



Helpu Cymru i leihau
ei Hôl Troed Carbon
Help Wales reduce
its Carbon Footprint



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Towards Zero Waste

One Wales: One Planet

Summary



Textiles



Paper



Plastics



Metals



Electrical



Paint



Household
Organics



Brown
Glass



Blue Glass



Wood



A Consultation on a New
Waste Strategy for Wales
April 2009

Towards Zero Waste

A consultation on a new Waste Strategy for Wales

How the Welsh Assembly Government is going to deal with waste in the future

What is this consultation for?

We are asking people for their views on how we manage our waste in Wales. This is to help us be more sustainable and help tackle climate change. Our consultation document is called 'Towards Zero Waste' and will cover from now until 2050.

Our aim is to achieve 'zero waste' – that means we don't want to produce any waste. To do this we need to design and make things that can be reused or reduce what we waste as much as possible. We can't do this on our own and we need the help of other people including Local Authorities, businesses and you.

This booklet will give you a summary of the main points from the consultation document. If you want any more information copies of the full document are on our website www.wales.gov.uk/consultations (Environment and Countryside), email us on wastestrategy@wales.gsi.gov.uk or you can call us for a copy on 029 2046 6151.

What are we aiming for?

There are two big targets we are aiming for:

1. By 2025 we want all sectors in Wales to be recycling at least 70% of their waste – this includes businesses, households and the public sector. This will go a big way to helping us achieve zero waste.
2. By 2050 we hope to have achieved zero waste. This will mean that products and services will be designed so they have eliminated waste entirely.

We want your views on whether you support these targets.

How are we going to do it?

- By reducing the amount of waste we all produce.
- By encouraging everyone to reuse and recycle things.
- By making sure we have the right facilities to collect and treat our waste – this is not only from our waste at home, but also commercial and industrial waste.
- By looking at all the materials that are thrown away and deal with the ones that will have the most benefit for the environment first.
- We will encourage businesses and retailers to take more responsibility for the waste they produce, or cause others to produce.
- We ask you not to purchase goods or products that you know cannot be re-used or recycled to the maximum degree possible.

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If we can achieve this we will be helping Wales be more sustainable. There is the possibility of more innovation in new and greener technologies. This will lead to more jobs and so skill levels in Wales will improve. This will all help our economy, society, as well as the environment.

How will we know how we are doing?

We are going to use 'ecological footprinting' as a way to measure if we've met our targets. This shows the impact of our actions against what the planet can cope with. At the moment we are using three planets worth of resources, instead of the one available to us. Waste contributes to 15% of Wales' ecological footprint.

What businesses, communities and the public sector will be doing will be shown in what we call 'sector plans'. The plans will show who is doing what, by when and with whom.

We are going to focus on four sector plans to begin with. They are:

- Municipal waste – this is mainly waste from our homes and sometimes can include waste from businesses.
- Waste industry, infrastructure and markets for recyclates.
- Construction and demolition.
- Retail.

Other plans will follow including food and drink and public sectors.

All of these areas will have their own targets. We have given a few different options on what these targets should be based on. If you want to know more about them and give us your views the details are in the main consultation document.

Who can help?

Welsh Assembly Government

Through our Green Jobs Strategy and Flexible Support for Business (FS4B) scheme we will give specialist support and look for ways to reward businesses that manage waste in the most useful way.

We will work closely with the EU and UK Governments to make sure we get the best deal for Wales.

Local governments need to support alternatives to landfill sites, and use waste as a useful resource.

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Businesses

By re-designing products and packaging we should be able to eliminate waste. Businesses also need to think about their supply chain – this means how they get their products from suppliers to their customers. We hope that turning used materials into new products will help the economy and create jobs.

Communities and households

We all need to think about what we buy, what we use and what we throw away. Do we need to buy things with lots of packaging? Can we reuse things again? Let us know what facilities or service you would like to see in your area. We all need to participate fully in our local recycling collection and reuse schemes. If you are unsure of your local facilities please visit <http://www.wasteawarenesswales.org.uk/>

Public sector

There are so many people working in this area in Wales that it could make a big difference. This should range from being able to recycle at work, using more sustainable products, to making it a central part of how they procure things.

There is more information about what the Assembly Government and other sectors are doing in the main consultation document.

More information

If you would like to read the full consultation document, or have any questions please get in touch with us:

Website: www.wales.gov.uk/consultations (Environment and Countryside)

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