



Oxfordshire
Waste Partnership

Annual Report 2008/09

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Who we are

The Oxfordshire Waste Partnership (OWP) is a partnership of the county and district councils of Oxfordshire who are working together to continuously improve waste management services within the county.

The members of the OWP are:

- Cherwell District Council
- Oxford City Council
- Oxfordshire County Council
- South Oxfordshire District Council
- Vale of White Horse District Council
- West Oxfordshire District Council

From April 2007, The OWP has operated as a statutory Joint Committee. The chairmanship of the OWP has been held by Oxford City Council from May 2008 until May 2010, when this role will transfer to Oxfordshire County Council.

The OWP Joint Committee is supported by an officer group structure outlined in figure 1 below.



Figure 1 – OWP organisational structure

Our vision

We will work in partnership to reduce waste and to maximise reuse, recycling and composting. We will treat residual waste before disposal to recover further value and to minimise the environmental impact of disposal.

Our objectives are to:

- a) Ensure waste is managed in accordance with the waste hierarchy: reduce waste first, then reuse, recycle and compost resources, recover value and, as a last resort, dispose of waste.
- b) Promote waste reduction, reuse and recycling initiatives to Oxfordshire communities to help everyone manage their own wastes.
- c) Seek the most appropriate and sustainable solution for waste that protects the environment, including minimising the transport of waste.
- d) Meet or exceed performance required by statutory and locally agreed targets.
- e) Work together through the provision of co-ordinated services and infrastructure for waste collection, treatment, transfer and disposal to maximise the efficient use of resources within Oxfordshire.
- f) Ensure that waste facilities are suitably sized and distributed and that site identification is informed in accordance with the Minerals and Waste Development Framework and the Regional Spatial Strategy.
- g) Assist the development of markets, especially those that are local, for recovered materials.
- h) Enable customer satisfaction through delivery of effective and efficient services to Oxfordshire residents that minimise the overall tax burden at the best possible value.
- i) Develop flexible and comprehensive waste management services that are robust and deliverable throughout Oxfordshire now and in the long term.
- j) Lobby Central Government and work with local business to improve the efficient use of resources, reduce the impact of activities on resource consumption, which results in the production of municipal waste, and encourage them to take responsibility for the wastes they produce.



Our approach

The OWP agreed a Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy in January 2007. This sets out our plans for dealing with Oxfordshire's municipal waste through to 2030.

The main themes of the strategy are:

Reduce

We will provide advice and services to help householders reduce waste. We will also set a good example by reducing our own waste.

Reuse

We will work with householders, schools, businesses and the community, to reuse waste.

Recycling & Composting

As a minimum, we will achieve:

- a combined recycling & composting rate of at least 40% of household waste by 2010,
- a combined recycling & composting rate of at least 45% of household waste by 2015,
- a combined recycling & composting rate of at least 55% of household waste by 2020,

Dealing with residual waste

We will build new waste facilities to recover value from residual waste. Instead of being landfilled, it can be made into useful products or used to generate power.

Dealing with hazardous waste

We will encourage the separation of hazardous wastes so they can be safely managed.

Land use planning

We will work together to ensure that new waste facilities are built in suitable locations, using the Waste Planning role of Oxfordshire County Council.

Creating Markets

We will help to develop markets for the recyclable materials that we collect.

Working in Partnership

We will improve our waste management services by working together through the Oxfordshire Waste Partnership and with others.



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Chairman's introduction

The Waste Partnership is local government at its best. It brings together the District Councils which collect our rubbish and the County Council which disposes of it. We encourage and criticise each other and we are continually delivering a better service to residents across the county.

Our small team of OWP staff and the officers from each of the councils work well together to reduce waste, increase recycling and send less to landfill. There is active councillor involvement from each of the six councils. We inspire each other but are not afraid to complain when we must.

We don't always agree but very often we do, despite our political and geographic differences. The member councils of the waste partnership provide a much more efficient service countywide because we learn from each other and co-operate together. The OWP is also a conduit for Government funding.

The waste partnership gives us all the confidence to deliver new environmental services, such as food waste collection and anaerobic digestion. I would like to thank my fellow councillors and the officer teams for their dedication, enthusiasm and hard work.

Waste and recycling are changing fast and will continue to do so. The strong public support we receive for the radical changes we are making is very heartening. It gives us the ambition to make Oxfordshire the very best in waste minimisation, recycling and diversion from landfill.

Cllr John Tanner (Labour)

Board Member for a Cleaner, Greener Oxford

City Councillor for Littlemore & County Councillor for Isis



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Report from the Partnership Coordinator

Overview

This year, good progress has been made against a number of our strategic objectives. We have actively engaged the community in much of our work, demonstrated by the launch of our volunteer “master composter” scheme, the continued growth of Community Action Groups and two countywide voluntary litter picking events. The OWP funded Wild Waste Show increased the number of primary schools visited by 26% over the last twelve months.

