

# What will we do with waste in East Sussex?

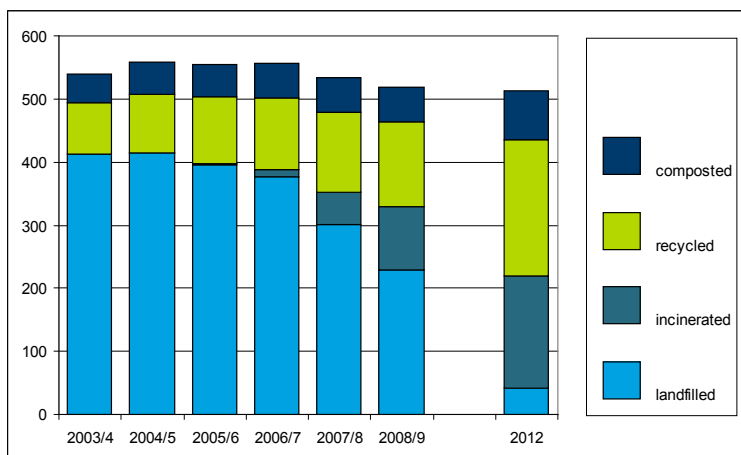


*Many residents have told me they thought the information we put out last year about waste was unclear and have asked for more information about how we plan to deal with this controversial issue. Councils have to strike a balance between protecting the environment and disposing of the waste that we all produce. This factsheet gives you information about the problem and on how East Sussex County Council and Brighton & Hove City Council are working together to solve it.*

Only 20 per cent of all the waste that is produced in the county is from households. The bigger problem we face is how to deal with all the other waste that is produced by business and industry, and from construction and demolition.

## Household waste

In East Sussex we set targets many years ago for dealing with household waste and residents have taken action by reducing the amount that is produced and sorting what is left. We have been able to improve the way we deal with household waste because councils are responsible for collecting and disposing of it. We have made big investments so we can recycle and compost wherever possible, and recover energy from the remainder. Anything left over currently goes to landfill.



Household waste in East Sussex

## Commercial and industrial waste

Although the councils are not responsible for handling all the other waste produced in the county we have to develop a plan for it, looking at how it might be dealt with, what facilities might be needed and where they might go. The final plan (the Core Strategy) will give much greater certainty to both communities and waste companies about where waste facilities might be located in the future. It will also reduce speculative planning applications which can cause anxiety for communities.

## Our plan

Our plan has to be agreed by Government, which requires councils to look at all the different ways of managing this waste. One of the options we need to show we have considered is land disposal – either landfill or landraise (putting waste into or on top of the ground). Possible areas for land disposal have been identified and we are now analysing comments from residents and doing detailed assessments to see if these are really suitable. We are also looking at alternatives which might mean land disposal is not needed.

I recognise that residents are concerned about our draft plan (also known as the Preferred Strategy) that we published last year as we have received eight petitions and nearly 3,000 people have written to us. We will be carefully considering all the comments you have made and will publish our initial response in late summer, but in the meantime the following pages answer some of the questions that you have raised.

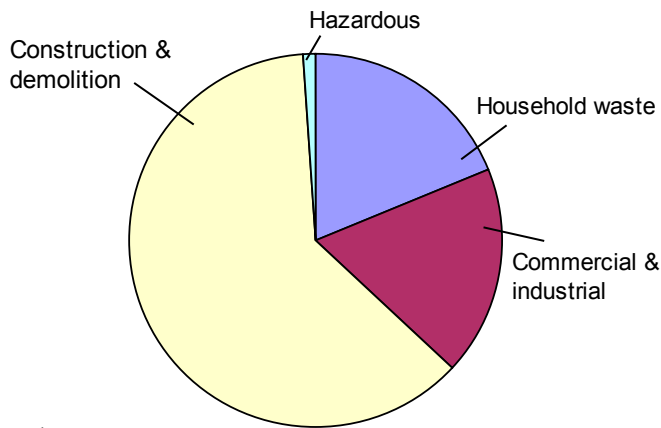
**Cllr Matthew Lock**  
Lead Cabinet Member for Transport and the Environment

## Some facts about waste

### Why do we need these plans?

The Government has said that councils must have plans for how **all** waste will be managed in the future. One of the responsibilities of councils is to balance environmental protection with the needs for different types of waste facility. Our plan for waste management will identify locations that might be appropriate for different types of facility. This plan will not stop companies submitting planning applications but it will provide reasons for approving or rejecting them, and should discourage speculative planning applications that could cause unnecessary alarm to individuals and communities.

### What types of waste are there?



Total over 2,000,000 tonnes per year

Waste produced in East Sussex

### Waste produced in East Sussex

**Household** 19%: waste collected by councils from households, parks and street cleaning and disposed of through a joint contract between East Sussex County Council and Brighton & Hove City Council with Veolia.

**Commercial and industrial** 18%: from businesses including shops, restaurants and manufacturing. Businesses usually have contracts with waste management companies to deal with it.

**Construction and demolition** 62%: from building activity, for example soil, rock, bricks etc. Where possible waste is sorted, crushed and reused on site or recycled. Nearly one third currently goes to landfill.

**Hazardous** 1%: including engine oils, contaminated soil, healthcare waste and asbestos. This is dealt with at specialist sites, sometimes outside the county.

