

**NATIONAL WASTE STRATEGY: SCOTLAND**

**Waste Strategy Area 2 – Western Isles**

**Draft Area Waste Plan – Public Consultation Report**

**August 2002**

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## Methods

### Documentation

The consultation process ran from 8 August to 31 September 2002 and was based on the distribution and subsequent publicity and promotion of two documents – the Western Isles Draft Area Waste Plan and an associated Summary document. The Summary incorporated the main elements of the Plan, including the following:

- Background to AWP development
- Findings from the previous public consultation
- Proposed technologies and targets for the 2020 ‘Best Practicable Environmental Option’ (BPEO)
- Specific areas addressed by the detailed Action Plan
- Next steps

A Freepost questionnaire attached to the Summary document provided the mechanism for individuals to provide written feedback on the Plan. The questions contained in the Summary are detailed in the attached Appendix 1.

### Promoting Feedback

The Summary was sent to a list of over 250 stakeholder organisations throughout the area, and in addition to all those who responded to the previous consultation on strategic waste options. Both the summary and the full Plan were also made generally available to the public and businesses *via* both the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) and Comhairle Eilean Siar (CNES) local offices, on web sites, and in a number of public areas throughout the islands (e.g. libraries, ferry terminals, etc).

The Plan and consultation were actively promoted *via* manned stalls at various shows and events throughout the area, and unmanned static stalls were set up in a number of public areas including Stornoway library.

A Press Release was sent out prior to commencement of the consultation process, and a dedicated advert was placed in the “West Highland Free Press”.

Specific internet (e-mail) and telephone mailboxes were set up for the duration of the consultation period to accommodate oral responses.

Feedback on the Plan was also generated through a series of 50 random door-to-door interview surveys investigating waste awareness in the area, carried out by the Scottish Waste Awareness Group. On the back of this, SWAG also held a small Focus Group looking specifically at the detailed proposals for householders contained in the Plan.

### Analysis of Results

The analysis was carried out jointly by SEPA (Waste Strategy Area Co-ordinator) in

consultation with the remaining members of the Waste Strategy Area Group.

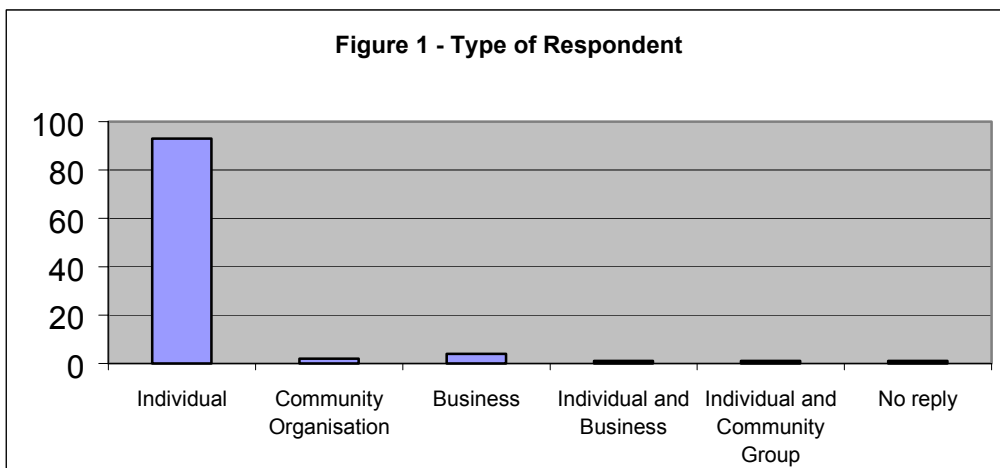
For the discreet questions, responses were quantified and presented graphically. For the open questions, commonalities were identified and drawn out using key words and phrases.

## Results

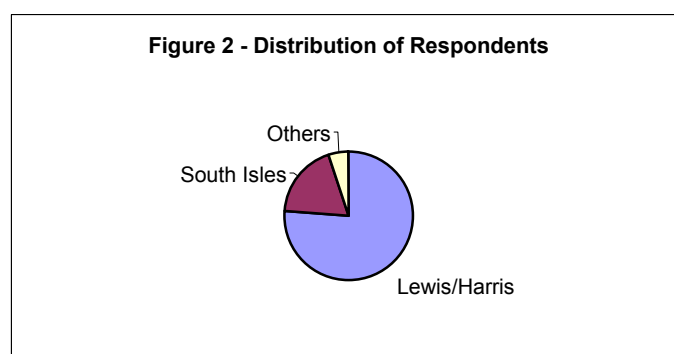
### Number, Type and Geographical Distribution of Respondents

A total of 102 completed questionnaire responses were received during the consultation period. This compared to a total of 259 during the first round of consultation earlier in 2002.

The breakdown of respondents by different type is illustrated in Figure 1 below. As the figure shows the great majority of responses came from individual members of the public, with a total of five from businesses and three from community organisations.

