

TOPIC PAPER 3: WASTE IN GREATER MANCHESTER

Introduction

The area of Greater Manchester has the largest population of any sub-region within the North West and consequently is the largest producer of waste for all streams, including, Municipal Solid Waste (MSW), Commercial and Industrial (C&I), and Hazardous waste. This waste can be managed in a variety of ways. It can be disposed of to land, it can be recycled/composted or it can be used as a source of fuel for electricity generation.

This topic paper discusses the amount and type of waste produced in Greater Manchester, and how we currently dispose of this waste. Data about waste is not always collated at the local level and some is only collected every two years. Therefore, some of the following waste information will cover the North West region rather than Greater Manchester and may be less up to date than other data.

HOW MUCH WASTE DO WE PRODUCE?

Overview

The types of waste produced in Greater Manchester are discussed below. It is important to note that whilst waste management is often associated with municipal solid waste (e.g. waste collected from households), this waste stream actually represents less than a quarter of all the waste collected in Greater Manchester. The largest waste stream is, in fact, construction and demolition waste.

Municipal Solid Waste

Municipal solid waste (MSW) is primarily made up of doorstep collections of waste and waste brought to Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC). In 2005/06, 1.61 million tonnes of MSW were produced in Greater Manchester, of which 289,294 tonnes (18%) were recycled or composted. MSW is comprised of the following waste streams:

- Household waste collected and landfilled
- Household waste collected and recycled/composted
- HWRC¹ waste
- Voluntary group recycling
- Street cleansing and amenity waste (landfilled)

The total amount of MSW produced in the North West has remained at around 3.85 million tonnes per annum since 2001; however, there has been a reduction in Greater Manchester's MSW arisings since 2002/03². Notwithstanding this, the population of Greater Manchester still produces 539kg per person per year.

¹ Household Waste Recycling Centre (refer to Topic Paper 4: Waste Facilities)

² North West RTAB 2nd Waste management Monitoring Report

Construction and Demolition Waste (C&D)

National production levels in 2003 for C&D waste were 90.93 million tonnes³. The North West contribution to this was 11.11 million tonnes. It is estimated that up to 80%⁴ of this was re-used as Recycled and Secondary Aggregate (RSA) for use as raw construction material, depending on the specific waste stream.

Commercial and Industrial Waste

The North West produced 8.3 million tonnes of Commercial and Industrial (C&I) waste in 2002/03⁵, a decrease of 1.2 million tonnes compared to the previous study for financial year 1998/99. The North West is the third largest producer of C&I waste in England.

In 2003 the area of Greater Manchester produced a total of 2.954 million tonnes of C&I waste, which showed a reduction from the 1998/9 level of 3.156 million tonnes, however much of this reduction can be attributed to the decline in manufacturing industries.

Hazardous Waste

The North West produced 691,000 tonnes of hazardous waste in 2002/03, most of which was also treated within the region. The North West exported 168,000 for treatment and disposal and imported 330,000 tonnes from outside the region.

The North West is the largest producer of hazardous waste in England and Wales and Greater Manchester is the largest contributor to this figure. A total of 211,255.88t of hazardous waste was produced in Greater Manchester in 2003.

HOW IS WASTE DISPOSED OF IN GREATER MANCHESTER?

Overview

In 2003/04, 1.8 million tonnes of waste from all waste streams produced by Greater Manchester was disposed of at licensed landfill sites. The main landfill sites in Greater Manchester lie within Bury, Oldham, Wigan and Salford. This is by far the most common form of waste management in the sub-region. In the same year, almost 1 million tonnes of waste was treated/composted. This included 104,944 tonnes treated at Material Recovery Facilities, 530 tonnes at composting facilities and 263,883 tonnes at biological treatment facilities.

Municipal Solid Waste

In 2004/05 approximately 80% of MSW produced in Greater Manchester was sent to landfill. Greater Manchester's municipal waste has tended to be landfilled outside the sub-region, principally in Humberside where waste is delivered by rail, and Lancashire where it is delivered by road.

MSW which is not landfilled may be sent for treatment to a variety of facilities in Greater Manchester. These include five Material Recovery Facilities (MRF), three Waste Transfer Stations and a thermal recovery facility which is located in Bolton. More information about waste facilities may be found in Topic Paper 4.

Over the past 3 years heavy investment has been seen in kerbside recycling schemes in Greater Manchester. This investment has been a direct response to increased recycling targets which

³ ODPM, Survey of Arisings of Construction, Demolition and Excavation Waste as Aggregate in England in 2003, 2004

⁴ Road planings

⁵ Environment Agency survey of commercial and industrial waste arisings, 2003 (www.environment-agency.gov.uk)

have been set by ODPM and the need to reduce waste arisings to meet landfill allowance targets (LATS). Facilities for the recycling and recovery of waste are also provided for with Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC). There are 31 HWRC in Greater Manchester, which accepts a range of waste, including glass, textiles, bricks and rubble, batteries and wood.

Other Waste Streams

Approximately 47% of C&I waste produced in the North West in 2002/03 was disposed of to land (landfill or landraise) . This is a reduction of 16% from the 1998/99 figure. A further 35% was recycled or reused (2.9 million tonnes) whilst approximately 4% (359,000 tonnes) was thermally treated.

The recycling/reuse rate for C &D waste in the North West in 2002/03 was 47% (5.2 million tonnes). 26% (2.9 million tonnes) was deposited at exempt sites and 10% was disposed of to licensed landfills. Most of the recycled waste was hard CD&E waste/excavation waste which includes both segregated and mixed unprocessed/uncrushed materials.

In 2002/03, 825,000 tonnes of hazardous waste were dealt with in the North West. Of this, 30% was sent to landfill – half of this was construction, demolition and asbestos. 26% was treated, 16% was recycled/reused and 16% was sent to transfer facilities and 12% was incinerated (5% with some energy production). Two landfills in Greater Manchester can accept hazardous waste, however, much of it is sent to Lancashire for treatment and disposal. (210,000 tonnes).

Questions you may wish to consider in advance of the stakeholder events:

1. Is there sufficient information available relating to the waste streams to enable informed decisions?
2. Are there gaps in this evidence base?