



The Scottish Parliament

ENVIRONMENT AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

AGENDA

5th Meeting, 2003 (Session 2)

Wednesday 17 September 2003

The Committee will meet at 9.30 am in the Chamber, Assembly Hall, The Mound.

1. **Item in private:** The Committee will consider whether to take item 3 in private.
2. **National Waste Plan inquiry:** The Committee will take evidence from—

Alan Farquhar, Waste Strategy Area Co-ordinator, Calum MacDonald, Acting Director of Strategic Planning and Joanna Muse, Waste and Resources Manager, SEPA

Councillor Russell Imrie and Councillor Alison Hay, COSLA

Alan Millar, Principal Waste Management Officer, Argyll and Bute Council

Ian Galbraith, Waste Disposal/Recycling Manager, Environmental Protection Services, Glasgow City Council

Dan Barlow and Richard Dixon, Scottish Environment Link

Penny Cousins, Chief Executive, Forward Scotland.

3. **Sustainable development:** The Committee will consider a proposal for external research.

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The following papers are attached or are relevant to this meeting:

<u>Agenda item 2</u>	
Submission from SEPA	ERD/S2/03/05/2a
Submission from COSLA (<i>to follow</i>)	ERD/S2/03/05/2b
Submission from Argyll and Bute Council	ERD/S2/03/05/2c
Submission from Glasgow City Council	ERD/S2/03/05/2d
Scottish Environment Link 1 – submission from WWF Scotland	ERD/S2/03/05/2e
Scottish Environment Link 2 – submission from Friends of the Earth Scotland	ERD/S2/03/05/2f
Submission from Forward Scotland	ERD/S2/03/05/2g
Paper from SPICe (<i>for members only</i>)	ERD/S2/03/05/2h
<u>Agenda item 3</u>	
A paper from the Convener is attached (<i>for members only</i>)	ERD/S2/03/05/3a

SUBMISSION FROM SEPA

1. Does the National Waste Plan provide for suitable methods of reaching the key targets for managing waste?

National Waste Plan targets to reduce landfilling of Biodegradable Wastes are a result of Scotland's requirement to comply with the EU Landfill Directive. This will be translated into UK legislation under the Waste and Emissions Trading Bill. Scottish regulations under this Bill will allocate permits to Local Authorities restricting the amount of Biodegradable Wastes that can be landfilled.

The Local Government in Scotland Act placed a new duty on local authorities to prepare integrated waste management plans. The Scottish Executive will use this provision to direct Local Authorities to establish mandatory targets, which they must then endeavour to meet, as well as provide regular reports on progress.

In addition to the legislative approach, Chapter 6 of the National Waste Plan also identifies financial incentives that are available to achieving key targets. These include the Scottish Executive's Strategic Waste Fund (£230 million over the next 3 years), grants for recycling market development (WRAP, ReMade, Scottish Executive Capital Grants Scheme), Landfill Tax Credit replacement scheme, EU Regional Development Funds and Transforming Waste Fund for the community sector.

The National Waste Plan also identifies supporting activities for the achievement of targets such as Education and Awareness programmes (Scottish Waste Awareness Group, Do A Little Change A Lot), development of a Waste Prevention Strategy for Scotland, and specific areas of Research and Development (e.g. Recycling and Compost Markets, Household Incentives, Best Integrated Waste Transport Option, Resource Flow and Ecological Footprinting, Scottish Industrial Symbiosis Project, Life Cycle Assessment)

2. What progress is being made in meeting the targets set out in the Plan?

Since the launch of the National and Area Waste Plans in February 2003, a process of regular monitoring is being undertaken to report against progress made towards targets and actions. An interim review will be carried out after the first 6 months with a published annual report at the end of each financial year (the first annual report will provide progress made during 2003/2004). SEPA are promoting the annual Local Authority Waste Arisings Survey as the most appropriate monitoring data source.

The Scottish Executive will also require Local Authorities to regularly monitor and report on Strategic Waste Fund implementation towards targets.

3. Do funding methods provide the right form of targeted support and incentives?

One of main reasons for Scotland's poor recycling performance has been the lack of adequate funding to implement initiatives and develop infrastructure required to provide alternatives to landfilling. The National Waste Plan (Chapter 6) therefore highlights a range of financial incentives that are available to support local authorities, community sector and businesses towards sustainable waste management and diverting waste away from landfill.

These incentives include for example the Transforming Waste Fund (National Lottery New Opportunities) and Strategic Waste Fund (Scottish Executive). These funds aim to ensure that both the community sector and local authorities respectively, can make significant progress towards achieving Scotland's targets. The former will be focusing on the development of projects that are at the upper end of the waste hierarchy, namely reuse/refurbishment and

recycling along with Household Participation and Public Awareness in sustainable waste management. The Strategic Waste Fund will be utilised by the Local Authorities to implement the Area Waste Plans and associated targets.

The availability of Landfill Tax along with the Landfill Allowances system will also provide incentives to LA's to divert waste from landfill.

4. Is the level and method of funding through the Strategic Waste Fund appropriate to ensure that the Plan is achieved?

Chapter 4 of the National Waste Plan (Feb 2003) provides indicative costings to implement the Best Practicable Environmental Option for Municipal Solid Wastes over the next 20 years. Whilst it has been established that the current level of funding will meet the additional Local Authority expenditure required to meet short term targets, the longer term levels of funding will be assessed by the Scottish Executive.

The revised Strategic Waste Fund guidance due for imminent publication by the Scottish Executive clearly sets out a transparent review process involving waste strategy area co-ordinators at the earliest opportunity. This will ensure the allocation of funds to implement the objectives and Best Practicable Environmental Option of the Area Waste Plans.

5. Is the Waste Strategy Area approach working appropriately?

In recognition of the diversity of Scotland's communities, the 11 Waste Strategy Areas were identified to progress the development of the 11 Area Waste Plans. The overall approach has been one of the key positive elements of the waste planning process in Scotland and is recognised throughout the rest of the UK. It has facilitated local stakeholder participation in local decision making that takes into account the respective circumstances and priorities for the area. For example the issues to be addressed in the rural Highlands and Islands are very different from those in the urban central belt of Scotland. The approach has also encouraged peer learning and sharing of experiences in formulating solutions to local waste management problems.

The integration of the 11 Area Waste Plans established the Best Practicable Environmental Option for Scotland, the process concluded that the Waste Strategy Area approach to waste management planning provided the best outcomes against the Best Practicable Environmental Option appraisal of Environmental, Social and Economic criteria.

6. Can adequate markets for waste be developed in order to reduce landfill, and could market development undermine longer term efforts to minimise waste production?

The development of recycling markets is a primary mechanism to ensure the successful implementation of the National Waste Plan and has therefore been recognised as a crucial area for development and support. SEPA are working proactively with the Scottish Executive, WRAP and ReMaDe to ensure that suitable markets are available for wastes collected for recycling purposes.

