

GAIN UPDATE - NOVEMBER 2009

FOOD WASTE COLLECTIONS

GAIN supports and welcomes the introduction of food waste collections by Epsom & Ewell Borough Council, Surrey Heath Borough Council, Elmbridge Borough Council and Guildford Borough Council, with Woking Borough Council set to join them in January 2010.

These collections mark a major step towards Surrey becoming a byword for sustainable waste management and we recognise the logistical work that has gone into their introduction.

Residents have been asked to make a major change in their behaviour, but we believe that there is now much wider recognition of the need to stop 'dirty' landfill for both environmental and financial reasons.

The waste collected is being treated either by anaerobic digestion in Bedfordshire, or, in an In-Vessel Composter in Kent pending suitable facilities being available within our county.

Food waste collections will help us achieve a **WIN WIN SITUATION**

- we successfully reduce the environmental damage caused by putrescibles
- we meet our Landfill Directive targets
- we reduce the overall tonnage landfilled
- we will be treating food waste in an appropriately sustainable way and gaining energy and clean compost
- we will be in line with EU thinking (a biowaste directive is under consideration)

HOME COMPOSTING

If you are able to install a 'Green Cone' food waste digester in your garden, Guildford Borough Council and Mole Valley District Council are offering to supply these to their residents at special rates.

If you want to do more to compost your green waste, subsidised composters are available through either your local council, or go to the Surrey Waste Partnership website at www.surrey.getcomposting.com Woking Borough Council currently has a 'buy one, get one free offer' on composters and Waverley Borough Council is offering free leaf mulch sacks.

RECYCLING STATISTICS FROM DEFRA – COUNTY WIDE IMPROVEMENT IN 2008/9

Statistics released by Defra 5 November 2009 show that all the Surrey Boroughs and Districts, (Waste Collection Authorities) have improved their recycling rates, as has the County Council, (Waste Disposal Authority).

Surrey has significantly reduced the amount of residual waste landfilled.

Surrey also gets a special mention in the Defra stats release; as one of the 'Top Ten' authorities achieving the Largest Percentage Decrease in Household Waste per Head in 2008/09. A reduction of 9.39%.

An analysis of the Defra statistics shows that of the 394 authorities reported, (includes Disposal, Collection & Unitary):-

<p>2 local authorities achieved over 60% recycling/composting 26 achieved between 50 - 59.9% 120 achieved between 40 - 49.9% 145 achieved between 30 -39.9% 98 achieved between 20 -29.9% and 3 came in under 20%</p>

Waste Statistics for 2008/09 released by Defra 5th November 2009

Waste Collection Authority (WCA)	NI192 % of Household waste sent for Reuse, Recycling or Composting	2007/08 Result
Mole Valley DC	51.62	45.72
Woking BC	44.10	40.82
Guildford BC	40.63	39.69
Waverley BC	40.37	39.18
Reigate & Banstead BC	39.9	37.43
Elmbridge BC	37.4	33.33
Surrey Heath BC	32.2	30.06
Spelthorne BC	31.24	24.7
Epsom & Ewell BC	31.22	29.69
Tandridge DC	29.18	26.48
Runnymede BC	25.09	23.29

Surrey County Council (Waste Disposal Authority – WDA)

NI192 % Household waste sent for Reuse, Recycling or Composting	2007/08 Result	2006/07 Result
40.92	35.1	30.95

Surrey County Council (Waste Disposal Authority – WDA)

NI193 % of Municipal Waste sent to Landfill	2007/08 Result	2006/07 Result
50.35	64.0	67.0

INCINERATION CROWDS OUT RECYCLING?

The Surrey Waste Plan proposes there should be a test so that incineration is the **option of last resort** for waste, (Policy WD5).

We believe that the argument that incineration will not crowd out recycling is fallacious. There is only so much waste to go round. The recently released Defra Waste Statistics for 2008/9 show that the top five ‘incinerating’ authorities compare poorly with the best recyclers/composters.

Incineration compared with recycling – Defra figures for 2008/9		
	Incineration *	Household Waste Recycling/Composting NI192

Westminster City Council	73.8	23.0
Lewisham Council	71.4	20.6
Coventry City Council	64.2	26.5
Portsmouth (Unitary)	62.0	25.1
Birmingham City Council	61.4	30.4

* Defra Stats show the incineration of municipal waste, (ie household waste + additions)

It is also worth noting that in our adjacent county of Hampshire, the recycling/composting achievement for the Southampton Unitary authority was only 27.8%, whilst the incineration figure was 54%. Southampton's incinerator at Marchwood is one of 3 in Hampshire, built as a result of the adoption of Project Integra. We understand that they are seeking to burn waste from outside Hampshire at Marchwood.

