
Chapter 8

Waste Recovery

8.1 Introduction

- 8.1.1 This chapter sets out the appropriate policies to enable development of recovery facilities (facilities for recycling, composting and energy recovery) outside of the Preferred Areas, whilst seeking to ensure that human health and the environment are appropriately protected.
- 8.1.2 Information on the different types of waste recovery methods, including their processes, respective advantages/disadvantages and siting requirements, is provided in **Appendix 4, Directory of Waste Management Methods**.
- 8.1.3 Recovery operations are considered likely to increase in number and size in the Plan area. This is not only in response to the challenging recovery targets set by the National Waste Strategy 2000, but also in response to the requirement by the Landfill Directive for pre-treatment of waste prior to landfilling that came into force in 2002 (see **Section 2.3**). Changes to the list of controlled wastes may add to the need for recovery facilities. During the Plan period, the most likely addition to the list of controlled wastes will be agricultural waste (see **Section 3.4**).
- 8.1.4 All recovery options have the potential to make a significant contribution to the recovery of value from waste, but only if priority is given to the quality of the end product and development of suitable markets. These are matters outside of the direct control of the Waste Planning Authorities (WPAs). Nevertheless, the WPAs strongly support the principle of waste recovery and therefore appropriate initiatives to help maximise recovery, such as kerbside recycling measures, will be encouraged. (It should be borne in mind that kerbside recycling is a means by which disabled members of the community can take part in recycling initiatives). Furthermore, the targets for waste recycling and recovery should not be seen as maximum targets. On the contrary they are minimum targets, and development which would assist in exceeding the target figures will be considered favourably where such development is considered appropriate in other respects.
- 8.1.5 In considering planning applications for recovery facilities, the WPAs will assess them against not only the relevant Policy(ies) below, but also against other relevant Policies in this Plan, particularly those relating to achieving sustainable waste management and controlling the impacts of waste management (see **Section 1.11**). In seeking to ensure that impacts arising from the development of waste recovery facilities are minimised to acceptable levels, appropriate conditions will be attached to any planning permissions issued.

Further guidance on the types of planning controls that could be imposed is given in **Chapter 11**.

8.2 Recycling

Policy 11

Materials Recovery and Recycling Facilities

Materials recovery and recycling facilities outside of the Preferred Areas identified in Policies 3 and 4 will be permitted at the following locations:

- a) existing or proposed general industrial areas; or**
- b) previously used or developed land or buildings; or**
- c) in association with other waste management development; or**
- d) at current landfill sites, provided the development, either on its own or cumulatively when considered with other development, does not unduly prejudice the agreed restoration timetable or otherwise unduly extend the anticipated life of the site. (The use of the facilities will be required to cease prior to the permitted completion date of the site unless an extension of time to retain such facilities is granted); or**
- e) where proposals are for "bring sites" with public access for recycling, other suitable locations accessible to the community, within previously developed areas or land allocated for development**

provided the application demonstrates to the satisfaction of the WPAs that the proposal meets the relevant criteria set out in Policy 3 and 4. The proposal should also comply with Policies 1, 2 and 5 to 10 of this Plan.

Sites offering access to the public should provide for people with disabilities and serve as wide a cross section of the community as possible. Encouragement will be given to the provision of facilities that can be accessed by public transport, walking and cycling.

8.2.1 To assist in achieving sustainable waste management in Wiltshire and Swindon, and to divert waste from landfill, facilities are required for the sorting, separation, bulking up and onward transportation of the various elements of the waste stream. Such facilities allow for the recovery of materials from the waste stream for re-use, recycling, composting or energy recovery.

8.2.2 The recycling industry is becoming more sophisticated and is increasingly demanding clean, uncontaminated material from recovery systems. Thus the ability to carry out recycling is partially dependent upon uncontaminated

resources being available in sufficient quantities on a regular and reliable basis. Successful recycling schemes are therefore reliant upon establishing an effective waste collection and processing infrastructure.