In the truest sense of Waste Prevention, it could be said that activity within this uppermost level of the Waste Hierarchy could impact on the supply of materials to recycling markets. Within the current climate of increasing levels of waste production, however, it will take significant levels of effort by manufacturers, industry, public etc to reduce waste arisings to a stabilised state of growth. The need to support markets on the longer term should not negate the need to prevent waste arising in the first instance

There are also market development opportunities within waste prevention and minimisation sector e.g. clean technologies that Scotland should seek to maximise in developing it's future economy (see Annex 1 for definition of Clean Technologies).

7. Is the Best Practicable Environmental Option being achieved appropriately in practice, with particular reference to the differences between urban and rural areas?

Following the launch of National and Area Waste Plans in February 2003, the first round of bids from local authorities to implement the Plans are focussing on intensive source segregated kerbside collection systems for recyclable materials. In all Area Waste Plans, this is a key element of the Best Practicable Environmental Option and therefore it can be considered that the first steps to achieving Best Practicable Environmental Option have been taken.

Through the local waste planning process that has identified the Best Practicable Environmental Option for each Waste Strategy Area, local circumstances have been applied to the environmental, social and economic appraisal criteria. The specific issues of urban and rural areas have therefore been a fundamental consideration in option development.

Other mechanisms are in place to ensure that future developments to manage Municipal Solid Wastes in Scotland take into consideration the Best Practicable Environmental Option as set out in the Area Waste Plans. These include the statutory Town and Country planning system and Local Government in Scotland Act.

Regular review of the National and Area Waste Plans will ensure that Best Practicable Environmental Options keep up-to-date with new waste treatment technologies that may provide an improved sustainable option and future legislation that may impact on options currently identified.

8. What initiatives are developing to improve management of non-municipal waste?

A national multi-stakeholder group has been established to oversee implementation of activities to address Non-Municipal Wastes in Scotland (see Annex 1 for group membership). A range of actions for national and local implementation have been identified by the group to improve data on waste arisings and to change waste producer behaviour towards more sustainable waste management practices. It was considered by the group, that the Best Practicable Environmental Option development process specified for Municipal Solid Waste was not the most appropriate way forward for other non-municipal wastes. A framework approach was therefore set out in Chapter 6 of the National Waste Plan for further development and subsequent implementation.

The national Priority Waste Stream Projects identified within the National Waste Plan will be subsumed within the proposed National Waste Technical projects that are based on the European Waste Catalogue categorisation of waste types by industry sector. These projects will produce National Technical Guidance notes that will include baseline data profiles, best practice options and policy recommendations for implementation.

Enterprise Network stakeholders are working with SEPA on the production of Sustainable Waste Assessment Guidance that can be applied by commercial and industrial waste producers and managers to identify the best sustainable waste management option for their specific wastes and circumstances. This will provide one of the key delivery mechanisms to translate the outputs of the National Technical Guidance into local practice.

SEPA's Waste Minimisation Programme is working throughout Scotland to establish a network of waste minimisation clubs for businesses, in partnership with organisations such as Envirowise, the Scottish Energy Efficiency Office, Forward Scotland and Scottish Water. These support companies through developing waste minimisation programmes that reduce waste, energy and water and save companies money.

The programme also seeks to disseminate the benefits of waste minimisation to businesses through a website and seminars. Waste minimisation training courses are also run in conjunction with the Scottish Energy Efficiency Office and Envirowise.

9. Are all stakeholders able to work effectively together, particularly where the Waste Strategy Area covers more than one local authority boundary?

The Area Waste Planning process has primarily focussed on the Best Practicable Environmental Option for Municipal Solid Waste (waste collected by or on behalf of the Local Authority). Membership of the Waste Strategy Area Groups has therefore predominantly consisted of Local Authorities with the inclusion of other stakeholders varying throughout Scotland. Each of the area waste planning processes have, however, sought to obtain stakeholder input at key decision making stages. The ongoing involvement of stakeholders during the implementation of the National and Area Waste Plans will be essential in ensuring the successful delivery of Scotland's targets and sustainable development objectives.

In areas covering more than one local authority there are good examples of effective partnership working e.g. Forth Valley. A joint Implementation Plan was approved for the three Forth Valley Councils, with one authority acting as the holding organisation for the funds with key implementation decisions undertaken at a Technical Implementation Group of three Local Authority Officers with delegated powers. Regular reporting is made to a joint elected member / officer monitoring group.

Another good example of stakeholder partnership working is in Argyll and Bute. The Public Private Partnership between the Argyll and Bute Council and Shanks Waste Services has recognised the complementary role of the community sector in the provision of local recycling services and waste awareness and is actively encouraging its ongoing development.

Partnership working is one of the key considerations of the Strategic Waste Fund bid appraisal process and therefore acts as an incentive to develop effective working with other stakeholders.

As the future role of Waste Strategy Area Groups change focus to consider other non-municipal waste streams, the membership and participation of other stakeholders will be reviewed accordingly.

10. What contribution are local and community groups making to meeting the new targets and wider sustainable development objectives?

At key stages throughout the development of the eleven Area Waste Plans the community sector has been given the opportunity to become actively involved in the local waste planning process. This has been via a range of consultative and developmental fora. In some Waste Strategy Areas the community sector are members of the Waste Strategy Area Group.

The National Waste Plan (Feb 2003) has highlighted the role of Non Government Organisations and the community sector in the delivery of the targets through, *"work(ing) in partnership with local authorities, businesses and the waste industry to maximise the partnership benefits of these sectors working together; support community led initiatives to maximise the recovery of value and social benefits from end-of-life products and materials; help promote good practice to the public."*(National Waste Plan, 2003, pg74)

This has been further supported in the Strategic Waste Fund guidance where it states that the local authorities, in their bids, should identify "Partnership Working arrangements, including details of partnerships with the voluntary and community sector.

The Community Recycling Network Scotland is carrying out a Community Sector mapping study to scope out the level of community involvement in the waste sector and identify levels of

technical expertise and current practices. This study will provide vital profile data that has previously been unavailable, and provide the opportunity to establish a data reporting mechanism, which can monitor the level of influence that the community sector has on achieving National Waste Plan targets.

It should also be recognised that community sector activities provide essential value-added social benefits to local communities that contribute to the wider sustainable development objectives e.g. Environmental Taskforce employment, contribution to Homelessness strategies, training for disadvantaged community members.

11. Are the targets and priority approaches in the Plan appropriate, and do they adequately reflect best practice as well as existing legal obligations?

The National Waste Plan is an aggregation of the eleven Area Waste Plans and therefore reflects locally established targets and priorities. Through working with a wide range of stakeholders, the plan can be considered as reflecting best practice at the time of printing. Compliance of legislation was a key criterion in the Best Practicable Environmental Option decision making process and all plans will therefore reflect current legal obligations.