We have addressed waste arisings from our own business activities and identified potential savings of over £20,000 for partner councils. We have also influenced national policy development by working with the Local Government Association and major retailers on the development of more easily recyclable packaging.

Two major procurements were successfully completed in 2008/09. The County Council awarded a contract for the provision of food waste treatment facilities and South Oxfordshire District Council and Vale of White Horse District Council awarded a joint waste management services contract in January 2009. These contracts will lead to a huge increase in recycling & composting levels and a reduction in waste landfilled. Further progress was also made on the residual waste treatment procurement, which is now nearing the appointment of a preferred bidder.

The OWP New Initiatives Fund is being used to help increase capacity and deliver improved performance. Over £1/2 million of NIF funding has been awarded to date for projects that support the partnership’s objectives.

Steady progress was made against key performance indicators. Recycling & composting levels increased by 3% to reach a countywide average of 43%. Waste arisings and the amount of waste landfilled decreased.

Our Local Area Agreement 1 recycling target was achieved, securing further funding for the NIF. Unfortunately, we failed to reach our street cleanliness target and work is needed to ensure that a similar target under Local Area Agreement 2 is met.



Report from the Partnership Coordinator

Progress against Strategic Policies

Policy 1 – The Oxfordshire Waste Partnership will encourage the efficient use of resources, reduce resource consumption and take responsibility for the wastes they produce.

OWP funded waste audits at all main council offices during 2008/09. The audits were undertaken by the Environmental Information Exchange (EiE) at Oxford Brookes University and have identified opportunities to reduce waste by around 80 tonnes per annum, resulting in annual savings of over £21,000. Generally, partner councils were found to be performing well; recycling more and wasting less than the majority of local businesses audited by EiE. However, a number of recommendations for further improvement were made that are now being implemented by partner councils. Recurrent recommendations were to reduce the use of paper towels by installing hand driers within toilet facilities and to reduce office paper usage by ensuring that all printers are set to print double-sided.

Policy 2 – The Oxfordshire Waste Partnership will lobby central government to focus on waste as an integral part of sustainable resource management.

OWP has worked with the Local Government Association, major supermarkets and waste management companies on the development of a guide for packaging designers, so that goods can increasingly be packaged in materials that are widely recycled by local councils. OWP has also written to government in support of national measures to reduce the usage of single use carrier bags and to outline action that is being taken locally in Oxfordshire to promote the use of reusable shopping bags.

OWP issued a joint response to the governments' consultation on measures to control the handling, transfer and transport of wastes. OWP supported the measures set out which, provide local authorities with greater powers to reduce the illegal transportation and disposal of wastes.



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Report from the Partnership Coordinator

Progress against Strategic Policies continued

Policy 3 – The Oxfordshire Waste Partnership will help householders and individuals to reduce and manage their wastes through the provision of advice and appropriate services.

OWP has introduced a Master Composters programme. A total of 38 local volunteers were trained to promote and provide advice and expertise on home composting in their communities. Each volunteer agrees to provide 30 hours of time to the project, with many already having exceeded this. With OWP and its partner councils now having supplied over 47,000 compost bins, this project aims to ensure that residents make the best use of their compost bins and continue to home compost successfully. The programme has proved to be a huge success and a further 20 volunteers will be trained in 2009/10.

OWP partner councils have introduced new recycling banks for liquid carton packaging (fruit juice cartons etc). This form of packaging has historically proved difficult to recycle due to the number of different layers and laminates within it. OWP has taken advantage of a new recycling system offered by TETRAPAK, which provides collection banks and an emptying service from council brink sites and waste recycling centres.

Collection points for household batteries have also been introduced by a number of partner councils, whilst some Community Action Groups such as Canalside and Charlbury have also set up local collection points.

The OWP funded Wild Waste Show (WWS) proves ever popular. 2008/09 saw a 26% increase in the number of primary schools visited, together with a 31% increase in secondary schools. Overall, the WWS, which is delivered by the Northmoor Trust, visited 156 schools and 25 community events. The project has reached over 21,000 people in the last twelve months. In an effort to secure greater third party project funding, the WWS also secured

£4,267 in voluntary donations from schools. Feedback from teaching staff and pupils is also positive, perhaps none more so than from a pupil at St Josephs primary in Oxford who following a WWS visit stated that "This was one of my best times ever – second only to Legoland!"



A Master Composter providing advice at a CAG swap shop in Faringdon



A Master Composter display at Millets Farm, near Abingdon



Report from the Partnership Coordinator

Progress against Strategic Policies continued

Policy 4 – The Oxfordshire Waste Partnership will encourage the controlled reuse and reclamation of items through the provision of advice and appropriate services.

An exercise to identify voluntary and community sector organisations involved in waste management in Oxfordshire has been completed and some initial discussions held with some groups on how OWP can work with and support the sector in future.