NEW LEADER OF SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL SETS HIS AGENDA

We welcome the statement, (part of which is reproduced here), made by Dr Andrew Povey.

Speaking after the County Council's Annual General Meeting formally elected him as Leader this morning, Dr Povey said: "My leadership will bring a fresh approach to how the council is run. Everything we do will focus on what is important to residents....."

He also pledged to increase recycling across the county, saying: "We will set ambitious targets for recycling and build on the successes we and borough and district councils have already achieved in increasing recycling rates. Thanks to these successes we now have the opportunity to look at reducing or removing our need for Energy from Waste in Surrey. I have asked officers to look at this as a top priority and hope to be able to announce any changes by the end of the year."

Outlining his vision for the next four years, Dr Povey said: "Given the current financial climate it is vital the county council provides the people of Surrey with value for money. We will be reviewing every single service in a systematic way to ensure it offers the best service and is as efficient as possible. We will continue to listen to our residents and the funding of services will reflect their priorities."

The Leader has replaced the controlling Executive with a Cabinet, meeting monthly rather than fortnightly. More decisions will be delegated to individual Cabinet members, with the full Cabinet concentrating on more strategic issues.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

SURREY WASTE PLAN

The Surrey Waste Plan was adopted in May 2008. The county has a statutory duty to produce a plan identifying land suitable for the management of waste from all sectors, municipal, commercial and industrial, construction and demolition, hazardous and agricultural.

The Surrey Waste Plan identifies the following sites as being suitable for incineration, (thermal treatment):-
 Clockhouse Brickworks, Capel **(NOW REMOVED AFTER HIGH COURT DECISION – SEE BELOW)**
 Charlton Lane, Shepperton
 Martyrs Lane, Woking
 Land adjacent to Trumps Farm, Longcross
 Land at former airfield, Wisley

The Surrey Waste Plan can be viewed/downloaded on the Surrey County Council website at:-

http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/sccwebsite/sccwspages.nsf/LookupWebPagesByTITLE_RTF/The+Surrey+Waste+Plan?opendocument

(In due course there will be a Surrey Minerals Plan – this is still ongoing).

SLYFIELD

Land at Slyfield has been identified as suitable for waste management purposes OTHER than thermal treatment. (The Slyfield Area Regeneration Plan is under development and will be the subject of public consultation) see:-

<http://www.guildford.gov.uk/GuildfordWeb/News/SlyfieldRegeneration.htm> and

<http://www.guildford.gov.uk/GuildfordWeb/Planning/PlanningPolicy/LocalDevelopment/The+Slyfield+Area+Regeneration+Project.htm>

CAPEL INCINERATOR, (Clockhouse brickworks)

The planning application for an 110,000 tonne incinerator was passed by the SCC Planning and Regulatory Committee in December 2008 but was challenged in the High Court by Capel Parish Council. In March 2009 Mr Justice Collins quashed the application and removed Clockhouse Brickworks from the Waste Plan.

However, residents in Capel remain concerned that the applicant, Surrey Waste Management, has not indicated to the County Council that it wishes to withdraw the application and the restoration condition of the existing landfill site consent remains to be enforced. Capel Action Group www.capelaction.org.uk.

TRUMPS FARM INCINERATOR, (Longcross, nr Chertsey/Virginia Water)

The application for this 160,000 tonne incinerator has been submitted and details can be seen at www.surreywaste.co.uk/efw/trumpsfarm.

Consultation on the application and on the environmental permit has taken place. GAIN has sent letters of objection to both the County Council and the Environment Agency and these can be viewed on our website www.no-incinerator.org.uk

The application is due to be considered by the SCC Planning and Regulatory Committee in February 2010.

IN-VESSEL COMPOSTING, (IVC) APPLICATION AT WISLEY - (Wharf Land Investments (Jersey) Ltd)

The Public Inquiry into this application was held at County Hall in September 2009.

In their letter of 5 October 2009 the Planning Inspectorate advise that the Secretary of State will issue a decision 'on or before 23 March 2010'.

IN-VESSEL COMPOSTING, (IVC) APPLICATION AT RUNFOLD SOUTH QUARRY - SITA UK Ltd

In January 2009 Sita indicated their intention to apply to build a 120,000 tonne in-vessel composting facility at their existing landfill site at South Quarry. Financial support had already been obtained from the government body WRAP, (Waste and Resources Action Plan) and the plans have been exhibited for local comment.

