

www.talkingrubbish.org

CUMBRIA JOINT MUNICIPAL WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

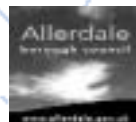


talking RUBBISH

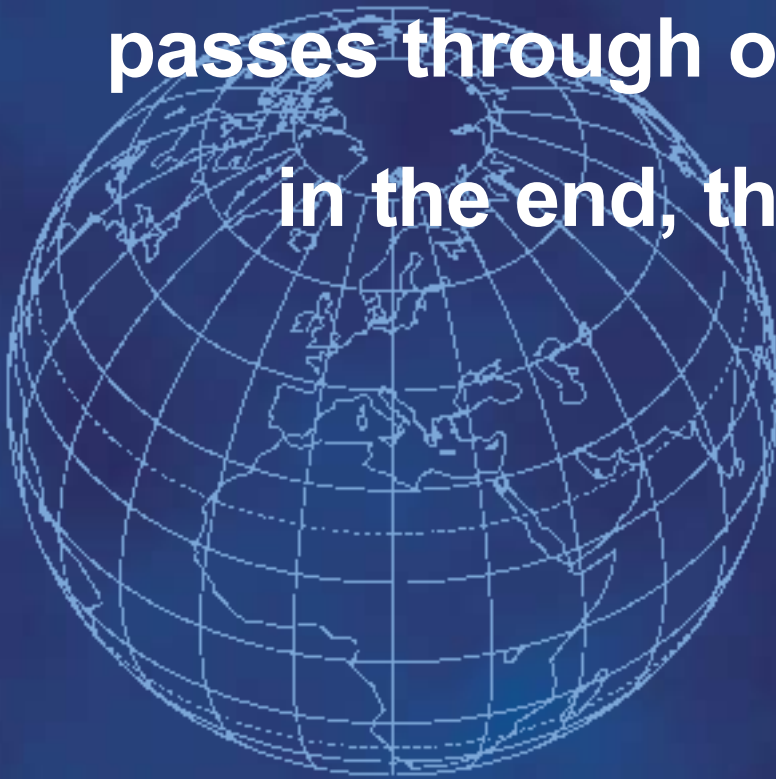
THE WAY FORWARD - A 25 YEAR PLAN

The Local Authorities in Cumbria are committed to working together to provide a First Class waste management service in keeping with our commitment to protect and sustain the Cumbrian environment.

We endorse this document, which outlines our proposals for dealing with waste in Cumbria during the coming 25 years.



**“We don’t buy waste,
but almost everything we buy
ultimately becomes waste...
nearly everything which ever
passes through our hands is,
in the end, thrown away”**



TALKING RUBBISH

In Cumbria, we throw away more than half a million tonnes of waste every year from shops, factories, homes and building sites.

Local authorities are directly responsible for Municipal Waste, which is mainly household rubbish and street sweepings, but can also include rubbish from small businesses. An average household in Cumbria produces about 1 tonne of rubbish (about the weight of a family size car) per year.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN CUMBRIA - YOUR RUBBISH - WHO DOES WHAT?

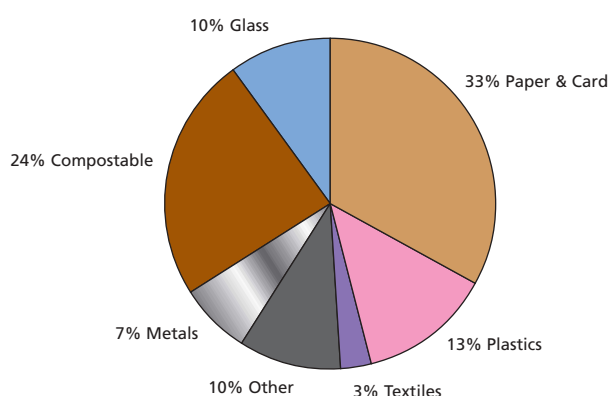
DISTRICT COUNCILS:

- Collect household rubbish;
- Collect bulky household rubbish (fridges, furniture etc.);
- Sweep the highways;
- Clear away illegally tipped rubbish;
- Provide local recycling centres; & Manage local recycling schemes & services.

CUMBRIA COUNTY COUNCIL:

- Dispose of all the rubbish the district councils collect;
- Provide civic amenity sites;
- Contribute to recycling through payment of 'recycling credits';
- Undertake environmental monitoring & management of 26 closed landfill sites

WHAT'S IN YOUR BIN?



