



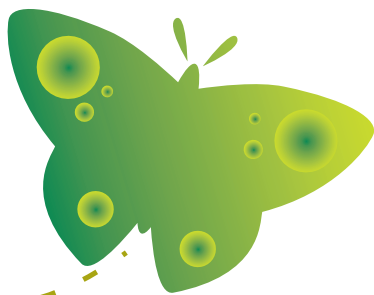
The future
of waste in Essex

The future of waste in Essex

Waste isn't the most glamorous of subjects, yet it is something that we cannot ignore. Last year in Essex we produced a massive 700,000 tonnes of household waste and with your help we recycled an impressive 36% of it. However, this still meant that over 440,000 tonnes of household rubbish was sent to be buried in the ground in landfill sites.

Relying on landfill sites to hide the problem of rubbish is simply not a sustainable way to carry on. When biodegradable rubbish (things like paper, card, food and garden waste) rots down in landfill sites it produces methane which has the potential to contribute to climate change.

A key part of our solution to the waste issue is to encourage high levels of recycling; however we will always need to deal with the waste that is left. In order to deliver an innovative and resource efficient waste management system for Essex we need to invest in new technologies which treat the residual waste¹ and which can extract further recyclable material from the waste.



What are you consulting on?

The draft Essex Waste Strategy (known officially as the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy) sets out the key objectives and targets for the management of municipal waste² in the county. At the moment, a lot of Essex's waste still ends up in landfill sites and we need to change this. There are many environmental and financial benefits to diverting waste from landfill, such as the better use of valuable resources, Essex residents paying less landfill tax and helping to tackle climate change.

Furthermore, from previous consultations on the waste strategy, Essex authorities have received a strong message from Essex householders and communities that we should be changing the way we manage waste, with a drive towards waste reduction, high recycling and composting and minimising waste to landfill. The waste strategy is Essex's plan for ensuring that we achieve this change.

It is also a legal requirement of the Waste and Emissions Trading Act (WET) 2003 that the County Council has a joint strategy with the District and Borough Councils for the management of municipal waste.

¹ Residual waste is household waste not separated by the householder for recycling or composting.

² Municipal waste is household waste and any other waste that is collected for treatment and disposal by a local authority.

What does the waste strategy say?

Our proposed strategy for dealing with waste in the future can be summarised as follows:

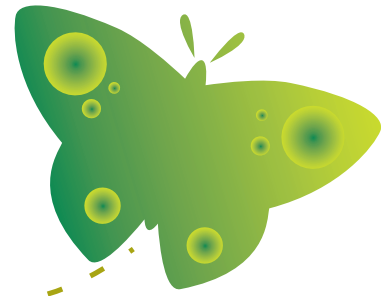
- We will work hard to **reduce** the amount of waste produced in the first place and **re-use** more of the waste that is produced.
- Our ambition is to achieve 60% **recycling** of household waste by 2020. This could be achieved through a combination of further improvement in the performance of recycling and composting kerbside collection schemes and the Recycling Centres for Household Waste, and the recovery of recyclable materials through new treatment plants.
- We favour **composting** technologies such as **anaerobic digestion** (AD), for source segregated organic wastes. AD is a form of biotreatment and produces a gas which can be used to generate 100% renewable electricity.
- Whilst we can work on reducing the amount of waste produced and recycling as much of it as possible, there will always be some waste that still needs to be disposed of. For this we propose to introduce new treatment plants using **Mechanical Biological**

Treatment (MBT). MBT processes any ‘black bag’ waste and recovers further material for recycling. Part of the remaining material can either be manufactured into a fuel for energy production or can be sent to landfill.

What is Mechanical Biological Treatment?

MBT facilities separate the ‘black bag’ waste by *mechanical* processes. This means that further material can be separated for recycling and/or to make soil improvers. Some MBT facilities separate and manufacture some of the waste into a *solid recovered fuel* which could be used to generate electricity (and sometimes heat too) in an energy plant.





What is Solid Recovered Fuel?

One output from an MBT process can be the production of a solid recovered fuel (SRF). This is produced from the material that has not been recycled. The biomass component of SRF is typically in excess of 50% and could be a valuable source of renewable energy. Essex authorities will explore the option of producing a SRF from the MBT process and recovering energy from it. Markets for SRF are being explored with current energy users. Essex believes that using SRF in an energy plant has climate change benefits and could prove to be a more cost effective solution than sending it to landfill.

Why do we need new waste management facilities; why can't we just rely on recycling?

Waste reduction, reuse and high recycling are key objectives to the Essex strategy; it will not work without them. However, there will always be some 'black bag' waste that needs to be treated if we are going to minimise waste being sent to landfill sites. For this we will need new waste and recycling facilities which will recycle, compost, treat and recover a range of different waste materials.

What will it cost?

Waste management will cost more in the future, but doing nothing is likely to cost Essex taxpayers more in the future.

This is because landfill tax is increasing significantly year on year. Each tonne of waste sent to landfill incurs a £24 landfill tax in 2007/08 and by 2010/11 this figure will have increased to £48 per tonne. In 2006/07, Essex County Council paid approximately £11million in landfill tax and the figure will increase; it is estimated that Essex could be paying £22million in landfill tax in 2010/11.