In this period of considerable change within the waste management sector, implementation of the National Waste Plan will need to take account of future developments and obligations. As SEPA is Scotland's environmental regulatory body, with a remit of adviser to national policy development, it has a fundamental role in ensuring that the implementation of the plan adheres to legal obligations and responds proactively to imminent legislative obligations

12. Does the Plan take account of likely future EU obligations, and how will it leave Scotland placed to meet the challenge of these new developments?

Each of the eleven Area Waste Plans considered a range of waste management options for subsequent Best Practicable Environmental Option appraisal. These ranged from "Do Minimum" in terms of basic compliance of legal obligations (including imminent European Legislation such as the Landfill Directive). The National Waste Plan clearly states that, *"A necessary component of the future sustainable management of waste in Scotland is compliance with the law. Scots law on waste derives principally from European Union Directives – the 1975 Waste Framework Directive and several more recent directives including, in particular, the 1999 Landfill Directive"*.

Figure 4.3 in Chapter 4 of the National Waste Plan demonstrates that Scotland, through implementation of the National Best Practicable Environmental Option for Municipal Solid Waste, can meet the landfill diversion targets. Strategic Waste Fund bids also have to clearly demonstrate how the Biodegradable Municipal Waste targets identified in the Landfill Directive will be met.

Some of the Priority Waste Stream Projects are seeking to specifically address future EU obligations that face Scotland such as End of Life Vehicles, Waste Electronic and Electrical, banning of waste Tyres to Landfill.

In its role of co-ordinating and implementing the National Waste Strategy : Scotland, SEPA has, and will continue to, respond to legislative consultation papers (at the Scotland, UK and European level) to ensure that the National and Area Waste Plans can proactively respond to resulting changes in waste management. Input to policy and legislative consultations ensures that the aims and objectives of the National Waste Plan are fully considered during their development.

SUBMISSION FROM ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL

Argyll and Bute Council welcomes the National Area Waste Plan process and the money, which has so far been released from the Scottish Executive to assist with increased recycling and composting.

We are concerned, however, that the Strategic Waste Fund does not appear to be accessible for funding the likely impacts of new legislation e.g. Landfill (Scotland) Regulations 2003, End of Life Vehicles (ELV) and Waste Electronic and Electrical Equipment Directives (WEEE)

On a national basis, we are also concerned that as numerous landfill sites close due to the Landfill (Scotland) Regulations 2003, composting and other new technology infrastructure will not be in place and non recycled waste will simply be transported all over Scotland to a fewer number of licensed landfill sites.

Question 1 Does the National Waste Plan provide for suitable methods of reaching the key targets for managing waste?

Answer The two main overall goals in the Argyll and Bute area waste plan are 27% by 2005 diversion of waste from Landfill through composting and recycling and rising to 50 % by 2010.

In Argyll and Bute we are aware that these goals may be seen as ambitious but believe they are achievable if sufficient funding is forthcoming.

Question 2 What progress is being made in meeting the targets set out in the plan?

Answer Much progress has been made in Argyll and Bute in meeting the majority of the 25 actions set out in our plan, such as new kerbside schemes, recycling points and more home compost bins etc.

In September 2001, Argyll and Bute Council entered into a 25 year Public / Private Partnership (PPP) with Shanks Waste Services which covers 60% of the Argyll and Bute area but excluded Helensburgh, Lomond and most Islands. The PPP has received annual part funding from the Strategic Waste Fund of £1.6 million per annum.

The PPP with Shanks covers a number of waste issues including specific improvements to several Landfill, Recycling and Civic Amenity Sites and provision including license and operation of 3 composting plants for composting municipal solid waste (MSW) at landfill sites near Oban, Lochgilphead, and Dunoon.

Shanks have landfill diversion targets in the PPP contract, which they intend to meet mainly through these plans.

Progress to date has been encouraging with a number of site infrastructure improvements already in place including the construction of all three composting sheds. One of the Plants at Dalinlongart landfill, near Dunoon has almost all composting equipment installed with the other two plants likely to be completed this year.

The commencement of operation of these plants, however, is proving a bit more difficult. Previous uncertainties over composting standards and licensing requirements for the plant have caused some delay and added uncertainty.

Most of these uncertainties appear now to be resolved and Shanks have submitted a Waste Management Licence modification application submitted to SEPA with discussions ongoing between both parties.

In addition the new Animal By-Products Regulations (ABPR), which are due in Scotland on the 1st of October this year, had provided more uncertainty in respect of what can and cannot be composted or landfilled and if composted what the requirements are.

The new animal by-products regulations require that any composting plants of this nature i.e. includes composting food waste, will require a license from the State Veterinary Service in addition to that of a SEPA waste management license.

Shanks are endeavouring to obtain both licenses. Our concern is that by December this year all three plants will be completed and ready to operate, but both licences are not issued and therefore waste continues to be landfilled.

Question 3 Do funding methods provide the right form of targeted support and incentives?

Answer As mentioned previously the PPP covers only 60% of Argyll and Bute and as such we submitted our Implementation Plan to the Scottish Executive in July this year.

The Implementation Plan builds on the PPP with Shanks and includes a number of Waste Management initiatives particularly in relation to Islands, Helensburgh and Lomond to deal with new regulations and directives e.g. Landfill (Scotland) Regulations 2003, Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Directive and End of Life Vehicles Directive (ELV).

Since the submission initial conversations with the Scottish Executive have indicated that the increased kerbside recycling, recycling deposit points, partnership schemes with community groups and Education would be supported subject to further assessment.

Elements that we included in the bid such as measures to deal with the banning of tyres from landfill, WEEE and ELV directives and additional infrastructure requirements at Mull and Islay landfill sites to comply with Landfill (Scotland) Regulations 2003 would not be supported or qualify for SWF funding.

We have been asked to resubmit the bid omitting these elements and were advised that the Scottish Executive would issue a new guidance document shortly in order to clarify this.

Our difficulty is that with the Landfill (Scotland) Regulations 2003, WEEE and ELV directives will place a high financial cost on Argyll and Bute particularly in relation to Islands.

Question 4 Are the level and method of funding through the Strategic Waste Fund appropriate to ensure that plans are achieved?

Answer The plan is unlikely to be achieved if the Councils are faced with the problem of finding the costs for the number of new directives and regulations applying in respect of waste management. While additional monies for kerbside recycling and recycling deposits points are welcome the additional costs in dealing with the rest of the waste could result in a major funding gap for Council's

Question 5 Is the waste strategy area approach working appropriately?

Answer The strategy approach in Argyll and Bute is working well with Argyll and Bute Council, a number of community groups and private sector Waste Management companies all being represented with meetings on a quarterly basis which SEPA facilitate.

There is not always a universal agreement on every issue but there is agreement on a number of issues and it should be noted that our Area Waste Group fully supports our current SWF bid including the wide range of strategic waste elements in the bid.

