

CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH JOINT WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

PART 2 – POLICIES AND PLANS

2.1 *Partnerships*

The seven local authorities comprising Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, together with the Environment Agency, have been working together since early 1999. The objective of the group has been to tackle the problem of growing waste costs and volumes, and to develop a Joint Waste Management Strategy to last for twenty years. The past record and future aspirations of the partnership are described in paragraphs 2.1.1 to 2.1.4.

2.1.1 Achievements and progress of the strategic partnerships

In coming together to prepare a Joint Waste Management Strategy, the local authority partners took the view there was a considerable pool of waste management expertise and local knowledge amongst their own officers and elected members. The partners felt that with professional co-ordination a long-term strategy could be “grown from within” without total reliance on external consultants. A forum of elected members supervises the project with one member from each partner authority. This forum is a sub-group of the Cambridgeshire Councils Association (CCA). Supporting this forum is the Joint Officer Group, which comprises the senior waste managers from each of the authorities, together with the Environment Agency representative; working beneath this group are three sub-groups responsible for data preparation, waste awareness and operational issues.

Whilst the forum lacks an executive role it does make powerful recommendations to the partner authorities, all of whom have agreed the necessary action. The terms of reference of the Forum are shown at Appendix C

Achievements to date include:

- In May 2000 the strategy partners appointed a Strategy Co-ordinator to oversee the development of strategy.
- In June 2000 the CCA Waste Forum adopted a set of strategic principles to guide the strategy preparation, and recommended them for approval to the partner authorities. All authorities formally approved the document. These strategic principles and key issues are shown at Appendix A.
- In November 2000 the Forum agreed a base line data report.
- In February 2001 the Forum agreed the strategy consultation document “Towards a Waste Management Strategy” and a communication and consultation plan.
- During the period March to July 2001 the partners ran an in depth consultation with the general public, other local authorities, and the waste industry.

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- In August 2001 a Recycling Co-ordination Officer and a Strategy Assistant were appointed.
- In September 2001 the partners published the results of the consultation exercise in a document entitled “The Rubbish Consultation – What You Said”.

Funding for this work is shared jointly by all the authorities, with the two waste disposal authorities bearing about 50% of the costs.

Extensive use has been made of landfill tax credit funding, particularly for the consultation and communication plan and more recently for an in-depth composition analysis of waste in the strategy area.

- In addition to the partnership of local authorities, the “Peterborough Cell” has created what is considered to be a unique recycling partnership. This is a partnership of five local authorities from three counties, working with two private sector organisations. The partnership comprises Peterborough City, South Holland District, the Borough Council of Wellingborough, Huntingdonshire District Council and Fenland District Council, with Shanks Waste Services and Valpak, a waste compliance scheme from the private sector. The object of the Cell is to increase domestic recycling and recovery on a sub-regional level through the installation and expansion of multi-material kerbside collection schemes.

2.1.2 Current areas of joint working

The need to develop a long-term waste management strategy has changed relationships between the partners. This closer working has helped each party understand a little more of the others point of view, and just as importantly the potential benefits to the public for closer working are becoming clear. The following areas of joint working are on going:

- Since 1999 the partner authorities have worked together in the Regional Waste awareness scheme “Slim Your Bin!”, with other authorities in the Anglia region. This programme of waste education and waste awareness, using touring roadshows, television programmes, radio programmes and articles in local newspapers, has been successful in establishing in people’s minds the need to take conscious decisions about the management of their waste.
- A recently introduced coding system for waste deliveries is providing more detailed analysis of the various municipal waste streams.
- The joint funding and establishment of a strategy co-ordination officer
- Joint work on disposing of abandoned vehicles.

2.1.3 Planned future joint working

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The need to obtain 'value for money' and demonstrate that the 'best value' legislation is being complied with is considered, by the partners, to be easier in a group of authorities than individually.

Similarly the partners ability to achieve the statutory targets for recycling, minimisation and diversion from landfill are considered to be much more achievable as a group than as individual authorities.

To obtain the full benefits of closer working, a group has been established to consider how joint waste services might be procured, to achieve strategic objectives and for the benefit of the user.

A further area of joint work that is under consideration is the handling of enquiries from the general public. All seven Councils provide information to the public on their waste services and all receive calls that are not about their service; these have to be redirected. A common information base, and / or the use of a planned contact centre are being considered.

The public consultation carried out during the summer of 2001 identified a need to communicate more effectively with members of the public on waste issues. The marketing of waste and recycling services at the moment tends to be low key and happens on an almost ad-hoc basis when funds can be made available. Whilst most of the waste strategy will provide "end of pipe" solutions there is a very definite need to target the generation of waste at source and, therefore, encourage waste minimisation. A small group of officers is currently examining this area.

2.1.4 The authorities will, acting together, consider the best ways to group together and organise waste services, to achieve strategic objectives and provide best value. They will take into account:

- Prospects for joining together collection, recycling and disposal services.
- Prospects for joint work with neighbouring authorities (e.g. recent discussions with Lincolnshire County Council).
- Strategic alliances with the commercial sector and compliance organisations such as Valpak.

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2.2 *Targets*

2.2.1 **Best Value performance indicators (BVPI).**

All councils in the strategy area have been set BVPIs for the years 2003/4 and 2005/6. The indicators relating to recycling are BVPI 82a and 82b. Within the collection authorities these statutory indicator targets range from 10% to 28% in the first target year and from 18% to 36% in the second.

However, the targets for the two disposal authorities have been set at 33% and 36% for the same target years.

In order to achieve these levels of recycling and composting the partner authorities have agreed to work towards a 2003/4 recycling and composting combined, average rate of 25% for the collection authorities and 65% at HWRCs, with Peterborough City working to achieve its overall 33% target.

It is calculated that if these rates of recycling can be attained then the 2003/4 overall target of 33% can be achieved.

Table 1 – Best Value Performance Standards

Strategy Partner	2003/4 Standard	2005/6 Standard
Cambridge City Council	28%	36%
Cambridgeshire County	33%	36%
East Cambridgeshire	22%	33%
Fenland District	10%	18%
Huntingdonshire District	14%	21%
Peterborough City	33%	36%
South Cambridgeshire	16%	24%

The continuing growth in waste quantities in the strategy area make the achievement of these targets particularly challenging, and emphasises why waste minimisation is equally important.

2.2.2 **Landfill Directive Targets.**

National targets have been set for the diversion of waste away from landfill. These apply to the whole of the Municipal Solid Waste stream (MSW) and

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require a reduction in landfilling to the following proportions of the 1995 level of Biodegradable Municipal Solid Waste (BMW):

- By 2010 - 75%
- By 2013 - 50%
- By 2020 - 35%

National Government proposes to issue landfill permits to the Waste Disposal Authorities to ensure that these levels of landfilling are not exceeded in the target years.

This Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy sets out how these target reductions are to be achieved in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

2.2.3 **Waste Strategy 2000 longer-term national targets.**

The Government has set targets for recycling and composting nationally as follows:

- By 2005 at least 25%.
- By 2010 at least 30%.
- By 2015 at least 33%.

In addition targets have been set to recover value from municipal solid waste (MSW), i.e. 40% by 2005, 45% by 2010 and 67% by 2015. The recycling targets shown above contribute to these broader 'recovery' targets.

