



# North Lincolnshire Council

May 2012  
North Lincolnshire Council



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Municipal Waste Management Strategy

May 2012



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# Executive Summary

Waste management is one of the most important and high profile services that a local authority can offer. It plays a vital role in the quality of life and sustainability of the whole community, and a pro-active and far sighted approach to collection, disposal and recycling is essential in meeting the challenges that the Council faces.

North Lincolnshire Council is responsible for the collection, recycling and disposal of municipal solid waste (MSW) arising in North Lincolnshire. This consists mainly of waste generated by households. During 2010/11, around 100,000 tonnes of MSW was received or collected by the Council. Of this, just over a half (52%) was recycled or composted, with the remainder landfilled.

This means that since the Council last revised its waste management strategy in 2007/8, recycling and composting performance has continued to increase. This has been as a result of a further expansion of the Council's kerbside recycling and organic waste collection services, including the capture of other materials e.g. small Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE), together with the promotion of practical waste reduction measures.

There is still much that can be improved, and many changes will need to be made to meet the challenges that the Council faces from new and soon to be introduced legislation from European and Central governments.

Much has changed in the last few years including a change in the way 'municipal waste' is defined, and the abandonment of the Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme (LATS). LATS was a mechanism that was being used by local authorities to demonstrate and assess the contribution of an authority to achieving European targets for biodegradable waste diversion from landfill. This was one of the main drivers towards the development of new infrastructure in the municipal waste management industry.

To adapt to these changes and pave the way for a 'zero waste' system, which is one of the government's key objectives in the medium and long-terms, a new strategy will need to be produced which will identify changes required to the waste management systems in the Borough, showing a benefit to the community and the environment at the same time.

This document sets out a description of the systems that are in place, how they are performing and the initiatives needed to adapt to the future. Waste needs to be managed in a more sustainable way. This sustainable approach is required to meet new legislation, which gives a much higher priority to waste prevention, recycling and treating waste to recover value from it.

North Lincolnshire Council implemented new recycling collections and the alternate week collection scheme for non-recyclable dustbin waste in early 2006. This enabled a recycling rate of 43% to be achieved in 2007/08 and over 50% in 2009/10. North Lincolnshire Council recognises that further changes are required in order to fully comply with new legislation, and therefore North Lincolnshire Council's proposed waste strategy for meeting these challenges between now and the year 2029/30 is to:

- Limit the growth in municipal waste through the use of waste reduction and minimisation programmes; and
- Increase the level of recycling and composting of household waste to a minimum of 60%, and meet any future statutory targets set by the Government.
- Adopt a 'zero waste' management system by the year 2020

The aspiration is to treat the remaining residual waste and organic waste streams in facilities located within North Lincolnshire in order to recover energy from them, preferably in the form of electricity. This will enable North Lincolnshire Council to meet the requirement to adopt a 'zero waste' system by 2020 as stipulated by the government, and help to off-set the Borough's carbon emissions.

North Lincolnshire Council will continue to raise awareness on waste and promote initiatives that could reduce the amount of municipal waste. It will also seek to positively influence the more sustainable management of non-municipal waste streams generated locally by offering separate collections of recyclable materials to businesses operating locally and formalising their use of the Household Recycling Centres.

In order to both achieve strategic outcomes and make a contribution to sustainable waste management, the Council recognises that deliverability of a proven solution for treating residual waste in a timely manner is of critical importance. An Environmental Options Assessment for the management of the residual waste arising in North Lincolnshire concluded that the most suitable option for meeting future landfill targets is to treat the residual waste in a Mechanical Biological Treatment (MBT) facility producing a solid recovered fuel (SRF) for use in cement kilns or a facility that allows the generation of electricity with potential revenue benefits to the Council. For the treatment of organic wastes, the preferred option is to use Anaerobic Digestion.

Deliverability is a key issue for any waste management project, and therefore if these solutions cannot be delivered, North Lincolnshire Council may have to consider other options that conform to the underlying principles of diverting waste away from landfill and usefully recovering value from it, and then develop planning policies accordingly. It is also important to note that whatever solution is adopted, land will be required for both the residual waste treatment facility and for facilities to handle any additional organic material collected or received for composting.

The costs of collecting, treating and disposing of increased amounts of waste have contributed to higher Council Tax bills. Costs will continue to rise, but the rate of increase will be higher if there is no change to current waste management procedures.

North Lincolnshire Council recognises the importance of regular consultation with all stakeholders, particularly members of the public, in order to take into account a wide range of factors and views as the waste strategy is developed and then implemented.

There was a public consultation on the draft waste strategy between October 2007 and January 2008. A total of 1,333 responses were received. The results show that there is strong support for achieving and exceeding the original 45% recycling target, but less support for providing additional recycling collection facilities. The consultation also showed strong support for treating the non-recyclable waste produced by local residents in a facility located within North Lincolnshire, which recovers both electricity and heat from the waste. These findings have been used in developing this final version of North Lincolnshire Council's municipal waste strategy.

Further engagement with the public took place in 2009/10 which indicated that there was high degree of appreciation of the system in place currently for the collection of dry recyclables from the kerbside. Since the kerbside collection system was fully rolled out, recycling levels have increased beyond a revised target of 50%. Recent changes to the collection of organic wastes may see a slight reduction in the current levels achieved, but further increases in recycling are expected to occur through an enhancement of the existing kerbside collection service and improved recovery of materials received at the network of Household Recycling Centres. This will be undertaken through communications and behavioural change initiatives and procuring facilities for treating the organic and residual wastes.

There will also be further consultations as the strategy is implemented and periodically reviewed, and there will be additional consultation when any planning application for a new waste treatment facility in North Lincolnshire is considered.