

# The draft Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Essex



# Overview

- What is the waste strategy?
- Why do we need a waste strategy?
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- What does the waste strategy say?
- Waste reduction initiatives – home composting, real nappies, junk mail
- Waste treatment plants
- What is Mechanical Biological Treatment?
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# The Waste Strategy

# What is the waste strategy?

- The draft waste strategy sets out key objectives & targets for the management of municipal waste in Essex (*municipal waste is household waste & any other waste that is collected for treatment & disposal by a local authority*).
- From previous consultations on the waste strategy Essex authorities have received a strong message from householders & communities that we should be changing the way we manage waste – a drive towards waste reduction, high recycling & composting.
- Legal requirement – Waste & Emissions Trading Act 2003

# Why do we need a waste strategy?

- In 2006/07 Essex produced over 700,000 tonnes of household waste.
- 36% of this was recycled
- Over 440,000 tonnes of household waste was landfilled

**Relying on landfill sites to hide the problem of rubbish is simply not a sustainable way to carry on.**

There are a number of different pressures effecting the use of landfill sites to dispose of our rubbish.

## Pressures on landfill (financial)

### Landfill Tax

- WDAs are taxed on the amount of waste they send to landfill.
- 2007/08 Landfill Tax is £24/tonne for active waste & £2/tonne for inactive waste.
- The standard rate of Landfill Tax for 2007/08 has been increased by £3 per tonne on the previous year's levels.
- April '08 standard rate of Landfill Tax will escalate by £8 per tonne per annum until reaching £48 per tonne in 2010/11.

## Pressures on landfill (environmental)

- About two-thirds of landfilled waste is biodegradable organic matter.
- The decomposition of biodegradable materials within landfill sites results in the production & limited escape of methane.
- Methane is a potent greenhouse gas – emissions have to be reduced.
- Leachate is formed & needs to be managed to protect water courses



- Paper & card – 25%
- Metal – 4%
- Plastic – 11%
- Glass – 6%
- Food & Garden waste – 30%
- Textiles – 3%
- Other – 21%

