

Merseyside Recycling
& Waste Authority

ANNUAL REPORT 2016/17



MERSEYSIDE RECYCLING & WASTE AUTHORITY

Welcome to the MRWA Annual Report

The Annual Report is an important statement of what we've achieved and how we've addressed challenges. It's shorter than in previous years, which has allowed us to produce it in a more timely way; we hope that readers and stakeholders will find it more relevant.

2016/17 was a significant period for us as January marked the end of the long term use of landfill to dispose of Merseyside's residual household waste.

The move away from landfill will be considerably better for the environment and will save money in the long term compared with increasing landfill costs.

Our solution to disposing of residual waste will be provided in the future by the Resource Recovery Contract (RRC) through an Energy from Waste Plant in Teesside which will see Merseyside and Halton's household waste converted into electricity for the National Grid and heat for nearby industries.

There were some delays in the commissioning stage for the RRC, which is now expected to be fully operational in summer 2017. The delays meant a number of interim contract solutions were required and the Authority responded effectively to the logistical challenges this brought.

Elsewhere we continued to manage the Waste Management and Recycling Contract (WMRC) through which Veolia provides 14 Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs), two Materials Recovery Facilities and three Waste Transfer Stations. Our HWRCs consistently achieved a recycling rate of over 69%, which contributes to an overall recycling level for Merseyside of 43.1%, an improvement on last year's 41.2%.

Our work with the public, whether through community groups or our education programmes, remains important. The Community Fund provides grants to projects across Merseyside to encourage people to reduce waste and recycle more. Education through school visits to our Recycling Discovery Centres or more widely in the community raise awareness of waste matters and the need to minimise resource use.

The financial environment has remained challenging and we have worked with the City Region on a Strategic Review of Waste Collection and Disposal across Merseyside and Halton. While the outcome has confirmed that the Authority has good contracts in place and is low cost and efficient, we continue to need to review our services with a view to achieving future efficiencies.

We hope you enjoy reading through our Annual Report and find it interesting and useful.

Cllr Graham Morgan - Chair

Carl Beer - Chief Executive

Introduction

"To contribute to the economic, environmental and social well-being of Merseyside by promoting the best use of resources and ensuring that waste is sustainably managed."

Our Corporate Aims

Deliverability

We will ensure that the waste delivered to us is managed sustainably.

Sustainability

We aim to reduce the amount of waste produced on Merseyside, increase the proportion of waste reused and recycled and promote the sustainable management of waste through the Waste Hierarchy.

Sustainability

We will conduct the Authority's business effectively and efficiently and we will fulfil our obligations to the highest standards.

Our Corporate Plan, Budget and Service Delivery Plans are approved by our Members annually and reports back to Members confirm the success of outcomes for the year.

The following pages of this Annual Report summarise how effective the Authority has been in achieving its planned outcomes.



Deliverability

Contracts

The Resource Recovery Contract will see all of Merseyside and Halton's non-recycled waste go through our Energy from Waste (EfW) plant in Teesside (pictured below) via the new Kirkby Rail Transfer Loading Station (RTLS). While the EfW plant was completed in the year and handed over to our contractor Suez there were delays to the handover of the RTLS. There were a number of technical reasons for the delay, not least the need to make a significant roof repairs to the Loading Station following accidental damage. The full handover is now expected around early summer of 2017.

These delays meant that we could not fully access the EfW plant for commissioning tonnages and so had to plan to continue to use landfill. Our chosen landfill operator had originally stated that the site would be open until 2021, but brought forward the closure, and in January 2017 the site closed and no further landfill was accepted. With a limit on the amount of waste that could be transported by road for commissioning the EfW we worked with our contractors to source alternative outlets for waste disposal.



IN 2016/17 MERSEYSIDE AND HALTON RECYCLED 43% OF IT'S WASTE



Managing waste

District Councils delivered over 350,000 tonnes of waste directly to us through their residual household waste collection services. Additional amounts of non-recycled waste from our 14 Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) and Bidston and Gillmoss Materials Recycling Facilities (MRFs) meant we handled over 400,000 tonnes of residual waste in 2016/17. At the same time some 224,000 tonnes were recycled either at the HWRCs or via the Materials Recovery Facilities (including Bidston MRF, pictured left).



Facilities

The network of 14 Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs), two Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs), and three Waste Transfer Stations is operated for the Authority by Veolia.