In this context municipal solid waste means all waste handled by local authorities. Recovery means obtain value from waste through recycling, composting, or other forms of material recovery (such as anaerobic digestion and energy recovery through thermal treatment).

The best value performance indicator targets set by Government are designed to ensure that by 2003/2004 the national recycling rate will have risen to 17%, and then 25% by 2005.

The national recovery targets are so designed that if they are achieved then the landfill directive targets will also be met .

2.2.4 **Meeting the Targets in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough**

The Partner Authorities believe that only by adopting a system of Integrated Waste Management can all of the targets that lie before them be achieved.

By Integrated Waste Management the Strategy Partners believe that it is important to maximise those treatments that are at the higher end of the Waste Hierarchy (i.e. Reduce, Re-use, Recycle and extract energy). They do not believe that the diversion targets of the Landfill Directive should be achieved by opting straight for some form of thermal waste treatment.

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This is not to say that the Strategy Partners rule out the use of thermal treatment for the residue of waste but rather that it could come into play only after recycling and re-use have been maximised.

In the baseline strategy document “Towards a Waste Management Strategy”, Chapter 4 discussed the likely levels of waste growth, and included a variety of modelling scenarios. These set out the likely requirement for recycling and the diversion of Biodegradable Municipal Solid Waste (BMW) away from landfill.

These forecasts are summarised in the following table which also indicates the shortfall based on the 1999/2000 recycling levels. The ‘Babtie Method’ of forecasting waste growth is used in this table

Target Year	Household Waste (tonnes)	MSW (tonnes)	Recycling Required (tonnes) UK National Target	Recovery Required (tonnes) UK National Target	Diversion Required (tonnes) EU Targets	Recycling Shortfall based on 1999/2000	Diversion or Recovery shortfall based on 1999/2000
1999/2000 Actuals	329,711	354,191	57,326	71,012	-	-	-
2003/4	380,403	-	125,533 <i>(33%)</i>	-	-	68,207	-
2005/6	395,570	424,940	142,405 <i>(36%)</i>	152,978 <i>(36%)</i>	-	85,169	95,652
2010/1	432,378	464,481	194,580 <i>(45%)</i>	209,016 <i>(45%)</i>	154,123	-	138,004R 83,111 D
2013/4	-	484,829	-	-	216,262	-	145,250
2015/6	462,948	497,320	231,450 <i>(50%)</i>	328,231 <i>(66%)</i>	-	-	257,219
2020/1	-	529,426	-	-	274,533	-	203,521

Note: Recovery is the extraction of energy from residual waste.

Diversion is the amount of waste that needs to be diverted away from landfill disposal.

Figures in italics are likely targets but still subject to review.

This table demonstrates that if the UK targets are achieved then the EU targets will automatically be complied with.

The Partner Councils believe that the recycling methods that are currently in use in the strategy area, with the planned expansion, will be able to deliver the near tripling of recycled materials, required by 2005/2006. However, there are no waste management techniques currently in use in the strategy area that are likely to be able to bring about the rate required by 2015/2016.

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2.2.5 Assessing the Potential for Recovery of Materials

The Strategy Partners have considered the potential for recovery of materials that the household waste stream contains. A contract has been let to undertake a waste audit to determine the exact composition of waste from all sources. This will include dustbin waste, HWRC waste, bulky household collections, street sweeping and litter collections. The results of this waste audit will be available in mid 2002.

However, using information derived from a similar study by Hampshire County Council, the following potential material proportions might be expected.

Waste Type	Proportion of each Material	Likely recoverable proportion	Tonnes Potentially recoverable (2000/1)	Total Tonnes Potentially Recoverable (2000/01)	Potential Recycling Rate
Recyclable Waste					
Paper and Card	32%	80%	85,100	143,200	60 %
Compostable	21%	80%	55,800		
Organic Textiles	1%	70%	2,300		
Total Organic	54%				
Glass	9%	80%	23,900	57,800	
Metal	8%	50%	13,300		
Plastic	11%	50%	18,300		
Inorganic Textiles	1%	70%	2,300		
Total Inorganic	29%				
				201,000	
Recoverable Waste					
Misc. Combustible	8%	90%	23,900		
Non Recoverable					
Inorganic fines	7%	100%	23,300		
Misc. non-combustible	2%	100%	6,600		
Total	100%				
Residual Waste for treatment to recover value				131,300	40%
Total Waste Stream				332,300	100%

- The Hampshire study showed that only 9% of the household waste stream is not **recoverable**.
- The table above shows that it is possible to **recycle** up to about 60% of the waste stream.
- The Strategy Partners are therefore proposing recycling targets in the range 40% to 60%. However, if the higher target becomes unachievable or is impractical then a 'safety-valve' needs to be created to take up the surplus material.

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2.2.6 Voluntary Targets

After the statutory targets of 2003/2004 and 2005/2006 have been achieved the Councils are proposing to work towards the following recycling and composting targets:

- 2010/2011 - 45-50%
- 2015/2016 - 50-55%
- 2020/2021 - 55-60%

However, on a more cautionary note markets for recycling over the last ten years have been volatile. Every local authority in the UK will be redoubling their recycling efforts, and there is a real danger that markets will become flooded with material for which there is no beneficial use.

To counter this situation Government has set up the Waste Recycling Action Programme (WRAP). The purpose of this organisation is to establish new and improved markets for recyclable materials; the partners look forward to the success of WRAP and will play their part in market development initiatives.

2.2.7 Need for a 'Safety Valve'

However, notwithstanding the ability of WRAP to achieve its objectives, it is clear that the Councils need to have a fallback position should the 45-50% (2010) and 55-60% (2020) targets become unobtainable due to poor markets or excessive cost of segregation. This 'fallback' position 'safety-valve' for excess recycling materials, would be a thermal or a digestion process for mixed waste.

Which ever form of waste treatment is selected for the residue, then this should be so sized as to be capable of absorbing recycling material for which there is no market, or where the cost of segregation proves to be excessive, but not to divert material away from viable recycling.

2.2.8 Regular Reviews

Given the uncertainties faced by the partner authorities, it is important that this Municipal Waste Management Strategy is reviewed on a regular basis. The Strategy Partners intend to produce an annual report on progress and then undertake a biennial review, at least in the early stages. These reports and reviews will give an opportunity to reflect on progress to the date of the review, and the influence of national and EU legislation. The first review will be due in March 2004.

2.2.9 Achievement of the Statutory Performance Standards for Recycling and Composting

The methods by which the partner authorities would achieve the statutory performance standard for recycling and composting are outlined in detail in part 3 of this strategy dealing with Recycling Plans.

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In summary the methods used will be to increase the amount of kerbside collection of dry recyclables to all suitable households. In addition the kerbside collection of green garden waste will be introduced and be widely deployed across the entire strategy area. The types of waste segregated for recycling at the Household Waste Recycling Centres will be increased and, by means of more attractive incentive payments for site operators, the existing high levels of recycling will be enhanced. The County Council has set a target of 65% recycling at all Household Waste Sites by the end of March 2004.