WHO ARE CUMBRIA WASTE MANAGEMENT Ltd?

The County Council set up a new company called Cumbria Waste Management Ltd in 1993. This was in order to discharge the County Council's responsibilities, and comply with new legislation at that time. Cumbria Waste Management Ltd is still owned and controlled by the County Council.

In year 2001/02 Cumbria produced 284,000 tonnes of municipal waste and in recent years this tonnage has been increasing at a rate of 5% per year. If we go on throwing things away at this rate there will be three times as much by 2028, that's nearly 900,000 tonnes per year! So that would be the equivalent of 900,000 cars a year to bury, recycle or reuse!

TALKING RUBBISH



In Cumbria we rely on burying most of our rubbish in landfill sites. 87.2% of our rubbish was disposed of in holes in the ground in the year 2002/03, while only 9.8% was recycled and just 2.9% was turned into compost.

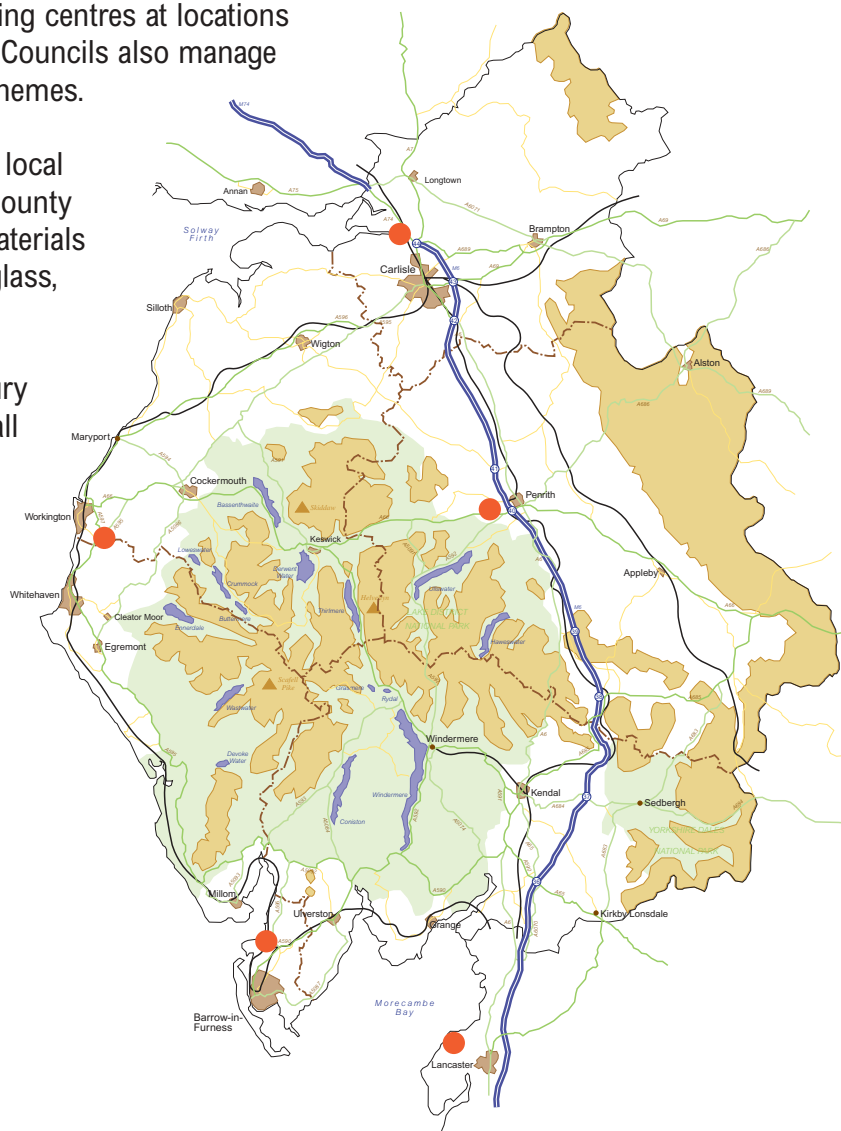
We use five landfill sites for municipal rubbish: there are four in Cumbria and one in Lancashire. Private contractors and Cumbria Waste Management Ltd currently manage these sites.

Most recycling in Cumbria is carried out by the District Councils and their contractors, who operate recycling centres at locations throughout the County. District Councils also manage kerbside recycling collection schemes.