The HWRCs are particularly important as they are used directly by the public to access recycling facilities for household waste. During the year 2016/17 the public brought over 163,000 tonnes of household waste to the HWRCs. The recycling performance at our older sites was over 69%, while at the newer sites (such as our flagship facility at Old Swan in Liverpool and the refurbished Ravenhead - pictured above) the performance was over 70%.

The performance of the HWRCs is well in excess of the contractual performance requirements and makes a strong contribution towards Merseyside's overall recycling rate which is set to be over 43% for the year.

70%

materials recycled at
HWRCs

400,000

tonnes of waste
managed

163,000

tonnes delivered
to HWRCs

43%

Merseyside
waste recycled

Looking after landfill

We manage seven former landfill sites to ensure that their long term environmental impact is minimised and meets all environmental standards.

At each of the former sites (including Bidston Moss, pictured) there is a range of equipment designed to moderate and mitigate the impacts of gas and leachate into the local environment. We test the levels of emissions and regularly review the effectiveness of the pollution control systems.

This year we reviewed the contracts for the management and maintenance of the Closed Landfill sites to ensure that the sites continue to be managed in the most efficient way, and our Environmental Monitoring System (EMS) remains accredited to the ISO14001 standard.



**Managing 7
former landfill
sites**



Infrastructure

We have been working with the City Region Leaders and Mayor throughout the year as part of a Strategic Review of Waste Collection and Disposal. The increasing financial pressures on all public services made this review a priority during the year.

The review was commissioned by the Mayor and the leaders of the the City Region Councils and was carried out by Local Partnerships. These proposals are being considered by the City Region at the time of publication.

We have been working with our service provider Veolia to establish how service changes might be made, to achieve savings without simply pushing the cost of dealing with waste onto District Councils. These proposals will be considered by the Authority's Members before any changes are agreed and implemented.

Sustainability

Waste Strategy

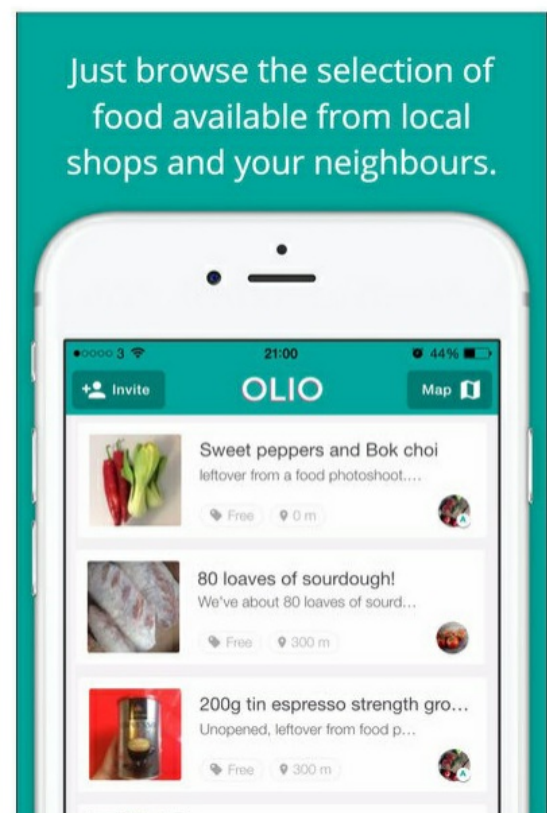
The delivery of the existing Joint Recycling and Waste Management Strategy for Merseyside (JRWMS) has continued throughout the year, with attendance at engagement groups and liaison with WRAP on potential pilot schemes to work with local communities, including the bid for European Funding under the Urban Initiative Actions (UIA) programme.

Implementing the actions identified in the Re-use Strategy is now being incorporated into the Authority's behavioural change programme.

Other highlights include:

- Bidding for funding from Sainsbury's 'Save More Waste Less' initiative.
- Working with Olio to provide support for their 'food sharing' app initiative (see pic, right) with the City Region.
- Keeping the www.recycleformerseyside.com website updated with new information.
- Promoting national initiatives such as Love Food Hate Waste.
- Our education programme engaging in 335 sessions with 14,690 people.

The refresh of the JRWMS was set to be completed after the Strategic Review had been concluded. While the outcome of the Strategic Review is now becoming clear, its timing means that the refresh of the JRWMS was unable to be concluded and that will now be carried out in the next year.



