

STATEMENT OF PUBLICITY AND CONSULTATION

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of the publicity and consultation undertaken as part of the preparation of the North Wales Regional Waste Plan and to provide a breakdown and summary of the responses which have been received.

2. PREPARATION OF PLAN

- 2.1 The preparation of the Plan was managed by Denbighshire County Council as the coordinating Authority and has had the direct input of the following Groups:

Regional Technical Group (Key Group 1)

- 2.2 The RTG includes representatives from all the authorities in the North Wales Region, the Welsh Assembly Government (WAG), Environment Agency Wales (EAW), Waste Strategy Unit (WSU), Welsh Development Agency (WDA), Cylch and the Wales Environment Services Association (WESA).
- 2.3 The WAG contract required a minimum of 3 meetings of the RTG per annum during the plan period. 6 meetings of the RTG were held during the plan preparation as well as 2 joint meetings involving the RTG and the Regional Members Group. The RTG provided a forum for debate and direct input into producing the regional waste plan. It was in effect a consultation process built into the preparation of the plan from start to finish.
- 2.4 The consultation methods are identified as:-
- Meetings of the RTG over the plan period.
 - Direct distribution of all relevant documents to group members.
 - Direct input into preparation of the regional waste plan.

Regional Members Group (Key Group 2)

- 2.5 The RMG includes 2 members from each of the authorities and representatives from the Regional Technical Group. This group will provided the political forum for decision making and ultimately agreement of the plan.
- 2.6 The WAG contract required a minimum of 1 RMG per annum during the plan process. 3 RMG meetings as well as the 2 joint meetings of the RMG and RTG were held over the plan period to ensure continuous involvement of members.

2.7 The methods of consultation are identified as:-

- Meetings of the RMG over plan period.
- Early meeting of the RMG at the start of the process for briefing/presentation by DCC/SLR.
- Terms of reference to be produced identifying the role of DCC, SLR the RTG and the RMG and the contact names.
- Updates and briefing at all other RMG meetings.

3. PUBLICITY AND CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

Setting up the website – March 2003

- 3.1 The North Wales Region was the first of the 3 regional waste areas in Wales to set up a website for its Regional Waste Plan and press releases were issued to newspapers throughout North Wales to publicize the launch of the website.
- 3.2 The website provides details of all the reports, agendas, the Draft Regional Waste Plan and also has the Final agreed Plan. The website also provided a feedback form for respondents to provide general responses to waste related issues as well as more specific responses during the formal consultation period.

Raising awareness campaign – June 2003

- 3.3 To raise awareness about the waste issue and to the fact that a Regional Waste Plan was being prepared the following publicity material was produced and distributed:

1500 Posters
16500 Leaflets

- 3.4 These posters and leaflets were produced by DCC and distributed throughout the Region with the individual Authorities on the RTG having the responsibility for distribution within their areas. It was agreed that each Authority would undertake the minimum requirement, which included distribution to town and community councillors and display/distribution at any Council occupied or owned building where the public have access.
- 3.5 Other members of the RTG had the minimum requirement of displaying this material within buildings related to their organization which were accessible to the public.

Formal consultation – October 2003

- 3.6 Press notices were published in the Daily Post and Western Mail to provide a formal notice of the consultation period for the Draft Regional Waste Plan. Press releases were also sent out to newspapers throughout North Wales as well as to planning, waste and environment related journals.
- 3.7 The following material was produced and distributed for the formal consultation:
- 1500 Posters
 - 15000 Consultation Booklets with tear- off questionnaire
 - 600 Flyers
 - 250 Draft Regional Waste Plan
- 3.8 The posters and consultation booklets were produced by DCC and distributed throughout the Region with each Authority having the responsibility of distribution within their areas. It was agreed that each Authority would undertake the minimum requirement which included distribution to town and community councillors and display/distribution at any Council occupied or owned building where the public have access.
- 3.9 Other members of the RTG had the minimum requirement of displaying this material within buildings related to their organization which were accessible to the public.
- 3.10 Copies of the Draft Regional Waste Plan published for consultation were distributed to all RTG members. Minimum requirement for Authorities was that these should be displayed at all Planning Department reception areas and at all main libraries.
- 3.11 The 600 flyers were distributed by DCC for the Region to all waste related industries and to any other known interest groups.
- 3.12 In October 2003 DCC Officers gave presentations on the Draft Regional Waste Plan to members of the Waste Industry in a Consultation Seminar organized by the Environment Agency. Whilst over 200 delegates were invited the Seminar was attended by only 25.

4. RESPONSES TO PUBLICITY AND CONSULTATION

Response to website

- 4.1 Table 1 illustrates the number of visits to the North Wales Regional Waste Plan Website:

MONTH	VISITS
December 2003	157
November 2003	1550
October 2003	1950
September 2003	1470
August 2003	1346
July 2003	1484
June 2003	1081
May 2003	281
April 2003	275
March 2003	107

Response to raising awareness campaign

- 4.2 The launch of the website and the related press releases issued generated the following response as specified in Table 2:

CATEGORY OF RESPONDENT	RESPONSES RECEIVED
Industry	19
Residents	8
Other Interest Groups	23
TOTAL	50

- 4.3 These responses were received prior to the formal consultation on the Draft Regional Waste Plan and are therefore related to waste issues in general.

