
CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this update to the Waste Management Plan (the Plan) is to set out waste management arrangements for the arc21 Region to fulfil the requirements of, and take account of changes to waste management regulation and policy, including:
- Northern Ireland Waste Management Strategy (2006);
 - Landfill Allowance Scheme (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2004 (NILAS);
 - Northern Ireland Best Practicable Environmental Option (NI BPEO) 2005;
 - The Thematic Strategy on the Prevention and Recycling of Waste; and
 - Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA).
- 1.2 The Plan provides a framework for waste management provision and a regional network of facilities for all controlled wastes produced within the arc21 Region for the next 15 years. It establishes the overall need for waste management capacity in the arc21 Region and details the proposed arrangements to deal with the wastes produced. These include collection, recovery, recycling, treatment and disposal services.

STATUTORY FRAMEWORK

- 1.3 The Department of the Environment (DOE) is responsible for setting out policy in relation to the recovery and disposal of waste in Northern Ireland. Strategic policy is set out in the Waste Management Strategy for Northern Ireland (2000), which is a statutory document under Article 19 of The Waste and Contaminated Land (Northern Ireland) Order 1997. The Waste Management Strategy 2006 has been updated following a consultation entitled, *Towards Resource Management*¹.
- 1.4 Under Article 23 of The Waste and Contaminated Land (Northern Ireland) Order 1997, district councils have a duty to prepare Waste Management Plans for the forward planning of waste management requirements for collecting, recovering, treating and disposing of controlled waste within the district. Under the original NI Waste Management Strategy, it is recognised that district councils should work together to allow effective strategic planning for waste management and to achieve economies of scale.

¹ [Towards Resource Management. A Consultation on Proposals for a new Waste Management Strategy, DOE October 2005.](#)

- 1.5 In response to the original NI strategy, the eleven councils from the Eastern part of Northern Ireland formed a partnership, identified as arc21. Following public consultation and formal consultation with the Environment Heritage Service (EHS), a Waste Management Plan was adopted by all 11 constituent councils in arc21 in January 2003. The councils immediately commenced implementation of the Plan with a major component being the establishment of an administrative delivery mechanism entailing the formation of a Joint Committee. Application to the DOE for corporate body status was granted on 15th March 2004 through the local government NI Order 2004.
- 1.6 The objective of the partnership is to develop a long-term plan for the management of all controlled wastes produced within the arc21 Region, and to ensure that all waste facility and capacity issues are catered for in the statutory Waste Management Plan.
- 1.7 The Joint Committee oversees all decisions taken in relation to the Waste Management Plan, such as contract procurement (e.g. contract for recycling of co-mingled dry recyclables awarded in February 2005).
- 1.8 The eleven district council areas and boundary of the arc21 grouping are shown in Appendix 1. Figure 1.2 shows the relationship to other sub-regional groupings established in response to the NI Waste Management Strategy. In total three sub-regional groups have been formed covering all 26 councils in Northern Ireland. The three Waste Management Groups have and will continue to have dialogue on matters of mutual interest relating to waste management.



Figure 1.2 Sub-regional Boundaries

WASTE MANAGEMENT CONTEXT

- 1.9 The effective management of waste is vital to ensure that environmental damage associated with its collection, recovery, treatment and disposal is minimised. It is also important to ensure that waste management is conducted in a sustainable manner.
- 1.10 At present significant quantities of waste are produced in the arc21 Region by households and industry. Controlled wastes arising in the arc21 Region amount to approximately 3 million tonnes every year, of which almost 600,000 tonnes is municipal waste. In the region of 70% of all controlled waste is disposed of at landfill sites in the arc21 Region. The quantity of waste is predicted to increase substantially over the next 15 years.
- 1.11 European and national policy and legislation are designed to significantly reduce the dependence on landfill as the main method of disposing of waste. As a major part of the review of the NI Waste Management Strategy, the DOE has prepared the Northern Ireland Best Practical Environmental Option (NIBPEO). This includes levels for recycling and recovery of municipal and other wastes, and these have been adopted in the aims of this Waste Management Plan. Further details or targets are contained in Chapter 2 of this plan.
- 1.12 Significant progress has been made implementing segregated collections of dry recyclables and organic wastes within the region since publication of the original Plan. However, achievement of the targets will require a step change in the way waste is managed within the arc21 Region:
- In the short term it will require a major push to increase recycling and composting initiatives;
 - In the medium to longer term it will require a move towards more effective waste prevention and treatment processes that recover value from waste.
- 1.13 The planning of waste management services and the mix of recovery, treatment and disposal facilities required to achieve these targets is therefore a key element of the Plan.