8.2.3 The provision of materials recovery/recycling facilities is also likely to become increasingly important in achieving the Government's recovery and recycling/composting targets for municipal and household waste. To ensure that adequate provision of such facilities is made in Wiltshire and Swindon to achieve these targets, the WPAs will need to work closely with the Waste Disposal Authorities and the Waste Collection Authorities for the Plan area, via the relevant Municipal Waste Management Strategies.

8.2.4 Materials recovery/recycling facilities in the context of **Policy 11** means:

- development associated with the source separation of wastes;
- material recovery facilities (MRFs);
- household waste recycling centres;
- waste transfer stations (WTSs) / bulking-up facilities including Household Recycling Centres (HRCs) open to the public;
- waste recycling centres and
- 'Bring sites' for recycling by the public, in other suitable locations accessible to the community.

8.2.5 Members of the public in Wiltshire and Swindon have access to local "bring sites" for recycling. These are much more numerous than the larger Household Recycling Centres (HRCs), totalling about 280 in Wiltshire (Kennet 45, North Wiltshire 40, Salisbury 35, West Wiltshire 84, plus 80 school sites for paper recycling) and about 40 in Swindon Borough. Whilst they do not handle the range of recyclates that HRCs do, they play an important role in providing local deposit points for materials such as paper, metal cans, textiles, glass and plastics. In 2000 / 01 Wiltshire "bring sites" contributed almost 30% of the materials collected for recycling and composting. In Swindon Borough "bring sites" contributed about 35% of the total in the same year.

8.2.6 The Wiltshire Municipal Waste Management Strategy, published in October 2002 (see paragraph 2.7.7), proposes to increase the number of local "bring sites" within the County, reducing gaps in provision. The WPAs support the provision of a comprehensive network of such sites, and will give particular encouragement to facilities that can be accessed not only by car, but also by public transport, cycling and walking. Many "bring sites" do not require planning permission, but their impact on the amenity of neighbouring uses does need to be considered. Whilst new sites should meet the criteria in the policies referred to in **Policy 11**, for example those for environmental safeguards set out in **Policy 6**, they will be appropriate in a much wider range of locations than general materials recovery and recycling facilities. Existing "bring sites" are established in supermarket car parks, lay-bys and schools, although the latter are restricted to paper recycling by the schools.

- 8.2.7 The location of materials recovery/recycling facilities will need careful consideration, taking account of the effects of vehicle movements, the potential to aggravate traffic congestion, the length of trips generated (particularly for sites open to the public), and noise and dust impacts. When looking at potential locations for such facilities developers will need to consider their impact upon the existing environment and amenity of the area.
- 8.2.8 Further locational considerations for materials recovery facilities (MRFs) that will need to be addressed include the industrial nature of such facilities and the likelihood that they will be expected to be carried out within an enclosed building or structure. When such facilities are proposed at existing or proposed industrial or employment areas, considerable care will need to be taken in assessing the impact on type 'B1' uses, and on land allocated or protected for such use.
- 8.2.9 Redundant farm buildings that meet the criteria set out in **Policy 11** and other policies referred to will be considered suitable for recycling activities.

Policy 12
Inert Waste Recovery/Recycling Facilities

Inert waste recovery/recycling facilities outside of the Preferred Areas identified in Policies 3 and 4 will be permitted at the following locations:

- a) existing or proposed general industrial areas; or**
- b) previously used or developed land or buildings; or**
- c) in association with other waste management development; or**
- d) existing or proposed mineral working and landfill sites, provided the development, either on its own or cumulatively when considered with other development, does not unduly prejudice the agreed restoration timetable or otherwise unduly extend the anticipated life of the site. (The use of the facilities will be required to cease prior to the permitted completion date of the site unless an extension of time to retain such facilities is granted)**

provided the application demonstrates to the satisfaction of the WPAs that the proposal meets the relevant criteria set out in Policies 3 and 4. The proposal should also comply with Policies 1, 2 and 5 to 10 of this Plan.