Community Action Group (CAG) “swap shops” continue to grow. Around 2,500 people attended the countywide swap shop on the 7th March, where 11 events diverted approximately 5 tonnes of waste from landfill. A number of CAGs hold regular swap shop events and it is estimated that around 9,000 people have visited these, swapping and reusing around 25 tonnes of materials.

OWP funded the introduction of Portable Appliance Testing (PAT) by CAGs, so that electrical goods can now be accepted at swap shops. 14 volunteers have received PAT training and 7 PAT units purchased for use by CAGs.

Oxfordshire County Council in conjunction with OWP has provided grant funding for towns to go “plastic bag free”. Three projects were supported during 2008/09. Funding was provided to groups in Wallingford and Woodstock to produce and promote reusable shopping bags. Funding was also provided to the Oxfordshire Town Chambers Network to set up local reward schemes, where local schools and community groups benefit from reward points earned by shoppers when using reusable shopping bags.



CAG volunteers PAT testing at a swap shop event



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Report from the Partnership Coordinator

Progress against Strategic Policies continued

Policy 5 – In accordance with regional policy, the OWP will seek to reduce the growth of municipal waste across the county to 0% per person per annum by 2012.

The amount of waste collected per person in 2008/09 was some 24kg lower than the previous year; a reduction of 4.9%.

OWP delivered a “Love Food Hate Waste” campaign in February and March 09. Based on the national initiative of the same name, the campaign encourages people to reduce the amount of food that they waste. It is estimated that the average UK family throws away around £610 worth of good food each year. At approximately 19%, food waste also represents the single biggest waste stream within Oxfordshire’s household rubbish bins. As a biodegradable waste, food waste also contributes to global warming by producing methane when landfilled.

The “Love Food Hate Waste” campaign included a PR and advertising campaign, together with a series of road shows, where visitors were given simple tips and advice on food shopping, preparation and storage. A “left-overs” recipe competition sponsored by a local Michelin starred chef proved very popular. The winning recipe is now included in a new OWP left-overs cook book. In return for a copy of the cook book, over 1,200 householders have so far pledged to reduce their food waste.

OWP has provided a small amount of start up funding for an Oxfordshire food bank. The project is due to start in July and will be managed by a charity registered under the name “re-plenish”. The project aims to prevent fresh food from being dumped in landfill sites. The food bank will collect unsold food from supermarkets on a daily basis and distribute it to community groups in the Oxford area. The project will start off by collecting from one store (Sainsbury’s, Kidlington), but plans to expand both the number of supermarkets and recipients it deals with in future.

OWP continued its partnership with the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) in 2008/09 to provide home composting bins to residents. Sales for the year totalled 2,101, a significant reduction on last year’s sales of 9,059. This is perhaps largely due to a price increase resulting from the withdrawal of subsidies previously offered by WRAP. Local councils have been informed that WRAP will be ending this scheme in September 2009 and OWP is currently considering its future options.



Report from the Partnership Coordinator

Progress against Strategic Policies continued

Policy 6 - The Oxfordshire Waste Partnership will provide an integrated system of collection and processing of household waste which will achieve, as a minimum:

By 31 Mar 2010: recycle or compost at least 40% of household waste;

By 31 Mar 2015: recycle or compost at least 45% of household waste;

By 31 Mar 2020: recycle or compost at least 55% of household waste.

Two landmark procurements were successfully completed in 2008/09.

The County Council awarded a contract to Oxfordshire based Agrivert Ltd for the provision of food waste treatment facilities. Agrivert Ltd plan to build an In-Vessel Composting (IVC) facility at Ardley near Bicester and two Anaerobic Digestion (AD) plants at Cassington and Benson. The IVC facility will produce compost to BSI Publicly Available Specification (PAS) 100, which will be applied to farm land as a soil improver. The AD plant will produce a digestate that can also be applied to land, but will also generate enough green electricity to power 5,000 households.

The new food waste plants will allow district councils to begin collecting food waste separately from other household refuse, allowing a step change to be made to recycling & composting rates across the county. Agrivert Ltd will begin accepting waste from June 2009, although the first Oxfordshire based treatment plant will open later in January 2009.

South Oxfordshire District Council and Vale of White Horse District Council awarded a joint waste management services contract to Verdant plc in January 2009. The procurement has received national recognition as best practice. It sets ambitious targets for the contractor to ensure that OWP recycling & composting targets and Local Area Agreement waste and street cleanliness targets are met. The new contract introduces new collection systems comprising of a new weekly collection of food waste, together with alternate weekly collections of dry recyclables and non-recyclable refuse.



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Progress against Strategic Policies continued

Policy 7 - The OWP will ensure that recycling facilities and services are available to all residents

Partner councils have sought to ensure that kerbside or equivalent recycling services are provided to all households. Officers have exchanged information and shared best practice this year on the provision of recycling facilities for flats (where normal kerbside collection services aren't practical). The forthcoming introduction of separate food waste collections represents a new challenge. Oxford City is planning a pilot food waste collection scheme from 2,000 flats in 2009/10 and findings will be shared with other partner councils.

