

# WASTELINE

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## contents

### 3 *Towards The Targets*

### 4 *Infrastructure Development*



### 5 *WEEE and Christmas Campaign*

### 6-7 *Communication Plan*



### 8 *Joint Committee & Staff*



## Foreword from Chairman

Alderman Hubert Nicholl



Welcome to the second edition of Wasteline.

I have now been in the Chair for just over a year. During this time I have seen many developments within arc21.

Being a Ballymena man I am very conscious of the need for Value for Money. arc21 is to me an example of how local government can co-operate to deliver value. I have no doubt that this type of Council partnership will survive the RPA irrespective of the size and function of future Councils.

Thinking of the challenges, while there is uncertainty around RPA, we must maintain the momentum to increase recycling and diversion from landfill if we are to avoid huge fines from Europe. In this respect we are well advanced in the tender process for our grey bin waste. Nevertheless time is pressing and we must make our best endeavours to build facilities and divert waste as quickly as possible.

It is also important to build the awareness of the public and to try to

change behaviour.

I am therefore very pleased to see our new education vehicle on the road. We are about to appoint a dedicated education officer who will manage the "arc21 roadshow" as it travels around the region.

We also need to take the mystique out of some of the technologies we are proposing and ensure that our Communication Strategy addresses these issues in an uncomplicated way. I know that this figures strongly in the development plans of arc21 moving forward.

All of this of course costs money. In this respect it is very good news that the arc21 project will now be supported by the devolved administration through the Priorities and Budgets programme. While this is still at consultation stage we are very hopeful that the current levels of support will be maintained in the final budget.

This is a hugely important development within waste but brings with it a new set of challenges. I know that these are being addressed by the officers and look forward to seeing the results during the incoming year.

## Message from the Chief Executive

John Quinn

This second edition of Wasteline is very timely in that there are important developments to report.

On the procurement front we are moving apace into our largest tender process. This relates to our residual waste, the fraction left after recycling and composting.

We are nearing completion of the associated Strategic Outline Case which refines the technological solutions articulated in our Waste Management Plan in terms of capacities, specific technologies and locations, and evaluates the procurement options available to us.

The Business Case is very closely aligned to our work on canvassing for government financial support for waste which until recently was minimal.

This situation has been turned on its head with the recent 3 year Priorities and Budgets

announcement of the potential for £200 million to be allocated to waste infrastructure in the current budget period, with a further £32 million committed thereafter.

This announcement represents the culmination of a robust campaign by arc21 at a political and officer level.

Thankfully the new devolved administration has listened to us and put waste on a par with other big infrastructure projects such as water, health and transportation. This is a seminal period for the local government waste sector and for arc21.

It heralds a new era of partnership between central and local government working towards a common goal, and brings with it new demands on the organisation.

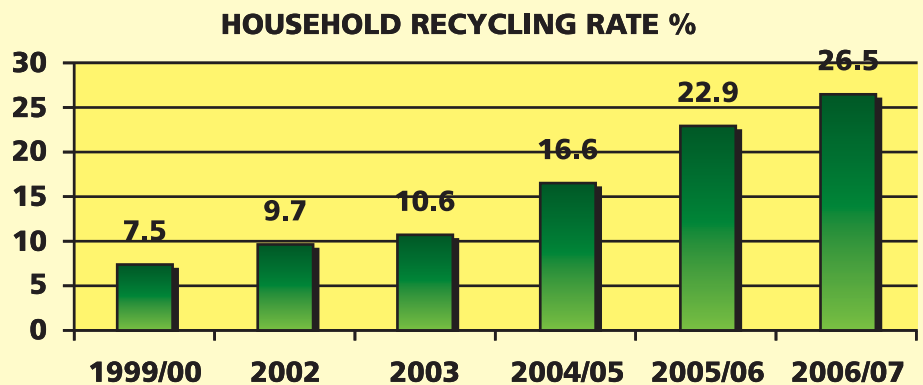
Hopefully this news-sheet will give you a flavour of how we are addressing these both now and in the near future.



