

Glossary

Key words from MW News explained...

Autoclaving

A pre-treatment process of sterilisation via pressurised, high temperature steam. It sanitises and reduces the volume of waste to create a fibre like material. Glass, metal and some plastics elements are also cleaned to create a potential recyclable resource.

Energy from Waste (EfW)

The conversion of waste into a useable form of energy, e.g. heat or electricity. A common conversion processes involves high temperatures and combustion.

Household Waste

Waste collected by local authorities including from households and contractual arrangements; and which is brought to household recycling centres by local residents.

Issues & Options

The first stage in the producing a local planning document. It is where the local authority should introduce the possible issues and options for its area into the public domain.

Mechanical Biological Treatment (MBT)

A waste management process, which combines the mechanical sorting of waste for recycling and biological treatment using enclosed facilities for waste with a high organic content.

Mineral Core Strategy (MCS)

The main local planning document for managing mineral resources. It must have a spatial vision for the future, strategic objectives and a strategy for steering new minerals development.

Minerals & Waste Development Scheme (MWDS)

A rolling three-year project timetable that sets out when minerals and waste policy documents will be prepared.

Planning Policy Statement 10 (PPS10)

The Government's planning policies for managing waste in England.

Preferred Options

The stage of preparing local planning documents that shows how a local authority is approaching development challenges in its area. It also includes a round of public consultation.

South West Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS)

The development strategy for the South West region over the next 20 years. It covers such matters as housing, regeneration, transport infrastructure, the environment, economic growth and minerals and waste management.

Sustainability Appraisal (SA)

An appraisal of the economic, environmental and social effects of a plan from the outset of its preparation process.

Advanced Thermal Treatment (ATT)

The management of waste that involves high temperatures. It mostly, although not always results in the combustion of waste materials. It can also generate a useable gas.

Waste Core Strategy (WCS)

The overarching local planning policy document for waste management. It must have a spatial vision for the future, strategic objectives and a strategy for steering new waste development.

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Policy Update - New system...New Focus...

The Gloucestershire Minerals & Waste Development Framework (MWDF) has progressed well over the last year. The Minerals & Waste Core Strategies reached preferred options consultation in January 2008. A robust and detailed evidence base of reports and studies has also been developed, which explains the decisions taken in the core strategies so far.

However, a number of changing circumstances have, or are about to take effect, which will significantly alter the future progress of the MWDF. These include -

- reforms to the plan making system with new government policy - Planning Policy Statement 12 (PPS12) and new regulations published in June 2008;
- Advice from Government and Regional Offices resulting from the preferred options consultations; (*consultation reports will shortly be available on the GCC Website*) and
- critical project work on the long term solution to managing the county's household waste (*see page 2*).

In response to these circumstances, a review of the Council's work on minerals and waste has been carried out. This has culminated in a major refocus of policy priorities. A fresh, new three-year project timetable is being put together, which will initially concentrate the Council's efforts into finding key sites to manage household waste. Future work will look to re-draft the Waste Core Strategy, to incorporate preferred household waste sites. There are also adjustments to the Minerals Core Strategy during this period to meet a number of minerals issues. These include - the implications of proposed changes to the draft Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) and new draft aggregate guidelines to 2020, published by the Government in April 2008.

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The remainder of MW News 9 looks to commence the search for sites to manage Gloucestershire's household waste. As a starting point it introduces key questions that will need answering before any prospective sites can be looked at -

What type of waste facilities will be needed?

What sort of site locations should we be looking at?

What site constraints and opportunities should we consider?

..HOT OFF THE PRESS..

During July 2008 the County Council's Waste Management team will be consulting on future issues facing the disposal of residual waste. E-mail for more information : -

realrubbish@gloucestershire.gov.uk



The future of household waste

What type of waste facilities will be needed?

Gloucestershire is facing some challenging times ahead when it comes to managing household waste. Currently around 300,000 tonnes of household waste is produced in the county each year and the figure is rising by as much as 3 % a year. Most of this waste is sent to landfill, which is rapidly filling up and produces harmful gases that contribute to climate change.

However, at least 70% of all household waste could potentially be re-used, recycled or composted rather than landfilled. The Government wants local authorities to use less and less landfill and has introduced strict targets and quotas to support this. If any of these are missed, severe fines are likely to be imposed!

To meet Gloucestershire's targets and quotas, major improvements are being made to achieve recycling and composting rates of at least 60% for all household waste by 2020. Nevertheless, this will still leave a large amount of residual waste for further treatment.

Current forecasts show that Gloucestershire requires new household waste facilities able to deal with **150,000 tonnes of residual waste per annum by 2020**. Furthermore, a number of residual waste solutions could be developed in the county - **Energy from Waste (EfW); Mechanical Biological Treatment (MBT); Autoclaving; and Advanced Thermal Treatment (ATT)**. Although no decision has been made as to Gloucestershire's preferred waste solution.

Timetable for change..

Refocusing Gloucestershire's minerals and waste work is going to affect when we publish and consult upon new policy documents in the future. As already explained on page 1 we are making changes to our three-year project timetable to take account of our new work priorities. To help you prepare for the changes, we have highlighted important milestones or events below for your diary. These represent when we will be looking for your input over the next 12 months :

- **Issues & Options Sites Report - WINTER 2008 / 2009**
A review of the sites selection process and survey of the initial list of sites
- **Revised Preferred Options - SUMMER / AUTUMN 2009**
Report for Waste Core Strategy (including household waste sites)

The full revised three-year project timetable will shortly be available on the GCC web site under - **Minerals & Waste Development Scheme - MWDS**.