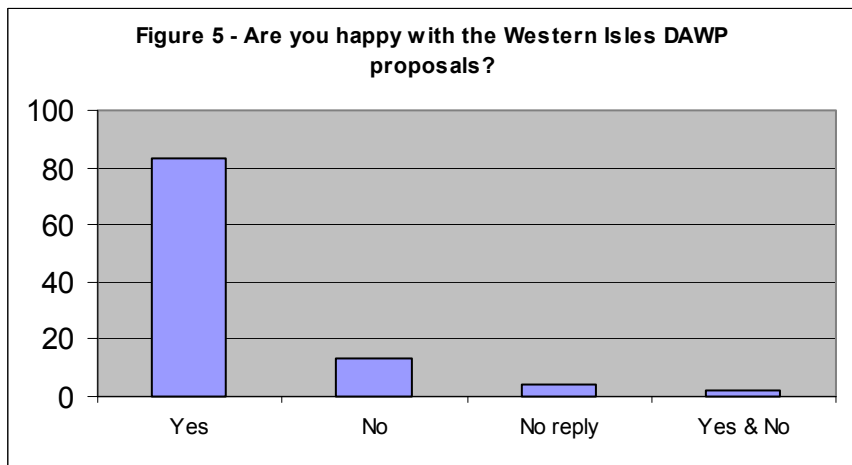
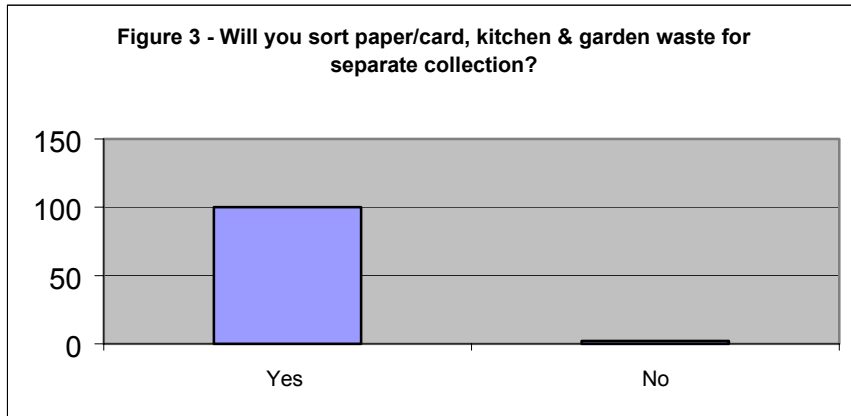


About three quarters of the responses received were from individuals based on either Lewis or Harris (77%), with the majority of the remainder from North Uist (15%). There were also five responses from outside the Waste Strategy Area. The geographical distribution of respondents is summarised in Figure 2 below.



### Support for the Draft AWP

In general, the measures proposed in the Draft AWP were strongly supported by the majority of respondents, as illustrated by the quantified responses in Figures 2, 3 and 4. Over 80% of all respondents expressed a willingness to segregate and deliver recoverable waste (biodegradables and dry recyclates) and were generally happy with the Draft AWP proposals. A great many positive comments were made on the Plan, it's content and its timely development (see below).



Of the two respondents who stated they would not support kerbside collection of biodegradables, one said that they already compost these wastes while the other stated the lack of a suitable container as the reason for not participating.

All the (10) respondents unwilling to segregate and transport dry recyclates stated that either they were unable / unwilling to transport their own waste, or that they felt these materials should also be collected from the kerbside.

There was a marked difference in the level of support for the two proposed new segregated household waste collection schemes. While there was almost universal support for the kerbside collection of biodegradables, there was less support for participation in an expanded bring system for dry recyclates (glass, plastic and aluminium).

Some 83% of respondents also provided written reasons why they liked the Plan and would support the measures proposed within it. The most common reasons for liking the Draft AWP (each stated by at least three respondents) were as follows:

- it promotes development of local recycling / waste recovery
- it will reduce landfill on the islands
- it is action-based and action is long overdue
- it is well thought out and thorough
- it will deliver a local benefit from waste
- it is time-bound and realistic
- it is forward-looking

Only 12% of all respondents were not happy with the Plan. Each of the following underlying reasons were given by at least three respondents:-

- the measures proposed by the Draft AWP are not “radical” or action-oriented enough;
- the Draft AWP represents “too little to late”.

Other concerns were that large, centralised plants may not address potential growth in population / economic activity out with the Stornoway area, that the Plan is difficult to understand, and that not enough has been included to tackle non-household (e.g. industrial) wastes.

### **Comments and Suggestions**

Respondents were asked to say what it was they liked about the Draft AWP, to suggest other possible action areas, and to provide any other general comments. Many respondents made constructive suggestions regarding implementation and development of the specific Draft AWP proposals, even where they had stated that they would participate in any case.

#### Collecting Biodegradables

Regarding the kerbside collection of biodegradables (for which there was very strong support), each of the following comments were made by at least three respondents:-

- Kitchen and garden waste is currently being composted anyway;
- Suitable containers will need to be provided for inside and outside the home;
- Some areas may require communal containers in the street instead.

### Collecting Dry Recyclate

Almost all the comments regarding the proposed expansion in provision of local recycling centres were focused on potential problems regarding transportation. Many respondents were questioning of what was actually meant by “local” sites, and stated that their participation was conditional on having easy access to the new facilities. Many respondents also regarded that the dispersed and ageing nature of the area’s population would not favour the success of a ‘bring’ system for recyclable wastes. Almost a quarter of all respondents raised issues related to difficulties in transporting waste.