# TOWARDS THE TARGETS

## Recycling;

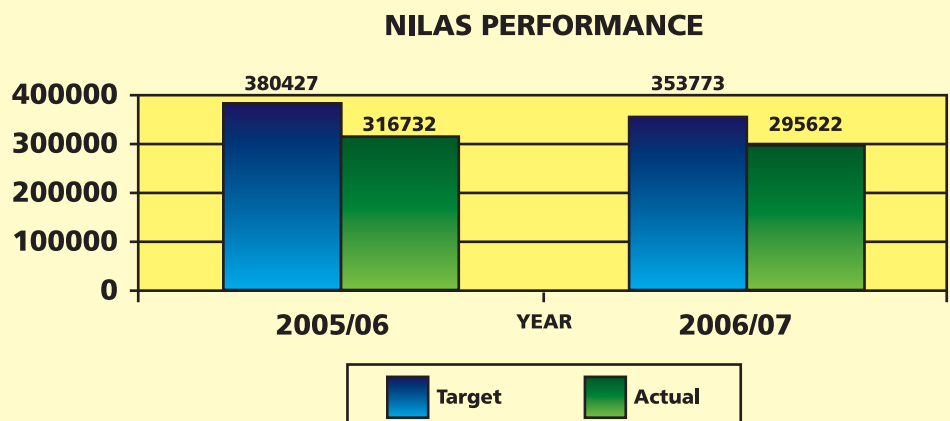
Positive progress towards our target of 45% continues as the return for 2006/07 shows a further increase in the annual household recycling rate. The rate of improvement over the years is illustrated in the following graph:



The actual amount of material recycled for 2006/07 was 153,382 tonnes up on the 2005/06 figure of 120,357 tonnes

## Landfill Diversion;

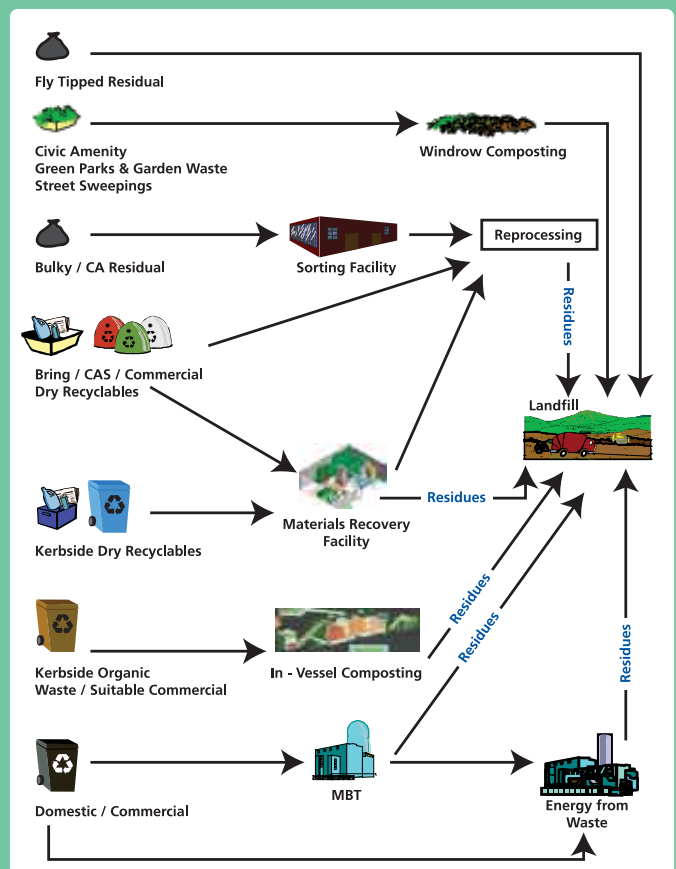
For the second year running, all the arc21 Councils have met their annual statutory Northern Ireland Landfill Allowance Scheme (NILAS) target for the amount of Biodegradable Municipal Waste (BMW) landfilled. The arc21 performance against each decreasing annual target is illustrated in the following graph:



The actual amount of BMW landfilled reduced by 6.7% from 2005/06 to 2006/07.

## Progress Continues with Waste Management Infrastructure

Our Waste Management Plan is graphically illustrated to the right and its implementation requires the establishment of new facilities to divert waste away from landfill and utilise the waste as a resource.





# Infrastructure Development

*The development of the infrastructure is programmed in three distinct phases;*

## 1. Recycling

## 2. Composting

## 3. Recovery

### 1. Recycling

Recycling has become a well established practice primarily supported through a kerbside collection of paper, card, cans and plastic bottles from over 375,000 households. The majority of this material is sorted at a facility in Mallusk before going to various dedicated recycling plants.



Material Recovery Facility(MRF), Mallusk

Glass is collected through a network of 180 bottle bank sites. In a ground breaking initiative we have commissioned WRAP to investigate the most efficient way for us to maximise capture of glass from the doorstep in any future kerbside collection proposed.

During November 2007, all Councils rolled out new collection points for beverage/drink cartons including tetra-paks thus adding to the growing list of materials being recycled.

### 2. Composting

Almost 230,000 households now have a bin to collect garden waste at the kerbside for composting at centralised facilities. This is augmented by 18,600 home composting units supplied by Councils. It is anticipated that in 2008, a contract will be awarded that will result in new treatment facilities being constructed that will enable kitchen waste to be added to the kerbside collected composting bins. We are exploring various supporting measures aimed at efficiently collecting as much kitchen waste as possible

e.g. the provision of a kitchen caddy (see below) to help householders. One of our Councils, Newtownabbey BC is also piloting a dedicated kitchen waste collection service for those households that are unable to take a composting bin, the results of which will influence thinking in regards to service provision.