The number of on-street recycling points grew during 2008/09, with recycling bins becoming an ever more familiar site alongside traditional litter bins.

A number of Partner Councils have developed planning guidance for waste & recycling collections at new residential developments. These aim to ensure that new developments are planned with sufficient space for waste and recycling collection containers and with sufficient access for collection vehicles.



Cherwell District Council's recycling service is now offered to narrow boats moored along the Oxford Canal



On street recycling bins are no longer unusual sights.



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Progress against Strategic Policies continued

Policy 8 - The Oxfordshire Waste Partnership will encourage householders and businesses to separate waste for recycling collections by providing targeted information and awareness raising campaigns

OWP ran a Christmas campaign to encourage residents to recycle as much of the extra waste generated over the festive period as possible. A series of countywide road shows attended by a “green santa” gained much local and trade press interest. Visitors to the road show were given tips and advice on having a green Christmas and left with a sheet of recycled Christmas wrapping paper.

Four Partner Councils used OWP New Initiatives Fund funding to run a “fill our Christmas sack” promotion, whereby households were given an sack in which to place their extra recyclables for collection. This initiative resulted in recycling tonnages collected in January 2009 being over 3% higher than the preceding January.

A total of 368 waste audits were provided to Oxfordshire Businesses in 2008/09 through the on-going county council commercial waste reduction programme. £303,339 of potential savings were identified and follow up work suggests that £209,000 of these savings will be realised by local businesses. 86% of the businesses audited found the audit recommendations useful.

OWP New Initiatives Funding has been awarded to Cherwell D.C, Oxford City Council and to West Oxfordshire D.C for trade waste recycling. The funding has allowed Cherwell D.C to introduce trade waste recycling services to its customers for the first time. Oxford City Council operates a large scale trade waste service. It has used the funding to introduce a new collection vehicle,

allowing it to increase its trade waste recycling and reduce the amount of landfill waste collected from customers. West Oxfordshire D.C used NIF funding for a research study on future options for its trade waste service in light of increasing landfill costs, the potential pass down of Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme fines and competition from private sector firms. West Oxfordshire and Oxford City will jointly use NIF funding to explore the potential to offer separate food waste collections to commercial customers.

Some 1,500 tonnes of trade waste was collected for recycling by Oxford City Council and West Oxfordshire District Council during 2008/09, with this figure expected to grow in 2009/10.

A Green Christmas road show in Oxford



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Progress against Strategic Policies continued

Policy 9 – The Oxfordshire Waste Partnership will provide a system for recovering value from residual wastes in order to meet LATS targets.

Further progress was made during 2008/09 on the procurement of residual waste treatment that will ensure that Oxfordshire meets its Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme (LATS) targets in future years. Following the submission of detailed solutions, the County Council undertook an intense phase of dialogue with the two short listed bidders. The dialogue phase was closed in April 2009 when the County Council called for final tenders from each bidder.

The two bidders, Viridor and WRG, both operate landfill sites within Oxfordshire. Both companies have proposed building Energy from Waste facilities at their existing sites at Ardley and Sutton Courtney respectively. Planning applications were submitted by both bidders during 2008/09, but these have yet to be determined.

Oxfordshire currently remains within its LATS allowance, but does anticipate having to purchase permits in order to remain compliant in the years leading up to the opening of the new facilities.

OWP agreed new financial arrangements between the county and district councils in February 2008 and has been testing the new system through 2008/09. The new system sets a “per household” residual waste target for district councils. Districts receive an incentive payment valued at 50% of a recycling credit (recycling credits are currently valued at £40 per tonne) for every tonne by which they better the target. Equally, district councils are charged at the same rate for every tonne by which they miss the target. The targets are designed to ensure that OWP landfill diversion targets are met and create a shared financial commitment to reducing landfill. Testing concluded in March 2009 and the scheme launches in April 2009.

Policy 10 – The Oxfordshire Waste Partnership will ensure optimum use of landfill void.

The amount of residual waste landfilled decreased by 9% in 2008/09. A total of 168,520 tonnes of residual waste was landfilled, compared to 185,300 tonnes the previous year. Over the last decade, the amount of waste landfilled by Oxfordshire local authorities has dropped by 34%.

During 2008/09 the county council undertook procurement exercises to re-let two landfill contracts and contracts for six Waste Recycling Centres that end in October 2009. The contracts are to be awarded in June 2009.



Report from the Partnership Coordinator

Progress against Strategic Policies continued

Policy 11 – The Oxfordshire Waste Partnership will seek to provide waste management services for specialised, potentially polluting material streams, such as hazardous waste and WEEE, which meet and exceed legislative requirements.

Further promotional work was undertaken to raise awareness of the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment regulations and the requirement to segregate these wastes for reprocessing. These included information days and banners at Waste Recycling Centres (where recycling containers for WEEE have been introduced) together with a taxi advertising campaign.