Clearly investments in recycling services will take time to mature into their full potential. However, by the end of March 2006 the Partners expect that the combined recycling and composting rate throughout the strategy area, by means of both kerbside collection, bring sites and Household Waste Recycling Centres will reach 40%. The contribution of each recycling method would be as follows:

Type of Recycling	Coverage % households	Participation Rate	Yield / Household	Tonnage produced	% of total waste Recycled
Kerbside collection of dry recyclables	95%	65%	176 kg	47,500	12%
Kerbside collection of Green Waste	80%	60%	204kg	31,600	8%
Bring sites for 'Dry' recyclables	-	-	-	23,700	6%
Household Waste Recycling Centres achieving 65% recycling	-	-	-	55,400	14%
Total				158,200	40%

2.2.10 Achievement of Longer Term Recycling Targets

Mention has already been made of the Partner Authorities objectives of achieving up to 50% recycling by March 2011, up to 55% recycling by March 2016, and up to 60% recycling by March 2021. The systems outlined in the previous section will lead to a continuing rise in the rate of recycling and composting year on year. This rate of increase will be enhanced by careful scrutiny of waste that is being accepted as household waste. To this end the County Council appointed a Waste Investigation Officer in October 2001, whose task it is to identify commercial waste which is finding its way into the household stream by stealth or error, and to re-direct it.

A considerable amount of work has already been done in this area as far as HWRC's are concerned, although more needs to be undertaken. The purpose of

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the new appointment is to work closely with waste collection authorities to ensure that there is no abuse of the household waste stream by the residents of mixed properties. Commercial waste collection facilities are available in all parts of the strategy area at competitive rates, and the partners intend to ensure that generators of commercial waste use these facilities, rather than the household waste stream.

2.2.11 Meeting the Landfill Directive Obligations

By the methods outlined in previous sections, it can be seen that The Strategy Partners expect to recycle and compost between 40% and 60% of the household waste stream. The landfill directive requires the diversion of a greater volume of biodegradable material by 2020.

Through procurement the Partners intend to have their residual waste treated in such a way that it is classified as inert waste and, therefore, can be landfilled without restriction. This could be by mass-burn incineration or by one of the emerging technologies, such as pyrolysis or gasification, which will all provide energy recovery and landfilling of only a limited amount of inert material.

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2.3 *Waste Reduction*

2.3.1 Recent Consultation to Achieve Reduction

Recent consultation with the general public has shown that very careful targeting of the waste producers is necessary to achieve significant waste reduction.

The message that came back from the six interactive Waste Workshops held in the strategy area in the summer of 2001, was that the general public are not necessarily the right target for the waste reduction message. The ordinary householder feels “swamped” by the amount of packaging that comes automatically with any purchase that they make. Although local authorities suggest that it is desirable to purchase goods in a loose form, rather than a packaged form, in practice this is difficult. Most supermarkets package or indeed over-package the goods they sell, particularly fresh food and vegetables. The householder wishing to buy this type of commodity in “loose” form finds it to be something of an uphill struggle.

2.3.2 The Role of Central Government

The Strategy Partners note Central Government action has been taken to assist recycling. They particularly welcome the packaging regulations and look forward to working more closely with compliance organisations. However, the Partners believe that there is still scope for a tightening of these regulations to ensure that manufacturers and retailers have more responsibility for the “taking back” of post-consumer packaging.

It is unrealistic to expect manufacturers of small products (such as a consumer would purchase in a supermarket) to take this packaging back. However, there seems to be no real reason why manufacturers of large pieces of equipment, particularly electrical equipment, should not take responsibility for retrieving the considerable quantity of cardboard, plastic film and expanded polystyrene used in the transit of this type of equipment. The Strategy Partners look forward to Government action in this regard.

The strategy partners will:

- Do what they can to promote the ‘re-use’ and ‘buy loose’ messages
- Work with forward looking supermarkets to introduce ‘take-back’ schemes

However, until such time as producers of goods are obligated to take back the packaging they produce and some conduit for the return of packaging is established then the partner authorities do not see that there will be significant reduction in packaging waste.

The Strategy Partners call on Government and the major retailers to make these major changes.

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Mention has already been made of plans to increase the existing awareness campaigns for waste minimisation and recycling, these will continue and will contribute towards waste reduction. The authorities will work with supermarkets that wish to adopt enlightened policies with regard to waste generation. It does, however, have to be recognised that the solution to the problem does not lie within the hands of local authorities. Until such time as the Government can capture the “hearts and minds” of the general public, and make them aware of a need to reduce waste, then we will see little significant progress at local level.

The provisions of the Waste Minimisation Act 1998 are not considered to be of significant assistance in bringing about a reduction in household waste.

Options for authorities to apply variable charges to waste services would have far more impact in promoting waste reduction.

2.3.3 Waste Minimisation

Local Authorities have a duty placed on them under the Best Value regime to seek to reduce the growth in waste, and indeed to seek to reverse the trend. They also have a broader, community leadership role, to encourage the most efficient use of resources, from cost and environmental perspectives.

However, the scope for minimisation of household waste is limited because, at present, the consumer has little choice in respect of ‘low waste’ products. The methods available to Local Authorities are as follows:

- By the reduction in garden and kitchen waste through the provision of home composters and food digesters.
- By awareness and education programmes, to maximise participation in recycling, and composting, and encourage re-use.
- By restricting the amount of residual waste that is collected from householders.
- By rigorously preventing trade waste from being introduced into the household waste stream.
- By introducing variable charging for waste.
- By lobbying Central Government.

2.3.4 Reduction at source by using Home Composters and Food Digesters

For some time the Partner Councils have been active in encouraging the use of purpose made home compost units. At the beginning of January 2002 some 53,600 units had been either sold or issued free of charge. This represents

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nearly 19% of the households in the area. However, the Partners have no way of knowing how productive these units are. The Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions in 1999, issued guidance which suggested that home composting could be expected to divert 100 kg of waste per household per year. If this figure is correct then, from local authority sponsored home composters alone, some 5,400 tonnes of waste are being prevented from entering the waste stream each year, equating to about 1.6% of the total waste stream.

The Partner Authorities are convinced of the benefits of home composting and in order to encourage householders to continue composting successfully, have obtained external funding to set-up a 'Master Composter' scheme. This is a community based scheme aiming to increase proficiency in, and enthusiasm for, composting.

The Strategy Partners are planning to introduce more home compost units as funding permits. It is recognised that there is a 'ceiling' for home compost participation, and the introduction of kerbside collection of green garden waste will prove to be more attractive to many householders.

Little work has been undertaken in the area with specific food digesters. With the widespread introduction of green waste collection from the kerbside (and likely legislation forcing the exclusion of food waste from this collection where windrow composting is to be employed) there will be a problem with putrescible waste if residual waste collections become bi-weekly. There is potentially a role for food digesters to help with this problem. Some of the strategy partners are planning to run trials in the near future.

2.3.5 Waste Minimisation – Education and Awareness

The strategy area has been an active partner in the regional awareness campaign "Slim Your Bin!" since 1999. This has been successful in raising the twin issues of waste minimisation and recycling. The campaign is on-going and the theme for 2002 will be participation in kerbside collection schemes. In addition, Cambridgeshire County Council has for many years operated a 'recycling bus' which tours schools in the area. This has been a very popular facility and remains over-subscribed. The County Council are setting up a second vehicle to intensify this work with schools using landfill tax credit funding.