## Pressures on landfill (legislative)



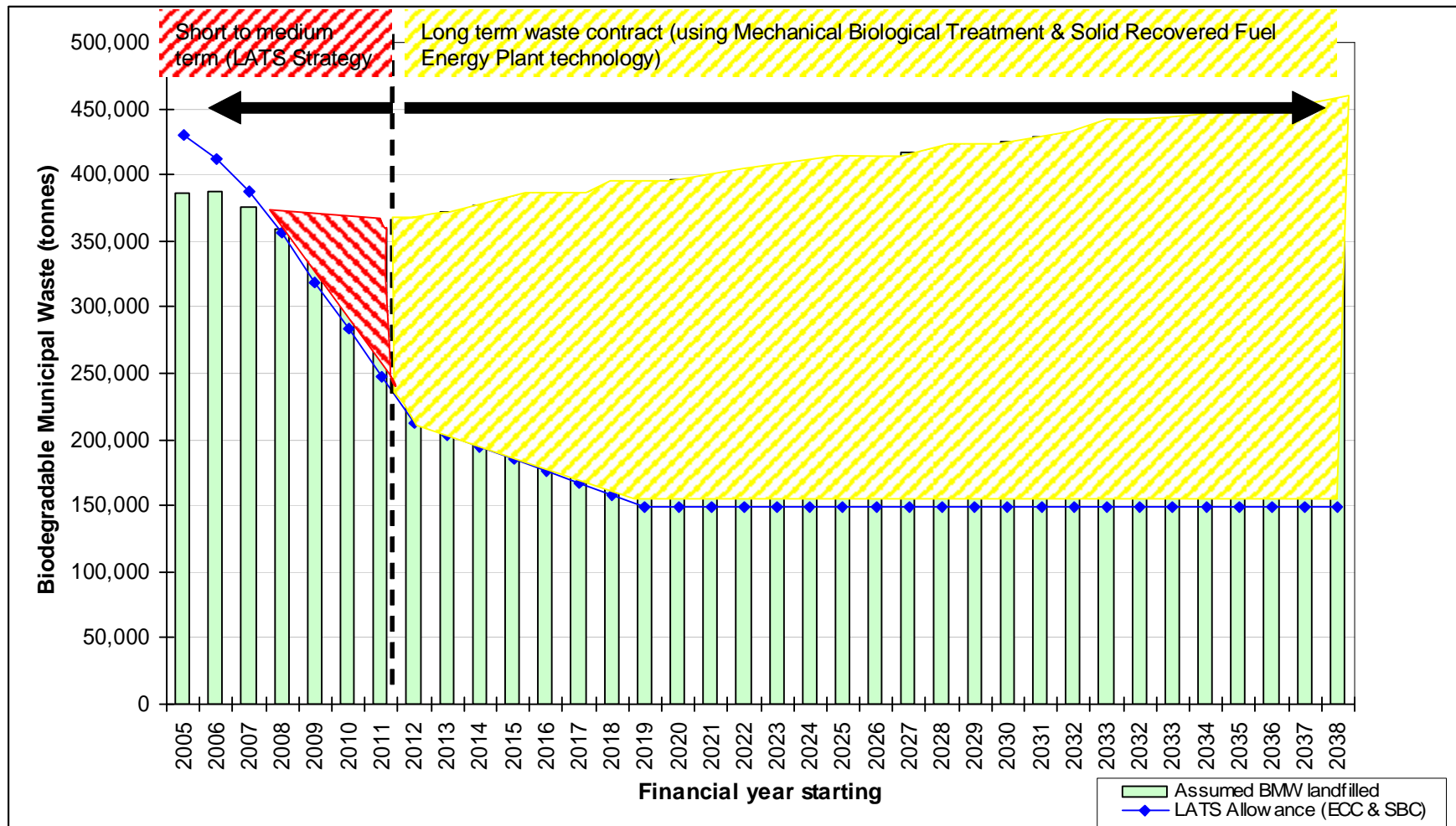
### Landfill Directive

- The EU Landfill Directive requires these proportions of biodegradable municipal waste to be diverted from landfill, compared with 1995 quantities:

Target Year	Percentage diversion
2010	25%
2013	50%
2020	65%

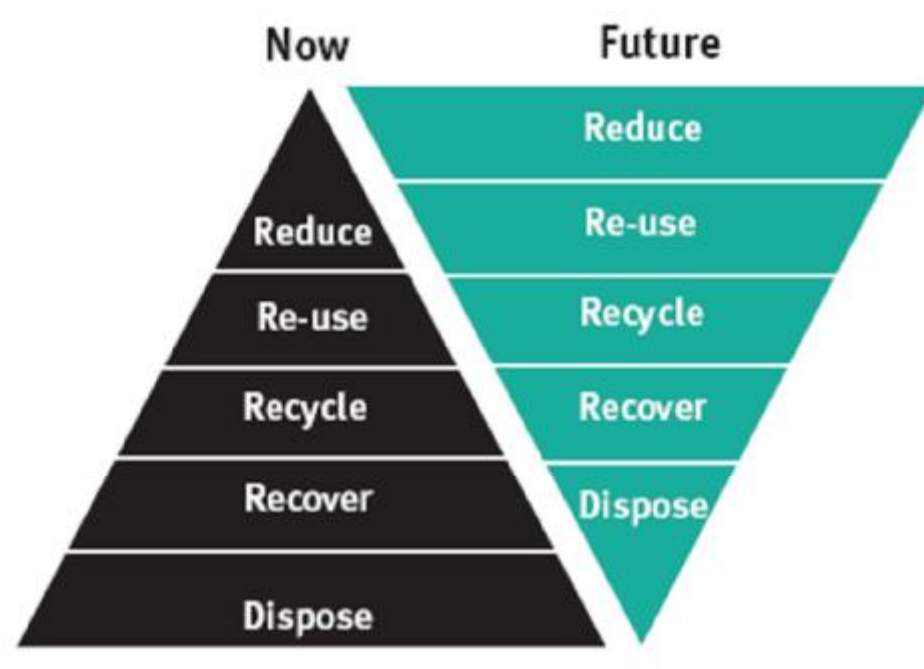


# Diversification from Landfill of Biodegradable Waste



## What does the waste strategy say?

- We will work hard to **reduce** the amount of waste produced in the first place & **re-use** more of the waste that is produced.
- Ambition – **60% recycling of household waste by 2020** – from recycling & composting kerbside schemes, the Recycling Centres for Household Waste & recovery of recyclable materials through new treatment plants.



# Recycling targets

- Essex will aim to exceed the levels of recycling and composting of household waste as set out in Waste Strategy for England

2007:

- **40% by 2010**
- **45% by 2015**
- **50% by 2020**
- **Ambition to hit 60% recycling by 2020**

# Waste reduction targets

- As well as high recycling focus of the strategy is also **waste prevention & reduction**.
- Essex will seek to achieve the national targets (Waste Strategy for England 2007) for **household waste not re-used, recycled or composted**.
- The targets (kg/per head of the population of residual waste) are to not produce more than:
  - 310kg in 2010;
  - 270kg in 2015;
  - 225kg in 2020

# Waste reduction initiatives

# The Essex Home Composting Scheme

*30% of your household waste could be composted at home.*

- Ø A partnership between ECC, all 12 WCAs plus Southend and Thurrock
- Ø Commenced April 2005
- Ø Over 40,000 compost bins sold
- Ø Estimated average diversion by WRAP:  
145kg/hh/yr = 5,694 tonnes/hh/yr for Essex



# The Essex Cloth Nappy Campaign

***Each baby on average has 5,000 nappy changes: that's a third of a million nappies each day just in Essex.***

- Ø A partnership between ECC, all 12 WCAs plus Southend and Thurrock
- Ø Encourage parents / carers to try cloth nappies as an alternative to disposable nappies.
- Ø The aim of the campaign is to decrease the amount of nappies in the waste stream.



# Stamp Out Junk Mail

***4% of household waste is made up of junk mail, that's the equivalent weight of 5,500 elephants in Essex each year.***

- Ø Launched March 2007
- Ø To help householders control the amount of junk mail coming through their door
- Ø The 'Stamp Out Junk Mail' pack - 3 simple steps to reduce junk mail
  - Ø No junk mail letterbox sticker
  - Ø Opt out postcard for unaddressed mail from the Royal Mail
  - Ø Registration form to remove details from Direct Mailing databases





# Waste Treatment Plants

- The Essex Waste Partnership favour **composting** technologies such as an **anaerobic digestion** (AD), for source segregated organic wastes. AD is a form of biotreatment & produces a gas which can be used to generate 100% renewable electricity.
- Whilst we can work on reducing the amount of waste produced & 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).

## What is MBT?

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

Madrid





Inside the Madrid facility





# What is Solid Recovered Fuel?

- One output from a MBT process can be the production of a **solid recovered fuel** (SRF).
- It is produced from the material that has not been recycled.
- The biomass component of SRF is typically in excess of 50% & could be a valuable source of renewable energy.
- Essex authorities will explore the option of producing a SRF from the MBT process & 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** & could prove to be a more cost effective solution than sending it to landfill.

# Strategic Environmental Assessment



# Strategic Environmental Assessment

- SEA undertaken on the draft strategy.
- SEA process helps to ensure that draft waste is developed with a focus on sustainability & the environment.
- SEA process produces an **Environmental Report**. This assess the environmental impact of implementing the key targets & actions of the strategy.
- The Environmental Report must also be consulted on at the same time as the draft strategy.

# Public & stakeholder consultation

## Community involvement

- The successful delivery of the strategy rests on the willingness & desire of Essex authorities & householders to work together to take responsibility for their waste. Therefore, **the involvement of the community is of paramount importance to the development of the strategy.**

# Consultation

- Running for 12 weeks from 18 February 2008.
- 25 roadshows throughout Essex.
- Questionnaire – also available to complete online
- Article & questionnaire included in the County Council magazine which is delivered to every household in the county.
- All Parish Councils written to.
- A list of 100 key stakeholders (including Environmental Groups, Residents Associations etc) written to.
- Website: [www.essex.gov.uk/wasteconsultation](http://www.essex.gov.uk/wasteconsultation)



## Consultation - continued



- Focus Groups – conducted by independent facilitators
- Information available in every library in Essex
- Posters promoting the consultation & questionnaires available in District & Borough Council buildings
- Display in County Hall, Chelmsford
- Essex Youth Assembly

