

Derbyshire's Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy

Information Sheet

As the amount of rubbish we bury in the ground increases and its effects take more and more of a toll on the environment, it becomes increasingly important that we change the way we manage the rubbish we all produce in Derbyshire.

All Derbyshire authorities are committed to reducing the amount of household rubbish we bury (landfill) and need to get us all to think about things we can do to reduce the rubbish we produce.

With this in mind a Waste Management Strategy is being produced by Derbyshire County Council, Derby City Council and the eight district/borough councils. This document looks at how household rubbish will be managed over the next 20 years.

European law says we have to dramatically reduce the amount of rubbish landfilled.

Where we are at and where we need to be going

- Last year in Derbyshire over 500,000 tonnes of household waste was produced...one tonne per household
- Around 23% of household waste was recycled and composted with 77% (385,000 tonnes) sent to landfill
- By 2010 we will only be allowed to send 200,000 tonnes to landfill and with waste growing at the rate of 10,000 tonnes a year this means we will have to get rid of more household rubbish through recycling, composting and other means
- It is estimated that household rubbish in Derbyshire will reach 620,000 tonnes a year by 2020. So in order to meet targets we will need to find other ways to deal with more than 330,000 tonnes of household waste. If we fail to meet these targets the authorities could have to pay significant fines which could mean an increase in the level of council tax Derbyshire residents pay

All your local councils are working together to deliver a high profile waste awareness campaign which is linked to the national 'Recycle Now' campaign.

How we can control the waste mountain

A number of ways of dealing with the increasing rubbish have been looked at. They all require waste minimisation and recycling initiatives. One of the main ways this is achieved is through separate kerbside collection schemes which all local councils in Derbyshire are investing in.

Three options for treating what's left were found to be the best environmentally and the most likely to give long term solutions to managing household waste. These options involve having a recycling/composting rate of up to 55% with the rest of the waste being:

- composted in a sealed tank without oxygen or
- burned to produce energy and electricity or
- sterilised using steam

The way forward

For Derbyshire the way forward will be achieved through the following:

- Derbyshire County Council, Derby City Council and eight district/borough councils working in partnership to deliver the Strategy
- Introducing schemes to encourage everyone who lives in Derbyshire to cut down on the amount of rubbish they produce to stop the growth in waste

- Continuing to support and promote home composting and other schemes to cut down on rubbish
- Supporting local and regional schemes which encourage and develop local recycling, composting and processing of rubbish
- Continuing to introduce and expand the kerbside collection schemes for recyclable and compostable materials
- Improving and increasing the number of household waste and recycling centres
- Providing facilities where recyclable materials collected at the kerbside can be sorted
- Developing more composting facilities
- Providing enough facilities to treat left over waste
- Providing enough landfill for rubbish that cannot be recycled

To meet the targets and reduce the amount of rubbish we bury more facilities will be needed.

Some helpful definitions

In the enclosed questionnaire we have asked you to comment on your awareness of a number of waste disposal treatment options. These explanations may help you in answering those questions

Mechanical/biological/steam processing

Sometimes referred to as MBT. The processes use mechanical treatment to remove certain materials such as metals and some plastics. The waste is sometimes also treated with high pressure steam which sterilises it and helps to break down the compostable parts. After the mechanical treatment the waste can be composted or processed to extract energy (heat and/or electricity) or disposed of in a landfill site.

Anaerobic digestion

The waste is put into a type of composting plant that has no air present. The waste rots and produces methane gas which can be used to generate electricity. The remaining material is sent to a landfill site.

Incineration and energy recovery

Burning waste to produce heat and electricity. Some metals are removed with magnets before taking the ash to a landfill site or using it in the construction industry.

Landfill Site

A piece of land, either an old quarry or other hole in the ground, that can be prepared to safely receive waste. The site needs to have a water tight base to prevent the liquids created during the rotting of the waste from entering the ground and also a gas removal system to make sure that the methane produced by the rotting does not cause a danger. The methane can be collected and used to produce electricity. Sometimes the waste is placed on the surface and the ground level is raised. In this case the process is called "land raising".

**For further information or if you have any other comments please email
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