The county council has secured a new contract with a producer compliance scheme for the recycling and safe disposal of WEEE. Whilst the national press highlighted some questionable practices for WEEE recycling, such as illegal export to developing countries, the county council arrangements ensure that Oxfordshire's WEEE is recycled to high environmental standards within the UK.

Policy 12 – The Oxfordshire Waste Partnership, working with the Waste Planning Authority, will ensure that waste facilities are suitably sized and distributed with the aim of minimising the transport of waste. Facilities will be well related to areas of population, given the environmental and amenity constraints, and the availability of suitable sites.

The food and garden waste treatment contract will deliver up to three Oxfordshire based facilities for the treatment of food waste and mixed food and garden waste. There is also an existing network of garden waste facilities within the county, meaning that organic wastes will not have to be transported far and can be treated within county.

Residual waste is currently disposed at to three landfill sites within Oxfordshire. The residual waste treatment procurement will deliver a single facility for the treatment of residual waste. This procurement also invites proposals on waste transfer arrangements in order to minimise the environmental and financial cost of transportation.



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Progress against Strategic Policies continued

Policy 13 – The Oxfordshire Waste Partnership will assist the development of local markets for recovered materials.

The food and garden waste treatment contract has secured in-county treatment of organic waste by a local company. The joint waste services contract let by South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse district councils provides for the local bulking and sorting of dry recyclables. This is typical of partner council arrangements for dry recyclables, which are processed locally or regionally before entering national and possibly international recycling markets. All Partner Councils' contracts for recycling are with reputable companies that are regularly inspected by the Environment Agency.

Limited progress was made on reviewing our current purchasing policies with a view to introducing stronger "buy recycled" policies. This action will be carried forward to 2009/10.

Policy 14 – The Oxfordshire Waste Partnership will develop methods of working together to improve the level of service through effective and efficient use of resources within Oxfordshire.

To date, the OWP New Initiatives Fund has funded twelve projects worth approximately £555,000. These include the funding of key strategic priorities such as the introduction of food waste collections, and the reduction of trade waste landfilled, as well as some truly new and innovative projects such as the introduction of "recycling on the go" bins at bus stops and roadside lay-bys.

The new OWP financial arrangements create a shared financial stake in reducing waste to landfill and have received national interest as a method of cost sharing within waste partnerships.

Our joint communications plan continues to achieve full and positive media coverage and offers value for money through joint purchasing of things such as advertising space, design and print work.



Report from the Partnership Coordinator

Environmental Quality

In 2007/08, OWP became the responsible body for the monitoring and implementation of the environment block targets within Oxfordshire's Local Area Agreement (LAA). This includes targets on street cleanliness and has led to the development of a work programme in this area.

During 2008/09 two county wide "Big tidy up" events were organised, where community groups were encouraged to clean up a local area of their choice. OWP used LAA pump priming funding to purchase and supply equipment such as litter pickers, sacks, and personal protective equipment (gloves, high visibility vests etc). Over a 100 clean up events took place, which gained a great deal of positive media coverage.

A campaign was also delivered to reduce the number of cigarette ends littered. LAA pump-priming funding was used to purchase extra litter bins suitable for cigarette butt disposal and an accompanying poster campaign to promote their usage. In addition to this, an item of plant known as a "Glutton", which specialises in picking up littered cigarette ends was purchased for shared use by district councils.



The "Pink Chicks" completed a sponsored litter pick, raising money for Breast Cancer Research

Steventon Scouts adopt a zero tolerance approach to litter



West Oxfordshire District Council and OWP staff joined the Witney Woodland Volunteers on a litter pick



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Performance Information

Table 1 summarises performance against waste National Indicators (NIs) and some former Best Value Performance Indicators (BVPIs) that have been retained locally. The proportion of waste recycled & composted increased by 3% in 2008/09, so that a countywide recycling & composting rate of 43% was reached. This was matched by a 3% reduction in the proportion of waste landfilled. The overall amount of waste managed by OWP councils decreased

considerably last year. The drop equates to a reduction of 24 kg per person. A similar picture is being reported nationally and it is surmised that the downturn in the national economy is resulting in less waste being generated.

