

**DRAFT FOR CONSULTATION**

**WASTE MANAGEMENT &  
REGULATION STRATEGY**

**11 DECEMBER 1996**

*EA  
waste  
management*

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Due for return

<i>2/7/98</i>	

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Information Centre

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ENVIRONMENT AGENCY  
  
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**ENVIRONMENT AGENCY**  
*Guardians of the Environment*

**OUR VISION IS:**

**A better environment in England and Wales for present and future generations.**

**We will:**

- **protect and improve the environment as a whole by effective regulation, by our own actions and by working with and influencing others**
- **operate openly and consult widely**
- **value our employees**
- **be efficient and businesslike in everything we do**

**OUR AIMS ARE TO:**

- **achieve significant and continuous improvement in the quality of air, land and water, actively encouraging the conservation of natural resources, flora and fauna**
- **maximise the benefits of integrated pollution control and integrated river basin management**
- **provide effective defence and timely warning systems for people and property against flooding from rivers and the sea**
- **achieve significant reductions in waste through minimisation, re-use and recycling and to improve standards of disposal**
- **manage water resources to achieve the proper balance between the needs of the environment and those of abstractors and other water users**
- **secure, with others, the remediation of contaminated land**
- **improve and develop salmon and freshwater fisheries**
- **conserve and enhance inland and coastal waters and their use for recreation**
- **maintain and improve non-marine navigation**
- **develop a better informed public through open debate, the provision of soundly based information and rigorous research**
- **set priorities and propose solutions that do not impose excessive costs on society**

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## **GLOSSARY OF TERMS USED IN WASTE MANAGEMENT AND REGULATION STRATEGY**

<b>BPEO</b>	<b>Best Practicable Environmental Option</b>
<b>BSI</b>	<b>British Standards Institution</b>
<b>CBI</b>	<b>Confederation of British Industry</b>
<b>DTi</b>	<b>Department of Trade and Industry</b>
<b>DoE</b>	<b>Department of the Environment</b>
<b>ESA</b>	<b>Environmental Services Association</b>
<b>EU</b>	<b>European Union</b>
<b>FOE</b>	<b>Friends of the Earth</b>
<b>GiA</b>	<b>Grant In Aid</b>
<b>HMC&amp;E</b>	<b>HM Customs &amp; Excise</b>
<b>HSE</b>	<b>Health &amp; Safety Executive</b>
<b>IWM</b>	<b>Institute of Wastes Management</b>
<b>LAA</b>	<b>Local Authority Associations</b>
<b>MAFF</b>	<b>Ministry of Agriculture and Food</b>
<b>OECD</b>	<b>Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development</b>
<b>PPC</b>	<b>Pollution Prevention and Control</b>
<b>R&amp;D</b>	<b>Research and Development</b>
<b>REPAC</b>	<b>Regional Environmental Protection Advisory Committee</b>
<b>SEPA</b>	<b>Scottish Environment Protection Agency</b>
<b>WAMITAB</b>	<b>Waste Management Industry Training and Advisory Board</b>

## OVERVIEW

### The Environment Agency

On 1 April 1996 the Environment Agency took over the functions of its predecessors the National Rivers Authority, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Pollution, English and Welsh Waste Regulation Authorities and some parts of the Department of the Environment.

The Agency is the most comprehensive environmental protection body in Europe and has considerable resources including a staff of over 9,000 and an annual turnover of over £550m. It is concerned primarily with pollution prevention and control, the regulation of waste disposal and the management of water in the environment, including flood defence.

The Agency has been established in England and Wales under the Environment Act 1995. The Act defines the principal aim for the Agency : *"in discharging its functions, the Agency is required so to protect or enhance the environment, taken as a whole, as to make the contribution that Ministers consider appropriate towards achieving sustainable development."*

To fulfil this aim the Agency will provide effective protection, management and enhancement of the environment as a whole and in so doing, will provide a more efficient means of regulating a wide range of practices which impact upon the environment, to the benefit of both the regulated and to society in general.