Question 6 Can adequate market for waste be developed in order to reduce landfill and could market development undermine long-term efforts to minimise waste production.

Answer We feel that generally we are in the hands of private sector companies here. Campbeltown Waste Watchers shred some paper for animal bedding which we believe is a good example of turning waste locally into a useful product but this only deals with a limited quantity of paper.

The worry is that with more recycle coming on the market, prices will drop (as we have seen recently with cardboard) Budgeting or planning with any certainty on income received therefore can be extremely difficult.

Question 7 Is the Best Private Environmental Option being achieved appropriately in practice, with particular reference to the differences between urban and rural areas?

Answer The best practical environmental option in our Area Waste Plan reflected the need for a number of sites in Argyll and Bute to deal with increased recycling and in particular composting. As such 3 composting plants have been constructed beside the main landfill sites in Argyll i.e. near Oban, Dunoon and Lochgilphead. Smaller scale composting facilities of Mull and Islay are included in our current SWF bid.

Now, however, the Landfill Regulations (Scotland) 2003 have been published and SEPA closure notices on Mull and Islay sites have been issued which gives us a problem in that this was not foreseen at the time of the PPP contract with Shanks or in the drawing up of the Area Waste Plan.

Question 8 What initiatives are developing to improve management of non-municipal waste?

Answer Argyll and Bute is a rural authority and almost all the waste facilities are either Council operated or Shanks operated through PPP and almost all household, commercial and industrial waste passes through these sites.

The Council allows businesses to use the Council / Shanks sites for recycling / disposal of their waste for a charge.

Question 9 Are all stakeholders able to work effectively together, particularly where the waste strategy area covers more than one local authority boundary?

Answer As Argyll and Bute Council is the only Council in our Area Waste Plan, other authorities were not represented in our waste plan meetings etc but we have had recent discussions with West Dumbarton and Highland Councils with regards to joint working in areas where there would be joint benefit. These discussions are ongoing.

Question 10 What contributions are local and community groups making to meet the new targets and wider sustainable development objectives?

Answer There are a number of community recycling groups in Argyll and Bute Groups most of whom we work effectively with and all have been included in our current SWF implementation bid.

The activities of these groups (mainly previously funded by landfill tax) range from aluminium cans collection to full kerbside schemes of plastic, cans and paper.

The Group for Recycling in Argyll and Bute (GRAB) has made a major contribution re recycling and anti litter education throughout Argyll and Bute and particularly through schools. GRAB were a previous winner with Argyll and Bute Council of the ENCAMS Best Community Involvement Award in 2001.

Question 11+12 Are the targets and priorities, approaches in the plan appropriate and do they adequately reflect best practice as well as existing legal obligations?

Does the Plan take account of likely future EU obligations, and how will it leave Scotland placed to meet the challenge of these new developments?

Answer The targets and priority in the plan are appropriate but the reality in achieving new facilities and infrastructure on the ground is difficult. Increasing legislation and directives could result in the plan being aspirational but which does not reflect the realities of site closures, new infrastructure (or lack of it) and new technologies which may take up to ten years to have such facilities working on the ground.

SUBMISSION FROM GLASGOW CITY COUNCIL

Waste Strategy implementation Plan

To achieve the targets Glasgow City Council has developed a Waste Implementation Plan that reflects the requirements of the Waste Hierarchy and the social and demographic characteristics of the City which was submitted in April 2003 for approval to the Scottish Executive Environment Group.

Ongoing discussions have since been taking place between the Scottish Executive and Council Officers. Agreement in principle has been reached on the substance of the Council's proposals, subject to further discussions in some specific areas.

Strategic Waste Fund

In 2001/2002 and 2002/2003 the council received £302,000 and £604,000 respectively in grants (based on share of population) to start the process of meeting the National Waste Strategy Objectives. Funds have been used to introduce a blue bin recycling collection system for part of the City. In addition, a trial has commenced in tenemental properties using lockable bins.

The issues of concern relate to:-

Previous funding has been granted in November/December, as part of the condition the grant expenditure had to be incurred by 31 March of the financial year. This timescale in future requires to be extended to allow for Committee reporting, authorisation and procurement process.

It is important the award for short-term funding (2003 – 2006) be granted as soon as possible for the Council to have a reasonable chance in achieving the Scottish Executive target to recycle 25% of Municipal Waste by December 2006.

Best Practicable Environmental Option

The methodology for choosing the BPEO was adopted in developing the AWP. This process considers environmental, economic, technical and social factors when reviewing waste management options. The BPEO decision provides a flexible framework to manage waste until 2020. A staged approach is necessary to reflect the timescale involved, the development of new technologies and changes in legislation.

The Council has provided a waste management system that will follow the principles of the waste hierarchy while achieving the statutory targets stipulated in EU, UK and Scottish legislation.

The implementation plan focuses on the reduction of waste generated by domestic households throughout Glasgow, supported by increased waste segregated collection systems, a network of recycling and mixed waste treatment facilities.

The main features in the short-term (2003 – 2006) are:-

- Improve awareness of recycling issues in schools and the wider community through education and promotional campaigns.
- Extend the blue bin collection scheme of co-mingled materials to a further 78,000 tenemental properties.
- Extend the blue bin collection scheme of co-mingled materials to a further 88,000 single properties.
- Extend the brown bin organic waste collection service to an additional 32,000 properties.
- To introduce a central Waste Treatment Plant at Polmadie Disposal Complex, following the identification of appropriate technology.
- Trial separate glass collections with partners using the existing Green box Containers.
- Provide additional community recycling points at Multi-Storey properties.
- Upgrade the Materials Reclamation Facility at Polmadie Disposal Complex.
- Upgrade the existing 4 Civil Amenity facilities to Recycling Centres.

The bid, if successful, will achieve the Scottish Executive's target diversion rate of 25% of Municipal Waste by December 2006.

The medium and long-term stages of the bid expand the short-term developments. Community initiatives targeting local organisations will be promoted. Additional Waste Treatment plants would be constructed at the remaining 3 operational Disposal Complexes. Longer term recycling and composting targets are expected to be achieved.

Partnerships

The Council has worked with SEPA and the neighbouring authorities to produce the Area Waste Plan. The group have recently initiated successful joint tenders in respect to economies of scale.

It is important the Council continues working with its neighbouring authorities to increase opportunities for recycling, share operational experiences, obtain Best Value for all and develop new initiatives. The Polmadie MRF is already used by a number of partner authorities. The Council, through its commitment to invest in new technology, to allow increase throughput and maintain quality, wishes to build on these partnerships.

The development of the Central Treatment Facility at Polmadie will provide the operational experience to develop additional facilities in the Medium and Long Term.

These facilities will provide opportunities for joint initiatives with neighbouring partner authorities.