### What happens to our waste?

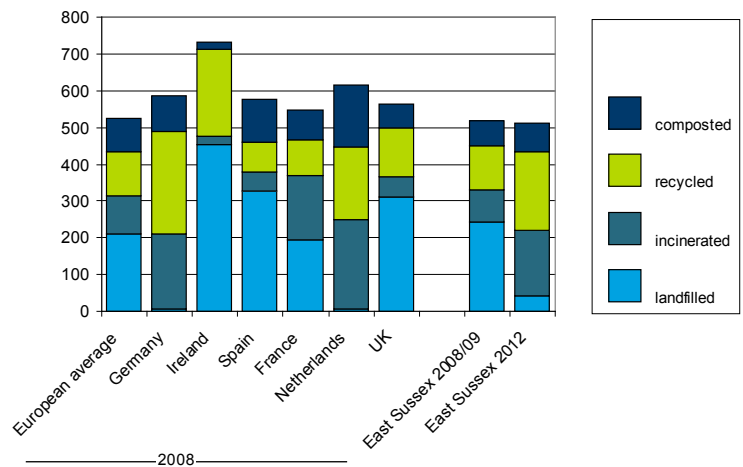
Our approach to dealing with waste is to **reduce** the amount that we produce; **reuse** what we can; **recycle** and compost where possible; and **recover** energy from what is left. Only the remainder is sent for landfill.

Our recycling and energy recovery rates for household waste are going up every year and will be over 90 per cent when the energy from waste plant in Newhaven opens next year. We have developed modern facilities, including a household waste recycling site at Maresfield, waste transfer stations (where small amounts of waste are gathered and sent out in bulk for processing) at Pebsham, Maresfield and Hollingdean in Brighton, a large recycling facility to sort waste at Hollingdean and composting at Whitesmith.

But more than three-quarters of the waste produced in the county is from business, industry, construction or demolition. Councils do not control the way in which this type of waste is managed. Businesses usually make decisions about which waste management company they will pay to take their waste based on cost.

We are continuing to research the ways that businesses and industry deal with the waste they produce, and talking to waste management companies about future options for recycling or energy recovery so waste can stop being sent for land disposal.

### How do we compare with other countries?



Household waste kg per person

Taking Germany as an example, they have had laws against landfill since 1991. **All** waste must be sorted and, if possible, recycled. The remainder

is sent for treatment, including incineration (there are 61 incinerators in Germany and only 20 in the UK). Since 2005, only waste from treatment facilities and inert waste (mainly construction and demolition waste) is allowed in landfill. However, a long time was allowed for this legislation to take effect as it was accepted that change could not happen overnight.

### **What about land disposal?**

We have only one landfill site in the county at Pebsham. This will be full in three or four years. The site at Beddingham, near Lewes, closed in 2009.

One of the options we have to consider is whether we will continue to need land disposal, and we have therefore identified five areas of search for landraise: these are near Piltdown, Halland, Golden Cross, Hellingly and Glynde, and one site for landfill at Ashdown Brickworks in Bexhill.



### **What are Areas of Search and have they been finally decided?**

An area of search gives a broad indication of where waste facilities could potentially be located. These have been identified by first discounting land where the possibility for development is more limited, for example Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, and also looking at possible impacts on the environment and communities. Potential locations for clean inert waste (eg from construction and demolition) will be investigated separately. We are continuing with in-depth technical work, assessing impact on rivers and groundwater, transport, visibility, geology, housing, wildlife and footpaths. We are also considering all the comments that have been sent in during the recent consultation, and will be having further discussions with communities and individuals.

We will be looking at sites for other facilities, such as recycling, composting and wastewater treatment, and we will ask you for your views on these once they have been identified.

### **Will East Sussex have to dispose of waste from other areas?**

Some waste is and always will be taken in and out of the county, but we believe that waste should not be brought here from London so we are not planning for it. Our aim is to deal with the waste that is produced in East Sussex and Brighton & Hove.

### **Why are we working with Brighton and Hove?**

Together with Brighton & Hove City Council we already have a joint contract with Veolia to build the facilities in both areas to dispose of household waste. We have found that it is more efficient and effective if councils work together, and it therefore makes sense to develop the plan together.



## What happens next?

All your responses and petitions are being assessed and our timetable will be clearer once we have done this. We are looking at the way we consult with you and we will publicise all future consultations well in advance. The stages are as follows:

### Core Strategy

Feb 08 Issues & Options document published



April 08 **consultation**

Oct 09 Draft plan (Preferred Strategy) published



Jan 10 **consultation**

Late summer 10 Timetable and initial responses to consultation and petitions published

Autumn 10 Technical assessments  
*Discussions with communities and individuals as needed*

*Date to be confirmed* Core Strategy agreed by authorities\* and published

**consultation**

*Date to be confirmed* Govt Inspector considers Core Strategy and comments from consultation and publishes report

*Date to be confirmed* Core Strategy amended with Inspector's findings as necessary and adopted by authorities\*

### Minerals and Waste Sites Documents (following the Core Strategy)

Draft Sites documents published identifying sites for built waste facilities (eg recycling, composting, energy recovery etc) and wastewater; and minerals sites

**consultation**

Sites documents agreed by authorities\* and published

**consultation**

Govt Inspector considers Sites Documents and comments from consultation and publishes report

Sites Documents amended with Inspector's findings as necessary and adopted by authorities\*

## This factsheet

We are distributing this factsheet to: people in rural areas near the areas of search for land raise and Ashdown Brickworks; everyone who responded to our consultation; and all parish councils. If we have missed anyone who you know would like a copy, or if you would like more copies, please contact us. If you receive more than one copy please give it to someone who you know is interested.

There will be more information in the autumn edition of *Your County* which is distributed to all residents in East Sussex.

For more detailed and regularly updated information please visit our website: [eastsussex.gov.uk/mineralsandwaste](http://eastsussex.gov.uk/mineralsandwaste)

You can get this factsheet in large print, on audio tape or in other languages – please contact us.

### Contact us

Email us at:  
[wasteandmineralsdf@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:wasteandmineralsdf@eastsussex.gov.uk)

Or call on 01273 481846

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