In addition, each of the Partner Authorities has a Recycling/Waste Minimisation Officer whose task it is to raise awareness of recycling and waste minimisation within their Council's area. This work will continue to be supported by all Councils in the Strategy Partnership, and co-ordinated through the Recycling Advisory Group (RAG).

2.3.6 Restricting Residual Waste Collected

The six collection authorities in the area are evenly split in their choice of collection container. Three authorities use predominantly 240 litre wheeled

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bins, and three authorities use black plastic sacks. Waste data suggests that in areas using the wheeled bins more waste per household is generated than in those areas where black sacks are utilised.

Where wheeled bins are utilised, Authorities are looking at reducing the size of the residual waste container, as part of a multi-bin waste collection service. It is believed that the combination of appropriate educational messages with a three-bin kerbside collection system will produce a considerable reduction in the volume of residual waste.

A trial in Peterborough City commenced in September 2001 where 600 homes were offered 3 wheeled bins (for dry recyclables, green waste and residual waste). As a waste reduction incentive householders were asked to swap their 240-litre bin for a smaller one and a free home composter. In the first four months of the scheme 500 households took up the offer and swapped.

Some of the Partner Councils believe that separate charging for the collection of residual waste would focus householders' minds on the amount of recycle and residual waste being put out. However, at present the Partner Councils prefer to await Central Governments' proposals in this area.

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2.4 *Recycling*

The Partner Councils support recycling and intend to recycle as much waste as possible within the bounds of resources and markets.

In the year 2000/2001 the overall recycling rate for the area was just under 20%, which is well ahead of the national average of 11%.

The Strategy Partners have resolved to achieve the 33% and 36% targets set for them by 2003/2004 and 2005/2006 respectively. As has been shown in Section 2.2 of this strategy they envisage setting further action plans in line with the 2015 67% recovery target and to aim for 60% recycling by 2020.

Details of how the first set of targets will be delivered are in Part 3 of this strategy.

The establishment of the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) is welcomed, and the partners look forward to this organisation's business plans coming to fruition, and hopefully bringing about an increase in demand for post consumer recycle.

In particular the partners recognise the importance of regional market development and see it as an action to promote from 2004 onwards.

The Strategy Partners are keen to work with community groups, where these can be established, and to support them in taking up their role in society as far as recycling and composting is concerned. The Strategy Partners believe there is a very definite role for these types of organisations in rural areas. As a result of the interactive workshops held with community groups in the summer of 2001 the Strategy Partners are keen to introduce an award scheme which will have categories for villages, urban area resident associations, educational establishments and businesses who can demonstrate innovative and successful approaches to new ways of recycling household waste.

The Waste Workshops that were organised in the strategy area in the Summer of 2001 demonstrated that members of the public are very keen to participate in waste and recycling forums. The Strategy Partners intend to set up such forums and operate them on a regular basis. The object of these forums will be to increase public awareness of recycling and composting issues, and to define what members of the community think are appropriate ways of moving forward.

Recycling credits are available to third party organisations who wish to undertake recycling of household waste. Innovative schemes are already in place in some parts of the strategy area where the local community derives an income from the Council's activities in a particular community's area. The Strategy Partners intend to give more publicity to the availability of recycling credits to third parties.

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To sum up, the Strategy Partners are committed to maximising recycling in the strategy area, and expect that over the next twenty years recycling rates of up to 60% can be achieved. They believe that this can only be done with the wholesale co-operation of local community, and are determined to bring this about.

2.5 *Composting*

All councils in the strategy area have a good record regarding the promotion of composting. All the councils have very actively promoted home composting during both joint countywide campaigns and individually within their council areas. Between June 1997 and October 1999 councils worked together to organise, promote and fund five countywide one-day sales of subsidised home composters, at which over 30,000 compost bins were sold to local residents. Since then councils have promoted the sale of subsidised compost bins from HWRCs, from their depots and by mail order. In addition, one council has unconditionally given away free composters to its residents while a second has given away free composters to residents willing to reduce the size of their wheeled refuse bin.

All councils have worked together to raise awareness about the benefits of home composting during national events such as peat free week, compost awareness week, Christmas tree collections, giving compost bins to schools and especially during the 2001 Slim Your Bin – Get Composting campaign. A survey of a randomly selected sample of residents who purchased home composters at the first one-day sale showed that 97% of people were still using their composter over a year after the purchase. The same survey showed that 49% of respondents were already home composting and this has been borne out in a later survey following the 'Get Composting' campaign and results from the waste strategy questionnaire. This shows that the sale of subsidised home compost bins is effective at getting and keeping people composting, but that there are still many people to convince.

All councils will continue to promote home composting for the foreseeable future through awareness campaigns and the further sale of subsidised home composters, which over the next two years will include the Master Composter Programme. This Programme, being co-ordinated by HDRA the organic consultants, will recruit and train at least 150 volunteers across Cambridgeshire, who will promote composting locally. This continued promotion is being carried out despite the fact that the Government has ruled home composting out of the recycling rate calculations. The strategy partners recognise the wider environmental benefits of home composting and the reduction in overall tonnage of waste that has to be collected from households.

Both WDAs have collected garden waste at all of their HWRCs for centralised composting for several years. The composting is done under

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contract to the councils and will form a vital part of the compliance with the landfill directive. The amount of green waste sent for composting in 2000/1 was 23,043 tonnes, and this tonnage is an increase of 5% over the previous year's figure.

This service will continue to be promoted and is expected to grow slowly over the next few years. Only one WCA has run a kerbside collection of green waste over a reasonable proportion of the district for more than 5 years, however all the remaining WCAs are either running trial green waste collections or planning to do so. This material will be sent for centralised composting under contract and it is this element in particular that will help councils meet the requirements of the landfill directive. It is hoped that the amount of green waste collected by this means in 2000/1 will increase from approximately 2,000 tpa to over 31,000 tpa by the end of 2005/6 as the WCAs introduce and expand their collections. In addition some WCAs have encouraged home composting and the use of the centralised composting facilities by either removing garden waste from the normal household refuse collection or making a charge for the collection of garden waste.

The Strategy Partners have also helped support community and charity composting schemes within the area, although these are few in number at present. In 1992 and 1993 the County Council purchased 16 shredders for use by community and parish composting schemes, the majority of which are still operational.. Advice, financial assistance and help in applying for landfill tax credit grants has been given to other community composting schemes in the county (3 such community schemes to date) and a charity that makes wooden compost boxes from recycled pallets has been given financial and promotional help. Help particularly with applications for landfill tax grants will continue to be given for the foreseeable future and further promotion of community composting schemes will be another element of the Master Composter Programme. All of these community schemes compost relatively small amounts of garden waste and no tonnage data are collected from them.

In addition to promoting the making of compost, councils are also important users of the end product. The WDAs sell compost made from green waste at their HWRCs and all councils have a policy of using peat free composts wherever possible in their parks and gardens (it is still the case that many suppliers of potted plants use peat based composts). This compost, however, does not necessarily come from the centralised composting schemes mentioned above. Where appropriate material from parks and gardens is shredded on site and put back onto beds as mulch and weed retardant. But in only two councils is the composting of parks waste carried out now (early 2002) or planned for the near future. However, this material is not classed as household waste and so its composting does not count towards councils recycling targets. Street sweepings do count as household waste and the composting of autumn leaves from this source is being carried out in at least one council's area through the centralised composting contract. However, this is unlikely to

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be the case with leaves from parks, as these are not classed as household waste.