Putting forward a household waste site..

To help identify and accurately assess sites that have been put forward, we will need a clear and consistent set of site specific information.

The list below sets out our key requirements for each site :-

- **site name**
- **site size** - in hectares
- **OS based site map** - with the nominated site clearly bounded in red
- **ownership details** - if known
- **current site use** - if known

All requested information must be supplied by the deadline date.

Check out our contact details over the page >>



A call for household waste sites

Are there any site opportunities we might have missed?

As part of the site selection process, we are also carrying out a **call for sites** for new facilities that could handle household waste.

This is your opportunity to suggest possible sites on which new household waste facilities could be located.

Sites that are put forward will be carefully examined alongside all potential household waste sites that we already know about. The full results of this assessment will be widely consulted upon later this year.

The **call for sites** consultation will run for about six weeks ending on the **6th August 2008**.

It is important to note that putting a site forward does not guarantee we will allocate it, or support its development in the future. All sites will need to be judged against planning policies and other issues of importance.



When it comes to looking for sites to handle household waste, we are not starting from a blank sheet of paper.

The Government has produced waste policies within PPS10 that seek to help local authorities look for new waste sites. It presents a range of possible locations including: - existing industrial sites; land which has previously been developed; redundant agricultural buildings; and opportunities for co-location with existing waste facilities and other complementary activities. It also recognises the potential for new waste sites to support sustainable transport options.

At the regional level, the draft South West Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) also sets out a waste location policy. It advises that sites should : - be within,

A starting point for new sites

What sort of site locations should we be looking at?

on the edge of; and / or within close proximity to the key urban area to be primarily served by the required waste facility. The RSS defines close proximity as a 16km radius and designates key urban areas as - Gloucester; Cheltenham; Cirencester; the three main Forest of Dean towns; Stroud and Tewkesbury.

Over the past few years we have attempted to translate both national and regional policies to

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meet with our local circumstances. This work has resulted in four draft location options, which were recently consulted on in the Waste Core Strategy preferred options paper. These draft options are available to view online, including key diagrams, on the GCC website under - [Waste Core Strategy - Preferred Options](#).

In summary, the four draft location options represent increasingly defined areas of search. The widest option applies a full 16km criteria to all key urban areas of the county as set by the RSS, whilst the narrowest option identifies a series of zones in and around Gloucester and Cheltenham.

At this stage no preference has been given to the draft location options. However, initial findings from the preferred options consultation, marginally favour the widest option. The full results of the preferred options consultation will be available shortly to view on the GCC web site.

In addition, due consideration will need to be given to the previously adopted Waste Local Plan for Gloucestershire. This plan included a number of site waste allocations for a range of management options, including household waste. The merits of each allocation were carefully looked at through several stages of public consultation and rigorously scrutinised at a public inquiry.

However, under the new planning system we must look again at these site allocations.

To ensure we have put in place a transparent system for site selection, we have produced a set of location criteria to help us create a 'long list' of potential waste sites for more detailed site survey.

The location criteria are set out below : -

Potential household waste sites will be sourced from -

land within 16km of the key urban areas of Gloucestershire which: -

- has been permitted for industrial use or has been allocated as employment land in district local plans
- is derelict, redundant or has previously been developed, including former farm buildings; or
- has previously been allocated for waste use in the Gloucestershire Waste Local Plan; or
- is an extension to / or intensification of an existing waste operation; or
- will support sustainable transport options other than road haulage; and

In all instances, will meet with the future requirements for managing household waste in Gloucestershire.

Over the coming months we will be working through each of the criteria in order to produce a 'long list' of potential sites. These sites will then be subject to a detailed site assessment.

[Site assessment - 'Constraints & Opportunities' is discussed over the page >>](#)



Household waste sites in focus

What site constraints and opportunities should we consider?

Testing the suitability of potential sites for household waste will be a critical part of the plan making process. To assist local authorities the Government has provided a list of twelve core site factors within PPS10. These cover matters such as visual intrusion, highway impacts, amenity safeguarding and nature conservation.

Through our preparation of the Waste Core Strategy we have also carefully considered how best to test the suitability of potential waste sites in Gloucestershire. We have actively involved members of the public, local community organisations and other interested parties in deciding upon key local site factors. Much debate has focused on key site criteria relevant to Gloucestershire, through several forum events and the early consultation stages of the Waste Core Strategy. This has led to a number of local site factors being identified, which we will incorporate into an initial assessment of possible waste sites. The emergence of these local site factors can be followed on the GCC web site under [Waste Core Strategy - Issues & Options, Preferred Options, and the Waste Forum 2007](#).

Moving forward, we are now in the process of constructing a site assessment methodology for testing the suitability of potential household waste sites. To ensure that this process is open and auditable, we will produce a background report on how the methodology was constructed. We will also publish this report alongside the initial assessment of potential household waste sites. It is planned for this part of the site selection process to be completed by Winter 2008 / 2009.

Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is also a crucial part of testing the suitability of sites. An update of the SA Framework can be found later in this newsletter >>