### Suggested Actions

Each of the following suggested areas for additional Actions were raised by at least three respondents:-

- Speed up the implementation programme
- Much more provision and promotion of recycling sites
- Provide more / better information, promotion and education
- Develop community-led initiatives
- More direct involvement of schools
- More to address litter and fly-tipping issues
- Joint initiatives with supermarkets / product suppliers to reduce packaging
- Promote home composting
- Create artificial reefs with the islands waste

### Other Comments

Each of the following additional general comments / issues were raised by at least three respondents:-

- The Plan needs to be implemented quicker
- The plan’s development will need to be very high profile
- Need to ensure recycling facilities are easily accessible to all and suitable containers are provided
- Don’t make the Plan too centralised around Stornoway, needs to facilitate waste reduction throughout all the islands
- Need to promote home composting
- Should penalise those who don’t participate in segregating their waste
- Address packaging issues with main supermarkets
- There needs to be additional funding made available

A complete list of all the individual comments received through the consultations is provided in Appendix 2.

### **Conclusions & Recommendations/**

The public consultation exercise on the Western Isles Draft AWP received a very reasonable per capita level of response, comparable to (slightly higher than) most other Waste Strategy Areas. The level of response was considerably lower than that received during the previous consultation on strategic waste options - 101 responses as compared to 259. This should however be expected given that many people will feel that they have already made a contribution to the Plan's development process (this has been found to be the case elsewhere).

As with the previous consultation, the great majority of responses came from individual members of the community rather than businesses or community groups. While this has also been the case elsewhere it is perhaps still a concern that needs to be addressed. In future, the AWP will be developed to focus more on specific non-MSW streams such as commercial industrial wastes. In light of the low response from the business sector, an important aspect of that development will be to involve businesses more and generate greater feedback on proposals put forward.

There was a good spread of responses from different areas within the islands, in proportion with the distribution of the local population, with not surprisingly the majority coming from Lewis and Harris where the major population centres are located.

The responses received were on the whole extremely positive, with the great majority of people (>80%) both happy with the Plan and willing to support the specific proposals. This gives the Waste Strategy Area Group (WSAG) a strong mandate to proceed with development and implementation of the Plan. However, many of those individuals who responded positively also made constructive comment regarding what they felt was required for them to participate effectively in its implementation. These comments are extremely valuable and should be considered in detail in developing the AWP Implementation Plan.

Considerably less respondents (but still a majority) appear willing to participate in an expanded 'bring' system for glass, plastic and aluminium than are willing to support a new kerbside collection system for biodegradables. This backs up research and practical experience elsewhere which has generally found kerbside collection systems to be more effective in capturing household waste. It was also notable from the responses that even many of those who said they will participate in an expanded bring system believed that others either would or could not, principally due to problems with transportation. Again, this is obviously a key issue in developing the Implementation Plan that requires further research and development - e.g. there was apparently considerable variation in what individuals perceived as being a 'local' recycling centre, ranging from 'walking distance' to five miles. A number of specific locations for recycling centres were suggested including schools, libraries, markets and shops. Each of these should be considered through the implementation process.

It was clear from the responses that some individuals who expressed willingness to participate in the proposed kerbside collection are in fact already composting their kitchen and garden waste at home. Such waste is not currently entering of the local authority's waste stream at present and should be preferred to remain as such. These instances should be identified in advance of the implementation process to avoid generating an unnecessary increase in the amount of waste being handled.

There was a perceived concern amongst many respondents that the AWP is too centralised around the Stornoway area. While this isn't strictly the case the concern is a valid one, and at least raises important issues regarding the need to promote the Plan and associated new facilities and services as they are introduced. Indeed, there was also a widely held perception amongst respondents that a high enough profile for the Plan was not being and / or would not be maintained. These issues emphasise the need to further strengthen and develop the promotional and education / awareness aspects of the Action Plan.

The issue of effective waste containment and its efficacy was also raised widely – again this ties in to the implementation process and is clearly a key issue that needs to be addressed as part of this.

The responses suggest there is scope for greater promotion / participation in home composting. It may be worth considering this option through the implementation process, especially if there are parts of the islands where a kerbside collection is likely to be particularly inefficient or impractical.

A number of respondents raised the possibility of bringing forward the implementation timetable. However, a detailed programme for implementation has yet to be fully developed, and the Draft AWP timescale was deliberately made to be on the conservative side. The WSAG should give consideration to areas where actions can be brought forward, and this should be built in to the local authority Implementation Plan.

The importation of packaging to the islands, in particular through the supermarket chains, was again raised as a major issue, and this therefore perhaps needs more specific actions to be developed, although this is unlikely within the timetable for AWP completion. Many of the issues relating to product packaging in any case require a national impetus so this is perhaps an area where the WSAG to endeavour to take a lobbying role.

Finally, it was suggested by many respondents that the Plan needs to include more Action on other waste issues such as litter, fly-tipping and dealing with specific waste streams such as WEEE. These are areas that the WSAG should focus on developing in future, as the focus of the Plan moves away from the collection and recovery of household waste.

## APPENDIX 1

### Western Isles Draft AWP - Consultation Questions

- **Who are you responding on behalf of ?**

Individual / community organisation / business / other

- **Will you sort paper/card, kitchen and garden waste for separate collection ?**

Yes / no

If not, why not ?