### 3. Recovery

This is the last phase to be introduced which will treat that waste remaining in a household after the separately collected recycling and composting material has been collected. This will entail the development of two types of facilities i.e. Mechanical Biological Treatment (MBT) and Energy from Waste (EfW). The process to establish this has commenced through a site selection exercise entailing public consultation on the criteria used in the assessment to identify the best sites available, followed by a public trawl for suitable sites to be assessed against the criteria.

The incorporation of the best available sites into the Waste Management Plan will also be the subject of a public consultation. The procurement of specialist advisers to support and assist with the establishment of these facilities commenced in December 2007.



EfW Plant , Uppsala Sweden

# *Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE).*

The WEEE Directive is European environmental legislation. It is one of a small number of European Directives which implement the principle of "extended producer responsibility". Under this principle producers are required to take responsibility for the environmental impact of their products, especially when they become waste. The WEEE Directive applies this in relation to electrical and electronic equipment (EEE).

The approach adopted entailed the producer funding a collection infrastructure, based around Council Civic Amenity Sites. Arc21 were instrumental in developing and conducting a competitive process to identify one suitable producer scheme for all councils in Northern Ireland within a very challenging timescale. This resulted in Geodis UK Ltd being appointed by all councils. This arrangement provided a sense of continuity of services, minimal administrative burden and eased the associated with practicalities collection processing and reporting within Northern Ireland.



## Christmas Waste Campaign

Over the festive period alone 86,000 tonnes of waste in Northern Ireland will be produced, equivalent to an average of 50 kilos per person.

arc21 conducted a festive season campaign through the media, helping to create a greater awareness of the 'reduce, reuse and recycle' message in the run up to, during and after Christmas.

This gave advice on alternative wrapping for your presents; buying the perfect environmental, waste reducing gifts; having 12 tips for a greener Christmas, on each of the twelve days of Christmas, and providing guidance on how your New Years resolution for managing waste can be kept. Arc21 hopes this will help reduce the regions wasteline!

arc21 representatives, Ricky Burnett and Ronan Matthews (aka Santa), point out how much waste each person produces over Christmas.



# Communication Plan

**A Communication Plan has been developed by arc21 to reflect current developments in the field of education and awareness raising to influence behavioural change. The development of the Communication Plan involved advice and support from communication specialists secured through the ROTATE section of WRAP, an organisation funded through central government. As a result this Plan was provided at no cost to arc21 or Councils.**

The Communication Plan follows a “twin pillar” approach differentiating between arc21 elements and that of the Councils. The arc21 element primarily addresses generic issues including;

- the production of design guidelines
- developing the website
- developing a Staff Training Package
- utilisation of the Promotion Vehicle
- coordination of regional campaigns
- production of a recycling DVD
- Youthspeak competition

The Council’s element entails individual components “tailor made” to each Council, primarily addressing service provision. Examples include:

- helpline development
- website revamp – standard URL format
- service provision promotions
- RCV promotion panels
- Staff training
- local press engagement
- internal awareness raising
- new resident information packs

Flowing from the Communication Plan is the production of Design Guidelines, showcased in a recent WRAP “Best Practice” promotion



## Education Vehicle Information

In 2006 arc21 procured an education vehicle for use by the 11 constituent Councils. The education vehicle is an excellent platform for Officers to promote the message of waste management and recycling to a diverse audience. Due to its manageable size it can be used in a wide variety of locations from schools, community halls, exhibitions, shopping centres and on the ground in Council residential areas.

The vehicle has been fitted with a wide variety of state of the art equipment that will promote the waste message to all age ranges from primary school pupils to adults.



A touchscreen monitor and computer programme and bespoke programme are currently being developed from a prototype piloted at the Balmoral Show in May 2007.

The vehicle has already proved to be a success, regularly appearing at both Local Council events and National events such as the Balmoral Show and My Home Exhibition.



## Arc21 Waste Week

The inaugural arc21 Waste Week, took place this year in June 4th-10th. The majority of all constituent arc21 councils participated in or hosted events and promotions, varying from small scale initiatives to encouraging Council Staff to make a more efficient use of office recycling collections, to large scale projects such as Belfast City Council's Waste Fair in the grounds of the City Hall.

## Home Composting Week



International Home Composting Week took place 6-12th May 2007, where the importance of Home Composting was promoted through specialized events and intense PR throughout all of the constituent arc21 councils.



Caroline Leitch, Northern Ireland Junior Environmental Youth Speak champion 2007, pictured with Stephen Nolan.

## Environmental Youth Speak

Over 16 arc21 schools competed at this year's finals of the Environmental Youth Speak competition held at the Guild Hall, Londonderry, on 10th May 2007.