### The Strategic Approach

The Agency's Strategy for the Environment is our blueprint for a coherent and integrated approach to protecting and managing the environment. The strategy translates new ways of thinking about environmental issues and sets out our strategic aims and objectives, priorities and targets, contributing towards the goal of sustainable development.

Underpinning the Strategy for the Environment, the Agency's individual functions have produced strategies to describe in more detail how we will take forward the overarching aims and priorities. In particular, each functional strategy describes how we will maintain and improve our present levels of service, and how we will implement "new duties" introduced by the Environment Act 1995. The **Waste Management & Regulation Strategy** is one in a set of eleven:

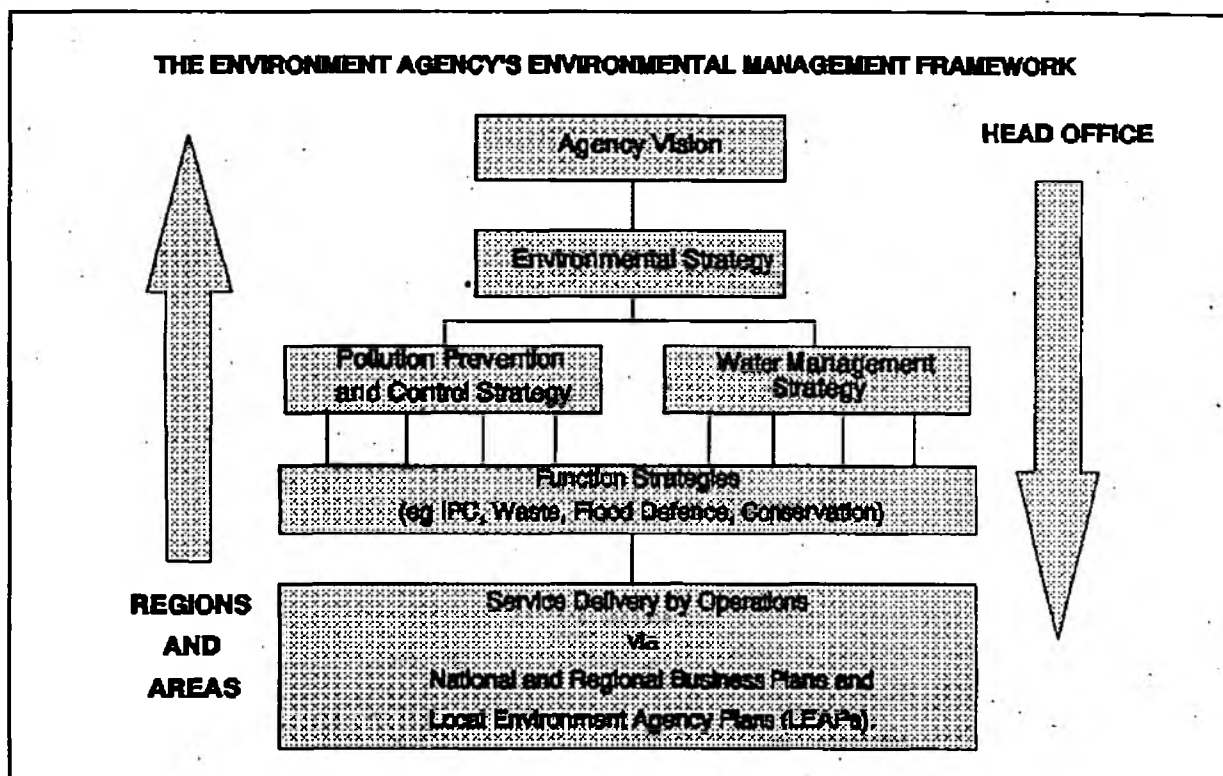
Integrated Pollution Control	Water Resources
Radioactive Substances	Flood Defence
Water Quality	Fisheries
Waste Management & Regulation	Recreation
Contaminated Land	Conservation
	Navigation

The Agency is developing, over five years, Local Environment Agency Plans (LEAPs) to integrate delivery of our regulatory and environmental management functions at the local level. LEAPs will be the primary way in which strategies for each function are translated into real world impacts at local level.