- **Will you sort your metal, plastic and glass waste and take it to a local recycling centre ?**

Yes / no

If not, why not ?

- **Are you happy with the Western Isles Draft AWP proposals ?**

Yes / no

If not, why not ?

- **What do you like about the Draft Plan ?**
- **Are there any other actions you would like to see included ?**
- **Any other comments ?**

**APPENDIX 2**

**Western Isles Draft AWP Consultation**

**Individual comments**

Will you sort paper/card, kitchen and garden waste for separation If not, why - 2
We already burn all paper/card on an enclosed solid fuel stove & we compost feed to poultry all kitchen or garden waste. If we did not do this we would sort the waste for special collection
Not enough room in the kitchen for separate containers and no outside storage - why not containers for each street?
Kitchen waste goes on compost heap.
Kitchen & Garden waste all composted
If there is a collecting point in Valtos/Kneep
But the Council would need to produce weather proof & vermin proof containers
Because I only have one bin and do not have anywhere to put it
At present it is not possible in Skye. There is no recycling. We collect the glass but the Council throws it into the landfill
As long as suitable bags/containers are provided that are rat proof
As long as I am well
Already compost kitchen & garden waste
Already burn much of paper waste & compost kitchen & garden waste

Will you sort your metal, plastic and glass and take it to a local recycling centre - If not, why - 2
Would retain kitchen & garden waste for own use.
Will sort but having no transport of my own would have to rely on family or neighbours to take to centre
We already take our glass to be recycled. Why not provide homes with containers for these items.
That should be part of what I pay in taxes you too have to hold some responsibility for what you would charge us

See above ; also not everyone has access to transport to these places. It would be better to be collected.

Not enough room in the kitchen for separate containers and no outside storage - why not containers for each street?

No transport

No car unless the local recycling centre is easy to reach.

Need collection bins spread through area ie Grimsay, Clachan' Sollas & Lochmaddy. If it all has to go to one central point people won't do it.

Must be local to South Harris

Much will depend upon what 'local' means and on continuing mobility. With a sparse ageing population this aspect is easier to describe than achieve.

It depends how far away it is.

If this was done by every household the amount of pollution from additional vehicle trips would be equally damaging to the environment.

If there is a collecting point in Valtos/Kneep

If it is possible

If in the visits the local recycling centre was at the market stance then I wouldn't as this would involve special journeys at which is not sustainable. If there were points at shops where people are going anyway then yes. Not everybody has a car.

I previously sorted waste, but don't have time to put it away. Sometimes bins are full & I don't want to take waste home again.

I do not have any transport & cannot carry heavy weights.

I am willing to sort out items mentioned in the Council would provide the necessary bins within walking distance of my home. At the moment the nearest bins is 1 mile away. The majority of people in this area are senior citizens.

I am unsure of types of metal in various cans.

I am not going to mess up my car with rubbish as it has a wheel chair permanently in it.

Difficult to get it to centre as I am an OAP.

Depends on how far away recycling centre is - and is not a reasonable possibility for many people who lack cars or are disabled, infirm or too old

By the time the plans are implemented I shall be in my 90's and don't think I could manage to co-operate!

But only if the recycling centre is truly local ie within 5 miles

But I have no transport

As long as I am still fit to drive. There will be many particularly the elderly who would be more than willing but do not have the transport

Already doing it

Already do most

Are you happy with the Western Isles Draft AWP proposals - If not, why - 2

Unproven technology of anaerobic digestion

Too much emphasis on what households have to do for free or likely increases in community charge. No mention of tackling industrial & other wastes

Too little too late. Why was I doing more than your proposal during a period when I lived in Germany 10 years ago! You should have acted well before now.

There should be more use of recycled materials in the Western Isles to close the loop. I am worried about bacteria in anaerobic digestion

There is too much talk about "developing" and not enough about "doing". It is all too airy fairy - "research", "promote", "monitor". These are not achieving words

Some categories of householder would find it difficult to get segregated waste to recycling points ie elderly, disabled, those without transport

Option 3 & 4 should be combined with option 2. Reason being that hazardous materials ie clinical waste, contaminated disposable substances are best disposed of by incineration. WIHB, CNES, SEPA and any other interested bodies should seek the assistance of for example Strathclyde University to endeavor to attempt to produce an incinerator which would comply.

Only if they are part of an ongoing plan and fully include the Uists and Barra include viable collection schemes

Not radical enough. ALL household waste should be segregated for kerbside collection asap, not waiting till 2007

Not nearly enough information provided, some topics ignored and some proposals appear to depend (in the absence of further information) either upon pious hopes or lucky circumstances

Not happy with centralised plants. Whilst smaller plants are more costly in the short term there will be a problem if excessive costs if population & commercial activities increase away for Stornoway

More or less happy

I don't fully understand AWP -all you seem to be saying about it is Research. Development, but not what.

I come from Germany & they recycle almost everything, the most important step is prevent waste from coming up. Looking at supermarkets you realise there is little option

I am surprised that the researchers of the plan haven't investigated the processing to 'Ingot' of metal cans.