Sita have been in discussion with the county council about making the facility available for Surrey's household organic waste and under the 'Food Waste' heading, Officer's report to the Environment and Economy Select Committee on 29 January as follows:-

28. 'Officers recognise that, in order to reduce transport and cost impacts it would be desirable to process this waste in Surrey at the earliest opportunity. Surrey Waste Management's parent company, SITA UK, has advised that they will be submitting an application for an in-vessel composting plant at Runfold, near Farnham early in 2009. If planning consent is approved for this plant then it is expected to be operational by April 2010. This is a SITA proposal for a merchant facility with capacity for Surrey's food waste and as such Surrey County Council are in negotiations with SITA to secure acceptable prices. The Runfold development is also likely to include bulking capacity for dry recyclables to assist in efficient transportation arrangements for waste collection authorities'.

And under 'Green Waste':-

'Currently green waste is transported outside of Surrey for composting however Surrey Waste Management propose to utilise Sita UK's proposed In-Vessel Composting facility from April 2010, subject to planning consent being granted for the facility and negotiation of acceptable prices'.

(Officers comments on utilizing anaerobic digestion can be seen later in this paper).

IN-VESSEL COMPOSTING, (IVC) APPLICATION AT NUTBERRY FARM, RIPLEY - The Composting Company

This application has been withdrawn.

SCC ENVIRONMENT & ECONOMY WASTE TASK GROUP REVIEWS TREATMENT OPTIONS FOR RESIDUAL WASTE

In October, GAIN welcomed an invitation from the Waste Review Task Group to participate in a review of the treatment technologies available to deal with residual waste. This review is intended to contribute to the 2010 update of the Waste Disposal Authority Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy Plan.

GAIN submitted a paper to the Task Group and attended an oral session to expand on this and answer questions from Members.

A copy of our paper can be found at –

www.no-incinerator.org.uk/GAIN%20OCT%2009%20E%20&%20E%20Review.pdf

EU WASTE FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE – BECOMING A 'RECYCLING SOCIETY'

GAIN thinking is very much in line with the latest **EU Waste Framework Directive (WFD) (2008/98/EC)**, which must be transposed into UK law by December 12 2010. The Defra consultation on the WFD ended in October 2009.

We make no apologies for detailing, quite fully, these key messages:-

- WFD – (1) (part) *"an obligation to handle waste in a way that does not have a negative impact on the environment or human health,....."*
- WFD – (6) *"The first objective of any waste policy should be to minimise the negative effects of the generation and management of waste on human health and the environment. Waste policy should also aim at reducing the use of resources, and favour the practical application of the waste hierarchy"*
- WFD - (29) *"Member states should support the use of recyclables, such as recovered paper, in line with the waste hierarchy and with the aim of a recycling society, and should not support the landfilling or incineration of such recyclates whenever possible"*

- WFD – (7) (part) “...re-use and material recycling should be preferred to energy recovery from waste, where and insofar as they are the best ecological options”.
- WFD – (35) “It is important, in accordance with the waste hierarchy, and for the purpose of reduction of greenhouse gas emissions originating from waste disposal on landfills, to facilitate the separate collection and proper treatment of bio-waste in order to produce environmentally safe compost and other bio-waste based materials. The Commission, after an assessment on the management of bio-waste will submit proposals for legislative measures, if appropriate”.
- WFD - (40) (part) “to introduce a requirement for the Member States to develop waste prevention programmes concentrating on the key environmental impacts and taking into account the whole life-cycle of products and materials”
- WFD – (25) “It is appropriate that costs be allocated in such a way as to reflect the real costs to the environment of the generation and management of waste”.
- WFD - (8) part “... To strengthen the measures that must be taken in regard to waste prevention, to introduce and approach that takes into account the whole lifecycle of products and materials and not only the waste phase, and to focus on reducing the environmental impacts of waste generation and waste management, thereby strengthening the economic value of waste. Furthermore, the recovery of waste and the use of recovered materials should be encouraged in order to conserve natural resources”.

The complete document can be viewed at:-

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2008:312:0003:0003:EN:PDF>

TARGETS

The Waste Framework Directive states that:-

States shall take the necessary measures designed to achieve the following targets:

- *by 2020, the preparing for re-use and the recycling of waste materials such as at least paper, metal, plastic and glass from households and possibly from other origins as far as these waste streams are similar to waste from households shall be increased to a minimum of overall 50% by weight.*
- WFD – (29) “Member States should support the use of recyclates, such as recovered paper, in line with the waste hierarchy and with the aim of a recycling society, and should not support the landfilling or incineration of such recyclates whenever possible”.