2.6 *Recovery*

Earlier sections of this strategy have demonstrated that the Strategy Partners intend to maximise recycling and composting. They believe that a level of recycling and composting of up to 60% of the waste stream can be achieved. The Strategy Partners recognise that the level of residual waste is, therefore not less than 40% and that to achieve the obligations of the landfill directive alternatives that prevent biodegradable waste entering landfill need to be pursued.

The Strategy Partners intend to pursue a procurement exercise that will begin in the latter part of 2002 to put in place robust contracts to operate for up to twenty years from July 2007.

The Strategy Partners have considerable reservations about the acceptability of conventional mass-burn incineration, and intend to pursue this only as a last resort.

Some form of digestion process that will deal with the residual organic fraction of the waste stream, turn it into a useful soil conditioner, and produce a gas that can be used to generate electricity is attractive to the partners. At the time that this strategy is being prepared (early 2002) the process of anaerobic digestion for MSW has not established itself in the UK. However, the Strategy Partners believe that this establishment will take place shortly. The principle barrier to the development of the process is seen to be the process cost. With the ever increasing rate of the landfill tax this process could eventually become an attractive alternative.

Should anaerobic digestion not be technically or economically feasible then the Strategy Partners are very interested in using one of the emerging thermal technologies, such as gasification or pyrolysis. A recent study for such a process in Cambridge City has demonstrated that this would be technically feasible, and was likely to find greater acceptance from the community. The Partners are particularly interested in the pilot plants that are being established in the UK in Bristol, Weston-Super-Mare and Derby.

If this form of thermal treatment is adopted then the Partners would expect that the waste steam that is available after the generation of electricity would be put to beneficial use for heating (Combined Heat and Power). The sale of the steam from this process would benefit local industry and reduce costs to the partner authorities.

Should none of these processes prove to be feasible then the Partners would expect to rely on some form of mechanical biological treatment, (MBT) whereby the residual waste is rendered inert and can then be landfilled.

2.7 *Waste Disposal*

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In the baseline strategy document “Towards a Waste Management Strategy” predictions of the likely levels of household waste and municipal solid waste were given.

In paragraph 4.2.3 a description of the means of calculating the amount of Biodegradable Municipal Waste (BMW) is given. This indicates that just under 65% of the waste deposited in the 1995/96 control year was BMW. This in turn produces a figure of 68,500 tonnes as the maximum amount of BMW that can be landfilled in 2020/2021 (Table 3 paragraph 4.17). The predicted quantity of waste for that year is 530,000 tonnes. Assuming that the 60% recycling target is reached by that year then the demand for landfill can be expressed as follows:

Demand for Landfill Disposal in 2020/1	tonnes
Size of waste stream	530,000
<i>Less 60 % Recycling</i>	318,000
a.) Residual waste for treatment	212,000
b.) Organic portion (BMW)	130,000
c.) Maximum BMW landfill	68,500
d.) Waste for alternative treatment	61,500
Demand for Landfill is c + (a – b) =	150,500

The immediate priorities are as follows:

- To provide the right mix of landfill capacity and contracts to 2007 by the procurement exercise commenced in December 2001.
- To provide this capacity within catchment areas without exporting waste.
- To provide the right mix of residual capacity for 2007 to 2027 by means of the next procurement , the focus of which will be on recycling and recovery.

2.8 *Awareness Campaigns*

Awareness campaigns are vital to the successful implementation and execution of the joint municipal waste strategy. They provide information and guidance for initiatives and schemes currently in operation and create interest in planned future activities. In addition to these immediate benefits, their long term significance should be seen in a change of public behaviour towards managing waste. Successful awareness campaigns should lead to greater public acceptance of

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responsibilities for dealing with the waste from each household and help to generate a more sustainable approach to waste management within the strategy area.

It is intended that awareness campaigns implemented within the strategy area will complement the work carried out by the National Waste Awareness Initiative (NWAi). Above all, they will be delivered through a wide range of media, clarify the environmental, economic and social issues associated with waste management, stimulate discussion and interest and, ensure that all communication with the public is both coherent and comprehensive.

There are a number of awareness campaigns in operation throughout the strategy area ranging from national initiatives to local schemes. One of the largest is the Slim Your Bin campaign and all partners in the strategy area are involved to some degree with the aim of reducing the amount of household waste being produced at source. This initiative is geared to reduce the negative effects of waste on the environment, to control the costs of collection and disposal and as an additional benefit, prolong the life of current landfills in the strategy area. Perhaps the major benefit of this scheme will be to slow down the growth in waste arisings which in turn will help the strategy area achieve its statutory targets for recycling, composting and diversion.

The Slim Your Bin! campaign is promoted through a wide range of media including television, radio, public roadshows and the Internet. Its success in 2001 involved 6 county councils and 41 local authorities in the Anglia region and it is intended to maintain its high profile in the future in conjunction with complimentary initiatives such as Get Composting, Smart Shopping, Buy Recycled and Going for Green. Home composting is further promoted throughout the strategy area by the availability of leaflets on composting, a subsidised (or free) home composting scheme allowing the public to purchase home composting equipment at a reduced rate (or receive a free unit) and the Master Composter Scheme.

Complementing these waste reduction and composting initiatives are a range of kerbside recycling schemes that collect a variety of recyclable materials. The logistics of implementing and maintaining a successful kerbside recycling scheme require extensive awareness campaigns in advance of the scheme and during its operation. Different partners in the strategy area will adopt individual approaches to this but the common thread is the comprehensive promotion of the scheme well in advance of its start date. Typically, this will involve initial notification of the scheme followed by more detailed information regarding its operation such as materials and collection frequency. Once the scheme is fully operational its success is fed back to the public via regular flyers or newsletters in order to maintain interest among those participating and to encourage non-participants to join the scheme.

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In addition to these major campaigns there are several localised initiatives throughout the strategy area that increase awareness and contribute to sustainable waste management. These include the recycling bus which allows direct contact with the public, the production of an A to Z of Recycling directory, and websites that provide information on services, facilities and, waste strategy. The use of web-based information is growing in the strategy area and provides a good opportunity for awareness campaigns and information transfer and it is something that will be developed further in the future.

Within the strategy area, the task of raising awareness is an on-going process and it is continually being developed to include new initiatives and schemes. This development will be geared to responding to national and local trends in waste reduction, re-use, recycling and disposal and will ensure that the needs and demands of the strategy area are given careful consideration in working towards meeting national targets.

2.9 *Non Household Municipal Waste*

Throughout the strategy area each partner has a policy to deal with non-household municipal waste that best suits their needs and those of their community. These policies are designed to ensure environmental, economic and social sustainability and cover a range of issues such as managing commercial and industrial waste, implementing charging schemes and, developing and maintaining links with commercial reprocessors. In addition to the broad aims of sustainability, each partner authority is working towards providing best value within its immediate vicinity.