Ensure ' Waste Minimisation Officer' is not based in Stornoway (eg. Barra) We are only remote to Stornoway

Don't know. As long as it is not too centralised. Am in favour of compost/by-products if you keep heavy metals out. Small scale better, less problems

Being on an Island one will reach saturation point at some time.

What do you like about the Draft Plan

What I like about the plan is the fact that there will be a kerbside collection of household & commercial waste.

Well presented, well thought out plan, with feasible timetable for implementation

We must try to recycle as much as possible so any inroad into this problem is very welcome.

We like the plan because it is encouraging reduction, reuse and recycling and not just focusing on one aspect

Very clear and well presented.

Timescales seem reasonable to change public attitudes

The whole community is being involved in this effort to reduce environmentally damaging disposal of waste which exists at present (ie. via the Marybank landfill site).

The waste is to be recycled to benefit the islands especially the anaerobic digestion plant

The reduction of infill disposal, from the pollution point of view, and the saving of the resources.

The only sensible options.

The glass recycling for roadworks and that someone takes steps to do recycling properly

The fact that recycling is included and will hopefully be available locally for all

The fact that it will produce energy which can be used for the benefit of the community.

The fact that it is actually working towards a reduction and I waste.

The emphasis on conservation and recycling.

The determination to make change, clarity. The intention is to change attitudes and recycle more

The active participation of the community. Making a useful byproduct.

That something is being done and that the problems are at least being thought about

That so many options are being looked at

That it will bring recycling to the Western Isles which should have happened years ago

That eventually something is being done to halt the damage

Target dates for implementing plan, composting biodegradeable waste, minimisation of waste at source

Tackling all waste produced - not just metal, plastic & glass. Britain is far behind countries like Germany in their attitude and implementation - this needs to change - hopefully this draft will help

Tackles the identified problems with best solutions.

Tackles problem of Rueval tip (Benbcula) becoming full and European Directives on recycling

Straightforward reading

Something is happening at last!

Something is being done, pursuit of options 3 & 4, Kerbside collection of household segregated waste

Sensible and long overdue for everyone and future benefit.

Seems very good - at least something is being done. Not much point in 'exporting' waste - unless scrap.

Responsibility of householder to deal with waste responsibility

Recycling etc, reduction of landfill

Recycling and reducing waste

Recognises the importance of action on recycling. Looking at ways to make it convenient for people.

Proposals to reduce the landfill of biodegradable waste - composting

Promoting recycling and educating people about what is happening to their waste. Promoting home composting to gardeners & crofters.

plenty of thought gone into it.

Pleased that action is being taken

Options 3 and 4 seem the most "green" choices.

Not a lot

No comment

Need more detail. Need creative officer in the Southern Isle too. Need careful design of composter/digester! Smaller scale
It will bring jobs to the Islands and will reduce pollution. It will make good use of a previously unused resource.
It turns rubbish into something useful - common sense approach
It seems very straight forward and well thought out.
It maximises the recycling of waste, i.e.compost soil enhances etc.
It is very positive and a step in the right direction
It is time we as a country do this.
It is time bound. It will reduce landfill
It is good for the environment.
It is forward looking and should be implemented a.s.a.p.
It is clear and concise and seems to be on the right track, as a first step.
It is based on ecological principles rather than economics, clear objectives, but is realistic about the timescale.
It is a step in the right direction.
It is a start in the right direction but more managed sites be one on westside, Stornoway, east side Harris are needed
It is a balanced approach to a wide spread problem.
It appears to deal realistically with the problem.
In would like to see a commitment from the Council to providing compost for gardens etc for those who would utilise that facility. A small charge for the compost could help towards cost
In theory it seems good & much needed. Hopefully not too may problems will arise when it comes down to the nitty gritty of implementing it.
In Merseyside, green bags are supplied for garden waste
If it makes economic sense to separate waste
I like the idea that so much of waste material will be put back onto the land, and into the community
I hope it will be possible to establish an anaerobic digestion/composting plant and that the compost produced will be available to Islanders

I am happy that one incinerator option has been discarded as that has terrible environmental implications. Composting/AD is such a sensible option

I agree with the outcome that the BPEO is a combination of composting and anaerobic digestion. Income generation & energy generation are welcome benefits

Forward thinking for 21st century.

Firstly we will be obeying the law in a bid to save our marvelous islands and planet. Secondly both options are going to return a product to improve the land.

Finally there are plans to deal effectively with our Islands waste and also gain some benefit from our waste.

Everything, all that has been thought of is very good indeed and that the plan can be built on and go forward.

Environmentally friendly, forward looking

Emphasis on minimisation and community solutions

Emphasis on composting biodegradable waste and its re-use in agriculture & gardening.

Demonstrates a will to increase recycling & re-use & make use of biodegradable material.

Composting of waste for re-use.

Collection of individual waste from house.

Choice of options 3 & 4

Appears a thorough package.

Anything that stops pollution and can help with energy is well worth considering.

All of it.

ACTION

Absolutely essential

A good plan, provided that it is carried out to the latter. Can we be sure that what we deposit in the recycling bins does not go straight to the tip

A detailed document outlining proposals to reduce waste production.