Measuring change

We have been reviewing the way we work with local communities in order to help encourage waste prevention and reduction across the region. In this instance, our new Behavioural Change Programme (BCP) is designed to provide a rigorous approach to targeting initiatives so that they achieve a tangible outcome, something that can be measured.

This new programme has brought together activities from across the Authority to encourage waste prevention, re-use, recycling and education and awareness. The implementation of the BCP meant that some projects were not delivered in 2016/17 as they had not been reviewed yet. These programmes will be targeted more effectively in 2017/18.

Going forward, we are also looking to develop a Circular Economy Knowledge Hub for the City Region.



10 community projects funded to the tune of £110,000

Our Community Fund for 2016/17 was developed before the start of the year so that when funding was agreed it could be rolled out as soon as the financial year began. The Fund was awarded to 10 schemes across Merseyside and Halton to reduce household waste, encourage recycling and resource re-use, and prevent carbon emissions.

Centre 63 – Bike Back 63 (Knowsley)

The Children’s Food Trust – Mersey Waste Munchers (Merseyside & Halton)

Emmaus Merseyside – Upcycle It (Sefton)

Faiths4Change – Turning the Tables (Merseyside & Halton)

Granby Toxteth Development Trust – Recycle L1578 (Liverpool)

Halton Play Council – Scrapstore (Halton)

HoneyRose Foundation – Storage Facility (St Helens)

Liverpool Guild of Students – Leave Liverpool Tidy (Liverpool)

Neighbourhood Services Company – Reusing Waste Wood for Improved Environmental Facilities at Home Farm (Knowsley and Liverpool)

Sustrans – Eastham Centre Community Cycling Hub (Wirral)



Accountability

Governance and Performance

The Authority's governance arrangements are reviewed on an ongoing basis through the Primary Assurance Group (PAG) each year. The PAG reviews the way the Authority plans to achieve its corporate objectives, through its Performance Management Framework and the Service Delivery Plan, identifying whether there are areas of concern for Members and planning for future reviews and improvements. The review of governance is set out in an Annual Governance Statement approved by Members at the first meeting after the year end. No significant issues were identified through the review.

As we moved away from landfill for our residual waste the reasons for maintaining the wholly owned company Mersey Waste Holdings Ltd to access the landfill contracts meant that it was appropriate to review the governance arrangements once again. This was completed in the year, but will be the subject of further reviews moving forward.

Financial management

The Authority spent £72.3M in 2016/17, 94% of which was on the contracts to manage waste. The Authority's income from Levy in the same period was £65.6M, the same as the previous six years. The balance of the funding came from the General Fund. This gap between expenditure and funding continues into 2017/18, but will be unsustainable in the longer term.

Following the Strategic Review we will continue to work with Members and with the wider City Region to establish the basis for a sustainable Levy Strategy for the medium to longer term.

Going Forward

How can you help?

With our Energy from Waste facility opening this year Merseyside will see an end to its use of landfill. However this doesn't mean that our job is done and we can all stop thinking about waste and resource management. In fact, how we use the earth's limited resources has never been more important. Our messages of waste prevention (don't buy what you don't need, purchase durable goods, repair what you can and give unwanted items to other people) are as relevant now as they've ever been.

Merseyside is well placed to improve upon its current recycling level of 43%. All the Districts have excellent kerbside collection systems so have a look at your local council's website, find out what you can and can't recycle and see when your collection date is. Remember to put the right thing in the right bin - it's important for us to keep contamination levels low. It helps with our recycling figures and it saves money.

We provide 14 Recycling Centres across the region for household waste. They accept all sorts of items for recycling - everything from wood and rubble to cans, cardboard and carpets. If you've got items that are too big to bring to our sites then contact your local council who may offer a bulky waste collection service.

Food waste is a huge issue on Merseyside. Wasted food costs the average family with children £700 a year. Approximately two-thirds of all food and drink waste is avoidable. Our messages are - before you go shopping check your cupboards, write a shopping list and only buy what you need.

All these things might seem quite insignificant, but if we all pull together to make a difference then we can make Merseyside a place where nothing is wasted.

Contact

For more information about what you can and can't recycle, and for advice about waste prevention and re-use, go to:

www.recycleformerseysideandhalton.com

Further information

This Annual Report is only a snapshot of what we do. For more information about MRWA go to:

www.merseysidewda.gov.uk

All information was correct at the time of publishing.

Merseyside - a place where nothing is wasted

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