The Council is dependent on partners to take the material it collects for recycling. These partnerships to date include:-

- Newspapers and Magazines – The Council has negotiated a long-term agreement with UPM-Kymmene Shotton Mill to have a guaranteed outlet for the collected paper. In the short-term this is being bulked through to Shotton. A bulking facility will be developed at Polmadie to allow the paper to be bulked direct to the Mill.
- Aluminium Cans – The Council deals with British Alcan and their regional partner Alloa Community Enterprises for the sale of the aluminium cans.
- Steel Cans – These are transported to John R Adams, Glasgow who is one of CORUS's (British Steel) Can Route partners. This reduces the problems of transport.
- Plastics Bottles – At present three polymers are segregated (HDPE-Jazz, HDPE-Natural and Clear Pet). These plastics are sold through REPRISE and RECOUP. REPRISE have reprocessing capacity and RECOUP acts as a merchant.
- Cardboard – From commercial collections a small quantity of cardboard is collected. This is marketed through local paper merchants – Stirling Recycling, Smurfit and Hannays. The cardboard is delivered to BPB Davidsons for reprocessing.

The development of the network of recycling sites has been dependent on a series of partnerships, which includes:-

- Site Owners – the siting of the banks takes up space and requires the support of site owners, such as the Supermarket groups who provide car park space.
- Charities – A number of organisations provide and operate banks to collect material to assist their work and to raise income. This includes textile bank operators – Salvation Army, Oxfam and Scope.
- Private Businesses – A number of organisations provide and operate banks. This includes Wm Tracey's Allglass who now operate glass banks.
- The public – For recycling to work the Council is dependent on the on-going support and commitment of the public. This is encouraged through education and promotional campaigns.
- Community Groups – The Council is working with community groups for the identification and establishment of new sites and developing new initiatives.

Community Liaison is an important partnership that the Council wishes to build on. A number of initiatives are already in place;-

Ruchhill Furniture Project
Castlemile Second Opportunities
Coach House Trust
Govanhill Forum
Community Recycling Forum Glasgow City Council
The Waterways Trust Scotland.

The Council will continue to work with these organisations and seek to promote their activities, develop good practice and encourage new initiatives.

Future EU Obligations

In addition to the landfill Directive, there are other European legislative drivers, introduced or proposed, that will have an effect on Glasgow City Council's future waste management operations in regard to:-

- The Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive.
- The End of Life Vehicles Directive.
- The Batteries and Accumulators Directive.
- The Household Hazardous Waste Directive.
- A Directive on the Biological Treatment of Biological Waste.

It is therefore difficult to know precisely what the effect or cost implications will be on Glasgow City Council's waste management operations. However, it seems safe to predict that higher environmental standards and costs will be incurred, which are not included within the current application to the Strategic Waste Fund.

The definition of MSW includes commercial waste originating from commercial and trade, small businesses, office buildings and institutions, currently only commercial waste collected by local authorities is included within the diversion and recycling targets. It is therefore important that future policy-making addresses this issue to ensure that all commercial waste arisings are taken into account.

SCOTTISH ENVIRONMENT LINK 1**SUBMISSION FROM WWF SCOTLAND**

Raising our sights – going beyond the National Waste Plan

**SUBMISSION TO THE ENVIRONMENT AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE INQUIRY
IN TO THE NATIONAL WASTE PLAN****DR RICHARD DIXON, HEAD OF POLICY, WWF SCOTLAND****SEPTEMBER 2003****KEY POINTS:**

- Tough targets and real cash have set Scotland on course to become serious about better waste management.
- There are some significant teething troubles, including the negative impact on some community recycling businesses.
- The debate needs to move on from ‘waste’ to address our profligate and inappropriate use of resources.
- We should make the Ecological Footprint of Scotland one of our Sustainable Development Indicators and, in the future, set targets for reducing our global impact.

INTRODUCTION

For the past year at WWF Scotland I have spent a significant proportion of my time on resources use issues, mainly through our work on Scotland’s global footprint. Before that I spent 8 years as Friends of the Earth Scotland’s Head of Research, where waste, recycling and resource use were major concerns. I am a member of the Environment Minister’s Waste Strategy Advisory Group, a past Board member of the Scottish Waste Awareness Group and contributed to the development of the Area Waste Plans for Lothian and the Borders, Highland and Fife. I have also helped to oppose proposed incinerators in Newton Stewart, Aberdeen and Highland and promote waste reduction, recycling and composting throughout Scotland.

The National Waste Strategy process has been lengthy but has led to a set of tough targets, the National Plan and the commitment of very significant financial resources to improving waste management. We can be confident that there really is the political will to see Scotland rise from close to the bottom of the European recycling league to become more sustainable in its use of resources.

However, there are two challenges: doing it right and taking the next steps.

DOING IT RIGHT

In going from a position of low recycling and high dependence on landfill to something more sensible, we appear to be in serious danger of losing some of the few examples of good practice that Scotland possesses. One of the key threats is to existing community recycling businesses. These enterprises have been the core of recycling and composting services in many areas, and serve a social function in providing local training and work opportunities to those who would otherwise find it difficult to gain employment. This combination of social benefit, local economic gain and doing good for the environment makes these enterprises key examples of businesses in accord with the principles of sustainable development.

During the development of the Strategic Waste Fund a number of bodies warned that the community sector was likely to lose out. Although the guidance for this Fund states that local authority's bids will be more likely to succeed if they are made in partnership with local community businesses, there are already instances of these businesses suffering.

In the Stirling area, a bin war appears to be breaking out with recycling bins owned by Alloa Community Enterprises disappearing or being turned around, while new Council-contracted bins appear. The community business has built up recycling services in the area over 12 years of operation and currently employs 15 people.

In some parts of Highland, compost collections are being started in areas where community efforts have already led to high levels of composting at home. The Council's efforts are being driven by composting targets which only give credit for central composting, leading to different organisations chasing the same waste for different purposes.

The clear danger is that, in our haste to correct our terrible performance in waste management, we will discard the only parts of the system that were doing really well. This is particularly ironic, given the Scottish Executive's new enthusiasm for a Green Jobs' Strategy.

TAKING THE NEXT STEPS

The big picture concern is that we may only fix part of our problem with resource use. If we concentrate solely on improving recycling and composting rates, but total waste continues to grow, we could end up using ever more resources and still increasing the amount we send to landfill. For example, the amount of household waste produced is thought to be growing by about 2% a year. If this continues, there will be 50% more waste to deal with in just 20 years time – any increase in recycling could just end up dealing with the extra waste we are creating.

The National Waste Plan's targets for recycling are ambitious and its commitment to kerbside collections for most households by 2010 admirable. However, on the issue of reducing the amount of waste we produce, it is less ambitious, setting an aim (not a target) of cutting growth to zero by 2010.

However, even a focus on waste minimisation is not enough. We need to be thinking about what materials we are using for what jobs and where they come from, as well as what happens at the end of their lives. For instance, instead of just aiming to recycle more aluminium cans, we should be thinking about whether we should be using aluminium at all since extracting the ore can involve clearing ancient forests and processing it takes huge amounts of energy.