Any other actions - 2

<p>Yes, all people to buy as environmentally friendly as possible. Eg own shopping bags, buy cardboard packed milk cartons. Promote recycling paper for office use.</p>
<p>Yes</p>
<p>Would the skips which are in place at the moment still be kept for larger items such as mattresses, old fridges and washing machines or will there be some other way of disposal?</p>
<p>Would like to see actions such as collections speeded up.</p>
<p>Utilisation of gas from compost for community heating, croft waste collection for compost and redistribution. Recycling for original use for energy efficiency</p>
<p>Under 'Making it happen' in view of the composting element in the disposal of biodegradable waste should there be a partnership with the Crofting Union?</p>
<p>Tougher laws on illegal dumping</p>
<p>To see how things develop - and consider improvement if necessary.</p>
<p>To ratchet up this emphasis, increase the pace to reach and surpass the planned goals.</p>
<p>There should be collection bins outside every island school and the threat of penalties on the culprits</p>
<p>The waste minimisation officer needs to encourage reuse and reduction of waste in the first place ie the green office action plan could be used by the council. The recycling of stone instead of it being buried in the ground.</p>
<p>The vast majority of domestic waste is generated by the two Stornoway supermarkets. They need to be involved and have more pressure put on them re packaging, returnables, funding local schemes</p>
<p>The timescale should be as fast as possible.</p>
<p>The provision of receptacles for home storage of waste groups prior to disposal.</p>
<p>The incorporation of harvested seaweed to the composting/digestion process to increase the volume of byproducts and also give employment to seaweed gatherers.</p>
<p>The creation of second-hand stuff in yards which the public (council tax payers) could use, not swallowed up by CnES as at present</p>
<p>Supply composting bins to interested residents, with simple instructions on their use.</p>
<p>Suitable procedures for removal on vehicle wrecks - vehicles reported are still in situ 6 months later.</p>
<p>Some publicity given to the schemes success or otherwise</p>
<p>Separate containers at homes please as is done in most areas of England etc</p>
<p>Schools to encourage children to take care &amp; appreciate their environment.</p>
<p>Retail outlets should be made to cut down on packaging. Strict limits should e put on the amount of plastic bags/wrapping/packaging which leave each outlet &amp; all unnecessary wrapping done away with.</p>

Reduction in the amount of packaging used by manufacturers and suppliers. Reduction in the number of plastic carrier bags perhaps by charging for them. This would need to be at a national level.

Recycling bins in a central area near shops/outside supermarkets

Publicising of the plan to arouse enthusiasm in the general public.

Promotion of recycling, opportunities for local businesses

Pick-up of separated domestic waste---?

People will soon loose interest if there is no use for the end product of recycling. Therefore careful thought should be given to the type of products that would be used in the Islands.

Penalties for those who do not participate in separation & recycling of waste.

No. I think after reading your informative booklet it would seem that the right methods have been chosen.

No mention is made of vehicle and croft machinery scrap - also industrial scrap.

More work done to stop litter (such as paper cans & bottles) being strewn around Stornoway at weekends.

Make sure dumped rubbish, ie - old cars. Kitchen appliances, etc left on roadside 'dumps' are cleared.

Local collection bins! Also shredding of newspaper for use as animal bedding

Larger fines for and more tracking of fly tipping

Kerbside collection of paper/card, Kitchen and garden waste, metal, plastic & glass in 2002, removal of old derelict houses and cars 2002, economic investments to segregate waste

Just to make sure that the Uists are covered asap

It may have been interesting to have had a page in this brochure devoted to recycling methods & their %'s

In California they have built reefs of squashed old cans - after clearing out all the oil and dangerous stuff and find they are excellent breeding grounds for fish. Would it work here?

Implement faster. To discourage fly tipping ensure legislation & action to impose heavy financial penalties. Achieve public awareness campaigns.

I would like to see some of the suitable waste used to make artificial reefs around our shores to help increase our dwindling fish stocks & prevent illegal fishing.

I would like to see more recycling containers around and would very much like them to be lower. Someone else has to do my recycling as I cannot reach.

I would like to see a recycling centre on the Island

I believe we must be very certain there is no viable future in proven production from waste before full abandonment of option 2.

Householders should be provided with bins to keep waste segregated and possibly a composter.

Greater publicising of sites for recycling bins. Rapid extension to areas other than Stornoway

Existing old machair dumps with agricultural waste and rubbish need to be tackled more effectively than at present especially plastic waste such as silage bags

Encouragement for establishment of local recycling co-operatives perhaps employing 1 or 2 locals, that locals can buy and sell to. Charity shops do not buy goods, unwanted items are held onto much longer than necessary

Employ local youth organisations to collect the rubbish that collects on roadside fences during high winds.

Education of separated waste at individual householders

Development of an action plan for Uist/Barra for community recycling and composting schemes. Establishment of local groups in Uist/Barra to support and develop local plan

Collection of glass/paper/cans etc.

Can small recycling bins be provided for the recycling of drink cans and bottles in schools, car parks & public places.

Bringing forward of segregated kerbside collection of household & commercial biodegradable wastes.

Bottle banks in rural areas

Arrangements for the collection of batteries

Action on Flotsam. Pressure on fishing industry to reduce careless disposal of waste at sea

A supply of separate bins so individuals can sort and compost their own bio-degradable waste.

A power production plant and a processing plant for metal cans.