The theme for this year's junior section of the competition was 'reduce, reuse, and recycle – what it means to me' with the senior section talking on 'reduce, re-use and recycling – why are they always referred to in that order?'

The Junior Section winner in the arc21 regional final was Caroline Leitch from Loanends Primary School, Co. Antrim, who then went on to win the Northern Ireland Final. In the senior section, Helen Monaghan from Our Lady and St. Patricks College in Castlereagh won the arc21 regional final.

## Reuse Promotion

With an increasing emphasis on Reducing and Re-using Waste, arc21 launched a large Re-use outlet promotion in August 2007. The initiative gave arc21 and all 11 constituent councils the opportunity to promote the 'reuse' message and encourage more people to reuse unwanted clothes and other household items, diverting waste away from landfill. Events such as book fairs in local Council areas, to a "Charity Shop Chic" challenge, where two shoppers successfully completed the challenge to find a perfect outfit for under £30, to a regional competition for reused furniture for first time buyers have taken place.



## DID YOU KNOW?

*On average, each person throws away seven times their body weight (about 500kg) in rubbish every year.*

## Joint Committee

<b>Antrim Borough Council</b>	Alderman Mervyn Rea
<b>Antrim Borough Council</b>	Councillor Oran Keenan
<b>Ards Borough Council</b>	Councillor Robin Drysdale
<b>Ards Borough Council</b>	Alderman Robert Gibson
<b>Ballymena Borough Council</b>	Alderman James Alexander
<b>Ballymena Borough Council</b>	Alderman Hubert Nicholl (Chair)
<b>Belfast City Council</b>	Councillor Ian Adamson
<b>Belfast City Council</b>	Councillor Cathal Mullaghan
<b>Carrickfergus Borough Council</b>	Councillor Darin Ferguson
<b>Carrickfergus Borough Council</b>	Councillor Patricia McKinney
<b>Castlereagh Borough Council</b>	Councillor Jack Beattie
<b>Castlereagh Borough Council</b>	Alderman John Norris

<b>Down District Council</b>	Councillor Micky Coogan
<b>Down District Council</b>	Councillor Peter Craig
<b>Larne Borough Council</b>	Councillor Winston Fulton (Deputy Chair)
<b>Larne Borough Council</b>	Councillor John Mathews
<b>Lisburn City Council</b>	Alderman Paul Porter
<b>Lisburn City Council</b>	Councillor James Tinsley
<b>Newtownabbey Borough Council</b>	Councillor Barbara Gilliland
<b>Newtownabbey Borough Council</b>	Councillor Jackie Mann
<b>North Down Borough Council</b>	Alderman Leslie Cree
<b>North Down Borough Council</b>	Councillor Alan Graham

## arc21 Staff

### Appointments



**Ronan Matthews,**  
**Contracts & Projects Officer**

Tel: 028 90 918 708

Email: [ronan.matthews@arc21.org.uk](mailto:ronan.matthews@arc21.org.uk)

Ronan joined arc21 in October 2006 and is responsible for providing support to the Technical Director in all areas within the existing and forthcoming arc21 contracts and projects.

Ronan has a background in chemical and environmental process engineering and has several years project management experience working within waste related areas both in the private and public sector.



**Lynsey Daly,**  
**Waste & Policy Officer**

Tel: 028 9091 8765

Email: [lynsey.daly@arc21.org.uk](mailto:lynsey.daly@arc21.org.uk)

Lynsey joined arc21 in October 2007 and is responsible to the Policy Director. Her main responsibilities are to assist with the development, review and implementation of the waste management plan, policies and programmes including any associated regulatory matters.

Lynsey previously worked for ARENA Network as a Regional Development Executive, where she was seconded into Castlereagh Borough Council, working in Waste Management for over 2 and a half years.



**Lisa Carberry,**  
**Contracts Data and Monitoring Officer**

Tel: 028 90 918 709

Email: [lisa.carberry@arc21.org.uk](mailto:lisa.carberry@arc21.org.uk)

Lisa joined arc21 in April 2006 and became a permanent member of staff in January 2007. Her main responsibilities are to provide general support to the Technical Director and the Contracts & Projects Officer in relation to monitoring, administration and management of the procurement and operation of waste contracts.

Lisa previously worked for the Belfast City Council as a Monitoring Officer for the Cleansing Department.



**Carla Mayne,**  
**Finance Assistant (Temporary)**

Tel: 028 9091 8756

Email: [carla.mayne@arc21.org.uk](mailto:carla.mayne@arc21.org.uk)

Carla joined arc21 in September 2007 and is responsible to the Finance Director for the provision of a comprehensive range of finance and administration duties.

Carla previously worked in the private sector primarily in accounting support roles.

She is currently in her final year of studies for the Institute of Accounting Technicians examinations.