OBJECTIVES

- 1.14 The recovery, treatment and disposal of residual waste are potentially polluting activities that can have significant adverse effects on the environment. Current and

future waste management activities are set in the context of sustainable development which has four main principles²:

- Social progress which meets the needs of everyone;
- Effective protection of the environment;
- Prudent use of natural resources; and
- Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment.

1.15 The principal objective of the updated Plan is therefore to identify the options for managing waste within the arc21 Region which draw the right balance between:

- The provision and maintenance of sufficient capacity to deal with the waste produced;
- Meeting strategic targets for reduction, recycling and recovery;
- The protection of the environment for present and future generations; and
- Optimising resource utilisation in the arc21 region.

1.16 The objectives of the updated Plan are to:

- Meet the statutory obligations of European Directives, UK and Northern Ireland legislation;
- Take account of the NI Waste Management Strategy over the plan period;
- Increase the re-use, recycling and composting of waste and reduce the quantity of waste disposed to landfill consistent with sustainable waste management;
- Assess the opportunities for integrated waste management options to contribute to a reduction in waste requiring disposal;
- Encourage self sufficiency in waste management facilities for the arc21 Region and disposal of waste in accordance with the proximity principle;
- Review existing waste treatment and disposal sites with the capacity to accommodate future waste management needs;
- Outline an adequate integrated network of regional facilities in accordance with the principles of sustainable development, Strategic Environmental Assessment and BPEO;
- Set criteria and guidelines for the development of facilities to ensure a high level of environmental protection, and minimise the risks to the environment, human health and amenity;

² NI Waste Management Strategy 2000

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- Ensure future waste management arrangements are developed and implemented in accordance with the principles of Best Value and Community Planning;
 - Ensure that social needs, human rights and Equality Scheme requirements can be met in the implementation of the proposals; and
 - Improve options for long term benefits and achieve economies of scale in order to reduce costs.

SCOPE

1.17 The updated Plan builds on the original Waste Management Plan and takes account of the actions implemented for municipal waste management by the arc21 councils. It also develops detailed options for achieving landfill diversion targets and likely recovery targets as well as identifying the preferred option for municipal waste generated in arc21 within the context of the NI BPEO. It also considers the waste management requirements for other controlled wastes streams including:

- Commercial & industrial waste;
- Construction and demolition waste;
- Priority waste, including packaging;
- Hazardous waste; and
- Healthcare waste.

Non controlled waste streams are also considered (namely agricultural and mining wastes).

1.18 The waste streams are described in Chapters 5, 8 and 9 of the Plan.

PLAN PERIOD AND INTERIM CAPACITY REQUIREMENTS

1.19 This Plan addresses the framework for the provision of waste management facilities for the period 2005 to 2020.

1.20 There is a limited amount of licensed landfill capacity within the arc21 Region. The councils have secured landfill capacity under contract up to 2009 with an option to extend beyond this date. It is anticipated that capacity for disposal is available into the middle of the next decade, however further capacity will be essential beyond that time. The need for waste management treatment capacity to meet landfill diversion targets is pressing. New integrated facilities identified by the Plan for long term waste management needs will take some time to be developed, and a clear, planned development programme for these facilities is essential.

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- 1.21 This Plan therefore considers the short term or interim capacity requirements for disposal of waste in the arc21 Region over the next five years in addition to the longer term needs to 2020. A timetable for implementation is given in Chapter 14.