The overall aim of the Strategy Partners is to maximise the efficiency with which non-household municipal waste is managed within the strategy area and to provide any savings of scale to those partners involved. However, these will have to be achieved according to EU and UK legislation such as the End of Life Vehicles Directive (ELV Directive) and its transposition into UK law by April 2002. Consideration also has to be given to local arrangements such as the Fly-Tipping Protocol agreed by the Environment Agency and the Local Government Association.

2.9.1 **Abandoned Vehicles**

Abandoned vehicles and fly-tipping are of huge public concern in the strategy area and create a considerable strain on the resources of each partner. It is estimated that within the strategy area, approximately 10,000 vehicles will be reported as abandoned in 2001/02 and about half of these will have to be removed and disposed of.

In response to this threat, the partners in the strategy area have taken pro-active steps to manage the problem. In the first instance, by

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developing a strategy area-wide Abandoned Vehicles Operational Protocol (AVOP) and secondly, by adhering to the Fly-Tipping Protocol.

The AVOP includes all partners in the strategy area as well as the Cambridgeshire Constabulary. Specifically, it aims to ensure that abandoned vehicles are dealt with quickly and safely throughout the strategy area, to clearly define the roles and responsibilities of the parties involved and, to guarantee consistency in any operational arrangements. These aims will be pursued in relation to the appropriate EU and UK legislation, both current and future.

One of the key factors in the success of the protocol is the collaboration of the police and it is envisaged that a close working relationship will be developed between them and the local authorities covered by the strategy area. A further crucial factor is the need for fast access to information on car ownership from the DVLA and the strategy partners are pleased to have the benefits of this recently improved data access route.

This pro-active stance is intended to reduce the negative effects of abandoned vehicles on the environment and to ensure equitable treatment across the strategy area. Wherever possible joint procurement will be considered to generate economies of scale and to allow consistency of operation.

The transposition of the ELV Directive into UK law will have a significant impact on the strategy area, its partners and their contractors. It will result in changes to administrative and operational procedures and it will have a major impact on the costs of handling abandoned vehicles. It is the intention of the Strategy Partners to adapt to these changes and maintain a sustainable service in the strategy area. However, the partners will seek every opportunity to encourage central government to provide adequate funding for the strategy area to enable it to cope with the impact of the Directive and to persuade vehicle manufacturers to accept their responsibility in line with the Polluter Pays principle.

2.9.2 Fly-tipping

As a result of ever tightening regulations and the implementation of new legislation there is a possibility that instances of fly-tipping may increase within the strategy area. Currently, the Strategy Partners have effective measures in place to deal with fly-tipping that is appropriate to their local environment. It is intended that these individual responses should continue but that collaboration between partners should be sought whenever there is a mutual benefit or need. Above all, partners will continue to work in accordance with the Fly-Tipping Protocol that identifies the responsibilities of both local authorities and the Environment Agency and, to seek to reduce the effects of fly-tipping through the Local Government Association and the Fly-Tipping Stakeholders Forum.

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Peterborough City's fly-tipping action group (FLAG) is actively researching and addressing issues surrounding fly-tipping. Consisting of more than a dozen organisations the group may be able to assist the strategy partners identify the problems and actions required to deal with fly-tipping.

2.9.3 Commercial and Industrial Waste

In addition to the issues of abandoned vehicles and fly-tipping, the management of commercial and industrial waste within the strategy area is of the utmost importance in protecting and improving the environment. Local authorities have a statutory duty to collect commercial and industrial waste when requested to do so. Currently, partners in the strategy area have schemes in place to deal with the commercial and industrial waste that is being produced but most of this material is sent directly to landfill. Although this is a vital source of revenue for each of the partners that needs to be maintained, other opportunities exist in terms of waste minimisation, re-use and recycling which would have a major impact on the environment. The potential for such activities needs to be investigated and the commercial and industrial sector must be encouraged to minimise, re-use and recycle as much of their waste as possible through well-designed and innovative schemes. The reader is referred to Part 4 of the strategy where the effects of commercial and industrial waste on the Landfill Directive targets is considered.

Some local authorities in the area are running trials to see whether or not recyclables can be collected from local businesses in a cost effective manner. It is disappointing that landfill permits will effectively force local authority trade refuse services to be less competitive with the private sector because of the restrictions in the landfilling of MSW that will be placed upon them.

2.10 *Clinical Waste*

Large quantities of clinical waste are produced every day from a whole range of workplaces and from a small number of private houses. Unless segregation, handling, transport and disposal are properly undertaken, such waste can present risks to the health and safety of people at work, members of the public, and to the environment.

The Environment Protection Act 1990 (22) (EPA) and the Waste Management Licensing Regulations 1994 (28) provide a legislative system to regulate waste management. Waste must be managed in a way that does not cause pollution or harm to human health.

Under the legislation, controlled waste (which includes clinical waste) must be kept, treated or disposed of in accordance with a waste management licence.

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Different laws cover the risks to people and to the environment from clinical waste. These laws are enforced by different regulators, ie the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), and the Environment Agency (EA). However, the controls they require are complementary, and the most sensible way of managing risk, is through a single management system.

Definition and Categories of clinical waste

Clinical waste is made up of five groups as follows:

Group A. Includes the following items: identifiable human tissue, blood, animal carcasses and tissue from veterinary centres, hospitals or laboratories.

Soiled surgical dressings, swabs and other similar soiled waste.

Other waste materials, for example from infectious disease cases, excluding any in group B-E.

Group B. Discarded syringes needles, cartridges, broken glass and any other contaminated disposable sharp instruments or items.

Group C. Microbiological cultures and potentially infected waste from pathology departments and other clinical or research laboratories.

Group D. Drugs or other pharmaceutical products.

Group E. Items used to dispose of urine, faeces and any other bodily secretions or excretions which do not fall within Group A. This includes all forms of waste from human hygiene.

Waste Collection Authorities have a duty to collect all categories of clinical waste when requested to do so.

In the majority of cases Local Authorities are only concerned with Group B and E, because the waste derives from households and not commercial premises. It is mainly made up of discarded syringes and incontinence pads.

Clinical Waste arising from home treatment

The situation in the home is different from that in hospitals and other healthcare establishments, because the quantity of waste involved is usually very small. Much of the waste is produced and handled only by the patient, family or District Nurse, in circumstances outside the scope of the HSW Act. (15) Arrangements for disposal is by special arrangement with the local waste collection authority.

All Local Authority collections in Cambridgeshire from homes are by way of a type approved yellow clinical waste sack or sharps box. The collections are separate from normal refuse collections and a special

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vehicle is used. Category B waste is taken directly to a Health Trust incineration facility for disposal, Category E waste is taken for landfill disposal.

Future Trends in Clinical Waste Arisings

It is difficult to foresee what future trends in the growth of clinical waste might be. In common with other parts of the country the problems associated with an ageing population will tend to increase the demand for clinical waste collection and disposal.

2.11 *Hazardous Waste*

Hazardous Waste

Facilities are provided at all HWRCs for the separate reception of hazardous household wastes delivered direct by the public or separated by district councils including

- engine oil
- car batteries
- fridges/freezers containing CFCs
- household chemicals.