The Agency's Strategy for the Environment, function strategies, and its other business strategies, all form part of the Agency's overall Corporate Strategy. Key elements of each strategy are rolled forward in our annual Corporate Plan, the first of which was published for consultation in October 1996.

## Environmental Management Framework

Within the overall Corporate Strategy, the Agency's Environmental Management Framework will become the basis upon which the effort and resources of the Agency are targeted in the Corporate Planning process, as policies are developed and the appropriate mechanisms for their delivery assessed. This is illustrated by the figure and table below:



STRATEGY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT	FUNCTIONAL STRATEGY
<b>Environmental Strategy</b> set policies to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- monitor and assess the state of the environment</li> <li>- consider long term options that deliver a lasting improvement</li> <li>- ensure the Agency's science base</li> </ul>	Research and Development
<b>Pollution Prevention and Control</b> set policies to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- regulate to prevent and control pollution</li> <li>- mitigate and ameliorate the effects of pollution</li> </ul>	Integrated Pollution Control Radioactive Substances Water Quality Waste Management & Regulation Contaminated Land
<b>Water Management</b> set policies to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- regulate the management of water and water-related activities</li> <li>- ensure the adequacy of flood protection</li> <li>- conserve the aquatic environment.</li> </ul>	Water Resources Flood Defence Fisheries Recreation Conservation Navigation
<b>Operations</b> implement policies via: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Regions:</b> - monitor and ensure implementation of national policies</li> <li><b>Areas:</b> - deliver services in line with national policy</li> <li>- prepare Local Environment Agency Plans (LEAPs)</li> </ul>	

## **INTRODUCTION**

*The total quantity of waste generated each year in the UK is approximately 465 million tonnes. Waste is produced at every point in the economy and touches on all areas of society*

### **Waste Management and Regulation**

Best estimates indicate that the total waste production in England and Wales is of the order of 465 million tonnes per annum. This results in a negative impact upon the environment in three ways. First, valuable and in many cases non-renewable natural resources are removed from the cycle of production and use. Second, these resources must be replaced in the cycle of production and use by virgin materials. Third, the disposal of the wastes itself results in adverse environmental impacts.

The proper management of wastes to reduce their overall impact on the environment is essential to the environmental and economic well being of our society and its sustainable development in the future. This will be achieved by development of strategies for reduction, reuse, recycling and safe disposal of wastes and by encouraging the adoption of these strategies by society. This must be underpinned by effective regulation, sound information and rigorous research.

The strategy for the waste management and regulation function sets out the underlying principles and objectives for the delivery of the Agency's responsibilities for waste management including waste regulation. It will provide the basis for the Agency to:

- provide a high quality and consistent waste regulation service;
- assist delivery of the Government's waste strategy;
- provide sound technical advice and information.

### **Government's Strategy for Waste Management**

In order to encourage a more sustainable approach to resource management the Government has published its strategy for sustainable waste management as a White Paper "Making Waste Work - a strategy for sustainable waste management in England and Wales" (HMSO 1995). This sets out in detail the Government's policy for the management of wastes as part of their wider strategy for sustainable development. The Government has therefore provided the Agency with a detailed policy framework which, in particular, relates to our contribution to the achievement of sustainable development.

A substantial part of the Agency's strategy for waste management and regulation derives from the Government's waste strategy. However, the Government's strategy represents only part of its policy framework for waste and should be read in conjunction with other white papers as set out in the DoE's Annual Reports. We have commitments which derive from other parts of this policy framework, in particular for protection of the environment by controlling the management of wastes from cradle to grave.

The Government's strategy as set out in the White Paper must be distinguished from the Agency's strategy for its Waste Management and Regulation (Waste) function and is referred to throughout as "the Government's waste strategy".

Key elements of the Government's waste strategy are shown in Box 1.