Table 1 Waste NI & BVPI performance

Indicator	Description	07-08 performance	08-09 performance	Change
NI 191	Residual Household Waste per household (KG)	new indicator for 08/09	632.96 kg	-
NI 192a (formerly BVPI 82a)	Percentage of waste recycled	25.13%	26.27%	1%
NI 192b (formerly BVPI 82b)	Percentage of waste composted	15.12%	17.26%	2%
NI 192 a&b (formerly BVPI 82 a&b)	Percentage of waste recycled & composted	40.25%	43.53%	3%
BVPI 82c	Percentage used to recover heat, power etc	0.01%	0.01%	0%
NI 193 (formerly BVPI 82d)	Percentage of waste sent to landfill	59.74%	56.46%	-3%
BVPI 84a	KG household waste collected per head of population	491.32	467.24	-24.08



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Performance Information

Table 2 summarises performance against street cleanliness NIs. NI 195 scores are not directly comparable with the former BVPI 199 scores, although the two measure the same things. The number of fly-tipping incidents reported to partner councils decreased significantly last year, with 1,951 fewer incidents reported. This is a reduction of 31%. This may be attributable to the increased

enforcement work undertaken by a number of partner councils. Cherwell District Council, Vale of White Horse District Council, Oxford City Council and West Oxfordshire District Council all secured successful prosecutions against fly-tippers over the last twelve months.

Table 2 Street Cleanliness NI performance

Indicator	Description	07-08 performance	08-09 performance	Change
NI 195 a	Improved street and environmental cleanliness (levels of litter)	new indicator for 08/09	4.20%	-
NI 195 b	Improved street and environmental cleanliness (levels of detritus)	new indicator for 08/09	15.40%	-
NI 195 c	Improved street and environmental cleanliness (levels of graffiti)	new indicator for 08/09	2.20%	-
NI 195 d	Improved street and environmental cleanliness (levels of fly posting)	new indicator for 08/09	1.00%	-
NI 196	Improved street and environmental cleanliness – fly tipping. Number of reported incidents	6344	4393	-1951
	Improved street and environmental cleanliness – fly tipping. Overall grading.	Effective	Effective	-



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Performance Information

Table 3 sets out performance against Local Area Agreement 1(LAA1) targets, which ended in March 2009. OWP has met its target to increase recycling (target 6), which will result in a performance reward grant from government of £1,021,839. 50% of this reward grant will be transferred to the OWP New Initiatives Fund, with the remaining 50% retained by the Oxfordshire Public Service Board. Unfortunately, OWP failed to meet its street cleanliness target

(target 7i), meaning that a potential performance reward grant of £1,089,962 million will not be obtained. Performance against target 7ii (public satisfaction with levels of street cleanliness) is dependent upon the results of the Place Survey. Full results have yet to be released. This target attracts a performance reward grant of £272,490.

Table 3 LAA1 Target performance

Indicator	Description	Baseline	06/07 performance	07/08 performance	08/09 performance	Notes
LAA1 target 6	To increase recycling and composting county wide to 38% in 2008/9 and to recycle 4,875 extra tonnes of non biodegradable waste accumulatively from 2006/7 to 2008/9 inclusive.	-	38.58%	40.25%	43.53%	Target met
LAA1 target 7	1. Reduce the proportion of relevant land and highways assessed as having combined deposits of litter and detritus falling below an acceptable standard by 9%, so that no more than 11% falls below standard	20%	12.20%	8.60%	14.40%	Target missed.
	2. % of people satisfied with cleanliness standards	62.6% (2004/05)	71.40%	(measured every two years) results)	(awaiting release of Place Survey	Result uncertain



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Performance Information

Table 4 sets out performance against Local Area Agreement 2 (LAA2) targets. LAA2 began in April 2008 and runs until March 2011. Performance is currently strong against all targets except for detritus levels measured under NI 195. Further work is needed to improve this score and an improvement plan will be developed during 2009/10. We are already meeting our 2010/11

targets against NI 191 and NI 196, but effort will be needed to maintain this level of performance. Minor improvement is needed to meet our 2010/11 targets for NI 195 litter and NI 193 recycling and composting levels. The introduction of food waste collections and treatment should ensure that the latter is met.

Table 4 LAA2 target performance

Target	Description	08/09 target	09/10 target	10/11 target	08/09 performance
NI 191: Residual household waste per household Defra	To reduce the amount of residual waste collected to 715 kg per household or less by 2010/11.	730 kg	723 kg	715 kg	632.96 kg
NI 192: Household waste recycled and composted	To achieve a 45% recycling & composting rate by March 2011.	40%	42%	45%	43.53%
NI 195: Improved street and environmental cleanliness (levels of graffiti, litter, detritus and fly posting)	To ensure that the percentage of relevant land and highways that is assessed as having deposits of litter and detritus that falls below an acceptable standard (below grade B) by March 2011 are 4% and 7% respectively, or less.	Litter 6%	Litter 5%	Litter 4%	Litter 4.2%
		Detritus 10%	Detritus 9%	Detritus 8%	Detritus 15.4%
NI 196: Improved street and environmental cleanliness – fly tipping	To reduce the number of incidents of fly-tipping by 10% by March 2011. (from baseline no. of 6370)	6179	5994	5754	4393



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The year ahead

The first food waste collections in Oxfordshire will begin in June 2009, when South Oxfordshire District Council begins its new contract. These will be followed by Cherwell District Council and Oxford City Council between October 2009 and January 2010. Vale of White Horse and West Oxfordshire District Councils commence in October 2010. The first Oxfordshire based food waste treatment plant, an IVC facility at Ardley, is scheduled to open in January 2010.

