

4

NW

# The Updated Regional Waste Strategy for England's Northwest

---

## A Summary

## The Vision

---

In future, waste management in the Northwest will need to be delivered in accordance with the principles of sustainable consumption and production. As with the previous Regional Waste Strategy, the Northwest must prevent and avoid the growth in waste, minimise resource use and reduce the hazardous content of waste, whilst seeking to find solutions that do not compromise environmental improvement and economic growth.

Significant progress has been made in waste management and the region has shown dramatic improvements in waste reduction, recycling and diversion of waste from landfill. This progress must be maintained to meet stretching national targets and continual improvement in waste management.

This updated Regional Waste Strategy provides a framework that will deliver the necessary waste infrastructure and skills to meet the region's short, medium and long term needs, and support the principles of sustainable consumption and production. The Northwest can demonstrate that many of the management structures and delivery mechanisms are already in place and the region has a track record of delivery.

In addition, the Northwest has a regional evidence base that provides a powerful tool for policy and decision making. This will continue to be maintained through annual monitoring and reporting and will evolve, particularly in relation to commercial and industrial waste.

Through this updated Regional Waste Strategy there is a significant opportunity to position the Northwest as one of the most effective and innovative regions in the UK for waste management practices. To achieve this, there is an urgent need for action.



Sir Richard Leese  
Chair, 4NW

## Need for an updated Regional Waste Strategy

---

Since publication of the Regional Waste Strategy (RWS) in 2004, waste and resource management strategies have continued to evolve, in particular recognising the need to address sustainability issues. There have also been a number of policy and legislative developments including the publication of the EU Waste Framework Directive, Waste Strategy for England 2007 and the introduction of the Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme.

## Role of the updated Regional Waste Strategy

---

As a result of these changes, which were reflected in the published Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) 2008, 4NW commissioned consultants Arup to update the RWS and address the changes since its publication in 2004.

The updated RWS is also intended to form part of a wider programme of activity currently being undertaken by 4NW and the North West Development Agency (NWDA) along with other partners including the production of a Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) Action Plan. The updated RWS and SCP Action Plan will provide an important input in the development of the Single Regional Strategy.

## Scope and Methodology

---

The production of the updated RWS has involved comprehensive assessment against a wide range of plans, policies, programmes and strategies and has been appraised using the Northwest Integrated Appraisal Toolkit. A systematic process of stakeholder engagement and consultation has formed an integral part of the update, including a facilitated consultation workshop.

## Progress since the 2004 Regional Waste Strategy

---

Significant progress has been made in the region since the 2004 RWS was published. The region has shown dramatic improvements in waste reduction, recycling and diversion of waste from landfill, and all local authorities in the region provide recycling services for households. Household waste recycling centres and bring bank points where waste can be taken for recycling have also been established.

Waste Disposal Authorities in the region have developed Municipal Waste Management Strategies that set out a framework for diverting waste away from landfill, and work in conjunction with Waste Collection Authorities to deliver effective waste management practices. Despite this excellent progress, further opportunities remain to grow and modernise the waste industry.

## The Challenge Ahead

---

In future, waste management in the Northwest will need to be delivered in accordance with the principles of sustainable consumption and production. As with the 2004 RWS, the Northwest must prevent and avoid the growth in waste arisings, minimise resource use and reduce the hazardous content of waste, whilst seeking to find solutions that do not compromise environmental improvement and economic growth.

Significant progress has been made in waste management and the region has shown dramatic improvements in waste reduction, recycling and diversion of waste from landfill. This progress must be maintained to meet stretching national targets and continual improvement in waste management. Through this updated RWS, there is a significant opportunity to position the Northwest as one of the most effective and innovative regions in the UK for waste management practices. To achieve this there is an urgent need for action.

## Aims and Objectives

---

The updated RWS has been prepared to reflect legislative, regulatory and policy changes, whilst maintaining the core aim of the 2004 RWS:

### Aim

---

To contribute to the sustainable development of the Northwest region by promoting and supporting waste management infrastructure, facilities and systems which reduce harm to the environment (including reducing impacts on climate change), improve the efficiency of resources, stimulate investment and maximise economic opportunities in line with specific targets.

---

The updated RWS also informs the production of land use policies for built development and associated capacity building for waste management, by providing information on the quantities of waste generated, and types of facilities that will be needed in the region.

### Objectives

---

The updated RWS maintains, and also builds on, the objectives of the 2004 RWS, to:

- Ensure that waste management infrastructure, facilities and systems are developed in accordance with the principles of sustainable development, the low carbon agenda and integrated waste management at the highest practicable level in the Government's waste hierarchy, by:
  - Minimising waste;
  - Maximising the re-use of materials for the same or a different purpose;
  - Increasing the proportion of recycling and composting of waste;
  - Provision of treatment capacity for hazardous waste;
  - Production of refuse derived fuels from waste;
  - Recovering energy from residual waste and refuse derived fuels;
  - Maintaining sufficient landfill capacity for the disposal of final residues following treatment and recovery including the recovery of energy from landfill gas where practicable;

Provide a clear framework for stakeholders to guide the future development of waste management in the Northwest and to support local authority Municipal Waste Management Strategies and private investment decisions;

