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[insert date]

To whom it may concern,

Waste is one of the largest environmental concerns facing Wales today. In order to address current and future waste management issues, the three regions of Wales (North, South East and South West), are working together to produce revised and updated Regional Waste Plans, which set out the agenda for the management of wastes and identifies the planning framework for the necessary new waste treatment infrastructure required to satisfy this agenda.

Wales, like the rest of the UK and the EU, is faced with challenging targets to reduce and recycle / compost much of its waste. The target faced by Welsh Local Authorities is to achieve 40% recycling and composting by 2010. The key drivers behind these targets are the EU Landfill Directive, the Landfill Allowances Scheme (LAS) Wales (2004) and the Welsh Waste Strategy, Wise About Waste (2002). The policy agenda is to reduce the amount of recyclable and biodegradable (paper, cardboard and organic materials) waste sent to landfill so as to reduce our impact on global warming (landfill sites emit methane as materials biodegrade) and to protect the land and water from pollution.

The next three to four years will be critical in determining whether Wales establishes the necessary infrastructure in time to meet EU, UK and Welsh specific targets and provide the necessary alternatives to landfill.

The key aims of the Regional Waste Plans are to identify the most appropriate approaches for managing Wales' waste within each of the 3 regions (North, South East and South West). The three regions of Wales, are working together to produce revised and updated Regional Waste Plans. These will set out the agenda for each of the regions in terms of managing their wastes over the next 20 years – an important issue as we try to protect the environment and address global warming.

The three regions span the whole of Wales and include each of the 22 local authorities. The approaches proposed include new recycling, composting and residual (the waste left over after we have recycled and composted) waste treatment facilities.

The Regional Waste Plans will address:-

- ✓ The need to divert waste from landfill by increasing the amount of waste that can be recycled and composted and providing treatment facilities for the remaining waste
- ✓ The need to provide adequate landfill capacity for the ultimate disposal of residues
- ✓ The need for Wales to be self sufficient in dealing with its own waste
- ✓ The need to enable waste to be managed close to its source or point of origin and thus minimise transport impacts on the environment and communities
- ✓ The need to manage waste without endangering human health or harming the environment
- ✓ The need for each of the Welsh Regions to identify selection criteria for the identification of sites appropriate for the development of these facilities to manage all waste streams

BUT, we need your help!





The Welsh Assembly Government firmly believes that the people of Wales should be involved in the process of developing these strategies, and to help design the future waste management services and infrastructure across Wales. To do this, they want members of the public to get involved, ask questions and give your views on the current and future plans. This will help us to:

- ✓ Identify the most suitable facilities for the treatment of waste; and
- ✓ Identify the most suitable locations for these facilities

As such, we are holding a public focus group meeting in your region which will enable us to listen to your views and hear about how you see the future of waste management in your area. Equally, you will have an opportunity to learn more about the significant issues facing the region in relation to waste and how this may affect you directly. We particularly wish to benefit from any input you may bring to the preparation of the Regional Waste Plan which is currently under review and consultation.

You are therefore invited to attend a meeting on the **[insert date]** which will discuss the Regional Waste Plans 1st review plus the need for new waste technologies. The second meeting on the **[insert date]** which will discuss the Strategic options plus the assessment criteria for new waste technologies, and meeting three on the **[insert date]** will discuss planning and areas of search issues. These meetings will all take place at the main building of **[insert venue and time]**. The meetings will be a maximum of 3 hours with a 30 minute presentation followed by facilitated workshop sessions. A buffet will be provided and we will re-imburse your travel expenses if you save your receipts etc.

If you want to find out more about the consultation programme and the Regional Waste Plan review process then visit the dedicated website www.ourwasteourchallenge.org.

Please could you confirm your attendance at the meeting as soon as possible by contacting me at lyndsey.stewart@hyderconsulting.com or 02920 925064. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Lyndsey Stewart
Waste Management Consultant