Ultimately, sustainable development means shifting to using materials from renewable sources and using them as efficiently as possible – doing more with less. Already forward thinking businesses are engaged in this debate, looking at redesigning products, using different materials and providing services in different ways. A recent project in Scotland worked with 8 companies and helped them reduce their waste by a fifth, in the process saving them over £2m a year.

This global perspective on resource use is already included in the Scottish Executive's document on sustainable development, *Meeting the Needs* (2002):

- Have regard for others who do not have access to the same level of resources, and the wealth generated
- Minimise the impact of our actions on future generations by radically reducing our use of resources and by minimising environmental impacts
- Live within the capacity of the planet to sustain our activities and to replenish resources which we use.

Although the right messages are now appearing in documents and speeches from the Scottish Executive and SEPA, now is the time to start to act on the broader issues of resource use.

There are a number of ways of helping us understand the global impact of our use of resources. The most widespread is the Ecological Footprint indicator.

ECOLOGICAL FOOTPRINT

Ecological Footprint is a measure of the mark we leave on the natural world that sustains us. Quite simply, it considers how much land and sea is needed to provide us with the water, energy and food we need to support our lifestyles. It helps us judge how sustainable our lives are and what changes we need to make now and in the future to improve our quality of life. The concept was created in the early 1990s and is now in use in many countries at national and local levels. In Wales, the Ecological Footprint of Wales has been adopted as an indicator of sustainable development.

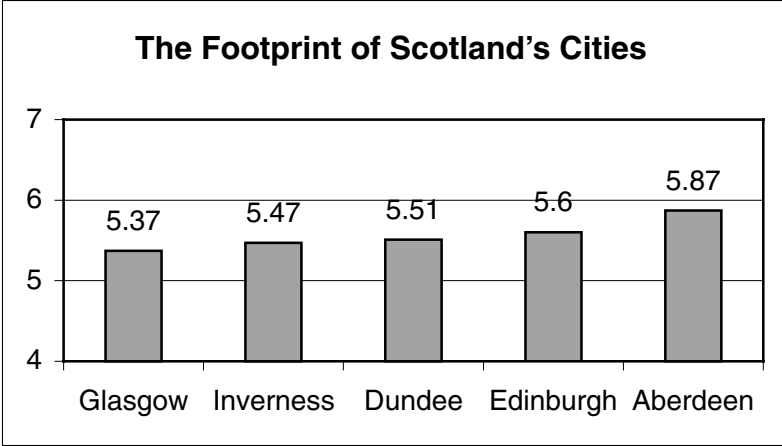
Footprint can be used to show trends and to compare among countries, regions, organisations and individuals. Because ecological footprint sets our resource use in a global context, it shows us the scale of change that is necessary to reach a 'fair' share.

If the Earth's resources were shared equally among everyone, a 'fair share' would be just under two hectares per person. On a national scale, the UK has an average footprint of 6.0 hectares per person. Scotland has an estimated footprint of 5.8 hectares per person. If all the world's population had consumption patterns like us, we would need two extra planets to sustain ourselves !

The Scottish Executive has already published footprint calculations for Scotland's biggest cities (as part of the Cities Review) and is helping to fund a study for Scotland as a whole, which will report early next year.

WWF Scotland is just starting a 3-year project to work with two local authorities, using the footprint concept to help policy-makers and the public understand the global environmental impact of current

lifestyles and to see how that impact can be reduced. The project will produce a software tool which will enable all Scottish local authorities to use the ecological footprint technique as an indicator, management tool and in education and awareness raising. 10 local authorities (including one joint bid) have submitted applications. This project is part funded by the Scottish Executive.



Finally, the 24 Indicators of Sustainable Development published in *Meeting the Needs* are to be reviewed before the end of the year. We believe that Ecological Footprint should be added to this set to provide an indicator which measures our global impact.

MOVING FORWARD

The combination of tough targets and real cash has proved effective in getting Scotland to start being serious about better waste management. There are already some significant teething troubles, including the negative impact on some community recycling businesses. However, the debate needs to move on from 'waste' to address our over-use and inappropriate use of resources. The current work on our Ecological Footprint at a national level and with local authorities will inform our decisions. However, we also need to set Footprint as one of Scotland's Sustainable Development Indicators and, in the future, set targets for reducing our global impact.

Agenda item 2

Environment and Rural
Development Committee

17th September 2003
ERD/S2/03/05/2f

SCOTTISH ENVIRONMENT LINK 2

SUBMISSION FROM FRIENDS OF THE EARTH SCOTLAND

Summary:

- **The National Waste Plan provides an opportunity to set Scotland on a path towards sustainable resource use.**
- **The scope for waste minimisation should not underestimated, increasing recycling rates alone will not deliver sustainable waste management, and the environmental injustice associated with the disparity of resource use in an international context will continue.**
- **Large scale incineration projects based on poorly segregated waste stream material will inhibit the development of a sustainable resource use strategy for Scotland.**
- **The role of technologies as used elsewhere in Europe for example Mechanical Biological Treatment (MBT) and anaerobic digestion should be pursued.**

Introduction

This briefing has been prepared as summary prior to provision of oral evidence to the Committee on Wednesday 17th September. More detailed written evidence will be submitted to the Committee by the requested date of 3rd October 2003.

The development of the National Waste Plan provides Scotland with the opportunity to drastically improve waste management. The commitment to 25% recycling and composting by 2006 and 55% by 2020 accompanied by introducing segregated kerbside collections to 85% of households by 2010 is welcome. However the critical step is to ensure that the Plan is used to maximum advantage to set Scotland on a path towards sustainable resource use through maximising resource efficiency and embracing the concept of zero waste.

1) Areas for action: Minimisation

The volume of waste produced in Scotland is estimated to be increasing at 2% per year, the National Waste Plan opts to accept increasing waste arisings until 2010, only aiming to stabilise volumes at this point. Without a more ambitious commitment this risks offsetting the benefits of increased recycling. A number of schemes elsewhere have demonstrated the potential minimization achievements possible. A composting and recycling scheme in Wye, Kent has reduced residual waste arisings put out for collection by 75% (a quarter of the UK average).

2) Areas for action: Technology

We are beginning to see many more real examples in the UK of the practical possibilities of sustainable waste management which reduce landfill dependency and avoid incineration:

"It is entirely possible to achieve the Landfill Directive without using incineration,

using a flexible 'pick and mix' option. Such an option would utilise source separation, kerbside collection, composting, recycling and mechanical screening to deal with municipal waste in a way that actively contributes to the economic, social and environmental goals of sustainable development'

Peter Jones, Director, Biffa Waste Services.