<b>Box 1: Waste; Key elements of the Government's waste strategy</b>
<b>Objectives</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• to reduce the amount of waste that society produces</li><li>• to make the best use of the waste that is produced</li><li>• to choose waste management practices which minimise the risks of immediate and future environmental pollution and harm to health</li></ul>
<b>Policy aim</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• to achieve more sustainable waste management by increasing the proportion of waste managed by options towards the top of the waste hierarchy, subject to the application of BPEO for individual waste streams</li></ul>
<b>Primary targets</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• to reduce the proportion of controlled waste going to landfill to 60% by 2005</li><li>• to recover 40% of municipal waste by 2005. The Government will set targets by the end of 1998 for waste reduction</li></ul>
<b>Plan</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• to achieve the strategy action is required in five key areas: regulation; market; planning; promotion; data. The Agency has a role in each of these areas</li></ul>

### **Background to Waste Management and Regulation**

The first significant body of legislation directed specifically at the management of wastes was introduced during the 1970s. The legislation was revised and considerably extended by the Environmental Protection Act 1990. The regulatory framework for waste management and regulation is, therefore, relatively recent in comparison with other Agency pollution prevention and control functions such as Integrated Pollution Control and Water Quality.

Until the formation of the Environment Agency, on 1 April 1996, regulatory powers for waste management were vested at local authority level, with links to the land use planning powers of the local authorities. The Government's waste strategy is possible only through the creation of the Environment Agency with its ability to operate in a nationally consistent manner. We have, therefore, a key role in the development and implementation of the Government's strategy.

The Agency's waste management and regulation strategy provides for:

- the assimilation of the inheritance of 83 Waste Regulation Authorities into a single organisation;
- support to the DoE in transforming the Government's first non-statutory strategy for waste management into a statutory strategy;
- the development and implementation of a waste regulation service of a quality and sophistication which will meet the needs of all our stakeholders into the 21st century.



## Scale and Scope of Responsibilities

A picture of the magnitude of our task can be gained by considering some key statistics and activities (figures are rounded):

- 465 million tonnes of waste are produced in the United Kingdom every year;
- 7,500 waste management licences which we must monitor and enforce compliance;
- 400 new licence applications per annum;
- 300 licence modification applications per annum;
- approximately 550,000 special waste consignment notices per annum;
- 77,000 carriers are registered on the Agency's Register of Carriers;
- 14,000 waste management facilities operate under the exemption provisions;
- 9,000 international shipments of waste are regulated per annum;
- up to 11,000 registrations expected under the Producer Responsibility (Packaging Waste) Regulations;
- provide and maintain public registers of prescribed information relating to our permitting and enforcement activities;
- strategic planning for wastes by providing guidance to local authorities and others on the management of wastes.

We have specific duties, power and responsibilities for waste management which are shown in Box 2.

### **Box 2: Waste: Responsibilities of the Environment Agency**

- waste management permitting
- compliance assessment and monitoring
- regulation of waste handling and transportation
- enforcement against illegal waste management activity
- provision of statutory information
- strategic waste management planning
- advice on planning consultations
- advice to DoE, other government departments
- advice to local authorities
- advice to industry
- research and development
- emergencies
- specific white paper commitments

## **STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK**

### **Contributing to Sustainable Development**

The Waste Regulation Strategy will take forward the overarching aims and priorities identified in the Agency's *'Strategy For The Environment'*. It will reflect the need for an integrated approach to managing and conserving the environment in a sustainable way.

*In discharging all of its functions the Agency will make a contribution to the achievement of Sustainable Development in the following ways by:*