Oxfordshire County Council expects to appoint a preferred bidder for the residual waste treatment contract in August 2009 and close the contract around November 2009.

In support of our LAA2 targets, OWP will launch an anti-fly tipping communications campaign in August 2009 to deter potential fly-tippers and encourage members of the public to report incidents of fly tipping. Communications work will also continue on litter reduction and various waste reduction campaigns, particularly food waste reduction.

Our approach to waste reduction will be refreshed by an updated waste reduction strategy that will support our wider Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (JMWMS). Work on the five yearly review of the JMWMS will also commence in 2009/10.

Improvements will be made to our performance management of LAA targets to ensure that lessons are learnt from LAA1 and that every possible effort is made to ensure the attainment of our LAA2 targets.

2009/10 is the second and final year of Oxford City Council's role of Host Authority. Preparations will be made in the latter part of the year for the hand over of this role to Oxfordshire County Council. Similarly, OWP will appoint a new Auditing Authority; with Vale of White Horse District Council now have completed its two year term. This role will be passed to West Oxfordshire District Council.

A copy of the OWP action plan for 2009/12 can be viewed online at:
<http://apps.oxfordshire.gov.uk/wps/wcm/connect/OWP/Home/About+us/OWP+-+About+us+-+4+Strategy>



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Finance summary

The year ahead

OWP realised a surplus of £82,541, of which £32,501 relates to an underspend against the core budget (largely resulting from salary savings) and £43,456 relates to an underspend against the development budget (communications and waste reduction work). The surplus will be carried

forward to 2009/10 pending the usual audit of accounts. The underspend may be used to off-set increases to partner council contributions in future years. A surplus from 2007/08 has been used in this way.

Table 5 2008/09 budget outturn

	Budget £	Actual £	Difference £
Expenditure			
Core Budget			
Partnership Officer	70,000	62,429	-7,571
Training and support costs	4,000	1,576	-2,424
Admin Support	5,000	6,530	1,530
OWP Host Authority admin costs	2,000	1,500	-500
OWP Accounting Authority costs	2,000	2,000	0
OWP Auditing Authority costs	1,000	1,000	0
Waste Enforcement Officer	34,200	16,454	-17,746
Communications Officer (WRAP)	34,200	28,410.63	-5,789
Sub-total Core Development Budget	512,025	411,673	-100,352
Wild Waste Show	120,000	120,000	0
Waste Reduction Packs	20,000	3,200	-16,800
Home composting	18,500	18,080	-420
Communications Plan	164,900	142,508	-22,392
LAA Project Municipal Waste	43,747	43,622	-125
LAA Project Clean Green	59,383	55,194	-4,189
Contingency/Opportunities	17,500	17,970	470
Sub-total Development	444,030	400,574	-43,456
Total Expenditure	596,430	520,473	-75,957

Finance summary

Table 5 2008/09 budget outturn continued

	Budget £	Actual £	Difference £
Income			
Total Partner Contributions	453,069	453,069	0
LAA pump priming	103,130	103,130	0
2007/08 Carry forward	40,232	40,232	0
Other Miscellaneous - WRAP		6,584	6,584
Total Income	596,431	603,015	6,584
Balance Carry Forward			-82,541

Finance summary

New Initiatives fund

The New Initiatives fund forms part of the agreed OWP financial arrangements. It has been established to meet the one-off or start up costs of new projects and schemes that will deliver the OWP Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy.

Partner councils bid to the NIF through the completion of a standard application form. Applications are assessed by the OWP Officer Strategy Group, which makes a recommendation to the OWP Chair (or for applications for more than £50,000 to the full Joint Committee) on whether funding should be awarded. A list of projects supported to date is given table 6. Not all supported projects have yet to be completed and charged to the accounts.

The fund is at 31st March 2009 valued¹ at:

	£
Revenue -	£487,000
Capital -	£538,000

Table 6 NIF supported projects

Bidding authority	Project	Funding awarded
Vale of White Horse D.C	Hessian sack recycling containers for flat dwellers	£2,475
Cherwell D.C	Recycling containers at bus stops	£9,878
Oxfordshire County Council	Study and compositional analysis of Waste Recycling Centre residual waste	£35,000
Cherwell D.C	Lay-by recycling containers	£10,000
Cherwell D.C	Christmas sacks for kerbside recycling collections.	£7,550
Cherwell D.C	Trade waste recycling	£7,250
Oxford City	Trade waste recycling	£157,000
West Oxfordshire	Trade waste recycling	£9,975
West Oxfordshire	Interim green waste collection service	£90,000
Cherwell D.C	Food waste collections.	£120,000
South Oxfordshire D.C	Food waste collections.	£106,000

¹Includes performance reward grant attained under Local Area Agreement 1



Finance summary

Auditors Report

In accordance with the Oxfordshire Waste Partnership Agreement, the Vale of White horse District Council is the appointed Auditing Authority.