- 8.2.10 A range of inert materials that are currently landfilled can be recycled and used as substitutes for primary land-won aggregates. Government policy (in Minerals Planning Guidance Note 6) encourages the increased use of alternatives to locally produced primary aggregates, including use of secondary aggregates and recycled materials for construction projects. These materials can include

construction and demolition wastes such as crushed concrete and asphalt road planings, mineral wastes and industrial wastes.

- 8.2.11 Policy 40 of the Adopted Wiltshire and Swindon Minerals Local Plan supports proposals for the importation of alternative aggregates and the production of secondary aggregates at suitable sites. The locations of such sites are left for the Waste Local Plan to determine. Proposals for inert waste recycling should therefore be considered against Policies of the Minerals Local Plan as well as the Policies of this Plan.
- 8.2.12 The location of permanent or temporary facilities for inert waste recovery/recycling will need careful consideration given the possible associated increases in vehicle movements, along with an increased potential for noise and dust impacts. Visual intrusion of machinery and stockpiles will also be important considerations. When looking at potential locations for such facilities, developers will need to consider that location in terms of the effect of these impacts upon the existing environment and amenity of the area.
- 8.2.13 Further locational considerations for inert waste recycling facilities that will need to be addressed include the industrial nature of such facilities and the potential for the operations to be carried out in general industrial areas. When such facilities are proposed at existing or proposed industrial or employment areas, considerable care will need to be taken in assessing the impact on type 'B1' uses, and on land allocated or protected for such use.
- 8.2.14 Inert waste recovery and recycling facilities can either be permanent or temporary (mobile). A permanent facility may be suitable if there is a continuous and long-term supply of suitable inert material, such as construction waste. The use of temporary recycling plant as part of a demolition project or maintenance is permitted development under Schedule 2, Part 4, Class A of the General Permitted Development Order 1995. Mobile concrete crushing plants are frequently used on large demolition sites where materials are recycled for use in the redevelopment of the site or sold and taken direct to another site.

Policy 13 Scrapyards

Scrapyards and vehicle dismantling facilities outside the Preferred Areas identified in Policies 3 and 4 will be permitted at the following locations:

- a) existing or proposed general industrial areas; or**
- b) previously used or developed land or buildings**

provided the application demonstrates to the satisfaction of the WPAs that the proposal complies with Policies 1, 2 and 5 to 10 of this Plan.

- 8.2.15 Scrapyards include car breakers and metal recycling enterprises. These make a valuable contribution to the re-use, recycling and recovery of metal wastes. The EU Directives on End of Life Vehicles, the Regulation of Ozone Depleting Substances, and the forthcoming Directive on Waste Electronics and Electronic Equipment will increase the need for such facilities (see **Section 2.3**).
- 8.2.16 Several scrapyards in the Plan area are situated outside established industrial areas. However, new facilities will only be permitted in existing or proposed industrial areas, or on/in previously developed or used land or buildings, where the impacts of noise, dust, visual intrusion and vehicular movement can be adequately mitigated. Where proposals are to be used by the public, attention will need to be given to access by all members of the community, including people with disabilities.
- 8.2.17 In recognition of the intrusive nature of scrapyards when located at existing or proposed industrial or employment areas, such facilities are unlikely to be permitted where the application relates to sites which are close to type 'B1' business uses or where land is allocated or protected for such use. Similarly, it is unlikely that such facilities would be permitted close to existing or proposed residential development.

Policy 14

Provision for Recycling in New and Refurbished Developments

Planning Applications for major development and other proposals likely to attract a significant number of people will be required to provide for, as an integral part of the design of development, the provision of:

- a) facilities for the public to recycle/compost waste (bring systems); and/or**
- b) facilities within individual or groups of properties or premises for the source separation and storage of different types of waste for recycling and / or composting .**

Such provision will be expected to have regard to the provision of facilities already existing in the locality, to the existing Recycling Plan or Municipal Waste Management Strategy relevant to the area concerned and should comply with Policies 1, 2 and 5 to 10 of this Plan.