- *taking an integrated approach that considers the environment as a whole;*
- *adopting a long term perspective that has regard to the needs of future generations and which anticipates risks;*
- *basing its decisions on sound science;*
- *recognising that precautionary action may be necessary where uncertainty exists and the consequences appear likely to be irreversible or reversible only at high cost;*
- *seeking to maintain and enhance biodiversity and heritage through our actions;*
- *ensuring that our actions are appropriately assessed with regard to their likely costs and benefits, including costs to the environment;*
- *ensuring that the polluter (or producer) pays the cost of necessary environmental measures and not the public at large;*
- *recognising the need for collaboration and co-operation with other bodies, regulated organisations and the public to ensure that necessary action is progressed;*
- *providing high quality information and advice which informs and enhances debate and decision making processes;*
- *maximising the scope for cost-effective investment by business through improved technologies and management techniques;*
- *making a contribution to the protection of global atmosphere, having regard to the Government's commitments under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change;*
- *ensuring that our approach is relevant, proportionate, understandable, pragmatic and transparent, and using and developing general guidelines.*

The Government's strategy for sustainable waste management together with the Ministerial Guidance to the Agency for delivery of its functions provide a detailed policy framework for the waste function. The Ministerial Guidance requires the Agency to assist the delivery of the Government's white paper objectives through:

***Exercising its waste regulatory function***

- including preventing or pursuing offences, regulating in accordance with DOE Waste Management Papers, reviewing procedures for preventing and handling cases of fly tipping and providing advice on regulation;

***Advice and guidance on good waste management practices and by sponsoring research***

- including publishing guidance documents on good waste management practice as internal Agency guidance so as to inform waste management practitioners of the performance standards expected of them by the Agency;

***Improved collection of data, especially by carrying out a national survey of waste arisings and waste management facilities.***

The Agency has a pivotal role in encouraging the adoption of sustainable options for waste management. Our strategy will deliver the Government's White Paper commitments for waste. Key features of our contribution to the goal of sustainable development are shown in Box 3.

<b>Box 3: Waste; Contribution to sustainable development</b>
<b><i>Protect global atmosphere</i></b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• regulate to reduce the impact of gaseous emissions from landfill</li> </ul>
<b><i>Encourage those regulated to adopt plans/management techniques</i></b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• develop risk based approach to compliance assessment</li> <li>• provide advice and guidance to regulated</li> </ul>
<b><i>Encourage efficient use of resources</i></b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• advise and educate producers, including the public, on waste management</li> </ul>
<b><i>Assist delivery of the Government's objectives for sustainable waste management as set out in the Government's waste strategy</i></b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• provide a high quality consistent waste regulation service</li> <li>• survey waste arisings and waste management facilities and develop improved data collection systems</li> <li>• develop life cycle assessment</li> <li>• provide sound technical advice and information to stakeholders</li> <li>• manage and develop the waste management research programme to underpin technical guidance for the Government's policy development</li> </ul>

## **Integration**

We will work with other Pollution Prevention & Control functions to develop an integrated approach to waste management.

Effective regulation of wastes requires a holistic multi media approach which in turn requires an integrated approach to waste regulation across all PPC functions. We will build partnerships and work with and influence others to reach areas of society located outside the regulatory system.

## **The Legislative and Strategic Framework**

The UK legislative framework for waste management derives from EC policy and legislation. There are a number of new Directives in preparation which will impact on UK waste legislation. The Government's strategy for sustainable waste management is underpinned by the legislative framework. The Environment Agency is responsible for the implementation and enforcement of legislation within that framework. The key elements of the framework are:

- cradle to grave tracking of waste from point of production to point of disposal;
- clear responsibility and accountability at each stage of the journey and on each transfer;
- a requirement that waste shall be transferred to, and carried by, only a registered carrier;
- more detailed cradle to grave information on those wastes which are difficult or dangerous to dispose of (Special Wastes);
- licensing of all facilities where waste is kept, treated, or disposed;
- opportunity to operate under exemption from licensing in particular prescribed circumstances;
- monitoring and compliance assessment of licences and exemptions;
- enforcement against illegal waste management activities;
- a requirement for both carriers and disposal site operators to be 'fit and proper persons', in terms of their records of environmental offences, and their ability to ensure the proper post-operational care for their disposal sites;
- the requirement to observe tight international controls on the movement of wastes under a Competent Authority.

