

## 12.5 Planning to reduce and manage waste

12.5.1 The Welsh Government's general policy for waste management is contained in its overarching waste strategy document *Towards Zero Waste* and associated sector plans<sup>1</sup>. Planning authorities should, in principle, be supportive of facilities which fit with the aspirations of these documents and in doing so reflect the priority order of the waste hierarchy as far as possible.

12.5.2 The Collections, Infrastructure and Markets (CIM) Sector Plan describes the waste management framework considered to provide the best solutions to meet environmental, social and economic needs to 2050. It indicates a move towards a position where disposal and recovery options are reduced in favour of high volume source segregated collection followed by reprocessing (as well as preparation for re-use and prevention). The reality as we move from where we are now towards these aspirations is the need for planning authorities to facilitate the provision of a wide ranging and diverse waste infrastructure, which includes facilities for the disposal and recovery of mixed municipal and residual waste as well as those higher up the waste hierarchy.

12.5.3 The land use planning system has an important role to play in facilitating sustainable waste management by providing a framework for decision making which recognises the social and economic benefits that can be realised from the management of waste as a resource to meet the needs of society and businesses, whilst at the same time:-

- minimising adverse environmental impacts and avoiding risks to human health;
- protecting areas of designated landscape and nature conservation from inappropriate development; and
- protecting the amenity of residents, of other land uses and users affected by existing or proposed waste management facilities.

12.5.4 There are a number of specific principles, in addition to these general principles, which should guide planning approaches and inform decisions. Of these principles, the waste hierarchy provides the key starting point for all types of waste management proposals and consideration of the hierarchy should be set against the wider social, economic and environmental considerations which are relevant in any given case. Proximity and self sufficiency will only be applicable in relation to wastes covered by Article 16 of the revised Waste Framework Directive (rWFD)<sup>2</sup>. Further advice on the application of these principles and the specific obligations of the rWFD can be found in TAN 21 Waste.

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<sup>1</sup> Welsh Government (June 2010) *Towards Zero Waste – One Wales: One Planet*. Welsh Government (July 2012) *Collections, Infrastructure and Markets Sector Plan*.

<sup>2</sup> Directive 2008/98/EC on waste, OJ [2008] L312/3. Article 16 waste is mixed municipal waste collected from private households, including where such collection also covers waste from other producers.

12.5.5 The waste assessments contained within the CIM Sector Plan will not have to be repeated by local planning authorities at a regional or local level. However, to inform planning decisions it will be important that local planning authorities monitor progress towards the provision of an integrated and adequate network of waste disposal installations and of installations for the recovery of mixed municipal waste collected from private households, including where such collection also covers waste from other producers<sup>3</sup>. For this reason, monitoring arrangements will be established to ensure an up to date position is available to inform decision making. Further detail can be found on the arrangements for monitoring and the provision of annual monitoring reports (and supplementary reports where necessary) in TAN 21 Waste.

12.5.6 Natural Resources Wales has a statutory role in relation to the management and regulation of waste and the collection of waste production and management data. It has a key role in providing expert advice to planning authorities as part of local development plan preparation, as a consultee on certain planning applications and to assist planning authorities in evaluating complex waste information and making technical judgements, where necessary. Natural Resources Wales will contribute to the development and implementation of the monitoring arrangements outlined in more detail in TAN 21 Waste through the provision of data and expertise.

## **12.6 Development plans and waste planning**

12.6.1 Development plans should demonstrate how national waste policy, and in particular the CIM Sector Plan, along with any updated position adopted in the annual monitoring reports and any other form of waste management priorities relevant to its local area have been taken into account.

12.6.2 As part of facilitating the provision of sustainable waste management, the identification of suitable locations for such development should be considered as part of plan preparation, recognising that the most appropriate locations will be those with the least adverse impact on the local population and the environment and with the best potential to contribute to a broad infrastructure framework. Further advice on addressing waste issues through development plans is contained in TAN 21 Waste.

12.6.3 In addition, development plan strategies and policies, including any specific allocations, should demonstrate that opportunities to reduce or recycle waste as part of the design, construction and operation of new buildings have been identified. Further advice on sustainable design can be found in TAN 12 Design and TAN 21 Waste.

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<sup>3</sup> Article 16(1) of the rWFD.

## **12.7 Development Management and waste planning**

12.7.1 Decisions on waste management proposals should be determined in accordance with the relevant development plan for an area. The extent to which a proposal demonstrates a contribution to the waste management objectives, policy, targets and assessments contained in national waste policy will be a material planning consideration.

12.7.2 The impact of proposals for waste management facilities on the amenity of local people and the environment must be adequately assessed to determine whether a planning application is acceptable, and, if adverse impacts on amenity or the environment cannot be mitigated, planning permission should be refused. The policy contained elsewhere in Planning Policy Wales will be particularly relevant and further advice on general and specific planning principles and detailed planning considerations can be found in TAN 21 Waste.

12.7.3 Adequate facilities and space for the collection, composting and recycling of waste materials should be incorporated into the design of any development and waste prevention efforts at the design, construction and demolition stage should be made by developers<sup>4</sup>. All opportunities should be explored to incorporate re-used or recyclable materials or products into a new building or structure. Information regarding such efforts could be included in Design and Access Statements. Further advice on Sustainable Design is contained in TAN 12 Design and TAN 22 Planning for sustainable buildings.

12.7.4 Planning authorities, other relevant local authority departments and Natural Resources Wales are expected to work closely together to ensure that conditions attached to planning consents and those attached to Environmental Permits are complementary and do not duplicate one another. In certain circumstances it will be good practice to encourage the parallel tracking of planning and environmental permitting applications.

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<sup>4</sup> A Site Waste Management Plan (SWMP) is a plan to help clients, developers and contractors in the construction and demolition sector think before the start of a project about the waste that will be produced, how to reduce the waste and plan to sustainably manage waste that does arise.