

Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority Annual Plan 2009



MERSEYSIDE WASTE DISPOSAL AUTHORITY

Looking back

Welcome to the latest MWDA Annual Plan. The new design follows on from last year's edition making it a shorter and more reader-friendly document, thereby cutting down on the amount of paper. The Plan will highlight the Authority's achievements over the past year and look forward to the future.

Waste, and how it's disposed of or recycled, remains very much in the public spotlight with people interested in what happens to their rubbish once it's left their home. The last decade has seen a huge increase in the amount of waste being produced, from leftover food to product packaging, and many changes in collections and disposal. Landfilling of waste is now a costly option, with space at a premium and recognition that it is one of the least environmentally friendly options.

The Authority wants to make sure that it makes the right calls for the people of Merseyside, aiming for the best financial, social and environmental outcomes from any decision made. Its main role is foremost to manage and dispose of household rubbish, finding the right balance in delivering value for money, affecting society in a positive way, and protecting the environment.

Throughout this document you can see what the Authority has been involved in during the year. Major achievements include Merseyside's recycling rate rising from 29% to 33%

- the introduction of kerbside recycling by District Council partners over the past couple of years is having a major impact that is reflected in ever increasing recycling. Other achievements dotted throughout this document include a unique use of old tyres for construction at one of the Authority's Recycling Centres, a brand new website and a landmark at the Bidston Materials Recovery Facility.

As well as the good news, there have also been occasions when the Authority would rather not have made the headlines. Stories about the Authority making decisions in secret or picking waste sites without discussion have been wide of the mark. The Authority is always happy to discuss any issues with groups or individuals directly, and would rather not conduct these communications second-hand through the media as facts can be misreported and statements misrepresented. There are a variety of ways to get in touch with us; by phone, letter, or online at www.merseysidewda.gov.uk - which also contains the Forward Plan of the Authority's forthcoming work.

The work the Authority is involved in is going to interest people - whether they support it, or if they're concerned. These are interesting yet challenging times for Merseyside and, as demonstrated overleaf, the region is preparing well to go forward.

Looking forward

As well as delivering day-to-day work the Authority has also been carrying on with the procurement of new major waste contracts. In April, Veolia Environmental Services were appointed to the Waste Management and Recycling Contract. This means they are managing all of Merseyside and Halton's Recycling Centres, Waste Transfer Stations, Material Recovery Facilities and will be looking to provide new facilities around the region. The Authority is delighted to bring Veolia on board and know their experience and expertise will help push recycling to a new high.

The focus of the Authority's efforts has now turned to the Resource and Recovery Contract. This received £90M of funding from Government and will help the Authority develop solutions around energy from residual waste (that is, waste that hasn't been recycled). Currently it's proposed that two large sites for waste facilities will be needed and discussions are ongoing with landowners and local councils regarding site suitability.

The choice of technology proposed for new waste facilities has been informed by public consultation as part of the Merseyside Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy. The Authority understands and values how people view the development of waste facilities and will undertake detailed consultation and communications with all

communities about potential sites and technologies.

A new Materials Recovery Facility in Gillmoss, Liverpool, has gained planning permission this year and will sort contents from local recycling collections into separate glass, cardboard, plastic bottle, can and paper streams. Our similar plant in Wirral has been a tremendous success, helping to increase Merseyside's recycling levels higher than ever before. The Gillmoss plant will create around 100 jobs and will be up and running by 2010.

This is a very busy and interesting time for anyone involved in waste. The throwaway society of the past decade or so is changing rapidly – both for environmental and financial reasons, people are no longer willing to throw as much away as often. People see an innate value in the huge amount of items that are tossed into their bins. Whether they can be re-used, recycled or used to generate energy, it's better for the environment than to bury everything in the ground. Over the past ten years recycling has risen from practically zero to 33% - that is a big leap in a short time.

There is still some way to go before Merseyside can be especially pleased with how it handles its waste, but together residents, the Waste Disposal Authority and District Council partners can make sure the best solutions are found for all concerned.

Our performance

Last year saw the end of reporting our Best Value Performance figures. These standard measures have been replaced by National Indicators – a Performance Framework for Local Authorities and Local Authority Partnerships.

NI 191: Residual household waste per household (kilograms)

This measure is used to monitor Merseyside's performance in reducing the amount of waste that is sent for landfill, incineration or energy recovery.

NI 192: Household waste reused, recycled or composted (%)

This measures the percentage of

household waste which has been sent by Merseyside for reuse, recycling, composting or anaerobic digestion. This is a key measure of the region's progress in moving the management of household waste up the hierarchy, consistent with the Government's national strategy for waste management.

