

A Summary of Gloucestershire's Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy

All local Councils in Gloucestershire have adopted the Strategy. This provides the 'route-map' and key principles for the development of municipal waste management services in the county. The strategy is guided by the established priorities of the waste hierarchy, placing Prevention and Reduction ahead of Reuse, which in turn is ahead of Recycling & Composting before considering Recovery and finally Disposal. Attention is also paid to the carbon benefits of good waste management.

The strategy recognises the need to divert waste from landfill and to meet ever growing legislative pressures and public expectations. The strategy has some core objectives which will be used to form the basis of current and future waste management services;

- "Changing Behaviour" - The delivery of the strategy largely depends upon the willingness of the public to take responsibility for their waste and to participate fully in the many waste reduction and recycling options available.
- "Reduction First" - Promotion of waste reduction options for the householder and throughout the supply chain.
- "Segregation at Source" - Development of convenient recycling services which include separate recycling, composting and residual waste collections.
- "Compost Hierarchy" - Continue to promote and support home and community composting. Recognising that this is not practical for everyone also develop separate bio waste (garden & food waste) collection services.
- "Residual Waste as a Resource" - After reducing, reusing and recycling there will still be some waste left over. Further treatment of this waste will be undertaken to recover additional resource value and to avoid using landfill.
- "Strategy Delivery and Partnership" - All partners recognise the need to work together and will develop the partnership in order to maximise opportunities for efficiency and performance improvement.
- "Closing the Resource Loop" - Aiming to deliver materials collected for recycling into 'high value' markets.
- "De-pollution of the Waste Stream" - To safely separate and treat hazardous waste materials such as chemicals, electrical items and batteries which households generate.

Waste services are changing to include a greater range of recyclable materials, the separate collection of food waste and the fortnightly collection of the left-over residual waste. These changes have led to a step change in reducing overall waste quantities and an increase in recycling rates, currently 47%. This approach is vital in achieving our recycling targets, rising to a minimum of 60% by 2020. Our biggest challenge over the next few years is to increase participation rates not just in a few dedicated communities but across the whole county and making sure everyone plays their part in helping us to tackle the waste problem.