Recycling is also carried out by local community groups and at the County Council's civic amenity sites. Materials collected for recycling include glass, card, paper, cans and textiles.

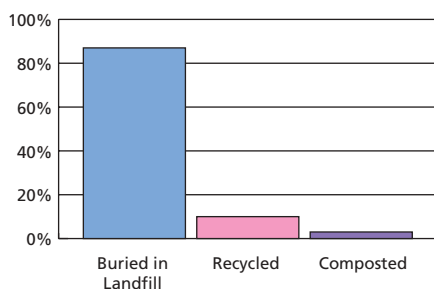
If we in Cumbria continue to bury our rubbish at the current rate all existing landfill sites will be filled by 2009.

There will always be a need to bury certain types of rubbish, which cannot be recycled or recovered in some other way. Because of this the County Council will need to provide new landfill sites.



LOCATION OF LANDFILL SITES

WHAT HAPPENED TO CUMBRIA'S RUBBISH IN 2002/2003?



WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD?

Growing concern about the damaging effects of landfill on the environment, has led National Government and the European Union to want to change the way that we manage our municipal waste. Government policy requires that in Cumbria we:

RECYCLE AND COMPOST AT LEAST 21% OF OUR RUBBISH IN 2005/06.

**RECOVER VALUE (WHICH INCLUDES RECYCLING AND COMPOSTING) FROM:
40% OF MUNICIPAL WASTE BY 2005
45% OF MUNICIPAL WASTE BY 2010
67% OF MUNICIPAL WASTE BY 2015**

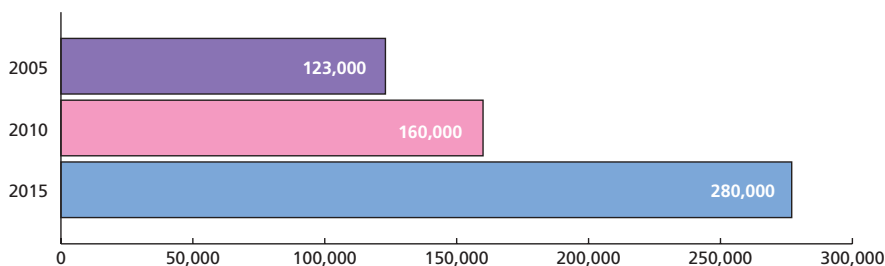


This means that, if rubbish generation grows at the national rate of 3% per year, the amount of rubbish we will have to divert from landfill through recycling and composting by 2015 will be 280,000 tonnes.

Compare this to the 36,000 tonnes that is diverted now and it is clear that we all have a lot of work to do!

Also in the future we can expect to see more laws aimed at protecting the environment, which will increase costs. Also considerable increases in the Landfill Tax, designed to make alternatives to landfill more economically attractive.

HOW MANY TONNES OF RUBBISH WILL NEED TO BE RECOVERED?



ALL THIS MEANS THAT WE NEED TO CHANGE OUR BEHAVIOUR TO REDUCE THE AMOUNT OF RUBBISH WE PRODUCE. WE ALSO NEED TO MAKE SIGNIFICANT INVESTMENT IN NEW WASTE COLLECTION SYSTEMS, PROCESSING FACILITIES AND LANDFILL SITES.

AS A RESULT INCREASES IN COSTS ARE INEVITABLE.

BY FOLLOWING THE STRATEGY FOR ACTION OUTLINED IN THIS DOCUMENT WE WILL BE ABLE TO PLAN THE EXPENDITURE, KEEP PRICES AS LOW AS POSSIBLE WITHOUT COMPROMISING OUR ENVIRONMENTAL AIMS & ENSURE THAT CUMBRIA GETS THE MAXIMUM BENEFIT FROM THE MONEY BEING SPENT.

WHAT ARE WE DOING ABOUT IT?

In 2001 the local authorities in Cumbria agreed to set up a joint 'Waste Management Steering Group' to assess the existing refuse collection, recycling and disposal practices and produce a strategy for the management of Cumbria's municipal rubbish.

Members of the Steering Group include elected members from the seven local authorities and representatives from the Environment Agency, ENCAMS (formerly the Tidy Britain Group) and the North West Waste Forum.

Independent advice was also sought to advise on potential future options for waste management in Cumbria.