- Deliver waste planning policy in the Northwest so that it is consistent with, and contributes to, the overall aims of the National Waste Strategy 2007, the Regional Spatial Strategy and the Sustainable Consumption and Production Action Plan for the Northwest;
- Maximise the opportunities for Northwest businesses arising from sustainable waste management, including the not-for-profit sector;
- Ensure that this Strategy offers a clear, transparent and informative approach that is valued by local and regional stakeholders and is supported by local communities;
- Ensure there is sufficient flexibility in this Strategy to incorporate changes to targets, legislation and improvements to technologies for handling wastes;
- Reduce environmental effects of waste management through the implementation of Strategic Environmental Assessment, Sustainability Appraisal and Appropriate Assessment to ensure the protection and conservation of the environment across land, air and water.

## Key Messages

---

Both the aims and objectives are now underpinned by a number of key messages which reflect the key waste management challenges facing the region and are set out below. Each key message will be delivered through the implementation of the Policy Statements and through actions identified in the SCP Action Plan.

- Sustainable consumption and production will be central to the Northwest's waste industry and a key driver in achieving sustainable economic growth, reduced carbon emissions and improved environmental quality;
- The economic value obtained from the region's commercial and industrial and construction, demolition and excavation waste resources should be maximised, with particular focus on small to medium enterprises and niche waste producers;
- Markets must be developed to exploit the economic value of waste as a resource, particularly in the context of its use as a fuel;
- Opportunities for the reduction of waste to landfill may stimulate market development but must be based on a robust evidence base;
- Integration of facilities for management of waste into most types of development should be encouraged, including the provision of recycling facilities, the provision of storage for recyclable materials, and the design of recycling facilities and waste management in commercial and industrial development;
- Investment in higher levels of skills and education will be necessary for waste recovery and reuse markets to thrive;
- Sustainable procurement will be central to the success of the Sustainable Consumption and Production Action Plan and updated Strategy, and will require public and professional education and awareness-raising;
- To deliver the necessary change, the region will need to harness the use of existing skills and expertise in Waste Disposal Authorities and other organisations, and enhance these through training and education; and
- The Northwest must continue to influence the development of national and European legislation and policy.

## Ownership and Implementation

---

The updated RWS has been developed to assist local authorities, businesses, households, community organisations and the waste management industry in implementing sustainable waste management practices throughout the Northwest. Organisations representing these sectors, including the Northwest Waste Committee and those with statutory functions and commercial interests, will ultimately deliver the policies and provide the necessary waste management systems and infrastructure that will influence community, business and individual behaviour. The updated RWS is complementary to, and will be implemented in parallel with, the SCP Action Plan.

## Monitoring

---

Implementation of the updated RWS should continue to be monitored through the Northwest Regional Technical Advisory Body's Waste Management Reports and Local Authority Annual Monitoring Reports, which are published annually.

## Recommendations and Next Steps

---

The updated RWS and SCP Action Plan will provide an important input in the development of the Single Regional Strategy, not only in providing an up-to-date and robust evidence base, but also a means of addressing the key waste management challenges that face the Northwest.

It has not been possible to address all the issues raised in full during this update and there are a number of issues that will require more detailed review (summarised in Section 6 and described in more detail in Appendix F). These issues include:

- Integration of relevant aspects of the government's Low Carbon Transition Plan and the SCP Action Plan;
- Guidance for local authorities on the development of Resource Management Plans;
- The development of sub-regional and local targets to assist waste reduction;
- Research into opportunities for biodegradable waste collection and secondary treatment strategies at sub-regional and local levels;
- The development of monitoring frameworks to determine the capacity of waste management facilities;
- Development of higher education and skill training courses in the region's universities and colleges;
- Development of specific policies for agricultural, hazardous and radioactive waste streams based on robust evidence;
- Review of markets for recovered and re-processed materials.

---

A full version of the updated RWS can be viewed on:  
[www.4nw.org.uk/updatedrws2010](http://www.4nw.org.uk/updatedrws2010)

## Policy Statements

PS	Theme	Policy Statement
01	Municipal Waste Management Strategies	All Waste Disposal Authorities or Waste Partnerships should regularly review Municipal Wastes Management Strategies. Reviews should focus on engaging the public sector, commerce, industry and the general public to ensure that strategies remain relevant and reflect current good practice. Strategies should be developed to contribute to the delivery of the Northwest Sustainable Consumption and Production Action Plan.
02	Development Plan Documents	<p>Waste Planning Authorities are required to prepare Development Plan Documents identifying sites and/or areas which may be suitable for a range of waste management facilities subject to planning permission.</p> <p>Sites and/or areas should be allocated to meet the land-use requirements of new infrastructure and consider the potential to adapt and expand existing sites and facilities.</p> <p>This should be informed by the pattern of waste arisings and the potential for creating value from waste in accordance with the Waste Hierarchy.</p> <p>The allocation of sites and/or areas should also consider the potential for market development in the Northwest and the needs of relevant Municipal Waste Management Strategies, recognising the requirements of Waste Disposal Authorities or Waste Partnerships.</p> <p>Development Plan Documents will need to ensure that allocations provide a degree of flexibility in terms of the amount, supply and distribution of sites and/or areas to provide choice for new infrastructure and consider the need for appropriate safeguarding policies.</p>
03	Waste Prevention	The Strategy sets a 'year on year' target for preventing growth in the generation of waste streams to 0% across the region. This will be supported by monitoring of both waste generation and waste prevention initiatives.
04	Re-use and Remanufacture	The region should encourage a range of initiatives to help develop re-use and re-manufacture. This should include development and promotion of facilities for re-use and repair, and information and education to support behaviour change. The region should strengthen the evidence base relating to the contribution of re-use to the regional economy.
05	Re-use/ recycling/ composting of household waste	<p>The Strategy sets the following reuse/ recycling/ composting targets for household waste across the Northwest:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reuse/recycle and/or compost 40% of household waste by 2010;</li><li>• Reuse/recycle and/or compost 45% of household waste by 2015;</li><li>• Reuse/recycle and/or compost 55% of household waste by 2020.</li></ul>