A lot more local litter bins on approach roads to village for places cans, bottles, paper and fines for communities and awards for communities annually for litter free communities

A local collection point for paper/card & metal & glass & plastics seems necessary. Or paper/card could be collected along with the other litter (nonmetal, non plastic) in separate bins.

Other comments - 2

Yes-I was unaware of this consultation therefore I would assume it is not high profile, which it needs to be to work. Sorting for collection is one thing but people should be issued with containers that will not blow away for paper wastes etc.

Would like to know more about the bacteria used in anaerobic digestion where do they come from? In my compost heap if there is no air then bacteria can't function. SEPA must allow stone banks where stones can be dumped instead of being buried and wasted.

Will the action plan lead to the withdrawal of the community skips at present operated by the CNES? While the skips have been a benefit they have also created a problem in that lighter waste such as paper and card get blown about in the wind.

While I approve of this scheme, I do not wish to see an added burden on the council tax payers, as I feel we are already paying a hefty tax. I hope it will be budgeted very carefully.

Where is the skip in this process - definition on skip of what may/may not be disposed of ie recyclables- fines for offenders. Skip disposal sites to be available to public - for reclamation ie reusable timber, furniture. Child centered recycle point

What happens in due time (2006?) with electric/electronic waste once the WEEE is in force?

What about a pilot study for a communal compost heap in a discrete local community say Gress with 500 householders. See notes

We already recycle glass and plastic at the depot sites, and garden waste & some kitchen waste is being put into our compost heap in our garden.

Too much emphasis on paper proposals in the early years of the plan. More emphasis on practical proposals. See notes.

To campaign at supermarkets for shoppers to use reusable bags and not the free ones as they produce so much rubbish & are non-biodegradeable

There is already some waste burnt on open fires and stoves by those households using solid fuel. This may not have been taken into account is assessing total waste as it has never appeared at landfill sites

The sooner the better for such a plan is needed urgently to protect the countryside.

The sooner that recycling facilities are in place, the better for all

The Scottish Executive needs to recognise the special situation in the Islands by giving free or RET transport of materials to the mainland for recycling, where this cannot be done on the islands. What about low grade plastics being made into fence posts

The proposal to minimise waste appears to be a good idea, however, there needs to be a strong will to see it carried through. This means that recycling facilities must be available on every inhabited island. How many impurities will be removed from compos

The government could direct some of the money to subsidies bio-degradable packaging to make it cheaper for companies to use. Our waste is mainly biodegradeable apart from packaging and nappies and it is these things which would benefit the environment by being biodegradeable. Companies could also be encouraged by tax breaks to spend more on research into this type of packaging. Some landfill could then be reused. Companies and government organisations should be encouraged to use recycled materials eg for paperwork.

Thank you for doing this and for consulting - the challenge for you is whether you are willing to incorporate the suggestions you get from consulting

Suitable skip to be provided for cans, bottles, paper cloth at local shops or central areas and the same to be emptied regularly.

Suggest - Suitable waste - rubble/clean crushed vehicles etc to be used as artificial reefs in suitable areas of the sea bed. Encouraging nursery areas for fish and the materials used would deter nets being trawled in these areas.

Should be obligatory for all regions

Seems to be some inconsistency in Draft Area Waste Plan.

For wholehearted support I feel that parallel and equally weighty support must be given to developing (or promoting where models already exist elsewhere) small business uses for recycled and recycling wastes. There islands need more businesses; if where possible to add value to waste and create business (jobs thereby then recycling will receive a boost and increased support and the benefits would be widespread)

Scotland seems to be at the stage we have been at since I was growing up. Charge deposits for plastic bottles so that people have to bring them back to the shop. Reuse glass bottles, take glass jars back to the shop, Don't put milk in plastic bottles, charge for plastic bags at the shops.

Safeway's recycle plastic carrier bags, so perhaps an arrangement could be made with them to deal with bags collected at recycling sites.

Ref metal plastic & glass waste many people particularly older residents do not have transport for this operation. Maybe home collection for them would be an option

Raise profile of litter on radio, schools, local paper and supermarkets.

Question - We already sort paper/card, kitchen & garden waste for compost. Question 2 - We already sort out cans, glass & plastic bottles and take to our local recycling centre, at Bernera Hall.

Plan sounds good, but will depend on public cooperation. People need to be reminded about the benefits & how their contribution to waste management will have a positive effect on environment. Maintain a high profile information campaign.

Perhaps bottled methane gas for use in motors could be another by-product.

Once implemented laws regarding litter would be appropriate and acted upon for those that find correctly disposing of their waste such a chore.

Not workable to expect everyone to be able to take their presorted waste to skips. This scheme will fail, many people will not take their waste to skips

Not enough made of the role the individual will be able to play in implementing the plan or how they can be more involved, timescale seems a bit long, early timescale for recycling initiatives outwith Stornoway could be included in the plan

Many people would prefer to compost their own garden waste, but no longer do so because of rats. Maybe there could be a scheme where ratproof plastic compost bins could be provided by the council

Make the public more aware of the benefits of the scheme through the media and leaflet delivery. The provision of skips to villages on a rotation basis is an excellent service and prevents fly tipping. The exception is local contractors and shopkeepers who see the skips as an outlet for their waste therefore bypassing charges. More policing of the skips is needed and action should be taken against them by the WIC.