NI 193: Municipal waste landfilled (%)

This indicator measures the proportion of municipal waste sent to landfill – our aim is to divert as much waste away from landfill as possible thereby reducing this percentage in line with the Government's strategy on waste and the waste hierarchy.

National Indicator	2007/08 Actual	2008/09 Actual	2009/10 Target	2010/11 Target
NI 191 (kg)	854.16	779.52	784	744
NI 192 (%)	29%	33.3%	36%	39%
NI 193 (%)	68.3%	63.5%	63%	60%

We also provide 14 Household Waste Recycling Centres throughout the region for residents to deposit

household waste. The percentages of waste recycled and composted or diverted are below.

All Household Waste Recycling Centres	2007/08 Actual	2008/09 Actual	2009/10 Target	2010/11 Target
Material landfilled (tonnes)	103,346 49.06%	97,688 49.48%	81,343 42.60%	81,668 42.60%
Material recycled (%)	21.69%	22.60%	24.60%	24.60%
Material composted (%)	11.57%	11.07%	13.18%	13.18%
Material reused (%)	17.68%	16.85%	19.62%	19.62%

Finance

The need to improve recycling performance and attain greater diversion from landfill requires investment in new operational arrangements. This, together with continued increases in waste generation and in Landfill Tax rates,

has a direct effect on the Authority's budget.

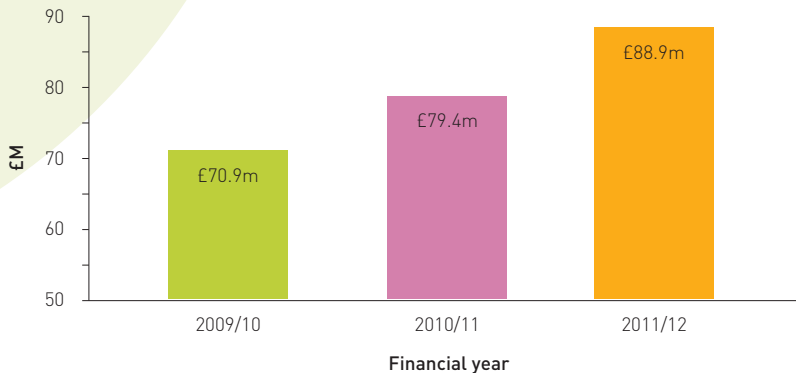
MWDA's Revenue Budget for 2009/2010 is shown below along with the comparative figures for 2008/2009.

	2008/09 Budget £M	2008/09 Actual £M	2009/10 Budget £M
Disposal of District Waste	33.6	25.9	32.4
Household Waste Recycling Centres	5.8	5.4	6.2
Other Costs	7.2	13.3	12.2
Landfill Tax	18.2	15.8	21.1
Total Expenditure	64.8	60.4	71.9
Less: Income	1.5	1.3	1.0
Net Expenditure	63.3	59.1	70.9
Authority Balances To (From)	-	4.2	-
The Levy	63.3	63.3	70.9

Three year forecast

The following provides a three-year budget forecast based upon the known factors which are expected to affect MWDA including continued Landfill Tax and waste arising

increases. We also resolved to make contributions to reserves in anticipation of high costs involved in the tendering of waste processing contracts to replace landfill.



Corporate governance

MWDA is governed by a joint board with nine elected Members representing the five Merseyside District Councils. This board is responsible for taking all of the key decisions and operating a scheme of delegation which enables us to fulfil our statutory responsibilities and deliver effective and efficient services to the public.

In support of this, we have a Code of Corporate Governance which sets out how we 'ensure that we are doing the right things, in the right way, for the right people, in a timely, inclusive, open, honest and accountable manner'.

We also have an established Performance Management Framework, which sets out the planning, monitoring and reviewing processes that enable us to

continuously improve our performance.

As part of this ongoing review, we approved a new Corporate Plan in 2009, which identifies our Vision, Aims and Objectives and the performance improvements we intend to deliver over the next three years. Our Corporate Vision is, 'To improve people's quality of life by ensuring that waste is sustainably managed to bring about the best combination of environmental, economic and social benefits'.

Finally, we use the Corporate Plan, supported by our Risk Management Strategy, to develop Annual Service Plans which identify key projects and priorities along with the most effective use of our resources to deliver the step changes required to achieve our goals.



Taking responsibility

Minimising our impact on the world around us is at the heart of our Corporate Social Responsibility policy. By maintaining our responsibility to society and the environment we recognise that our activities extend beyond simply offering solutions to treat and dispose of waste. To enable corporate social responsibility to be integrated across the Authority, we have utilised the core principles of our Corporate Code of Governance.