Facilities are also provided for

- at all HWRCs for other difficult wastes, including LPG cylinders
- at two HWRCs (Milton and Dogsthorpe) for the reception of bonded asbestos cement.

All separated materials go to appropriate specialist, licensed contractors for processing, and recycling where possible. Special attention is also paid to hazardous wastes contained in general household waste that pose a danger to employees or a potential threat to the environment e.g. ammunition and household chemicals.

Full information and advice for council employees and the general public can be found in council websites e.g. the Waste Recycling A-Z on Cambridgeshire County Council's site (www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk), and is provided in response by councils to other enquiries.

2.12 *Equipment which contains low volumes of PCBs*

The strategy partners intend to continue to deal with PCBs in accordance with the Strategic Principles that have been adopted and are shown at Appendix A

2.12.1 Nature of PCB's and their use in electrical equipment

PCB's are a group of chemicals that have been used as electrical insulating fluids, lubricants and vacuum pump fluids. They were most commonly used in electrical capacitors in the following types of equipment manufactured between the 1950's and the mid 1980's:

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- Fluorescent strip lights for industrial and business premises
- Domestic appliances such as washing machines, spin dryers, mangles, cooker hoods, microwave ovens, freezers and dishwashers.
- Street and garden lights
- Oil burners and warm air appliances
- Vehicle starter motors

2.12.2 The legal situation

European Union law has lead the way in sanctions on PCB use and disposal.

- The UK has an action plan for the phasing out and destruction of PCB's in redundant electrical equipment and waste oils.
- May 2000 PCB Regulations.

This legislation ensures that any holders of PCB contaminated equipment in quantities greater than 50ppm or 5 litres of fluid, register the equipment with the Environment Agency.

- January 2002. Hazardous waste regulations

DEFRA have issued draft guidelines to local authorities on the collection and disposal of PCB containing equipment which is less than 5 litres in volume and which is contained within another piece of equipment.

This guidance is in accord with the implementation of the Hazardous waste regulations in January 2002. The DEFRA guidance is not mandatory at present but represents best practice and BPEO for PCB's. Very little of the guidance is strictly relevant to local authorities, with most of it aimed at 'white goods' recycling merchants.

The draft guidance explains:

"White goods equipment should not be allowed to be crushed before being taken to a site for dismantling. Capacitors containing PCB's should be removed intact from the equipment and disposed of whole-taking care not to release the PCB content. Removal of damaged or leaking capacitors from the equipment must be carried out with care following HSE guidance on the handling of PCB's.

2.12.3 Transport and Disposal

The PCB wastes will need to be transported for disposal as per the Controlled waste regulations 1991. The BPEO for PCB wastes is incineration. Shanks waste solutions Ltd are the main company that handle the disposal of PCB's.

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2.12.4 Local action

CFC Disposal of Christchurch in the Fenland District of Cambridgeshire have confirmed that with the implementation of the Hazardous waste regulations in January 2002, they will be stripping PCB containing capacitors from redundant white goods and bundling them up for transport to disposal. At January 2002 CFC Ltd could not confirm their chosen disposal contractor.

CFC Ltd also confirmed that before the introduction of the Hazardous waste regulations in January 2002 they have not been stripping PCB capacitors for disposal.

The company also expressed concern about being able to identify the age of some scrap white goods and therefore being able to determine whether they have PCB containing capacitors.

2.13 *Packaging*

Around 9.2 million tonnes of packaging waste is produced in the UK every year, much of which ends up in landfill sites. Packaging can reduce product wastage and save resources between the point of production and final consumption. However, a far greater proportion of packaging waste must be recovered and recycled if tough sustainable development targets are to be met and there is considerable scope to encourage a reduction in the use of packaging in the retail sector.

The EU Packaging Waste Directive (94/62/EC) obligates the UK to meet targets for the recovery and recycling of packaging waste. Targets to be met in 2001 were:

- To recover between 50% and 65% of packaging waste
- To recycle between 25% and 45% of packaging waste
- To recycle at least 15% of each material

The legislation which implements the Directive in the UK is the Producer Responsibility Obligations (Packaging Waste) Regulations 1997 (as amended). The Regulations are designed to ensure that producers of packaging and packaging materials should: -

- Reduce the amount of packaging waste produced
- Re-use packaging wherever possible
- Increase the amount of packaging recovered and recycled
- Achieve a more sustainable approach to dealing with packaging waste
- Reduce the amount of packaging waste going to landfill
- Implement the recovery and recycling targets in the EU Directive

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Industry was closely involved in developing the Regulations and the view was taken that the burden should fall not only on one particular business sector, but that all businesses above a certain size should share the responsibility right along the packaging chain – from producer through to retailer.

Domestic recovery and recycling targets for 2001 set under the packaging Regulations were 56% for recovery and 18% for material-specific recycling of packaging waste.

Businesses covered by the regulations include all those with a turnover in excess of £2 million and handling over 50 tonnes of packaging per annum, which excludes many small businesses. Within the strategy area there are currently 91 companies registered for compliance and nationally the figure is 5,462.

To comply with the regulations businesses must register with the Environment Agency, which supervises compliance and where appropriate takes enforcement action. To discharge its obligation a business must obtain Packaging Waste Recovery Notes (PRNs) from certified reprocessors to prove it has recycled a certain tonnage on an annual basis. This can be done individually or by joining a 'compliance scheme' such as Biffpak or Valpak, which organise the PRNs and other legal requirements for them.

The Role of the Strategy Partners in the Implementing the Packaging Regulations

Although the strategy partners are not directly involved in the implementation of the Packaging Regulations, there will be opportunities for local authorities to benefit from partnership working and these will be fully explored and utilised. As the need to secure Packaging Recovery Notes (PRNs) becomes greater, it is likely that compliance schemes and obligated companies will actively seek the co-operation and assistance of local authorities. This may take several forms: -

1. 'Pump priming funds' to unlock Landfill Tax grants – Valpak's involvement in providing third party funding for the Peterborough Cell kerbside recycling initiative is a current example within the strategy area.
2. The development of additional 'material specific' recycling collection schemes serving alternative recycling markets – Again to use the example of the compliance scheme Valpak, which is currently in discussions with many local authorities regarding the collection of mixed glass cullet for the aggregate industry, in the form of the 'recycle-more-glass' initiative.
3. Obligated companies seeking information and advice from the strategy partners regarding local recycling opportunities. – The

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strategy partners will seek to establish a comprehensive database of packaging recovery and recycling routes locally. This could be broadened to the provision of an information and advice service assisting businesses by sign-posting local expertise in relation to a wide range of environmental matters, such as environmental management systems and waste minimisation.

4. Supporting the development of innovative methods of waste minimisation – Encouraging the exchange of waste materials between businesses and lobbying for the minimisation of packaging where possible. An example of such an innovative scheme is a nation wide waste exchange scheme which has been set up via the internet www.wastechange.co.uk and which is free to anyone who wishes to use it.

Given the scarcity of funds available for local authorities to develop recycling schemes it is important that opportunities to develop partnership working are not overlooked. A mechanism must be introduced to ensure that all possible opportunities are considered and this should be developed through the current network of officer working groups introduced to implement the strategy.

