref	Issue/topic	Recommendation
5.1	Public education	Education to be an integral part of waste strategy
5.2		Ring-fence a proportion of budget to education throughout plan e.g. community workers/educators
5.3		Review what's already happening to identify best practice in order to identify different groups to educate Use information we already have e.g. research, surveys Involve other departments, LAs and community groups
5.4		Continue/develop schools work and share existing efforts
5.5		Set education targets, nos of groups, people reached etc.
5.6		Clear guidelines for educators
5.7	Education requirements to have	- Continual audits of education work - Consistent branding for use by all - Doorstep campaigns/publicity - engagement with voluntary sector/people
5.8		- case studies of best practice in strategy - strategy info accessible to the public to ensure ownership - clear guidelines on resources available – when, who how much, how long? - have waste champions/groups in the community as extensions to work places - involvement of the public/private sectors/ commercial operations
5.9		Use strategies to get to different communities and strategy to outline for different groups how to engage different communities
5.10		Make it simple and be open and honest about plans
5.11	Branding	Needs to be consistent Wales-wide
Group key message: <i>Education to be made an integral and CONTINUOUS part of strategy</i>		

6. Better local authority engagement and joined up working		
Ref	Issue/topic	Recommendation
6.1	Lack of communication between depts,	Talk and DO

	authority, WAGs and companies	
6.2		Hold more workshops (like this?)
6.3	Dealing with many local authorities can make business issues more complicated and lead to an inconsistent approach	More links between national strategy and local strategy
6.4	Some local authorities are knowledgeable, others are not	WAG to lead by pressurising LA Chief Executives to raise their awareness
6.5		Regular examination/audit
6.6	Short-termism – avoiding fines – or deciding to pay fines because its economically led	Longer term plans needed (de-politicise the process)
6.7	Remises that are fit for (waste) purpose	Better co-ordination of land
6.8	Do our procurement processes take account of carbon footprint – need to be socially responsible in Wales	Innovative toolkit need to show different ways of procuring services - needs real cost calculation
6.9	Ensure effective consultation with ALL PARTIES in chain when considering changes	Support of Government looking at effective change, not just business change for profit - need more community involvement
6.10	So many waste organisations offering support through the public sector	Rationalise
Group key message: WAG take responsibility and lead by example – TALK TO ALL		

7. Higher value markets for recycle/compost
<i>No group formed to discuss this issue</i>

8. Technologies and debate on residual waste		
Ref	Issue/topic	Recommendation
8.1	Moving the goalposts – signals from WAG	
8.2	Impact of economics and contribution to energy strategy for EfW	
8.3	In short and medium term there are practical limits to recycling/ composting	
8.4	How the strategy can increase confidence in technologies available	
8.5	Are we trying to eliminate residual waste or manage it?	Where does residual waste sit in the strategy - targets on residual waste - Guidance on locations for plants
8.6	Technology review Proven technology Procurement advice	Appointment of engineering/expert advisors to local authorities
Group key message: Strategy to reduce residual waste matched with quality advice on flexible/modular technology to deal with residual in order to extract value		

9. Reduction of carbon		
Ref	Issue/topic	Recommendation
9.1	Link to key objective of strategy	Integrate this with other strategies (e.g. sustainable development, energy)
9.2		Carbon-based targets for local authorities
9.3		Carbon credit card for individuals (and businesses)
9.4		Carbon accounting - extend to eco-footprinting (wider than just carbon)
9.5	Life cycle assessment	Prioritise where greatest impact can be achieved at least effort
9.6	Waste management - 2% contribution to greenhouse gas	Identify carbon footprint of each waste management technique (don't cast in stone – need to update as necessary)
9.7		Maximise carbon sequestration
9.8		
9.9	Education of consumer	-Carbon label on products -Legislate/ 'stick' on retailers -Restrict range of produce -Carbon tax on products
9.10	Production/consumption	Deal at source with produce first. Reduce its impact on greenhouse gas, especially at end of life
Group key message: <i>Embed climate change issues throughout strategy</i>		

10. Delivery mechanisms and structures		
Ref	Issue/topic	Recommendation
10.1	Are current structures working?	
10.2	Not enough connection between the strategy and implementation	More action based plan with action + timing + costings - A blueprint for Wales
10.3	Concern about capacity of local government and community sector to deliver within timescale Social sector needs to be embraced	
10.4	Some local authority obstruction in relation to social sector (this works both ways)	
10.5	We need to question some existing strategies	
10.6	Energy strategy does not include waste	Need to integrate the strategies
10.7	Big decisions (EFW or MBT) for local government Identify what works and what doesn't	Clarity from WAG needed
Group key message: <i>We want an action plan (blueprint required, not a strategy)</i>		

11. Procurement

Ref	Issue/topic	Recommendation
11.1	WAG to lead on procurement contracts that are accessible/viable for local concerns	Contracts to be (by law!)broken down so that they are accessible and viable for local concerns
11.2	Lack of green procurement strategy	100% of Welsh bodies having a set time/scale to sign up to full green procurement – legislate for this
11.3	Too much emphasis on ‘best value’	WAG to ensure social and environmental elements of contracts are on a par with economic elements – principle of social accounting
Group key message: Strong bold green Welsh Public Procurement Strategy with specifications		

12. Producer and consumer/legislative responsibility		
Ref	Issue/topic	Recommendation
12.1	Address issue of shared problems (e.g. packaging) ‘it matters to us all so it belongs to us all’	Legislation highlighting shared responsibility Close packaging legislation loopholes
12.2	Global protection = carbon emissions + sustainable enterprise	Regulation over food miles (source local) - encourage local products/sources - promotion of local solutions - education and publicity
12.3	Need inter-subject communication	Unification of waste, energy, business, social policies to ensure holistic approach
12.4		Closing the legal loophole that allows producers to sell their excess packaging targets to local authorities (see Defra website)
12.5	Be a leader for Wales, the UK and Europe	

Strategy Key Message

Conference delegates in groups were invited to create a title for the new strategy that would capture the essence of what it was aiming to achieve.

11 suggestions were made. Each delegates was invited to indicate which they most favoured. Results are given below

Suggested strategy title	‘votes’
Zero Waste Wales the road to resource recovery	6
Waste Free Wales	4

working towards zero waste	
WALES As Leader Excels in Sustainability	2
Zero Waste Wales a resource recovery strategy for Wales	<u>17</u>
Don't Waste Wales	4
Being a better neighbourhood towards zero carbon and zero waste for Wales	3
Resourcing the future of Wales Our resources, our nation, our planet	2
Value Wales, Value Resource A sustainable resource strategy for Wales	5
WAsTe LESs	1
Resource for tomorrow, today	6
Life-cycle Live it and believe it	4

Conclusions

In summary the key improvements that attendees felt were needed in the future were:
 More effective dialogue,
 More leadership from WAG
 More connection to the carbon agenda
 More ambition to go for Zero Waste

Quest Associates
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