## **Support to the Department of the Environment (DoE)**

The waste function provide support to the DoE in delivering its overall objectives, including:

- management of a large part of the waste management research programme;
- technical and scientific support to devise and implement systems to deliver specific initiatives, for example waste classifications system, life cycle assessment, support to HMC&E on the landfill tax;
- advice to the Department of Environment on policy matters at all levels.

## **Acting Against Illegal Waste Management Activities**

There are increasing demands by government, industry and the public that the Agency act against illegal activities. The level of environmental crime is increasing and the Agency is uniquely placed to network with other agencies at home and abroad to act to reverse this trend. The movement and handling of waste is often associated with other criminal activities, some of which touch upon the Agency's other functions, so there is the opportunity to maximise effectiveness through integration across Agency functions.

## **Educating and Informing**

The Agency's Strategy for the Environment places increasing emphasis on our role to educate and inform stakeholders. We will be fully involved with this role and we will work in partnership with industry to encourage and enable greater responsibility by industry for the management of its own regulation.

## **Principal Tasks**

Our principal tasks are set out in Box 4.

### **Box 4: Waste; Principal Tasks**

- implement waste management legislation
- develop Agency's waste regulation and waste management policies
- set standards which ensure a high level of environmental protection
- develop procedures for consistency of regulatory practice
- contribute to the development of EC and UK legislation affecting waste management
- ensure that new waste management legislation is implemented effectively
- carry out Agency commitments set out in the Government's waste strategy and other white papers
- collect information and advise Government on a new (statutory) waste strategy
- implement the Producer Responsibility regulations

The Agency's responsibilities under its other PPC functions may also be relevant to waste management. Some of these are shown in Box 5.

### **Box 5: Waste; Relevant tasks in other functions**

- regulation of industrial processes
- prevent or minimise pollution of the water environment
- contribute to the remediation of contaminated land

## **Our Stakeholders**

Creation of the Environment Agency has presented greatly enhanced opportunities for the waste function to relate effectively to its various stakeholders. This allows provision of a waste management and regulation service which is sustainable in the broadest sense, protecting the environment in partnership with stakeholders in ways which enable them to deliver their own objectives.

We will address our stakeholders' needs in an holistic, integrated manner. We will build mechanisms which enable detailed expertise from any and all relevant functions to be brought together to deal with industry-specific matters or particular environmental issues or problems, by using science and legislation in combination to produce the best outcome.

We will address the concerns and issues raised by our stakeholders across the functions to help us develop effective methods of working. We will regularly review our approach. More detailed plans will be developed through the corporate planning process.

One of our principal aims is to protect and improve the environment by using education and communication to influence behaviour. We will work collaboratively with industry and inform and educate the wider public in environmental matters. The range of stakeholders participating in this collaborative approach is shown in Box 6.

**Box 6: Waste; Stakeholders**

- **Central Government;** Department of Environment (DoE), Ministry of Agriculture (MAFF), Department of Trade and Industry (DTi), Scottish Office (SO), Welsh Office WO), Northern Ireland Office (NIO), HM Customs and Excise (HMC&E)
- **Local Government**
- **Government agencies;** Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), Health & Safety Executive (HSE)
- **national trade and industry groups;** Environmental Services (ESA), Confederation of British Industry (CBI), Institute of Wastes Management (IWM)
- **individual major companies**
- **Non Governmental Organisations and interest groups;** Waste Management Industry Training and Advisory Board (WAMITAB), Friends of the Earth (FOE), Greenpeace
- **international organisations;** European Union (EU), Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
- **the general public**

**Key Influences**

The delivery of the Agency's waste function takes place within the context of legislative, technical and social change driven by Government, industry and the public respectively. We will:

- work to influence Government and the EC on the development of new legislation relevant to waste management;
- monitor changes in industrial processes and introduction of new products, technology and techniques which change both wastes and the methods for managing wastes, and provide advice and information underpinned by research to minimise their environmental impacts;
- develop our role to advise and educate to assist informed decision making, both individual and collective, on environmental issues, and to address public interest in and concern for the environment.