THE STEERING GROUP AGREED TO THE FOLLOWING OBJECTIVES FOR THE STRATEGY:

- 🌱 meet statutory targets and other legislative requirements;
- 🌱 increase public awareness of waste and promote participation;
- 🌱 develop practical solutions;
- 🌱 promote the 'waste hierarchy';
- 🌱 promote the 'proximity principle';
- 🌱 be proactive, recognising the need for on-going and regular monitoring;
- 🌱 develop opportunities for employment & economic growth;
- 🌱 be 'joined up' with other policies, e.g. tourism, transport;
- 🌱 promote the use of recycled products.

THE WASTE HIERARCHY



The Proximity Principle

The concept that waste should be disposed of (or otherwise managed) as near as possible to the place of production.

CONSULTATION

In 2001 we consulted the Cumbria Citizen's Panel (telephone survey of 300 members of the panel) for their opinions about rubbish and found that:

71% WERE WILLING TO SEPARATE THEIR HOUSEHOLD FOOD AND GARDEN RUBBISH FOR KERBSIDE COLLECTION.

86% WERE WILLING TO SEPARATE RECYCLABLE MATERIALS FOR KERBSIDE COLLECTION.

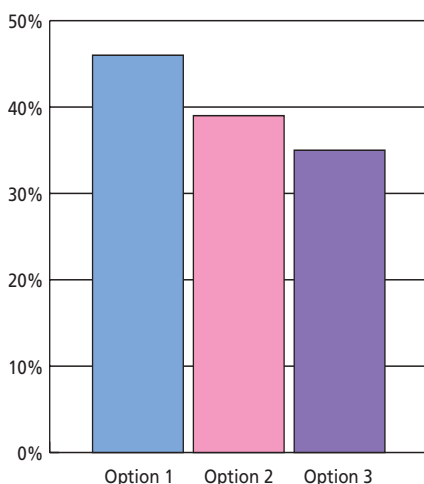
74% EITHER SUPPORTED OR STRONGLY SUPPORTED THE IDEA OF MIXED RUBBISH BEING COLLECTED AND INCINERATED TO CREATE HEAT AND GENERATE ELECTRICITY.

31% SUPPORTED THE CURRENT REFUSE COLLECTION SYSTEM WHERE MIXED RUBBISH IS COLLECTED AND BURIED IN LANDFILL. 49% OPPOSED THIS SYSTEM.

WHO ARE THE CITIZEN'S PANEL?

The Cumbria Citizen's Panel includes approximately 3,600 members & is representative of the County population in terms of age, gender, district and a wide range of other factors.

In 2002 every household in the County was sent a "Talking Rubbish" questionnaire and asked to comment on three options for waste management in Cumbria. The consultation covered the options of recycling, composting and incineration.



OPTION 1 Recycle & compost as much as possible.

OPTION 2 Burn most of our waste in one specially constructed, suitably located incinerator.

OPTION 3 Concentrate on recycling & composting for the next decade – but also plan to construct two small-scale incinerators by 2015.

19,382 replies were received by 21 October 2002 (representing 9% of Cumbrian households). The responses showed that there was broad support for all three options.



The County Council also commissioned an assessment of its civic amenity sites and closed landfill sites in its care.

THE STRATEGY

“HALF OF THE WASTE WE GENERATE COULD BE REUSED AND RECYCLED & TRANSFORMED FROM A PROBLEM INTO AN ASSET”





PRIME MINISTER, TONY BLAIR, NOVEMBER 2002

THE SEVEN LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN CUMBRIA HAVE AGREED TO:

-  Aim to reach waste management targets in Cumbria by recycling & composting as much as possible.
-  Monitor progress towards the targets carefully & be prepared to introduce Energy from Waste¹ technology if it becomes clear that recycling and composting alone will not reach the targets.

¹Energy from Waste in this context includes all technology, which recovers and utilises heat from waste.




WE WILL REACH THE GOVERNMENT’S 21% COMPOSTING AND RECYCLING TARGET FOR 2005/06 IN CUMBRIA BY:

-  Expanding kerbside collection schemes for recyclable and compostable rubbish to include as many households and materials as practicable.
-  Improving facilities for collecting recyclable and compostable rubbish at recycling centres and civic amenity sites.
-  Assessing the potential to reduce, reuse and recycle as much as possible in-house and for using recycled materials in all local authority purchasing and ‘buying’ recycled whenever possible.
-  Establishing a programme of education and publicity campaigns aimed at encouraging everyone to recycle and compost their rubbish.

The County Council will work together with the District Council’s and others to establish an integrated municipal waste management service across the whole county.

Cumbria County Council will establish a new Strategic Service Partnership for Waste Management.