2.14 *Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive (WEEED)*

Both waste collection authorities and waste disposal authorities collect equipment covered by this directive. Cambridgeshire County and Peterborough City Councils collect them at all 11 HWRCs in the strategy area. Historically, all metallic WEEED goods have been collected along with other scrap metal items (e.g. sink units, saucepans, copper piping, old bikes, lawnmowers etc) in large skips. Over the last 10 years, however, refrigerators and freezers have been collected separately, for environmental reasons, so that they can be degassed, and the CFCs sent for recycling or proper disposal.

WCAs collect white goods as part of a separate bulky refuse service, since they can not be collected as part of the normal “dustbin” service. Usually, residents ‘phone’ and book a collection with their councils, the collection normally being undertaken with a flat bed lorry. WCAs can make a collection charge for this service.

In general, councils have made no special effort to collect brown goods and smaller electrical equipment, because they are of little value (due to their low metal content, small size and mixed nature of associated contaminants)

Cambridgeshire started a trial to collect smaller WEEED items with Mayer-Parry in December 1999, as part of a pre-Christmas recycling campaign. The company provides a skip at the Milton HWRC, and it has been promoted (with assistance from the two District Councils whose residents use the site) through media releases and signs at the site. A range of items from TVs, video recorders, stereos, computer

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keyboards, monitors and printers and toasters have been brought by the public and the skip has been emptied a number of times, grossing over 22 tonnes of material to November 2001.

The major problem with the smaller WEEED items is their lack of metal, and the mix of contaminants. ICER estimates that, typically:

Television receivers are made up of:

- 4% metal
- 52% glass
- 29% plastics
- 15% other materials;

Video Recorders are made up of:

- 20% metal
- 45% plastics
- 35% other materials;

Computer Equipment is made up of:

- 48% metal
- 12% glass
- 26% plastics
- 14% other materials.

At present, markets can only be found for the metal; the glass, plastics and other materials have to be landfilled. Glass could be added to aggregates, a very low value end use. Future markets for plastics may make it viable to recycle them, but there are problems for example with ABS (acrylonitrile butadiene styrene) from old computers that cannot be used at present in new computers because of the fire retardant incorporated in the ABS. Such markets are growing slowly and it is expected that the amount of redundant electrical equipment, especially IT equipment, will continue to rise, and so markets could become quickly flooded if they do develop.

The WEEE Directive is part of EU producer responsibility legislation, and therefore it is the responsibility of the equipment manufacturers and retailers to meet the targets set in the directive. It is generally accepted that existing collections will allow the UK to achieve the initial 4kg/head/year target of the WEEE Directive, in total. However, if targets are set for recycling individual categories of WEEED, which is likely, much more effort must be put into collecting smaller WEEED items. Retailers are very reluctant to take back used electrical items, while Councils already have the infra-structure and necessary experience to collect waste and recyclables at HWRCs (it is unlikely that kerbside collections of smaller WEEED items will be viable). However, councils waste infrastructure is very stretched and the private and public sectors must work together to achieve the WEEED targets.

The Directive makes it clear that producers should finance the collection, treatment, recovery and disposal of WEEED items from private households.

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Councils will expect considerable financial support from this sector to help achieve what are after all industry targets.

The Industry Council for Electronics Recycling (ICER) has suggested 5 separate collections may be necessary; for large household appliances (already in place); for IT, telecom and consumer electronic equipment; for small household appliances, tools and toys; for lighting and for items suitable for re-use. The costs of providing these additional skips at HWRCs and the transport costs to recognised recyclers will be large.

In particular, the cost of dealing with refrigerators and freezers will increase considerably with the introduction of the EU ozone depleting chemicals directive, from £2.50 per unit to around £20 per unit. It appears also that certain retailers are already avoiding their responsibility by stopping all take-back schemes for fridges and freezers and passing the responsibility and cost onto councils. This is likely to continue until the WEEE Directive comes into force in 2006.

Councils in the strategy area are already playing their part by collecting and recycling white goods and working with the private sector to collect smaller WEEED items. This may already be achieving the overall directive target. Expanding such schemes will bring little benefit to councils without private sector investment, since tonnages of additional WEEED material will be small. **Further progress requires WEEED manufacturers and retailers to play their part.**

2.15 *Waste Local Plan*

As Waste Planning Authorities, Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council have responsibility under the Town and Country Planning Acts to provide the planning framework and planning control for waste management in their areas. This responsibility includes a requirement to prepare a Waste Local Plan. Within the Local Plan, Waste Planning Authorities seek to balance the need to facilitate the establishment of appropriate waste management facilities with protecting the environment, in order to achieve the principles of sustainable development.

Within the Waste Management Strategy area, the Waste Local Plan is being prepared jointly by Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council and covers the period from 1998 to the year 2011.

Using the 'Babtie model' (also used by this Strategy) which makes assumptions about the contribution of waste minimisation, future levels of imports and exports and the contribution of different waste management technologies in 'diverting' waste from landfill, a total of nearly 38 million tonnes of controlled waste is projected to arise during the period 1998-2011. Of this 14% is predicted to arise from households. The Waste Local Plan sets out future waste management requirements for the Plan area, as a basis for deciding the level and type of provision the Plan should make in the form of waste management

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facilities. The Plan takes into account the capacity of existing facilities, the need to meet EU and national priorities and targets for sustainable waste management.

Waste Local Plan considers all waste streams including municipal waste and in that respect addresses a far wider range of wastes than the Joint Waste Management Strategy. However, the Waste Local Plan has to be prepared with regard to the Waste Management Strategy and ensure that land can be made available for the required infrastructure to ensure that the Strategy can be delivered. Although the Local Plan was prepared in advance of this Strategy, the Strategy and Plan have been prepared using the same statistical basis and there has been close liaison between those involved in preparing the Strategy and the Plan. Once adopted the Waste Local Plan will be subject to regular review on a 5 yearly basis and will take into account any change to the Strategy as it is reviewed.

The Revised Deposit Waste Local Plan was published for public consultation in October 2001 and a Public Inquiry, to consider objections received, is planned for the summer of 2002. It is hoped to be in a position to formally adopt the Waste Local Plan at the end 2002.

2.16 *Transportation of Waste*

Residual household waste arising in the strategy area currently is disposed of within the area. This strategy envisages the future treatment of the residual waste similarly being achieved within the area. In paragraph 1.5.1 reference is made to the likelihood of the residual waste stream being dealt with in “...smaller geographical areas, with a small local plant serving each area.”

The approach outlined to the treatment of the residual waste stream makes road transport, integral to the collection process, the most likely outcome. Opportunities for the use of rail or water transport have not, therefore been actively explored. Indeed the relatively short distances involved and the associated arrangements for inter-modal transfer make these options unattractive.

Recovered and recycled materials, excepting green waste which will be dealt with within the strategy area, have to be transported once they have been separated and bulked-up. The ultimate destination of these materials is commercial re-processors and these may well change over the life of the strategy. The opportunity will be taken in assessing future arrangements with re-processors to consider the use of rail and water transportation to maximise environmental benefits and to access Freight Facilities Grants under section 272 of the Transport Act 2000 in appropriate circumstances.

As part of the Peterborough Cell project research is being undertaken to optimise transport distances and analyse where regional MRFs might be best located.