## **AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

### **Principal Aim**

*Our principal aim is to achieve a continuing and overall reduction in the impact of wastes on the environment.*

Within this broad aim and within the context of contributing towards sustainable development whilst remaining cost effective we will:

- provide a high quality and consistent waste regulation service;
- carry out the Agency's commitments set out in the Government's waste strategy and other White Papers;
- provide technical advice and information based on sound science.

### **Objectives**

To achieve our aims we will:

- develop a nationally consistent waste regulation service based on common and transparent criteria;
- contribute to the prevention, detection and prosecution of environmental crime;
- build partnerships with industry and educate the public to support the waste function aims;
- provide information and advice to enable Government to review and revise its waste strategy;
- deliver policies, strategies and national plans as charged by Government;
- conduct research and disseminate the results of that research in order to underpin our objectives;
- provide high quality technical advice on waste management based on sound science to encourage best practice.

### **Research and Development**

In delivering the above objectives, Waste Regulation is supported by an R&D Programme which supports the development of policy, enables improvements in efficiency and effectiveness and provides a firm scientific and technical base. This extends to the identification and subsequent introduction of best practice.

The programme objectives for R&D in waste are to:

- provide information on the acceptability of current waste management practices and the effectiveness of current control measures;
- underpin technical guidance on landfilling practices and its optimisation to ensure that landfilling is conducted as a safe and sustainable waste disposal option;
- assess disposal options for selected wastes, determine the environmental impact of the processes and provide background information on the occurrence of selected problem wastes;
- provide information on the amount and composition of waste streams, and develop techniques with which to determine the best practicable environmental option for their disposal.

## IMPLEMENTING THE STRATEGY

### Management

The work of the waste function is on a large scale and involves a great step change from the situation that the Agency inherited - 83 separate and individual waste regulation authorities operating in England and Wales. Successful delivery of the strategy will require close collaboration between all Pollution Prevention and Control functions at all levels in the Agency.

The Agency's Waste Management and Regulation Policy Group will provide the leadership and high level steering for our waste strategy, working closely with operational teams in our Regions and Areas who are responsible for the implementation of policies. The emphasis will be on shared responsibility between the Agency's policy and operational functions.

### Priority Actions and Outputs

Our main priority is to deliver high quality waste regulation by setting good service standards and implementing those standards consistently and in a cost effective way. Other key issues in the short term are:

- preparation of a comprehensive suite of waste regulation procedures;
- the consistent interpretation of legislation, policy and guidance;
- surveying waste arisings and waste management facilities;
- financing of waste regulation in the context of cost recovery charging.

Our priority actions and outputs together with relevant aims are shown in Box 7.

<b>Box 7: Waste; Immediate priority actions/outputs</b>	
<b>Actions</b>	<b>Outputs</b>
<b><i>Provide a high quality consistent waste regulation service</i></b>	
set regulatory standards based on statutory requirements and best practice	consistent standards for service delivery
prepare and implement regulatory procedures	procedures enabling all the function's activities to be managed efficiently
review the cost recovery scheme for waste regulation	scheme which recovers agency's costs
develop system for consistent interpretation of legislation policy and guidance	operational enquiry system
implement the regulations for producer responsibility	standards and procedures



<b>Box 7: Waste; Immediate priority actions/outputs</b>	
<b>Actions</b>	<b>Outputs</b>
<i>Deliver the Agency's tasks under the Government's waste strategy</i>	
survey waste arisings and waste management facilities	baseline data for National Waste Strategy
develop national waste classification system	common base for data collection
implement producer responsibility regulations	standards and procedures

Our priorities over the next 3 - 4 years are shown in Box 8.