CONTENT AND STRUCTURE

- 1.22 The Plan comprises a written statement and a map. The statement presents information on:
- The legislative context, local environment, social and economic factors (Chapters 2 to 4);
 - The analysis of municipal and non municipal controlled waste streams arising in the arc21 Region, including the quantities of controlled waste to be dealt with in the Plan period (Chapter 5);
 - The analysis of waste prevention measures in the arc21 region and an analysis of further opportunities to promote waste prevention;
 - The examination of the options and arrangements for dealing with municipal and other controlled waste (Chapter 7);
 - The analysis of hazardous waste arising in Northern Ireland and the options and arrangements for dealing with the waste produced (Chapter 8);
 - The analysis of packaging waste arising in Northern Ireland and the options and arrangements for dealing with packaging waste (Chapter 9);
 - The constraints to development and proposed network of facilities in accordance with the NI BPEO Framework, the SEA framework, sustainable development and the proximity principle (Chapter 10);
 - Policies and site selection criteria to identify areas of search for the appropriate location of future facilities (Chapters 11 and 12);
 - A high level consideration relating to treatment of assets and unitary costs (Chapter 13); and
 - Plan implementation, monitoring and review (Chapter 14).
- 1.23 The proposals map identifies existing waste management facilities and shows the principal environmental constraints to the siting of new waste management facilities.
- 1.24 The text is supported by checklists, policy and other reference documents in the appendices.

PUBLICITY AND CONSULTATIONS

- 1.25 In preparing the update of the Plan, arc21 has engaged stakeholders including the other two waste management groups and conducted a public consultation exercise. The purpose of these interactions has been to inform the Plan process, by raising awareness and inviting input and support for decisions on future waste management arrangements in the arc21 Region. The consultations included:
- A series of eleven focus groups open to attendance by members of the public, elected representatives, the business community and waste management industry within each of the eleven councils.
 - An information exchange forum open to attendance by members of the public, elected representatives, the business community and waste management industry within each of the eleven councils
 - An information exchange forum held centrally to engage organisations with a regional interest, such as, Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and environment groups, Government departments and other statutory authorities.
- 1.26 A website has been developed for all key information and to receive feedback, through www.arc21.org.uk. This is regularly updated to reflect changes in the Plan's development. Media and editorials have been sought and monitored throughout the development of this Plan.
- 1.27 The statutory consultation programme for the arc21 Consultation Waste Management Plan was launched on the 11th April 2006. The main stakeholder groups for the programme were identified as the general public, environmental groups and other non-governmental organisations (NGOs), commerce and industry, and the waste management industry.
- 1.28 Consultation with the public centred on an information leaflet with short questionnaire available to all households and businesses in the Region. Return of the questionnaire was on-line via the website or submitted to arc21 premises. Detailed feedback was also submitted at arc21 premises in writing or via the website.

EQUALITY

- 1.29 The Waste Management Plan was screened for the need for an Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA). Taking account the changes between the initial Waste Management Plan (previously the subject of an EQIA) and this plan, the screening process concluded that there was no need for a further EQIA.

IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING AND REVIEW

- 1.30 Key actions and milestones for implementation are summarised in Chapter 14.
- 1.31 It is important that a stable capacity is maintained to meet the arc21 Region's requirements for dealing with the waste produced. At the same time it is important to ensure that standards of environmental protection are continually improved and that developments in new technologies and environmental controls are incorporated into the policies and proposals for an integrated network of waste management facilities. In addition, given the step change in waste management practices required, it will be essential to review the implementation of the Plan to assess progress in the delivery of strategic targets.
- 1.32 The Plan will therefore require monitoring on a regular basis. In particular there will be a need to:
- Monitor the supply of and demand for waste management facilities;
 - Measure progress in the implementation of the Plan proposals; and
 - Measure progress in achieving Northern Ireland targets for the reduction, recycling and recovery of all wastes and diversion from landfill.
- 1.33 Proposals for a formal review incorporating stakeholder consultation and monitoring requirements are detailed in Chapter 14.