Kerbside collections are a good idea and convenient for people especially elderly but out windy islands they would need to be stored in something solid with a lid

It would be necessary to include information on good practice in waste disposal ie arising out of glass, cans, plastic and so on. Get tough. Introduce simple penalties for non observance of advice ie non-collection

It will be difficult to motivate people to sort their rubbish and take it to local collection points. Money will motivate them! In New Zealand bins were provided for recyclable materials. Bin liners for other waste had to be bought. So, the more you recycle the less bin liners you needed, meaning individuals had to spend less money. There would have to be a large advertising campaign showing the effects of waste and I feel some incentive. Lots of people will do the easiest thing irrespective of the environmental damage.

It is vital that supermarkets stop wrapping their fruit & veg so much - even the organic ones are wrapped. Shops should use paper bags.

Individuals requesting actions or other from local authorities should be encouraged to inclose, if available, an e-mail address when communicating with said authority. This would allow any reply to be made via the internet thus saving on postage and paper which has to be disposed of. Also when requesting the return of questionnaires the inclusion of gummed edges and preaddressing this document would save on envelopes.

In New Zealand fishermen have to return all packaging & strapping bands to bait supplier before they can purchase more bait. I am currently doing a survey of Flotsam in Western Isle which will be featured online at [www.flotsam.org](http://www.flotsam.org) in the next few month

I would like to be kept informed.

I would have liked a 50 year plan for waste with a central plant say in Glasgow to deal with the waste from all areas, with the companies involved with their own products - glass, aluminium cans, steel cans etc. buying back same for reprocessing.

I understand that waste papers and bottles are being collected at market stance. Why is this not being advertised widely.

I think it might be difficult to persuade all households to co-operate with the initiative. It might also be difficult to sustain people's willingness to continue sorting out their rubbish.

I strongly believe that if people refuse to actively assist in recycling & separation they should pay for its disposal. I find unfortunately that many people here have little or no consideration for the impact they have on the environment and this attitude can no longer be tolerated. Another problem which needs to be addressed here is dumping of vehicles on the moors and I hope that this will be dealt with.

I recycle material at the COOP, there was an overflow of plastic bags on the ground behind the bins. The contents were open to the elements

I consider that the waste collection implemented by the council is very successful. It has greatly improved the appearance of both town & rural areas.

I am concerned that a minority element may not be prepared to sort their waste which would have a large negative effect on the good work of others. I consider an early opportunity to receive a local discount as suggested should be introduced

I am astonished at the casual attitude taken by a considerable proportion of Islanders to the environment within which they exist. Evidence abounds! Abandoned vehicles, domestic rubbish abandoned, poor practices by construction firms.

I already take the plastic, glass, metal and paper to recycling points at local supermarkets. Sometimes these are full up. Maybe they need to be emptied more frequently?

How many bins will we end up with and will they be provided.

How are you going to keep meat out of compost? (BSE, foot & mouth problems), as decentralised as possible

Households would need a supply of suitable bags in order to sort this waste. They would need to know where to get them, or order them. It is always easy to find them in shops. Some years ago, cardboard boxes were being collected from shops, and the amount was very considerable. It stopped because it obviously was not viable, local recycling and reuse of materials would be ideal if and when it can be done.

Household separation of biodegradeable waste - is paper/card to be separated from kitchen/garden waste. How often will collections be made. Might cause smell and vermin

Glass, plastic etc. recycling bins situated at about two miles distance from each other, not 9 miles as I have to travel at the moment. People use the skips a lot and if the recycling bins were nearer they would use these bins too, but they they should be more visible than they are now.

Excellent project - will challenge every inhabitant of the Western Isles to take responsibility for their own actions with regard to disposing of waste.

Every household should have had a copy through their letterbox

Dustbin collections could be cut down to one per month - that would make people start to think about using less, wasting less and recycling more.

Doing a good job to try to find disposal of waste.

Collections must be frequent enough so as not to put people off having old papers, glass lying around. Detailed explanations should be provided to householders explaining recycling methods, bring to points & collections. Shoppers use their own bags.

Bins at tourist sites perhaps could be emptied more often, especially in summer - also area skips.

Beach - shoreline rubbish collections - voluntary 'days' perhaps by the local community.

Assuming your anaerobic composting plant will be in Stornoway, more than 50% of the landmass and almost as much of the population cannot be served. Instead of continuing to centralise (with transport costs) much better to look at genuinely local schemes where waste is not transported 20-100 miles). Also oblige suppliers and packers to take back their packaging. Many lorries leave the island empty, with plenty of space for returned bottles, cans, etc.

As a disabled person I am not able to travel to Stornoway or even, often, Tarbet. Therefore I hope there will be facilities in South Harris.

Are local councillors lobbying supermarkets to reduce packaging. Discussion groups and documents produce a lot of waste paper and energy. Please cut down on acronyms.

Any project that is implemented should be throughout the Western Isles and not just in the Stornoway area and should be done at the same time and not in stages. The recycling scheme should be mandatory, if you opt out you have to pay more council tax.

A scrap metal plant which operates on a sale of products profit basis rather than what we have just now a supplier profit basis.

A fellow recycler stopped recycling her household waste when she saw a container of glass tipped into the landfill. Otherwise, very well done.