Responses to formal consultation

- 4.4 Specific individual responses received are shown in Table 3:

CATEGORY OF RESPONDENT	RESPONSES RECEIVED
Industry	20
Residents	15
Other Interest Groups	17
TOTAL	52

- 4.5 The following provides a summary of the main points raised:

Industry:

- combination of methods to deal with waste encouraged to allow flexibility
- any option needs to be realistic and deliverable
- main problem in allocating and getting planning permission for particular types of waste facilities is local opposition (more relevant when these facilities serve a wider area than the immediate locality)

- industry will follow the option which is most cost effective
- role of existing facilities need to be taken into account
- energy recovery has been proven to be consistent with high levels of recycling
- in Europe MBT is often used in conjunction with Energy from Waste facilities
- waste facilities should be located in general industrial areas
- role of certain technologies (e.g. anaerobic digestion) have been underestimated

Residents:

- generally supportive of the purpose of the plan and in particular more recycling and composting opportunities
- education is important to raise awareness
- waste minimization needs to be driven by WAG
- segregation of waste at source is fundamental
- kerbside collection service required as well as facilities where particular types of waste (e.g. plastics) can be taken to
- need for local small scale facilities
- commitment to integrated network of new facilities supported

Other Interest Groups:

- concerned about acceptance in Plan of 3% per annum waste increase
- should have a “zero waste policy”
- waste minimization should be the main issue
- important to meet EU Directive targets on recycling and reduction of waste
- hazardous waste needs to be addressed in more detail
- support for recycling and composting
- strong representatives from Friends of the Earth (FoE) and Together Creating Communities (TCC) against Energy from Waste and support for Option 6
- more education required on waste issues
- there should be small scale community schemes
- adequate network of waste transfer stations and civic amenity sites required
- facilities should be on general industrial land
- specific capacity requirements for Snowdonia National Park not provided

4.3 A full list of the residents, industries and other interest groups who have provided representations are provided in Appendix 1 as well as a summary of their representations and the comments of the coordinating authority (DCC) for the region.

Response to Consultation Booklet – Questionnaire Returns

4.4 The results of the questionnaires which were completed and returned are illustrated below in relation to the questions which were asked.

1. Do you recycle any of the waste you produce?

4.5 Out of the total of 556 questionnaires which were received which constitutes a 4% return rate. From the total received, 527 stated that they do recycle with 29 stating that they do not. Table 4 breaks down the response received to individual Authorities. The “none selected” are the numbers of questionnaires returned where respondents did not specify the Authority they live in.

AUTHORITY	TOTAL RESENDENTS	RESPONDENTS THAT DO RECYCLE	RESPONDENTS THAT DO NOT RECYCLE
Anglesey	43	42	1
Conwy	62	53	9
Denbighshire	117	114	3
Gwynedd	108	106	2
Flintshire	81	77	4
Powys	54	53	1
Wrexham	72	66	6
None selected	19	16	3
TOTAL	556	527	29

4.6 Respondents stating that they do not recycle specified no kerbside collection and no nearby facilities to take the waste as the main reasons for not recycling.

2. Do you think that the Regional Waste Plan should plan for new recycling and composting facilities that would:

- a) increase recycling and composting so that we meet government targets, increase environmental gains, whilst keeping costs low? OR*
- b) Recycle and compost as much of our waste as possible and exceed government targets, maximize environmental gains, whilst accepting that this would cost more?*

4.7 From the total of 556 respondents, 334 (63%) specified option b) and 197 (35%) specified option a). This can be broken down by Authority area as illustrated in Table 5:

Table 5

AUTHORITY	Option a) Increase	Option b) Maximise
Anglesey	30%	67%
Conwy	29%	71%
Denbighshire	42%	56%
Gwynedd	38%	61%
Flintshire	33%	64%
Powys	33%	61%
Wrexham	35%	65%
None selected	32%	58%
TOTAL	63%	35%

Total percentages (Option a) and Option b) do not always add up to 100% as a small percentage who chose neither option have not been included.

3. How should we deal with the waste that is not or cannot be recycled or composted?

Should our Plan aim to:

- a) recover value(energy) from the majority through providing Energy from Waste facilities*
- b) send this waste directly to landfill*
- c) reduce the volume of this waste by pre-treating (i.e. Mechanical Biological Treatment) before disposal to landfill*

4.8 Respondents were asked which of the above options they most or least preferred. The total percentage of respondents specifying their most preferred option is as follows:

Most preferred option

- Option a) – Energy from Waste 72%
- Option b) – Landfill 3%
- Option c) – MBT 25%

4.9 These percentages can be broken down to the individual Authorities as shown in Table 7:

Table 6

AUTHORITY	Option a) Energy from Waste	Option b) Landfill	Option c) MBT
Anglesey	71%	2%	27%
Conwy	71%	5%	24%
Denbighshire	75%	4%	21%
Gwynedd	77%	1%	22%
Flintshire	65%	1%	34%
Powys	84%	2%	14%
Wrexham	59%	4%	37%
None selected	65%	15%	20%
TOTAL	72%	3%	25%

Least preferred option

4.10 The least preferred options specified respondents were are as follows:

Option a) – Energy from Waste	10%
Option b) – Landfill	78%
Option c) – MBT	12%

4.11 These details are broken down to Authority areas in Table 7:

Table 7

AUTHORITY	Option a) Energy from Waste	Option b) Landfill	Option c) MBT
Anglesey	4%	85%	11%
Conwy	13%	73%	13%
Denbighshire	10%	83%	7%
Gwynedd	3%	87%	10%
Flintshire	15%	71%	14%
Powys	2%	88%	10%
Wrexham	23%	62%	15%
None selected	0%	83%	17%
TOTAL	10%	78%	12%

- 4. Please specify if you are responding as a:**
Resident
Business
Other organization

4.12 The numbers and types of respondents are as follows:

Residents	499 (90%)
Business	23 (4%)
Other organization	9 (1%)
None selected	25 (5%)

5. **CONCLUSIONS**

5.1 The preparation of the Plan has incorporated publicity and consultation throughout the process and its production has had the direct input of the Regional Technical Group and the Regional Members Group. Furthermore, the responses to the consultation exercise have all been in considered in the preparation of the final agreed Plan for the Region.