

WASTE

It's everyone's responsibility!



National Waste Strategy: Scotland

Western Isles



Everyone produces rubbish, but it's probably something you don't think about very often - other than remembering to put out the bins to be picked up.

The Western Isles currently produce around 30,000 tonnes of rubbish each year, the majority of which comes from houses and commercial properties. At the moment, approximately 26,000 tonnes of waste goes directly to landfill at either Bennadrove or Rueval and only a small percentage is recycled. This situation is not sustainable, and is not a long-term solution. We need to reduce, re-use and recycle our rubbish before thinking of disposal, and new ideas need to be investigated as to how we can manage our waste better in the future.

The National Waste Strategy: Scotland is to provide a framework within which Scotland can reduce the amount of waste it produces, and deal with what's left in a more sustainable way. As part of this the Western Isles Waste Strategy Group has been set up to develop a waste plan for the Western Isles by 2020.

The group consists of members of the Western Isles Council, Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), Western Isles Enterprise and representatives from many other public and private organisations and businesses. We would now like your views, and encourage you to:

- send back the questionnaire at the end of this leaflet.
- request our technical document if you want more detailed information.
- look out for information on one of our proposed events. Members of the Western Isles Strategy Group will be there to answer your queries.

We hope that you will find the time to give us your thoughts, before you next put your bin out on the street.

Why we must change

It is estimated that the number of people living in the Western Isles will decline over the next 20 years, however, the amount of waste produced per person is increasing.

New legislation from Europe will place better environmental standards and greater constraints on the wastes we are allowed to send to landfill. Of particular importance is the significantly decreased amount of Biodegradable Municipal Waste we will be allowed to landfill by 2020. BMW, as it is known, is rubbish such as kitchen and garden waste, paper etc. By 2010 only 75% (of 1995 quantities) will be allowed to go to landfills; by 2013 this drops to 50% and by 2020 only 35%.

If the Western Isles does not meet these targets landfill permits will have to be bought. The cost of these is currently estimated as £60 per tonne. However, if in demand, prices could be much higher.

Every tonne of waste sent to landfill incurs a tax, currently set at £12 per tonne, but which is estimated to be perhaps as high as £35 per tonne by 2010. This is on top of the transport and disposal charges.

What are the options for Waste by 2020?

The best way to deal with the consequences of waste is simply to reduce its production in the first place. This is called waste minimisation. Education and organised activities can raise awareness of the opportunities and innovations available to householders and businesses to decrease the amount of rubbish they have to dispose of.

There are a number of community-lead initiatives that re-use and recycle materials, thus reducing the amount of waste going to landfill. In addition the local authority promotes the recycling of metal cans, paper and glass which can either be used locally or transported to mainland Scotland for reprocessing.

The Area Waste Group believes that waste minimisation and increased recycling is a fundamental part of all future options for the Western Isles. One of the ways this could be done is by employing a waste minimisation and recycling officer who could help communities and business with these initiatives.

The options

The Area Waste Group has come up with five options for how we should deal with waste by 2020. They are summarised below.

Option 1: Continue to Landfill at Current Levels

The Western Isles would continue to rely on landfill at Bennadrove to dispose of its wastes.

Positives

- easy to arrange as landfill site already in place

Negatives

- would not meet the Landfill Directive targets
- landfill tax costs
- require to purchase landfill permits
- public not responsible for their own waste
- unlikely to require new jobs or skills
- no energy recovery

Option 2: Energy from Waste Incinerator

A new Energy from Waste Plant would be built near Stornoway. Waste would be imported from Skye and parts of mainland Scotland to ensure the plant can run successfully. Ash would be disposed of as landfill.

Positives

- energy produced which could be used in a local heating system
- significant new employment and skills
- income from accepting other wastes
- Landfill Directive targets would be met

Negatives

- expensive start up costs (although some funding would be available)
- local community may have poor perception
- transportation may be affected by weather

Option 3: In-vessel Composting

Composting is the process in which micro-organisms convert degradable organic matter, such as vegetable and garden wastes, into carbon dioxide, water and a residue known as compost. This material would be used for local land improvement schemes.

A new composting plant would be built near Stornoway. All areas would be required to separate their vegetable and garden wastes from other wastes and either deliver them to a local bring site or present them for collection by a split refuse collection vehicle. All other non-recyclable wastes would be collected and transported to Bennadrove landfill site for disposal. Waste would be imported from Skye and parts of mainland Scotland to ensure the system ran successfully.

Positives

- some new employment and skills
- income from accepting other wastes
- Landfill Directive targets would be met
- all emissions would be controlled
- technology well proven
- recycling improved in some areas
- production of soil conditioner

Negatives

- no energy recovery
- transportation may be affected by weather

Option 4: Anaerobic Digestion

This option is similar to option 3 but instead of simple in-vessel composting an anaerobic digestion plant near Stornoway would produce methane to generate electricity. If some form of heat treatment could be added to the plant aquaculture wastes could also be processed.

Positives

- new employment and skills
- energy produced
- income from accepting other wastes
- Landfill Directive targets would be met
- all emissions would be controlled
- recycling improved in some areas
- income from accepting aquaculture wastes
- production of soil conditioner

Negatives

- technology less well proven
- transportation may be affected by weather

Option 5: Export

All the Western Isles waste is transported to mainland Scotland for treatment and recycling or disposal.

Positives

- may create employment elsewhere

Negatives

- greater transportation
- no new skills or employment locally
- transportation may be affected by weather
- current waste management facilities not used
- no energy recovery
- little control over cost

A copy of our full technical document can be gained by contacting WesternIsleswaste@sepa.org.uk or by calling 01349 860367. Feedback from the consultation will be used to come to a final decision on the options for the Western Isles and will shape the production of the draft and final plans. Everybody will have the opportunity to comment on the draft plan early next year.

Comments are welcomed on any aspect of waste management in the Western Isles, however, the Area Waste Group is particularly keen to seek views on the five options posed.

Please circle the answers you feel are most appropriate and comment in the boxes

WESTERN ISLES WASTE OPTIONS QUESTIONNAIRE

Name.....

Address.....

Are you completing this questionnaire on behalf of:

An individual

A business

A community group

Please give each waste management option a score from A to E where A= very good and E= very poor.

Option 1
(Landfill only)

Option 4
Anaerobic Digestion)

Option 2
(Incineration)

Option 5
(Export)

Option 3
(Composting)

For the option you liked best please tell us why

For the option you liked least please tell us why

What can be done in the Western Isles to minimise the amount of waste produced?

Do you think that a waste minimisation and recycling officer could assist communities and local businesses to minimise the waste they produce?

Yes

No



Do you currently recycle any of your wastes?

Yes

No

What wastes do you recycle?

How could you be encouraged to start recycling or to recycle more?

Would you be willing to sort your wastes into different types?

Yes

No

Would you be willing to take some of your own segregated waste to a local bring site?

Yes

No

How can recycled materials be used locally?

Responses should be returned to:

Scottish Environment Protection Agency
FREEPOST IV342
Graesser House
Fodderty Way
Dingwall
IV15 9SB

The consultation process runs until 21
December 2001.

WWS
SCOTLAND

National Waste Strategy: S Western Isles



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