In addition, the County Council must meet European landfill diversion targets for biodegradable waste, which means sending less waste to landfill each year. This scheme is called the Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme (LATS)³. The County Council faces heavy financial penalties if it does not meet these LATS targets. If we carry on managing waste as we do today, this penalty could be £24million by 2013. However, there are actions that the County Council, in partnership with the District and Borough Councils, could take to reduce the financial risk of penalties to Essex. These actions could include the trading of LATS allowances, increasing recycling and composting performance and building new waste and recycling treatment plants.

³ For more information on the LATS please go to www.essex.gov.uk

We estimate that implementing the waste strategy will save Essex taxpayers £750 million over the next 25 years when compared to the current methods of waste disposal over the same period.

Why are you asking for my opinion on the waste strategy?

The successful delivery of this strategy rests, to a significant degree, on the willingness and desire of Essex Authorities and householders to work together to take responsibility for their waste. Therefore, the involvement of the community is of paramount importance to the development of this strategy.

What we want to know from you is if you agree with the proposals in the current draft waste strategy?

When we asked this question in 2005 there was broad support for the waste strategy aims of high recycling and bio treatment (e.g. MBT and AD technologies). Given that the waste strategy has since been improved by introducing measures to improve performance and to drive down costs, we want to check that this is still the case. We also need to know if you feel that the high target of 60% recycling that we have set by 2020 is achievable, after all we will not be able to achieve this without your support.

Are you asking for my opinion on anything else?

Yes, a key part of the development of the strategy is to assess the environmental impact of implementing the key targets and actions. To do this, a **Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)** has been undertaken on the draft strategy. The SEA process helps to ensure that the draft waste strategy is developed with a focus on sustainability and the environment. The SEA process produces an **Environmental Report** and this must also be consulted on at the same time as the strategy and we would welcome your comments on it.

Where can I read copies of the draft Essex Waste Strategy and SEA Environmental Report?

Copies of the draft strategy and SEA Environmental Report are available to view in libraries across the county and at www.essex.gov.uk/wasteconsultation. You can also request copies by phoning **0845 6037625** or by emailing **wastemanagement@essexcc.gov.uk**

Where can I go for more information?

For further more detailed information, please visit www.essex.gov.uk, telephone **0845 6037625** or email wastemanagement@essexcc.gov.uk

Tell us what you think...

Your views are important to us so please take a few minutes to answer the questions on the opposite page. Please fill it in and return it to:
Waste & Recycling
Essex County Council
Freepost CL3636
County Hall
Chelmsford
CM1 1XZ

Or, if you prefer, please visit www.essex.gov.uk to complete the questionnaire online.

The consultation closes on 5th May 2008.

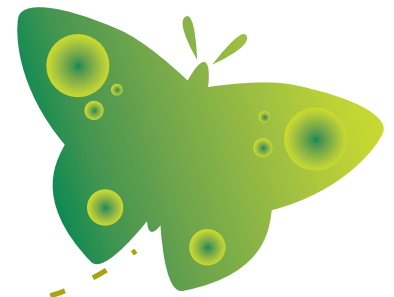


The information contained in this leaflet can be made available in alternative formats: large print, Braille, audio tape or disk.

We can also translate this information into other languages.

Printed on recycled paper





Please fill in...

1) Which of these statements best describes how much you recycle?

Tick one only

- I do not recycle anything
- I do not recycle much
- I recycle a lot but not everything that can be recycled
- I recycle everything that can be recycled using the services provided to me

2) Our target is to recycle 60% of Essex's waste. How easy do you feel it is for you to help us achieve this by using your current kerbside collection and Recycling Centres for Household Waste to recycle your waste?

- Very easy
- Fairly easy
- Fairly difficult
- Very difficult
- Don't know

3) After all practical recycling and composting has taken place, do you agree or disagree that the Essex councils should treat 'black bag' waste by using MBT processes rather than sending the waste directly to landfill?

- Strongly agree
- Tend to agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Tend to disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

4) Would you prefer it if part of the material from the MBT process was used to produce a fuel for energy rather than being sent to a landfill site?

- Yes (produce energy)
- No (send to landfill)
- Don't know

5) Are there any other comments you would like to make about the draft waste strategy for Essex and the Essex councils' plans for managing waste and encouraging recycling in the county?

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

6) Are there any comments you would like to make about the SEA Environmental Report as it relates to the draft waste strategy?

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Finally, to ensure that we receive a response that is equal and representative, please complete the following questions regarding yourself.

7) The first 4 digits of your postcode (eg CM1 1)

.....

8) Are you:

Female Male

9) Age group:

Under 18 18-24 25-34 35-44
45-54 55-65 65+

10) Your ethnicity*:

White

British Irish

Any other white background

Mixed

White and Black Caribbean

White and Black African

White and Asian

Any other mixed background

Asian or Asian British

Indian Pakistani Bangladeshi

Any other Asian background

Black or Black British

Caribbean African

Any other Black background

Chinese or other ethnic group

Chinese Any other background

*These are the categories used by the Government in the 2001 Census

11) Do you have any long-standing illness, disability or infirmity? (Long-standing means anything that has troubled you over a period of time or that is likely to affect you over a period of time.)

Yes No

12) Are there any young people (age 0 – 18) in your household?

Yes No

Thank you

Waste & Recycling
Essex County Council
Freepost CL3636
County Hall
Chelmsford
CM1 1XZ

