

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Anaerobic Digestion (AD) – a waste treatment process where biodegradable material is encouraged to break down in the absence of oxygen. It produces methane and soil improver.

Best Practicable Environmental Option (BPEO) – a process carried out by the Planning Authority to determine the option that provides the most benefits or least damage to the environment as a whole, at acceptable cost, over the longer term as well as the short term for waste management.

Best Value – The Local Government Act 1999 places a duty on local authorities to deliver services by the most effective, economic and efficient means available.

Best Value Performance Indicators – A number of key indicators used to monitor Local Authority performance.

Biodegradable Waste – waste that will decompose over time through the action of bacteria, fungi or algae, with or without oxygen.

Bring Recycling Centres – sites for recycling bottles and jars, paper and textile banks, often situated in car parks and lay-bys.

Bulky Waste – generally any item which does not fit, or cannot be fitted, into a typical domestic dustbin.

Centralised Composting – large-scale composting site which handles garden waste from Household Waste Sites and green waste household collection schemes. Shredded waste is placed in elongated heaps, called windrows, normally outdoors. The windrows are turned mechanically to periodically aerate the composting waste. The process takes at least 16 weeks, at the end of which the compost represents about half the weight of the input material.

Civic Amenity Sites – now referred to as Household Waste Sites.

Clinical Waste – also known as healthcare waste, it is waste arising from medical, nursing, dental, veterinary, pharmaceutical or similar practices, which may present risks of infection.

Commercial Waste – waste arising from premises which are used wholly or mainly for trade or business, sport, recreation or entertainment. The full definition can be found in the Controlled Waste Regulations 1992.

Composting – an aerobic (in the presence of air) biological process in which organic wastes, such as garden and kitchen waste, are converted into a material which can be applied to land to improve soil structure and enrich the nutrient content.

DEFRA – Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

DTI – Department of Trade and Industry

Energy from Waste – the combustion of waste under controlled conditions in which the heat released is recovered to provide hot water and steam (usually) for electricity generation.

Environment Agency – established in April 1996, combining the functions of the former local waste regulation authorities, the National Rivers Authority and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Pollution. Intended to promote a more integrated approach to waste management and consistency in waste regulation. The Agency also conducts national surveys of waste arisings and waste facilities.

Gasification – a process where waste is heated by a low-oxygen atmosphere to generate a low heat content gas for burning in an engine or turbine.

Home Composting – compost can be made at home using a traditional compost heap, a purpose designed container or a wormery.

Household Waste – this includes waste from household collection rounds, waste from services such as street sweepings, bulky waste collection, litter collection, hazardous household waste collection and separate garden waste collection, waste from civic amenity sites and wastes separately collected for recycling or composting through bring or drop-off schemes, kerbside schemes and at civic amenity sites.

Household Waste Sites – sometimes described as Civic Amenity Sites, these are places provided by the Unitary and County Councils where the public can dispose of their own household waste, free of charge. The waste they receive generally consists of bulky items such as beds, cookers and garden waste as well as materials intended for recycling.

Incineration – more properly known as mass-burn incineration, is the controlled burning of waste, either to reduce its volume or its toxicity. Energy recovery from incineration can be made by utilising the calorific value of paper, plastic, etc to produce heat or power. Current flue-gas emission standards are very high. Ash residues still tend to be disposed of to landfill.

Integrated Waste Management – involves a number of key elements, including: recognising each step in the waste management process as part of a whole; involving all key players in the decision making process; and utilising a mixture of waste management options within the locally determined sustainable waste management system.

Kerbside Collection – any regular collection of recyclables from households.

Landfill Directive – adopted by the Member States during 1999, is intended to reduce the environmental effect of the landfilling of waste by introducing uniform standards throughout the European Union. The main objectives are to stimulate recycling and recovery of waste, and to reduce emissions of methane (a powerful greenhouse gas). The Directive requires the UK to reduce the proportion of biodegradable municipal solid waste going to landfill to 35% (by weight) of the 1995 level by 2020.

Landfill with Energy – a landfill site which harnesses the methane generated within the site and turns this into electricity through generators.

