



Scottish Government Debate: National Waste Strategy

10 June 2009

Introduction

We are providing this briefing ahead of the Scottish Government's National Waste Strategy Debate on Thursday. We welcome the early achievement of the 2010 landfill diversion target. This brief outlines our main thoughts on what the National Waste Management Plan should contain.

What the Waste Strategy should contain

1. The strategy must incorporate and reflect the EU's most recent version of the waste hierarchy, which splits off energy recovery below recycling but above incineration or landfill.
2. The strategy must set a target for a significant absolute reduction in the volume of waste generated, and offer credible tools to deliver it, such as effective waste charging measures. Waste reduction targets are needed both for household and commercial/industrial waste.
3. The strategy must offer a credible programme of measures to achieve 70% recycling by 2020, including using the Flemish model of selective landfill and incineration bans.
4. The strategy must hold firm on the proposed limits on energy from waste, with tough measures to:
 - drive efficient technologies (such as Anaerobic Digestion), rather than mass-burn incineration
 - ensure proper segregation of combustible and non-recyclable waste.
 - in addition, the 25% incineration limit should be measured in terms of waste going into energy from waste, not based on claiming any residue as recyclate.
 - the rules for assessing whether energy from waste plants meet best available technology standards should be tough to ensure that no thermal processes are allowed without firm legally binding guarantees of heat capture and use, and that capacities are determined in line with the meeting of recycling and reduction targets.
 - the limit and standards should apply to commercial and industrial waste too.

Conclusion

To ensure Scotland moves towards the zero-waste society it aspires to be, this strategy must include a credible waste hierarchy, targets for the absolute reduction in the volume of waste, a programme of measures to deliver a recycling rate of 70% and the maintenance of a strict limit on energy from waste.

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