Incineration

Several areas in Scotland are currently considering the development of large scale incineration facilities. These will not assist the development of a sustainable resource strategy in the longer term for Scotland:

i) No incentive for waste minimisation:

Building new incinerators works against waste minimisation and increasing re-use and recycling rates. Contracts with incinerator operators simply act to lock local authorities into long term commitments to provide huge amounts of waste each year.

Incinerators must operate at or near capacity throughout their 25-30 year lifetime if capital investments are to secure a return – once built this incinerator would act as a structural impediment to significantly reducing waste arisings.

ii) Incompatible with the proximity principle:

As an example the incinerator proposal currently under consideration by Aberdeen Council would be based on burning 160,000 tonnes of waste per year, this does not accord with the scale of the projected waste arisings in Aberdeen and the commitment in the Aberdeen City Waste Strategy Guidance commitment to reduce waste arisings set out as:

'Aberdeen City Council is committed to reducing the amount of household waste being generated by 1% year on year, to reducing 40% of it going to landfill and to achieving a minimum of 25% recycling and composting by 2005.'

Aberdeen City Waste Strategy

Given that in 1999 Aberdeen City Council collected 123,700 tonnes of waste (90,000 from households and remainder from local businesses), 94% of which was landfilled the proposed incinerator would burn more rubbish than all the shops, businesses and homes in Aberdeen actually produce.

Assuming the commitments to waste reduction and recycling are met the facility would be between 3 and 4 times over capacity by 2020, yet the council would be locked into a contract to supply waste.

iii) Reliant on continued landfill disposal for ash:

Incinerators do not eliminate the need for landfill – they achieve a maximum of 70% reduction in mass of waste incinerated and produce contaminated ashes that have to be landfilled or 'recycled'.

iv) Air quality and health concerns:

House of Commons Environment Select Committee in March 2001 stated that:

"concern about the impacts of emissions from incinerators upon human health" cannot be dismissed while "emissions standards are still based on what can be measured and

what is technologically achievable, rather than what is safe”.

In the UK in 1999 and 2000 10 incineration plants exceeded pollution limits 540 times. Whilst newer facilities may have technical ability to perform to improved emission standards, emissions, and hence risks to health are also dependent on the standard of operation and the precedent is not good.

Alternatives to Mass Burn Incineration.

i) Increase recycling/composting

Local Authority Waste Arising Survey in Scotland 2000/2001:

50% of household waste is potentially recyclable (paper, card, some plastics, textiles, glass and metals).

40% can be composted (organic waste and some paper, card, textiles etc.)

Opinion surveys show that more than 80% of people would participate in kerbside recycling if the necessary facilities were in place. Source separated kerbside collection offers the best opportunity to significantly increase recycling rates.

Internationally many cities have achieved reductions in landfilling of up to 70% without incineration and in time periods of 5 years or less. Mechanical screening systems and composting can exceed the reductions in mass and volume achieved by incinerators.

ii) Anaerobic Digestion/composting

- In-vessel composting systems -capital costs of typically £4 million per 20,000 tonne throughput.
- Vertical composting units -10 units are capable of processing up to 15,000 tonnes, with capital costs of about £1 million.
- Anaerobic digestion - produces biogas and soil conditioner or liquid fertilizer, over 70 facilities operating around the world using municipal solid waste.

iii) Mechanical and Biological Treatment (MBT)

Stabilise and reduce volume of residual waste avoiding co-disposal of toxic recyclable and organic material together. Follows maximum source separation of recyclable and compostable material is followed by mechanical source separation of remaining, followed by a biological stage to make any remaining organic materials inert.

- Halifax, Nova Scotia (350,000 citizens) – diversion rates increased to 61% as a result of use of system.
- Edmonton in Alberta (900,000 citizens) achieved 70% diversion using such a system.

3) Areas for action: Closing the Loop

To ensure that the National Waste Plan contributes towards the delivering of sustainable resource use strategy a holistic approach is required which considers:

What resources are used for what purposes, how these can be recycled locally, what investment in the infrastructure to process uplifted material is required and how markets can be stimulated for recycled products.

4) Areas for action: Looking to Europe

Several European Directives will shortly impact on Scotland's waste stream both in terms of reducing mixed waste arising volumes and requiring recycling/collection facilities. National Waste Plan implementation decisions must reflect the implications of these directives:

i) EC Directive on Packaging and Packaging waste requires Member States to recover 50% of packaging waste from June 2001.

ii) EC Directive on Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) requires Member States by August 2005 to adopt "appropriate measures in order to minimise the disposal of WEEE as unsorted municipal waste and to achieve a high level of separate collection of WEEE". With a target of 4 kg per capita and proposal to increase this in 2008.

5) Areas for action: Planning and the Development Process

Waste plans must not override the development plan process, every application must be judged on its own merits and is not automatically granted because the waste plan contains plans for the technology. It is conceivable that if this issue is not tackled inappropriate developments would result.

6) Areas for action: Beyond municipal waste

The focus of the National Waste Strategy is to tackle domestic waste, however 75% of the waste arisings in Scotland derive from industrial/commercial sources and an ambitious strategy which sets out how this will be tackled is urgently required.

SUBMISSION FROM FORWARD SCOTLAND**1. Introduction**

1.1 Forward Scotland is a charitable company established in 1996 to promote sustainable development in Scotland through practical projects and influencing policy. The charity works with others to develop and deliver innovative strategic projects to build more sustainable communities and sustainable businesses across Scotland, including grant schemes designed to assist communities in building a more sustainable future. Over £10 million of funding will be distributed before March 2005 through the grant schemes for which Forward Scotland has direct management responsibility.

1.2 Forward Scotland can draw on the following experience to help inform the Inquiry:

- development and delivery of the Transforming Waste Scotland Grant Scheme, supported by the New Opportunities Fund;
- development and delivery of two landfill tax credit schemes;
- management support for 10 local environmental Trusts created to facilitate distribution of landfill tax credit scheme and other funds for local benefit, including support for local waste management projects;
- research to identify and evaluate community-based waste projects as good practice examples to publish on Forward Scotland's Community Webnet;
- involvement in various partnership projects promoting resource efficiency to businesses across Scotland;
- support for research projects to explore innovative approaches to the treatment of specific waste streams; and
- research into the potential for creating new employment and training opportunities linked to more sustainable waste management.

9.1 Aspects of the Inquiry that this experience may help to inform include:

- the role of communities in helping to deliver the Plan, and associated sustainable development benefits;
- funding and other resource requirements of communities to enable them to fulfil their role effectively;
- issues of integration and strategic development; and
- initiatives to improve management of non-municipal waste.