Landfill Sites – are areas of land in which waste is deposited. Landfill sites are often located in disused quarries or mines. In areas where there are limited or no ready-made voids, the practice of land-raising is sometimes carried out, where waste is deposited above ground and the landscape is contoured such as at Hill & Moor near Pershore.

Landfill Tax – introduced in October 1996, this tax is levied on landfill operators with the explicit environmental objective of reducing the UK's reliance on landfill as a means of disposal. Increased to £12 a tonne from April 2001, the level of tax will escalate by £1 a tonne until it reaches £15 from April 2004. There are no official indications of future levels beyond that date.

LDA – Large Domestic Appliance, e.g. washing machine or cooker.

Materials Reclamation Facility (MRF) – a specialised building which separates, processes and stores recyclable materials which have been.

Municipal Waste – is household waste and any other wastes collected or managed by either a Waste Disposal Authority or a Waste Collection Authority in carrying out their duties. It is mainly comprised of “dustbin” waste and waste received at the Household Waste Sites, but also includes street cleansing waste, waste resulting from the clearance of fly tipped material and any commercial and industrial waste for which the Waste Collection Authority takes responsibility.

Proximity Principle – the proximity principle (as applied to wastes) is that they should be treated or disposed of as near to their place of origin as possible so as to minimise the distance that they are moved.

Pyrolysis – a process where waste is heated to high temperature in the absence of oxygen to produce a secondary fuel product.

Recovery –.

Recyclables – materials that can be recycled.

Recycling – involves the reprocessing of wastes, either into the same product or a different one.

Residual Waste – the elements of the waste stream that remain after recyclable or compostable materials have been separated or removed.

SDA – Small Domestic Appliance e.g. hairdryer or vacuum cleaner.

Self Sufficiency – dealing with wastes within the region or county where they arise.

Statutory Performance Standards –

Street Sweepings – consist of material collected through street cleansing operations and includes a large amount of detritus made up of grit, silt and other organic material which is mainly removed through mechanical sweeping operations.

Sustainable Development – development which is sustainable is that which can meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Transfer Station – a facility to which waste is delivered before being compacted and transported onward for treatment or disposal.

Unitary Authority – a local authority which has the responsibility of being both a Waste Collection Authority and a Waste Disposal Authority. Herefordshire Council is a Unitary Authority.

Unitary Development Plan – prepared by a Unitary Authority containing policies equivalent to those in both a Structure and Local Plan.

Waste – is the wide ranging term encompassing most unwanted materials and is defined by the Environmental Protection Act 1990. Waste includes any scrap material, effluent or unwanted surplus substances or articles that require to be disposed of because the material is broken, worn out, contaminated or otherwise spoiled. Explosives and radioactive wastes are excluded.

Waste Arisings – the amount of waste generated in a given locality over a period of time.

Waste Collection Authorities (WCA's) – the six District and Borough Councils of Worcestershire are the Waste Collection Authorities (WCA's) for their residents. They have a statutory responsibility to provide a waste collection service to householders and, on request, to local businesses. WCA's also collect bulky items of household waste and carry out street cleansing activities.

Waste Disposal Authority (WDA) – Worcestershire County Council is the WDA for Worcestershire and Herefordshire Council is the WDA for Hereford. Amongst other functions, it is legally responsible for the safe disposal of household waste collected by the WCA's, and the provision of Household Waste Sites.

Waste Hierarchy – a framework for managing waste giving an order of preference for the treatment methods to be used.

Waste Local Plan – a statutory framework document for the County that facilitates the provision of sites for waste management facilities that will be required to meet Worcestershire's needs.

Waste Reduction – “waste reduction” is *action to prevent waste being produced*. Reducing or minimising waste saves not only on collection and disposal costs, but also on the cost of raw materials and their use together with production costs.

Waste Retention – dealing with waste at home, ie home composting.

Waste Reuse – reusing material or items such as old furniture, clothes and bric-a-brac by either selling or donating them to others through special collection services, charity shops, car boot sales etc.

Waste Stream – wastes generated from different sources.

WEEE – Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment.

WRAP