- 8.2.18 This Policy will apply to planning applications for:
- New development, re-development or refurbishment providing 10 or more dwelling units;

- new development, re-development or refurbishment of shopping centres or facilities where the total gross floorspace amounts to 500 square metres or more;
- new development, re-development or refurbishment of business, industrial, distribution or storage development where the gross floorspace / increase in gross floorspace amounts to 300 square metres or more;
- transport, leisure, recreation, tourist or community facilities;
- public car parks including park and ride facilities; and
- other developments as appropriate which are likely to generate significant volumes of waste through the development process.

8.2.19 The careful design and incorporation of recycling/source segregation facilities within new development will help to increase opportunities for recycling, both within housing and commercial/industrial areas. This policy approach is supported by Government guidance in PPG10 (paragraph 5), which states that the land use planning system has an important role in seeking to ensure that opportunities for incorporating re-use/recycling facilities in new developments are properly considered. This policy builds upon **Policy 9** in **Chapter 7** which seeks to achieve waste elimination through public, private and voluntary sector initiatives to reduce and re-use waste, by encouraging the provision of facilities to collect waste for re-use, recycling and composting as part of new development. (See also **Paragraph 7.3.12**)

8.2.20 Whilst it is not possible to be prescriptive about the nature and types of facilities required due to the variation in types of development and waste management systems being used, major developments should look to include:

- an adequate network of local recycling facilities for the public to deposit different types of recyclable material; and/or
- facilities for the source separation and storage of different types of waste where individuals, groups of householders or businesses separate their wastes into different fractions for recycling and/or composting.

8.2.21 Developers will need to consider the implications of this requirement when preparing the detailed layout and design of new development. They should liaise with the Local Planning Authority (LPA) on the practical and design implications of providing and servicing recycling facilities. Generally, it would be expected that provision of such facilities would be made by the developer whilst the responsibility for maintenance would lie with either the Waste Disposal and Collection Authorities or waste operators under private contract, as appropriate to the nature of the development.

8.2.22 It will also be particularly important for developers to liaise with the Waste Collection Authorities to ensure that any such provision takes account of, and where necessary is integrated with, any waste collection initiatives to be introduced by that Authority, for example, kerbside collections of household waste.

- 8.2.23 To help developers and LPAs establish the type and nature of facility that should be provided, the WPAs (in conjunction with the District and Borough Councils as LPAs and Waste Collection Authorities) have prepared Supplementary Planning Guidance to support the requirements of **Policy 14**.

8.3 Composting

Policy 15

Indoor Composting

Indoor waste composting facilities outside the Preferred Areas identified in Policies 3 and 4 will be permitted at the following locations:

- a) existing or proposed general industrial areas; or**
- b) within existing appropriate buildings not requiring significant adaptation or extension; or**
- c) previously used or developed land; or**
- d) in association with other waste management development; or**
- e) at current landfill sites, provided the development, either on its own or cumulatively when considered with other development, does not unduly prejudice the agreed restoration timetable or otherwise unduly extend the anticipated life of the site. (The use of the facilities will be required to cease prior to the permitted completion date of the site unless an extension of time to retain such facilities is granted)**

provided the application demonstrates to the satisfaction of the WPAs that the proposal meets the relevant criteria set out in Policy 3 and 4. The proposal should also comply with Policies 1, 2 and 5 to 10 of this Plan.

Policy 16

Outdoor Composting

Outdoor waste composting facilities outside of the Preferred Areas identified in Policies 3 and 4 will be permitted at the following locations:

- a) existing areas of hardstanding; or**
- b) in association with other waste management development; or**
- c) at sewage treatment works; or**
- d) where the compost is to be used as part of a reclamation process on adjoining land; or**
- e) where the proposal is ancillary to existing agricultural or forestry processes; or**