2. Transforming Waste Scotland

- 2.1 The National Waste Plan identifies the community sector as a key partner in implementing the Plan, notably through involvement in reuse and refurbishment projects and through awareness raising initiatives.
- 2.2 The “Transforming Waste Scotland” scheme provides a dedicated mechanism for stimulating and supporting third sector organisations to fulfil this role, extending also into recycling and composting. Launched in February 2003, the Scheme is led by Forward Scotland, working in partnership with SEPA, Keep Scotland Beautiful and the Recycling Advisory Group Scotland. By 2005 the Scheme will distribute £4.3m of New Opportunities Fund grant to support community-based waste management projects across all areas of Scotland. Grants of between £20,000 and £300,000 are available.
- 2.3 Transforming Waste Scotland is designed to help achieve the targets set out in the National Waste Plan and Local Area Waste Plans, and to create a link between these Plans and The Scottish Executive’s sustainable development strategy “*Meeting The Needs...*”. Accordingly, in addition to meeting quantified waste management targets, the Scheme aims to encourage “...new approaches to waste management, creating training, employment, environmental and other benefits for communities experiencing deprivation”.
- 2.4 Quantified targets for the Scheme are to divert 50,000 tonnes of waste, engage with 250,000 households and benefit over 700,000 people.
- 2.5 To date (2 of 9 grant rounds) the Scheme has considered 27 applications seeking grant of £3.96m. for projects with a total value in excess of £14.3m. Applications have been received from 10 Waste Strategy Areas (of 11) and 23 local authority areas (of 32).
- 2.6 £1.3m. of grant funding has so far been awarded, supporting 10 projects with a total value of £5.1m. These projects are located in 11 local authority areas and aim to divert over 14,000 tonnes of waste from landfill, creating 139 training places, supporting 34 FTE jobs and engaging with over 120,000 households (290,000 people). Projects range from the refurbishment of furniture, IT equipment and white goods, to community and home composting.
- 2.7 The Scheme supports implementation of the National Waste Plan in a number of ways:
- Scotland wide publicity for the Scheme helps raise awareness of waste issues and encourages active engagement by community groups in addressing key targets;
 - the Scheme provides a robust development framework designed to ensure that community-led projects are strategically aligned with local Area Waste Plans;
 - the Scheme’s application and project appraisal processes are designed to ensure that grant funding is only awarded to projects that are well formulated, financially sound, technically competent, offer value for money, and have good partnership support, with realistic prospects for continuation in the long term;
 - individual projects mobilise voluntary effort plus considerable co-funding to supplement local authority funds; and
 - the Scheme’s monitoring and evaluation procedures provide full accountability, ensure that projects are delivered successfully, provide feedback on project outputs / impact, and identify examples of good practice for wider dissemination.

- 2.8 An Advisory Group will be established to review periodically the progress of the Scheme and issues arising, with a view to developing the role of the community sector for maximum effect.
- 2.9 Although still at an early stage, the Scheme is already flagging up a number of issues that the Advisory Group will be invited to consider, notably:
- the lack of an effective mechanism to encourage local authorities to engage with the community sector;
 - the need for increased development support (advice, skills and funding) to assist community groups to plan effectively for the long term;
 - potential for gearing up the activities of community-based initiatives and replicating good practice to achieve critical mass;
 - availability of project co-funding;
 - sources of support for community groups with good potential projects, but which are not awarded grant from the limited funds available within the Scheme;
 - potential sources of support beyond 2005 when the present NOF initiative comes to an end.

3. Landfill Tax Credit Scheme

- 3.1 Since 1997 over 75 projects have received Landfill Tax Credit Scheme funding through the distribution schemes managed directly by Forward Scotland. These have created or maintained around 200 full time, part time or short term jobs plus over 100 training places and 500 volunteering opportunities.
- 3.2 In addition, approximately £2m of (mostly LTCS) funding has been distributed each year through the 10 local environmental trusts supported by Forward Scotland.
- 3.3 Of relevance to the present Inquiry, these funds have supported a number of capacity building initiatives, notably:
- innovative community-based waste management projects, including home composting, community composting, kerbside collection for mixed materials, reusable nappies and furniture, electronic & electrical equipment, white goods refurbishment projects
 - research in market development and in technical aspects of waste management (eg standards for composting, recycling of printed circuit boards, transport options for waste, technical treatment of used cooking oils and market appraisal for biodiesel, markets for latex waste);
 - promoting public engagement through national and local awareness campaigns.
- 3.4 Recent changes in operation of the Landfill Tax Credit Scheme are welcome in that they define explicitly a level of funds that can be directed towards sustainable waste management activities in support of the National Waste Plan. This funding provides an important, independent source of project co-funding with potential to provide a lever for building strategic partnerships in support of the aims of the National Waste Plan and Local Area Waste Plans.

- 3.5 Forward Scotland understands that The Scottish Executive is considering how best to allocate the funds received as a consequence of the changes to the Landfill Tax Credit Scheme. Community sector organisations, in particular, would benefit from an early decision to reduce uncertainty and allow for effective planning.
- 3.6 Forward Scotland has expressed the view that part of the estimated £8-9m. likely to become available in Scotland should be used to continue support for community-based activity, promoting the themes of “reduce, re-use and recycle” and supporting development of viable community sector participation for the long term.
- 3.7 Forward Scotland has also suggested that funds should be allocated to support and capacity building activities, in particular:
- education and awareness raising (individuals, businesses and organisations); and
 - product and market development.

4. Community Webnet

- 4.1 The need for effectiveness in engaging the community sector is a major issue that has been flagged up through the work of Forward Scotland and others. Many community groups feel isolated and under-resourced and lack a direct source of hands-on support. The identification and dissemination of good practice is a particular requirement and Forward Scotland is encouraging the development of an internet-based approach to fulfil this need and also provide a contact point for networking and access to support. The recently launched Community Webnet provides access for communities throughout Scotland to case study examples of waste projects carried out by others, and to information and advice on aspects of project development and delivery. The webnet can be accessed through www.forward-scotland.org.uk

5. Resource Efficiency Initiatives

- 5.1 Forward Scotland has supported a number of initiatives designed to promote resource efficiency amongst SMEs through improved management of waste, energy consumption and water usage. The initial programme “The East of Scotland Waste Minimisation Project” achieved a total reduction in waste of 17% and cost savings of £3.4m for the 38 businesses taking part. The success of this project led to its replication in other areas: “Dunbartonshire Environmental Management Initiative”; “Business Wins” in the north east of Scotland, Highland and Orkney & Shetland; and “Business Environment Partnership” in East Lothian. Forward Scotland is now working with Scottish Enterprise, SEPA, SNH and Scottish Water on a Scottish Sustainable Business Initiative to roll out this approach consistently across the country and to extend engagement with sustainable development issues more widely within the business community.

6. Employment and Training Initiatives

- 6.1 Forward Scotland’s Jobs in the Environment Support Unit enables The Scottish Executive, Job Centre Plus and Lead Training Providers to work together to promote good practice in delivering the environmental strand of the New Deal programme and associated employment initiatives. The Unit is currently undertaking research to identify emerging opportunities for training and employment in the sustainable waste management sector. The Unit is sponsored by BP until March 2004.