Over the last few years our contract tendering process has allowed us to make positive social contributions such as safeguarding jobs and increasing local employment numbers, as well as asking contractors to develop partnerships with social enterprises and local community groups. We have also tried to “green” our supply chain and an evaluation of this highlighted that

we have engaged well with suppliers and implemented sustainable initiatives through our procurement process.

When it comes to the environment we know our planet is limited in providing resources and absorbing our waste and pollutants, therefore we are committed to reducing our use of natural resources, reducing emissions and preventing the generation of waste. In July 2008 we signed up to the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change which commits us to measuring, managing and reducing our greenhouse gas emissions and to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

We will continue to monitor our progress and implement changes as we, like everybody else, are learning to cope and adapt to the changing world around us.



Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority Key Achievements

Doubling our recycling

Earlier this year we were given planning permission by Liverpool Council to build a brand new Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) in Gillmoss. Just like our similar facility in Bidston, this new Recycling Park will play a significant role in increasing recycling rates for local councils, as well as providing more than 100 new jobs.

The MRF will sort mixed dry recyclable materials collected from households through local council collection schemes. The sorted materials will then be sent off to be processed into new products. We hope the site can be up and running in 2010.



100,000 tonnes and counting...

The Mayor of Wirral was at Bidston Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) last October to celebrate the recycling of 100,000 tonnes of household waste.

The MRF - developed by MWDA in partnership with DEFRA (Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) and Wirral Council and opened in 2005 - recovers and sorts glass, paper and cans through to plastic bottles and cardboard from local Council kerbside recycling collections.

One of Merseyside's busiest waste management sites, Bidston has performed better than we could ever have hoped and has boosted Wirral and Merseyside's recycling rate. Here's to the next 100,000 tonnes.



Recycle For Merseyside

In 2009 we saw the launch of a brand new recycling website – www.recycleformerseysideandhalton.com. It includes information on local recycling – what is collected from your doorstep, nearby recycling facilities, advice on composting and minimising food waste, and activities for schools. The site was produced for The Merseyside and Halton Waste Partnership – ourselves plus the Merseyside District Councils of Halton, Knowsley, Liverpool, Sefton, St Helens and Wirral. The site is being promoted through all of the Partnership's promotional work, including a major Love Food, Hate Waste campaign, Recycle Week 2009 and a push to get people to buy home composters.





Woodlands for all to enjoy

We look after seven closed landfill sites in Merseyside, five of which have been restored to a woodland state and opened for everybody to enjoy. All the sites are accessible and link in with the network of footpaths and cycle routes in the surrounding areas. As the woodlands have become more established, wildlife has returned to the area bringing with it a variety of flora and fauna. Each site is becoming a valuable recreational and environmental resource to the local community.

We have a responsibility for ensuring that the environmental impact of all these sites is kept to a minimum. We have to control gas emissions because as waste in landfill breaks down gases including methane and carbon dioxide are produced – both greenhouse gases. Water can also become polluted therefore we check water quality to make sure water courses around the sites are not negatively affected.

We also extract landfill gas from four of the sites. The gas at Bidston Moss and Billinge Hill Quarry is used to generate electricity for the national grid – sufficient for almost 1000 households. This has the additional benefit of reducing the emission of methane into the atmosphere.



Managing our environment

Earlier this year we were very pleased to achieve certification for our Environmental Management System – ISO 14001:2004. The system lets us manage our activities that impact upon air, land and water as well as monitor our annual environmental performance. Soon we will be setting a range of targets that will help us reduce the environmental and social impact of all our activities.



Raising awareness

Last year our education and awareness programme helped provide 71 visits with the local community, engaging with 1738 visitors, including schools, local voluntary groups and businesses. We also supported the Liverpool Community College BTEC course in fashion, providing sponsorship for the recycled/ethical fashion category of their annual fashion show.



A meadow of old tyres

At Sefton Meadows Recycling Centre (in Maghull) we wanted to restructure the layout of the site to help improve the flow and access. During the early design stages we found an innovative way of building road foundations – by using old car tyres.

We used compressed and baled car tyres as a low-cost, low-carbon alternative to natural aggregates. In total the scheme used almost a quarter of a million tyres that would otherwise have found their way into the waste stream. The baled tyres – which are permeable, structurally strong and provide a sound foundation for road construction – were ideal for the ground at Sefton Meadows. We even used recovered crushed glass as an alternative to sand to fill in the spaces between the tyre bales.



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