ANAEROBIC DIGESTION – GOVERNMENT GIVES BOOST TO BIOLOGICAL TREATMENT

In their report to the SCC Environment and Economy Committee, January 2009, Officers stated:-

29. ‘In the longer term as more district and borough councils collect food waste it is the County Council’s intention to utilise anaerobic digestion technology to recover energy from this material. We expect therefore to review our position by 2010 when there will be more certainty about the plans of district and boroughs and businesses to collect this waste’.

GAIN has always advocated biological treatments such as anaerobic digestion and in-vessel composting for food waste and green waste. In the case of biodegradable ‘wet’ waste, which we need to get out of landfill - AD technology is valuable in two contexts.

Firstly, it can be used as a primary treatment for source separated food waste; such as we are now collecting. (currently going to an AD plant in Bedfordshire or an In Vessel Composting (IVC) plant in Kent). Such treatment will produce high quality digestate.

Secondly, it can be used to deal with the biodegradable portion of residual waste in an MBT type system. Although the digestate produced from such waste is of lesser quality than that from source separated waste it has a number of useful applications.

The government is now very supportive of AD, amongst several useful papers are; Feb 2009 'Anaerobic Digestion – Shared Goals' and July 2009 'Developing an Implementation Plan for Anaerobic Digestion.

Importantly, in September 2009 WRAP produced a '**Quality Protocol for Anaerobic digestate**' defining '**End of waste criteria for the production and use of quality outputs from anaerobic digestion of source-segregated biodegradable waste**'. This represents a major step forward because it establishes certainty for industry and in the market place, something that was previously lacking and holding back progress.

Also in September, a new website was introduced:- 'England's Official Information Portal on Anaerobic Digestion', at www.biogas-info.co.uk. This succinctly describes AD:-

'Anaerobic Digestion (AD) is the process where plant and animal material (biomass) is converted into useful products by micro-organisms in the absence of air. Biomass is put inside sealed tanks and naturally occurring micro-organisms digest it, releasing methane that can be used to provide heat and power. This means AD can help reduce fossil fuel use and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The material left over at the end of the process is rich in nutrients so it can be used as fertiliser.

AD is not a new technology - it has actually been used in the UK since the 1800s - and there are a growing number of AD plants in the UK processing our waste and producing energy.

Almost any biomass can be processed in AD; food waste, energy crops, slurry, crop residues, etc. AD can accept waste from our homes, supermarkets, industry and farms, meaning less waste goes to landfill. However, woody biomass cannot be used in AD because the micro-organisms can't breakdown the lignin, the compound that gives wood its strength'.

Environmental benefits of anaerobic digestion:-

- Reduces emissions of methane, a potent greenhouse gas
- Produces renewable energy
- Reduces the amount of biodegradable waste sent to landfill
- Produces fertiliser, reducing the demand for petrochemical-derived fertilisers
- Can reduce nitrate pollution by decreasing run-off

OTHER NEWS

ALLINGTON INCINERATOR

After considerable delay and the repair of furnace linings, this 500,000 tonne plant was finally handed over by the contractor, Lentjes, to Kent Enviropower, (part of WRG), in late December 2008. Since then, waste has been processed and electricity supplied to the national grid. There was a scheduled shutdown for routine maintenance from 10th July until 3rd August. (WRG website is www.kentenviropower.co.uk)

COLNBROOK (LAKESIDE) INCINERATOR

This incinerator, particularly its chimney, is now a landmark near the Heathrow Terminal 5 building.

A joint venture by Grundon/Viridor, this 410,000 tonne plant is not expected to be fully operational until 2010, two years late and over budget. Technical problems with the heat recovery system had put back the opening of the plant to July 2009. Unbelievably, in June 2009 the plant was undergoing commissioning when an explosion occurred after waste containing gas cylinders was fed into the furnace!

RECYCLE YOUR BATTERIES & LOW ENERGY LIGHT BULBS AT SAINSBURYS

On 19 October Sainsburys announced that by the end of January 2010 it will be the first national UK retailer to provide collection points for portable batteries and low-energy light bulbs.

WEBSITES YOU MIGHT WANT TO VISIT

GAIN – www.no-incinerator.org.uk

UKWIN (UK Without Incineration) www.ukwin.org.uk

For news on all aspects of waste and recycling www.letsrecycle.com

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GAIN November 09