06	Separation, collection and processing of biodegradable waste	The Strategy encourages the separation, collection and processing of biodegradable waste.
07	Recycling/composting of commercial and industrial waste	The Strategy sets the following recycling/ composting target for commercial and industrial waste across the Northwest: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recycle 55% of all commercial and industrial wastes by 2020.</li> </ul>
08	Recovering value from municipal waste	The region's targets in respect of recovering value from municipal waste, including recycling, composting and energy recovery, are the same as those promoted nationally: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recover value from 53% of municipal waste by 2010;</li> <li>Recover value from 67% of municipal waste by 2015;</li> <li>Recover value from 75% of municipal waste by 2020.</li> </ul>
09	Recovering value from commercial and industrial waste	The region's target in respect of recovering value from commercial and industrial waste, including recycling, composting and energy recovery is to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recover value from at least 70% of all commercial and industrial wastes by 2020.</li> </ul>
10	Landfill capacity	The Strategy recognises the need for maintaining landfill capacity in the region by restricting the use of existing landfill capacity to the disposal of final residues and where the waste has no residual value. The Strategy also recognises the complexity associated with assessing remaining landfill capacity. Landfill availability and utilisation should be monitored to support early decision making for the provision of additional capacity. The provision of any additional landfill capacity should explore the potential for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Extending the timescales where capacity may be used;</li> <li>Extending capacity at existing sites; and</li> <li>Exploring opportunities for new landfill capacity.</li> </ul>
11	Construction and demolition waste	The Strategy promotes the use of recycled construction and demolition waste in construction projects and encourages developers and contractors to specify these materials wherever possible in the construction process. Contractors are also encouraged to minimise the amount of waste that occurs on construction sites through the production of Site Waste Management Plans. This should prevent over ordering of materials and products and separate different waste materials to facilitate recycling and reuse.
12	Market development	The Strategy recognises the importance of market development in the delivery of secondary materials and waste management solutions. The Northwest will need to develop specific policies for priority sectors (such as chemical, food and healthcare) and waste streams (e.g. paper, glass, food and green waste). This will need to be supported by research and development, and an evidence base. The Strategy will continue to emphasise that waste materials are important resources that replace raw materials in many circumstances.

## Policy Statements

PS	Theme	Policy Statement
13	Public sector procurement	The public sector should aim for exemplar status in using sustainable procurement to create less waste, buy more sustainable products and help stimulate the market need for products containing a percentage of recycled material.
14	Location of primary waste management facilities	Facilities for the segregation of recyclable waste should be sited as close to the source of the waste as possible in order to satisfy locational and waste management principles in the Regional Spatial Strategy and ensure that volumes of waste are not unnecessarily transported around the region or exported from it.
15	Self-sufficiency for municipal waste management	Waste Disposal Authorities or Waste Partnerships should seek to meet their primary waste management needs in their own administrative boundary and where possible working in partnership with neighbouring authorities. In order to meet needs effectively, partnerships with the waste industry are also encouraged, particularly when this provides opportunities to treat both municipal and commercial and industrial waste. Partnership working between Waste Planning Authorities is also encouraged to ensure a sound planning policy framework is provided to support the delivery of facilities.
16	Reprocessing and recycling facilities	In order to meet existing and future reprocessing and recycling waste needs and to help support market development and demand, facilities for the reprocessing and recycling of waste must be developed to address the capacity gaps for reprocessing all waste streams.
17	Integrated waste/reprocessing parks	The Strategy supports development of the evolving concept of integrated waste/reprocessing parks through engagement with local authorities, the Northwest Development Agency, private landowners and other regional partners.
18	New waste treatment technologies	The Strategy supports the development of new waste treatment technologies to serve all waste streams. It is also recognised that presently, there are barriers to the development and implementation of these technologies, including financial issues and lack of proven success to draw upon.
19	Role of 4NW	The Strategy promotes the continued role of 4NW, supported by the Northwest Regional Technical Advisory Body, as a mechanism for informing and shaping European and national legislation policy and regulation. It will also continue to assist in the development of waste management in the region and monitoring delivery through the production of Annual Monitoring Reports.