Last year, Internal Audit gave the OWP a Satisfactory assurance, meaning that there was basically a sound system of internal control although there were some minor weaknesses. Again, a Satisfactory assurance has been issued, however, much work has been undertaken and is still occurring to improve the OWP function.

In particular the budgetary control arrangements have improved significantly and a Risk Management Strategy has been produced and improved.

As stated in Internal Audit's report for 2008/09, many OWP transactions are processed in accordance with Oxfordshire County Council's financial procedure rules and where able, reliance was placed upon OCC's Internal Audit reports as to the adequacy and effectiveness of controls in place within those systems. Specifically, this applied to Financial Records and Transactions and Bank Reconciliation.

Six recommendations were made relating to financial records, budgetary controls, and risk management.



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Governance and accountability

The OWP is a Joint Committee established in April 2007 under Sections 101 and 102 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Local Authorities (Arrangements for the Discharge of Functions) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2001 made under Section 20 of the Local Government Act 2000 and all other enabling legislation. A detailed Partnership Agreement has been sealed by each Partner Council.

Purpose of the OWP

The OWP provides a framework to enable joint working between the Partner Authorities on waste matters.

The purpose of the Joint Committee is to carry out the strategic, financial and operational functions set out below and in doing so to discharge, on behalf of the Partner Authorities, their statutory responsibilities for waste management as are delegated to the Joint Committee from time to time.

The functions of the OWP Joint Committee are to:

Strategic

- develop a strategic policy framework within which the Partner Authorities can each discharge their functions as waste disposal authority or waste collection authority
- discharge on behalf of the Partner Authorities, responsibilities in relation to County-wide waste promotional activities, public engagement, research, technical evaluations, achievement of the wastes element of the Local Area Agreement (LAA) stretch target. This does not preclude district authorities from undertaking public engagement or other activities on waste collection issues specific to their district
- annually review and revise as necessary the objectives and strategic policies of the OWP for consideration and approval by the Partner Authorities

- contribute to achievement of sustainable development through waste minimisation, reduction of waste going to landfill on a year by year basis, development of alternative methods of disposal, and increased proportion of waste being recycled on a year by year basis
- develop proposals for the future development of waste management that achieve the core objectives

Financial

- prepare, commit and oversee expenditure of pooled budgets to ensure the prioritised jointly operated waste functions described above are delivered
- agree a draft budget by 31 October for the forthcoming financial year to include the proposed contribution from each OWP Partner, for consideration by Partner Authorities
- oversee the operation of the agreed partner incentivisation arrangements and monitor effectiveness of these arrangements
- make recommendations to the Partner Authorities to request resources as required to meet the core objectives
- annually review the costs of administering the OWP and determine the contributions of the partners ensuring that the distribution is equitable

Governance and accountability

Operational

- take decisions as required on the matters presented, voting on such matters if any voting member present requests it. Voting is by a show of hands with the Chair having a casting vote in the event of a tie. In the event that any proposition would have contractual or financial implications for a Partner Authority, then the vote of that member in favour of the proposal is required
- continually seek more efficient and cost effective ways of delivering the waste objectives including opportunities for joint procurement and shared services
- prepare and jointly deliver an annual action plan that delivers the OWP objectives and strategic policies, for approval by the Partner Authorities
- consider and comment on progress reports from the LAA Clean/ Green group and report to PSB on progress towards the LAA 'Clean/ Green' targets
- commission research and public opinion surveys into matters relevant to the core objectives
- issue press releases and carry out publicity as the Committee deems necessary for the furtherance of the core objectives.

Composition of the Joint Committee

The Committee comprises 6 members; one member appointed by each Partner Authority. Each is a member of the Executive at their respective Partner Authorities.

Each Partner Authority also appoints another named member of its Executive to act as a deputy for its appointed committee member.

Role of Committee Members

The role of each Committee Member is to:

- attend meetings of the OWP Joint Committee, vote on items of business and make a positive contribution to the Committee, and ensure that if unable to do so, a named deputy attends
- demonstrate commitment to and act as champion for the OWP vision and objectives and OWP key principles
- act as ambassador for the Committee and ensure that his/her Authority supports the OWP and abides by the OWP key principles
- act as advocate for the Committee in seeking any necessary approvals from his Authority in connection with the annual JMWMS action plan
- keep up-to-date with changes in legislation and all relevant statutory and non-statutory guidance



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List of abbreviations used

BVPI – Best Value Performance Indicator

CAG – Community Action Group

JMWMS – Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy

LATS – Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme

LAA – Local Area Agreement

NIF – New Initiatives Fund

OCC – Oxfordshire County Council

OWP – Oxfordshire Waste Partnership

PSB – Public Services Board

WEEE – Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment

WRAP – Waste and Resources Action Programme

WWS – Wild Waste Show

