

POLICY LINKS

The matrix below cross-refers Waste Management Policies to other Structure Plan policies which are, or may be, of particular relevance. The Plan however should be read as a whole.

Structure Plan Policy	Links to other policies
WD.1 Waste Management	SD.1
WD.2 Location of Waste Handling and Treatment Facilities	SD.6, SD.7, SD.8, T.15
WD.3 Waste Management Facilities	T.15, WD.4
WD.4 Landfill	WD.1, WD.3

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10. WASTE MANAGEMENT

Introduction

10.1 The County Council is seeking to ensure that the management of waste in Worcestershire conforms to the Best Practicable Environmental Option (BPEO) principles set out in Government's Waste Strategy 2000 (May 2000) and in PPG10 Planning and Waste Management (September 1999). In determining the BPEO for a waste stream, the County Council will give consideration to the proximity principle, regional self-sufficiency and waste hierarchy. These are expanded upon throughout this chapter. The waste hierarchy provides a framework to the waste management options that should be considered when assessing the BPEO for a waste stream. These are:

- reduction;
- reuse;
- recycling, composting or energy recovery (recovering value);
- incineration without energy recovery or landfill (disposal, only to be done if none of the above are appropriate).

10.2 The controlled waste stream produced in Worcestershire consists of municipal, industrial and commercial waste. In 1998-99 about 250,000 tonnes of municipal solid waste was collected in Worcestershire, of which some 190,000 tonnes was household waste and 60,000 tonnes civic amenity waste. 559,000 tonnes was industrial waste and 252,000 tonnes was commercial waste.

10.3 About 84% of the municipal waste produced in Worcestershire was handled within Worcestershire by disposal to landfill. About 64% of industrial waste and 27% of commercial waste was either reused or recycled. About 63% of industrial and commercial waste was disposed of within Worcestershire.

10.4 In 1999 about 11.7 million cubic metres of licensed landfill void space was available within Worcestershire for

biodegradable waste. This was equivalent to 10.4 years supply at current rates of input. However one of the key aims of the European Commission Landfill Directive is to divert a high proportion of municipal biodegradable waste away from landfill and this will reduce the amount of waste being landfilled in the future.

10.5 As the Waste Planning Authority for Worcestershire, the County Council is required to address in the Structure Plan, the strategic land use implications of managing and disposing of waste material within Worcestershire. The County Council seeks to ensure that the required facilities to treat and dispose of waste within Worcestershire are provided without causing harm to local amenity and the environment. The County Council's objectives in achieving waste management accord with Government's objectives set out in paragraph 5 of PPG10 Planning and Waste Management (September 1999). The County Council's objectives are:

- to provide a waste strategy which enables adequate provision to be made for waste management facilities to meet the needs of the people of Worcestershire for the reuse, recovery and disposal of waste, taking account of the potential for waste minimisation and the particular needs in respect of special waste;
- to help meet the needs of business and encourage competitiveness in the County;
- to encourage sensitive waste management practices in order to preserve or enhance the overall quality of the County's environment and avoid risks to human health;
- to have regard to the need to protect Worcestershire's areas of designated landscape and nature conservation value from inappropriate development;
- to minimise adverse environmental impacts resulting from the handling,

processing, transport and disposal of waste;

- to consider what new facilities may be needed in the County, in light of wastes forecast to arise; and
- to ensure that opportunities for incorporating reuse/recycling facilities in new developments are properly considered.

10.6 As a Waste Disposal Authority, the County Council in conjunction with the County of Herefordshire District Council has entered into a 25 year Integrated Waste Management Contract covering all municipal waste arising within the area of the two Counties. The contract requires varying proportions of the waste to be recycled, composted or to have value recovered from it in line with the national Waste Strategy. Waste Strategy 2000 sets a target, by 2005, to reduce the volume of industrial and commercial waste landfilled to 85% of 1998 levels. Whilst household waste is a relatively small part of the overall waste stream, the Waste Strategy emphasises the importance of making progress towards managing it more sustainably. The Government has set targets to increase the recycling of municipal waste which are:

- To recycle or compost at least 25% of household waste by 2005.
- To recycle or compost at least 30% of household waste by 2010.
- To recycle or compost at least 33% of household waste by 2015.

Policies

Waste Hierarchy

Policy WD.1

Proposals for the management of waste must have regard to the following key principles:

- (i) the Best Practicable Environmental Option (BPEO);**
- (ii) the proximity principle;**
- (iii) regional self-sufficiency; and**
- (iv) the waste hierarchy.**

Those proposals which are at the upper end of the hierarchy, contribute towards the achievement of national targets for waste minimisation, recovery and recycling, and provide the most benefits or least damage to the environment as a whole, in the long term as well as in the short term, will be supported.

Explanatory Memorandum

10.7 The Best Practicable Environmental Option (BEPO) procedure establishes “for a given set of objectives, the option that provides the most benefits or the least damage to the environment, as a whole, at acceptable cost, in the long term as well as in the short term.” In determining the BPEO, paragraph 4.5 of the Waste Strategy 2000 expects those making decisions to take account of three key considerations, namely the waste hierarchy, the proximity principle and regional self-sufficiency.