<b>Box 8: Waste Management and Regulation: Medium term priorities and outputs</b>
<i>Provide a high quality consistent waste regulation service</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• move to a risk based approach to regulation</li> <li>• measure the effects of legislation on the environment and seek to optimise the legislative framework</li> <li>• develop "24 hour" regulation to detect and enforce against illegal waste management activities</li> </ul>
<i>Advise Government on a new waste strategy</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• develop life cycle assessment methodology as a tool for Best Practicable Environmental Option (BPEO)</li> <li>• support priority waste stream project groups</li> <li>• provide a national waste management plan and regional and local strategies</li> </ul>
<i>Provide sound technical advice and information</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• manage and develop the waste management research programme to underpin technical advice, guidance and policy formation</li> <li>• encourage industry to develop new and improved techniques for waste management</li> </ul>

## **Development of the Waste Management and Regulation Function into the 21st century**

Our strategy must provide for the:

- continuing delivery of the waste regulation and management service;
- development of the structures, infrastructures, techniques, procedures, and expertise to deliver our vision and supporting aims and objectives.

We will recognise that we have been successful in our strategy and its implementation if we can observe, and where possible measure, progress towards fundamental changes in society and the economy, including:

- ensuring a decrease in the impact of waste on the environment by better waste management;
- greater understanding of the most environmentally friendly disposal routes for waste streams;
- greater knowledge of waste arisings, in order to target those with the greatest adverse environmental impact for minimisation or the development of alternatives;
- obtaining and making available good baseline data about waste arisings;
- working within a regulatory framework appropriate to the times, delivered in a manner in line with the Agency's vision and objectives by appropriately trained and experienced staff;
- ensuring that all licensed sites are operating under the management of holders of appropriate certificates of technical competence;
- recognising that individual attitudes are changing towards sustainable behaviour, with reuse and recycling being part of the individual and corporate culture, and with a greatly improved awareness and knowledge base across industry, public services and the public in general;
- operating in a business-like fashion, where the business has the level and quality of information about itself to enable it to be financially secure, able to model the effects of changing its modus operandi, and to demonstrate and defend the quality and efficiency of all that we do by means of a quality management system;
- educating and informing industry and the public so that they may participate more effectively in the process of taking decisions on environmental issues.

### **RESOURCES**

We must ensure that the Agency continues to have the resources and competencies needed to develop and implement this waste strategy. We will regularly review and report on our resource requirements.

#### **Income and Expenditure**

The primary expenditure for the waste function is in carrying out statutory activities for waste management licensing, special waste, registration of waste carriers, transfrontier shipments and enforcement/prosecution. There is only limited expenditure on non statutory activities.

A proportion of these costs is recovered through cost recovery schemes, and the balance through grant in aid. Our current levels of income and expenditure are shown in box 9.

<b>Box 9: Waste; Forecast income and expenditure (1996/97) <sup>1</sup></b>	
<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>£54million</b>
<b>Income (from cost recovery etc)</b>	<b>£23million</b>
<b>Grant in Aid</b>	<b>£31million</b>

<sup>1</sup> Note: These figures are currently being reviewed, and are subject to further amendment. They replace and update previously published figures.

### **Future Financing**

Our aim to encourage industry to take greater direct responsibility for its regulation, with the Agency acting increasingly in an educational and advisory role, must be underpinned by strong enforcement, for example against illegal waste management activities. This will be a more resource intensive approach in the short term.

We will ensure that this approach takes account of the balance between income received from cost recovery, in particular compliance monitoring, and grant in aid. We will review our charging arrangements as necessary, including any amendments to the cost recovery scheme that may require changes in legislation.

### **MEASURING SUCCESS**

The Agency can measure its performance in the areas in which it has direct responsibility. We will report on the actions and measures of success shown in box 10.

<b>Box 10: Waste; Environmental measures of success</b>	
<b>Action</b>	<b>Measure of success</b>
changes in the level of emission from waste management facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• improved protection of the global atmosphere</li> <li>• improved protection of water systems</li> <li>• improved standards of waste management</li> </ul>
changes in the quantities and types of wastes for final disposal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• achieving waste reduction and minimisation</li> </ul>
changes in the options selected for the management of wastes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• achieving the Government's waste strategy objective to encourage options nearer the top of the waste hierarchy</li> <li>• achieving the Government's waste strategy targets for reduction of waste disposed of to landfill and for recovery, recycling and composting of municipal waste.</li> </ul>