

WASTE

IT'S EVERYBODY'S PROBLEM

Nobody likes talking rubbish – but Gloucestershire County Council is keen to get you to do just that.

This leaflet outlines the three different ways we are tackling the waste problem. You will find information on what we're doing and how you can have your say.



tackling climate change

committed to a 10% reduction
in our carbon emissions by 2012



Gloucestershire
COUNTY COUNCIL

The story so far

Did you know that as a county, we produce roughly 290,000 tonnes of household waste every year? That figure is set to increase as the population grows and could even double in the next 25 years.

Businesses already produce more than three times as much.

Currently most of that rubbish gets buried at landfill sites, but we urgently need to find more environmentally friendly and less expensive ways of dealing with it.



Government imposes hefty fines on councils that keep on burying rubbish; taxpayers will have to foot the bill if we don't introduce a better solution. In 2008, we paid £5.4million in landfill taxes alone and that cannot continue.



Real rubbish

Household residual waste is what's left over after we have reduced, reused, recycled and composted all we can – we call it the 'real rubbish'.

At the moment, all this waste goes to landfill where it is buried, but that has to stop. The Government has granted Gloucestershire County Council £92 million of private finance initiative (PFI) credits to find another way of dealing with real rubbish.

We are working with the waste industry to use this money to find the best solution and best location for real rubbish disposal facilities. A condition of the PFI was that we owned a suitable site for waste operations. We bought part of Javelin Park in Haresfield, but there are alternative sites.

As we continue to say – we haven't decided on a type of technology or a site. We want the waste industry to show us new and creative ways of managing Gloucestershire's household waste.

Each bid put forward will be judged using strict criteria including how it impacts on the environment, whether or not it is flexible and how much it will cost to operate.



Technology

In 2007, Gloucestershire County Council's Cabinet approved five technologies which are considered to be proven, reliable and safe, but this doesn't stop us from considering others.



1x2 **Two forms of Mechanical Biological Treatment (MBT)**

This involves rubbish being separated by machinery. The biodegradable (the bit that rots) part of the waste can be used to produce compost that can be suitable for certain types of land, for example quarries or contaminated land. Other MBT processes can involve the rubbish being transformed into a fuel, which can then be burnt to generate power.

3 **Autoclave** This process

cleans the different types of waste by using pressurised steam. The waste is then separated by machinery into materials that can be recycled and also a fibre fuel that can be used to generate power.

4 Energy from waste (incineration) This involves the burning of waste under strictly controlled conditions. This generates electricity and/or steam for heating.

5 Advanced Thermal Treatment A newer generation of energy from waste technology that produces gases under conditions of very low oxygen. This can then be used to produce electricity and/or steam for heating.

For more information visit
www.recycleforgloucestershire.com/real_rubbish

LEARN MORE

For more information on the proposed sites and the Waste Core Strategy visit www.gloscestershire.gov.uk/wcs



The plan

The Government says that every council responsible for waste planning has to produce a Waste Core Strategy. What does that mean?

Put simply, it's a planning document which sets out how we will deal with all types of waste and it includes sites that are suitable for dealing with waste. Gloucestershire County Council is in the process of putting together its strategy for 2011-2026. This is separate to the real rubbish PFI project.

We have been talking to landowners and have looked at more than 300 sites within the county.

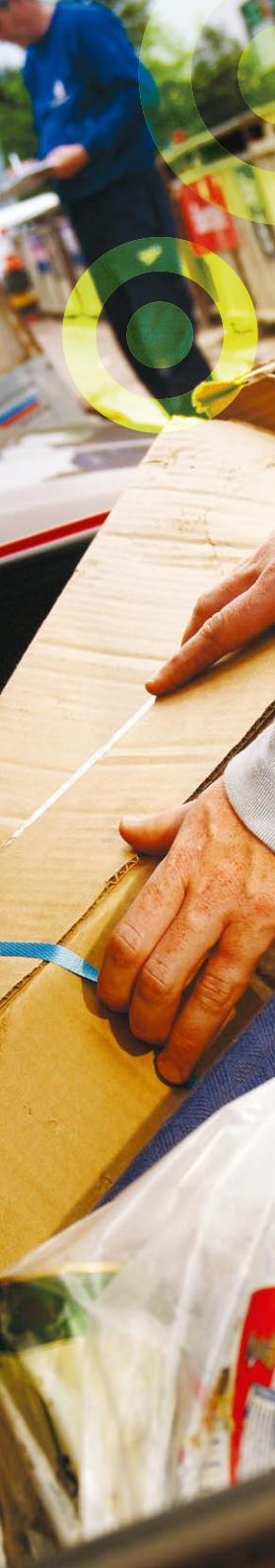
Through the planning process, which identified many issues including transport links and prevention of

flooding, this list was narrowed down to 10 sites in the central area of the county where most of our waste is produced and three sites further away.

At this stage, no decisions are being made on what the sites could be used for, or even which sites will actually be used.

This autumn we are due to start a consultation which will ask for your views on the sites and it is very important that you tell us what you think.

The next steps include a thorough examination of the strategy by an independent inspector before the plan is formally adopted in December 2011.



recycle for Gloucestershire

The three Rs

We are encouraging residents and businesses to follow the 3 Rs – **reduce** your waste, find alternative ways to **reuse** items and finally **recycle** whatever you can.

Most household waste can be recycled or composted and we are working with the district councils to improve collection facilities.

As a county, we currently recycle 42% of our household waste, but **our target is to reach at least 60% and possibly even 70% by 2020** – a target that far exceeds Government expectations.

We have launched several high profile campaigns including **Zero Waste Challenge Week**, **Love Food Hate Waste** and **Recycle Week**. We also speak to thousands of children at school each year, spreading the 3 Rs message in a fun and informative way to the next generation.

For more information about the 3 Rs visit
www.recycleforgloucestershire.com