

WASTE

Councillors take underground route to clean up Edinburgh

Underground recycling and waste bins are being trialled in Edinburgh to tidy up streets and improve hygiene.

The system has now been included in the guidelines for developers looking to build in the area and, if successful, the bins could be used in various suitable locations across the city.

'By introducing underground containers, we are able to have more facilities taking up less space on our streets, which also means there is less impact on the streetscape,' said Councillor Robert Aldridge, environment leader.

Underground waste systems are popular in Europe, where recycling rates are much higher than in the UK, and have also been used in Oxford and London.

Waste is placed into receptacles above ground, which are marked with what should be placed in them, such as glass and paper.



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Wales needs 400 new treatment plants

Expert urges 'massive investment' to cope with growing problem – **By Arun Marsh**

Wales needs a massive step change in waste disposal, including, possibly, 400 new waste-treatment plants over the next six years, if targets are to be met and landfill sites remain functional, a waste expert has warned.

Professor Adam Read, head of waste management at Hyder Consulting, is carrying out a consultation process with communities, authorities and industry to see where up to 400 new plants could be installed across the principality.

'We are taking a broad look at all types of waste and waste solutions in the first review of regional waste plants since Wales was split into three separate waste areas,' said Read.

He said that massive investment in infrastructure was needed to cope with what he saw as a growing problem.

'People are talking about targets of 50% and even 70% recycling – but where's the infrastruc-

ture? We are trying to establish areas where new plants should and, more importantly, shouldn't be built.'

The research, set to be completed by the end of the year, will be passed on to the regional waste authorities which will use the results to influence unitary and local development plans.

'Hopefully, by June, planners will be using guidelines based around what we find,' said Read.

'We are trying to cover all the options to see if people want a small recycling plant in a community to make it easier to recycle, or if they have a more regional outlook, using economies of scale with less, but bigger plants.'

A Welsh Assembly spokesman said: 'The Welsh Government is committed to ensuring a step change in Wales to make sure as much waste as possible is reused and wherever possible, doesn't go to landfill.'

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£60M pot for body to streamline waste strategy

The new London Waste and Recycling Board will receive £60M over the next three years, environment minister Joan Ruddock announced this week.

The fund is a single pot amalgamation of the London boroughs' allocations, under DEFRA's waste infrastructure capital grant, and London's share of the waste performance and efficiency grant.

Some £22.8M will be provided in 2008/09 and in 2009/10,

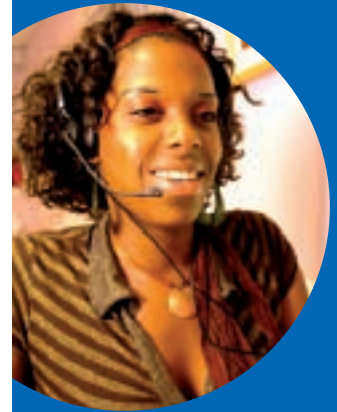
and £14.4m in 2010/11. The aim of the new board, formed as part of the Greater London Authority Act 2007, is to deliver a more strategic and sustainable approach to tackling the capital's waste, including action on waste minimisation, increasing recycling, and catalysing investment in infrastructure.

Chair of London Councils transport and environment committee, Councillor Daniel Moylan said: 'We have already

started work consulting on funding priorities for the board so that it is ready to go as soon as the Government gives us the go ahead.

'However, we can't do this alone. The challenge in London means we need everyone – including the mayor, who has gone back on his promise to co-fund the board – pulling together, and not standing on the sidelines trying to undermine our efforts.'

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