THE COUNTY COUNCIL WILL:

-  Enter into a partnership with a suitably qualified and experienced waste management company with a proven track record of providing innovative and top class services to local authorities.
-  Enter long-term contracts (potentially 25 years) with the new partner.
-  By these measures the County Council will secure the financial investment needed for the new waste processing and disposal facilities.

THE STRATEGY

COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILS WILL WORK CLOSELY TOGETHER TO ENSURE THAT:

- ♻️ Schemes for the kerbside collection of recyclable and compostable rubbish reach their maximum potential in terms of tonnage and value for money. Where feasible, existing pilot schemes will be extended and permanently established.
- ♻️ The network of local recycling centres also reaches its maximum potential in terms of tonnage collected and value for money.
- ♻️ Facilities for storing, sorting and transfer loading recyclable materials and carrying out composting are established at strategic locations throughout the county.
- ♻️ Marketing of the compost and recycled materials will be undertaken using local companies wherever practicable to maximize the benefits to Cumbrian's from their recycling and composting commitment.
- ♻️ Facilities at existing civic amenity sites are improved and a network of strategically located sites are established, which are accessible to all and achieve overall recycling rates of 60% or more.
- ♻️ Civic amenity site provision is complemented by an efficient and cost effective 'bulky household waste' collection service which includes recycling whenever possible.
- ♻️ Social, economic and environmental implications of waste management are considered in all plans and policies.



TRADE WASTE AT CIVIC AMENITY SITES

Illicit trade waste is disrupting the service to the public.







The County Council will control this growing problem by introducing height barriers at some sites and a system of permits for vans.

WASTE MINIMISATION - WE WILL...







- ♻️ Co-ordinate a county wide waste awareness campaign to promote the REDUCTION and REUSE of 'rubbish' in Cumbria.
- ♻️ Establish an effective, high profile marketing strategy to deliver a campaign to promote waste minimisation.
- ♻️ Work in partnership with community groups, parish councils and other interested groups to promote the reduction and reuse of rubbish.
- ♻️ Work with local business to promote waste minimisation, reuse and recycling.
- ♻️ Support national waste minimisation campaigns.

THE STRATEGY

RECYCLING - WE WILL...

-  Co-ordinate a countywide recycling networks to deliver effective and efficient recycling services and facilities.
-  Improve existing recycling services and facilities.
-  Establish new recycling services and facilities (where appropriate).
-  Promote, support and manage recycling publicity and education campaigns.
-  Promote the procurement of recycled materials in the County.
-  Lead by example in the effective use of recycling facilities and the procurement of recycled materials.

THE COUNTY COUNCIL WILL:

-  Establish waste reception points for the mixed municipal rubbish that has not been collected separately for recycling or composting. These will be located as close as possible to the centres of rubbish creation so that district council refuse collection arrangements can operate as efficiently as possible.
-  Establish treatment facilities for mixed municipal rubbish so that recycling/ composting and diversion of waste from landfill targets are met and if possible exceeded as soon as practicable.
-  Ensure that existing landfill capacity is used effectively in terms of cost and in reducing environmental impact.
-  Ensure that the requirement for new landfill capacity is met but also kept to a minimum.
-  Take responsibility for the management and administration of waste trading permits.
-  Ensure that any necessary road haulage of waste is kept to a minimum of journeys.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

MONITORING AND INFORMING

WE WILL...

Regularly consult with the public through surveys, focus groups and public meetings to obtain views on the effectiveness of the service and the ways by which it could be improved.

Monitor progress towards recycling and landfill diversion targets and regularly publish these results.

Continuously review the development of small scale 'Energy from Waste Technology' to enable the best technology to be selected if needed.

WORKING WITH THE COMMUNITY

WE WILL...

The new partnership and local councils will work with local community groups wherever possible to deliver recycling and waste awareness information at a local level.

The partnership and local councils will work with Industry and Commerce to ensure, as far as legally permissible, that the needs of large and small businesses are catered for.

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CUMBRIA JOINT MUNICIPAL WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

ADDRESSES AND INFO

ENCAMS

A charity working in sustainable development education, information and environmental quality.

www.encams.org.uk

Telephone: (01942) 612621

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

Government body responsible for applying, monitoring and enforcing environmental standards in England and Wales

www.environment.agency.gov.uk

Telephone: (01768) 866666

NORTH WEST WASTE FORUM

An umbrella organisation for environmental interest groups in the North West

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