

Milton Keynes Council Zero Waste Management Strategy - Refresh 2013

Summary



Milton Keynes Council has made a number of improvements in waste management since its previous refreshed version of its waste strategy in 2011. The percentage of household waste being recycled has increased from 52% in 2010/11 to 53.5% in 2012/13. However, recycling has fallen slightly since 2011/12 when recycling stood at 53.8% - there appears to be a “plateau effect” in recycling, evident not just locally, but also nationally. The council’s recycling rate remains well above the English average of 42%.

The amount of waste being generated overall still remains below the levels the council was managing in 2008. Apart from letting an interim residual waste treatment contract, which is expected to bring some additional recycling benefits, no major new initiatives have taken place in the past 2-3 years. The recycling rate is expected to increase further when the Milton Keynes Waste Recovery Park (MKWRP) becomes operational in 2016.

A major infrastructure procurement programme - first set in motion in the 2005 strategy - is nearly complete, with only three projects still underway. These are the development of the residual waste treatment facility, now known as the Milton Keynes Waste Resource Park (MKWRP), the new vehicle depot and a local anaerobic digestion (AD) plant.

The main driver in this strategy is now the high rate of landfill tax reaching £80/tonne in April 2014; both the landfill allowance trading scheme (LATS) and recycling targets for local authorities have been removed by recent legislative/policy changes.

In 2013 the council continues to face considerable budget pressures. This means that improving the efficiency of our services is paramount and one of the immediate priorities is to reduce expenditure whilst maintaining a good level of service and high customer satisfaction.

The council remains committed to weekly collections up to 2019 following the acceptance of Weekly Collection Support Scheme funds in 2012.

The Way Forward

The recycling targets have been amended since the 2011 refresh as follows:

Updated Recycling and Landfill Targets

	2012/13	2014/15	2019/20	2024/25
Updated recycling and composting target 1: % of all waste collected by MKC which is recycled	54.8%	55%	65%	70%
Updated recycling and composting target 1: % of all waste collected by MKC which is recycled	54.8%	55%	60%	65%
New landfill target: maximum % of waste landfilled	36.6%		5%	5%

The recycling targets have been updated, maintaining a 70% recycling target by 2024/25. This is ambitious but achievable as further improvements are expected when the MKWRP becomes operational in 2016 and, to this effect, the maximum landfill target of 5% has been brought forward from the 2011 refresh.

The current national definition of recycling rate (NI 192) excludes some of the outputs from the MKWRP which are expected to have a secondary use and therefore two separate recycling targets are shown.

MKC Waste Policies

The revised strategy keeps its policies, which have been amended slightly to bring them up to date and in line with current legislation. These are:

1. Zero Waste
2. Residual waste treatment preference, incorporating a broader council preference, not just for “no mass burn incineration” but also for:
 - The use of a meaningful biological treatment step
 - The further recycling of valuable resources
 - The exclusion of bio-stabilisation of waste before landfill as an option, due to the waste being landfilled attracting landfill tax
 - That energy is recovered from the residual waste

3. Adherence to the Waste Hierarchy
4. Reduction in the hazardousness of waste
5. Overall good environmental practice and sustainability
6. Local self-sufficiency
7. Integrated waste management
8. Best value
9. Flexibility and annual review
10. Co-operation and partnerships
11. Educating and influencing
12. Encouragement of commercial and industrial waste reduction locally
13. Reduction and recycling of waste generated from council activities

The overarching goals/vision of the strategy remain as follows:

1. To meet the statutory obligations of a waste collection and disposal authority as efficiently as possible
2. To move waste management in Milton Keynes up the “waste hierarchy”, aiming for zero residual waste and in doing so:
3. To contribute to the carbon reduction goals, locally and nationally
4. To be rated highly by local residents (in terms of satisfaction)

The revised objectives in this refreshed strategy are as follows:

1. Review opportunities for increasing efficiency
2. Contribute to the budgetary savings required, including reviewing the charges for services where appropriate
3. Progress the MKWRP, keeping the project on time and within budget
4. Review waste prevention initiatives and, where appropriate, find new ways to reduce overall waste arisings
5. Ensure the anaerobic digestion project delivers the facilities required to process food and garden waste locally
6. Deliver a new vehicle depot in 2014
7. Maintain and preferably increase the high levels of resident satisfaction with waste and recycling services as measured by the “Serco Tracker” (a quarterly satisfaction survey)
8. Progress towards the targets above
9. Produce a waste communications and education action plan each year to support the waste service



10. Continue to investigate the potential for integrating commercial and household waste services locally, and improving recycling services for businesses
11. Ensure adequate provision is made for waste management in new developments
12. Retender the Community Recycling Centres service in 2015

Medium/longer term (3+ years)

1. Deliver the MKWRP on time (in 2016) and on budget according to the current project plan
2. Meet recycling targets
3. Continue to increase resident satisfaction with waste and recycling services as measured by the "Serco Tracker"
4. Continue to increase efficiency and best value
5. Continue to ensure that adequate provision is made for waste management in new developments
6. Produce an annual waste communications and education action plan each year to support the waste service
7. Continue to review waste prevention initiatives and, where appropriate, find new ways to reduce overall waste arisings
8. Make improvements to waste collection systems, if appropriate

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