10.8 The waste hierarchy provides a theoretical framework to be used as a guide to the waste management options which should be considered when assessing the BPEO for a waste stream. These are:

- reduction
- reuse
- recycling, composting or energy recovery (recovering value)
- incineration without energy recovery or landfill (disposal, only to be done if none of the above are appropriate).

10.9 It is national policy that most waste should be treated or disposed of within the region in which it is produced. Generally the

waste should be managed as near as possible to its place of production because transporting waste itself has an environmental impact.

10.10 The Highways Agency should be consulted on any proposals that may affect the trunk road network.

Location of Waste Handling and Treatment Facilities

Policy WD.2

Facilities for the handling and treatment of waste should be located as near to its place of origin as possible. They should not conflict with the aims and policies in the Structure Plan, and should preferably be located within buildings on existing or proposed industrial estates where the infrastructure and surrounding uses are appropriate. Where the design or operation of the facility makes this inappropriate, the following areas should be considered:

- (i) derelict or despoiled areas;
- (ii) areas close to arisings;
- (iii) working or worked out mineral or landfill sites;
- (iv) existing waste management sites; or
- (v) sites located close to railways or water transport wharves or major junctions in the road network.

Explanatory Memorandum

10.11 The purpose of Policy WD.2 is to set out the criteria to be used in selecting suitable locations for facilities which handle and treat waste materials. The policy accords with Government's proximity principle, which suggests that waste should generally be disposed of as near to its place of origin as possible. This is in part to ensure that problems are not exported to other regions or counties

and also recognises that the transportation of waste materials can have a significant environmental impact.

10.12 The majority of waste arisings in the County originate in urban areas. Therefore, in line with the proximity principle, the majority of new waste handling and treatment facilities will be developed within or adjacent to urban areas in accordance with the Development Strategy of the Structure Plan (Policies SD.6, 7 and 8). In any event, proposals for such facilities should accord with Annex A of PPG10 Planning and Waste Management (September 1999).

10.13 By locating waste management facilities near to the main sources of waste arisings, the County Council is seeking to reduce the need to transport waste materials over long distances, thereby helping reduce congestion and pollution caused by traffic. It is important that the Waste Planning Authority also consider the mode of transport and not just the distance: a longer journey by river or rail may be environmentally preferable to a shorter road journey.

10.14 However, it is also recognised that some waste management facilities, such as composting, may require more extensive sites which are unlikely to be available on an industrial estate. The most appropriate locations for composting would generally be in rural areas.

Waste Management Facilities

Policy WD.3

Facilities involving the transfer, storage, bulking, separation, recycling, composting, incineration or other treatment of waste should be compatible with their surroundings; where safe access can be provided and the associated traffic does not adversely affect highway safety or have a significant adverse environmental impact along associated routes. Such facilities should not cause significant harm to local amenities, landscape character, features of landscape, historic or nature conservation importance, or best and

most versatile agricultural land and should not give rise to a significant risk of pollution. Any proposals in AONB or affecting SSSI will be subject to the most rigorous examination.

Provision for local community schemes to aid recycling, composting etc. should be considered as part of new proposals for residential and commercial development.

Explanatory Memorandum

10.15 In determining the Best Practicable Environmental Option (BPEO) for the disposal of a waste stream, paragraph 4.5 of the Waste Strategy 2000 expects the Waste Planning Authority to take account of the waste hierarchy. The waste hierarchy is set out in paragraph 10.8 of the Structure Plan. The County Council is seeking to encourage the disposal of waste materials towards the upper end of the hierarchy when assessing the BPEO. This reflects the Government's strategy to maximise the amount of value we recover from waste, through increased recycling, composting and energy recovery.

10.16 Policy WD.3 sets out the criteria to be taken into account when identifying sites for waste management facilities, other than sites for landfill (see Structure Plan Policy WD.4). In any event, proposals for such facilities should accord with other relevant Structure Plan policies and Annex A of PPG10 Planning and Waste Management (September 1999).

10.17 Policy WD.3 also encourages the provision of local community schemes to aid recycling, composting etc.

Landfill

Policy WD.4

In considering the suitability of sites for landfill, in addition to the criteria set out in Policy WD.3, the following criteria will also be taken into account:

- (i) the cumulative impact of disposal facilities; and
- (ii) the extent to which the deposit of waste materials could assist in the reclamation or improvement of land.

All landfill operations must be carried out in such a way that the land can be put to beneficial use on completion. The landfilling of materials suitable for reuse/recycling will be resisted.

Explanatory Memorandum

10.18 The Government's Waste Strategy 2000 requires the amount of waste being sent to landfill to be substantially reduced. The County Council is committed to achieving this goal and this is reflected in the encouragement to adopt sustainable waste management options towards the upper end of the waste hierarchy in Structure Plan Policy WD.1. However, the County Council recognises that landfill may be the Best Practicable Environmental Option (BPEO) for the disposal of certain waste materials and has a valuable role to play in the reclamation of worked out mineral sites to achieve a beneficial after use.

10.19 Policy WD.4 sets out the criteria to be taken into account when identifying sites for the landfilling of waste materials. In any event, proposals for landfill facilities should accord with other relevant Structure Plan policies, in particular, the criteria set out in Policy WD.3, and with Annex A of PPG10 Planning and Waste Management (September 1999).