Dear Consultee

Consultation on meeting EU Landfill Diversion Targets

1. The Landfill Directive (1999/31/EC) set challenging targets for Member States to reduce the amount of biodegradable municipal waste sent to landfill – the "landfill diversion targets". Following discussions with the European Commission, Defra has agreed that the UK’s approach so far to meeting those targets should be changed. This consultation addresses the implications of changing the UK’s approach to meeting these landfill diversion targets. It is intended to be the first of two consultations, with specific proposals being presented in the second consultation. At this stage we are seeking the views of stakeholders on the proposed approach in a number of areas to inform the further development of these proposals.

2. The consultation addresses the changes necessary to enable the UK to report to the European Commission on a revised approach to the landfill diversion targets. This includes setting out the new interpretation of the definition of municipal waste; revisions to the 1995 baseline and targets; and the reporting and monitoring obligations necessary to enable robust reporting against the targets to the European Commission. It also seeks views on the future of the Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme, and the most effective combination of policies Defra should pursue, that address both the local authority and private sector elements of municipal waste, to provide the necessary confidence that England meets its targets. Related to this a separate consultation on future landfill restrictions has also been published today.


3. The following documents may be found on Defra’s website:


- Consultation letter
- Consultation document
- Impact Assessment.
- Consultee list

We welcome your views and comments on the proposals.
Responses

4. Please send responses to either: Mark Millett, Area 6C Ergon House, Horseferry Road, London SW1P 2AL. Telephone 020 7238 5283.

Or email: Landfill.Policy@defra.gsi.gov.uk

Responses should be received by 5pm Thursday 10th June 2010.

Consultation Criteria

5. This consultation is in line with the Code of practice on Consultations. This can be found at http://www.berr.gov.uk/bre/

6. When this consultation ends, we intend to put a copy of the responses in the Defra library at Ergon House, London. This is so that the public can see them. Also, members of the public may ask for a copy of responses under freedom of information legislation.

7. If you do not want your response - including your name, contact details and any other personal information – to be publicly available, please say so clearly in writing when you send your response to the consultation. Please note, if your computer automatically includes a confidentiality disclaimer, that won’t count as a confidentiality request.

8. Please explain why you need to keep details confidential. We will take your reasons into account if someone asks for this information under freedom of information legislation. But, because of the law, we cannot promise that we will always be able to keep those details confidential.

9. We will summarise all responses and place this summary on our website at http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/default.asp. This summary will include a list of names of organisations that responded but not people’s personal names, addresses or other contact details.

10. To see consultation responses and summaries, please contact the library at:

Defra
Information Resource Centre
Lower Ground Floor
Ergon House
17 Smith Square
London
SW1P 3JR

Telephone: 020-7238-6575
Email: defra.library@defra.gsi.gov.uk

Please give the library 24 hours’ notice. There is a charge for photocopying and postage.
11. If you have any comments or complaints about the consultation process, please address them to Defra’s Consultation Co-ordinator, Area 7C Nobel House, 17 Smith Square, London SW1P 3JR, or email consultation.coordinator@defra.gsi.gov.uk.

12. Thank you for your help in this matter. If you have any queries please contact us as above.

Yours Faithfully

Michael Sigsworth
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs