

The Strategy set out below was approved by the Authority in February 2006.

This strategy shows how the East London Waste Authority, together with the London Boroughs of Barking & Dagenham, Havering, Newham and Redbridge, intend to manage municipal solid waste by means of a Vision, Objectives and Targets.

Our vision is:

“To provide an effective and efficient waste management service that is environmentally acceptable and delivers services that local people value”

Our objectives are to:

- (i) Provide reliable and achievable services in terms of managing and disposing of the waste
- (ii) Provide services that are environmentally and economically sustainable in terms of:
 - encouraging waste minimisation initiatives
 - seeking to maximise waste recycling and composting opportunities potentially supported by energy recovery
 - Meeting national recycling and recovery targets whilst recognising regional waste strategies
 - complying with legislation on waste management
 - contributing to local economic development.
- (iii) Help promote the most cost effective delivery of services
- (iv) Ensure that the services shall be sufficiently diverse and flexible and not dependent upon a single method of waste treatment
- (v) Reduce biodegradable waste landfilled in order to meet the requirements of the Waste and Emissions Trading Act

Our joint targets are to:

- stabilise or reduce the level of waste generated to below 515 kg per year per head of population
- achieve and where possible exceed, statutory recycling and composting standards (See box 1, page 9)
- recycle or compost 25% of our waste from April 2005, 30% from April 2010 and 33% from April 2015
- divert from landfill 40% of waste from April 2007, 45% from April 2010 and 67% from April 2015
- reduce biodegradable municipal waste sent to landfill to below 210,000 tonnes per year from April 2009, 140,000 tonnes per year from April 2012 and 100,000 tonnes per year from April 2019
- find the best methods to serve all households with a recycling collection of at least four materials by 2008.

We will achieve this by working in partnership across the councils, with our contractors and with other stakeholders, putting in place incentives to achieve targets where we can.

Action plans for how we will achieve the aims and targets have been prepared. The strategy review process conducted in 2005 indicated that we should focus on increasing recycling, improving the efficiencies of the Bio-MRF plants and on investigating advanced thermal treatments of residual waste.

The strategy has been prepared in consultation with the public and with stakeholders and takes account of government guidance and the Mayor of London’s current Municipal Waste Management Strategy. It will inform the joint waste planning framework for the four Constituent Councils.

This strategy will be kept under review including issues resulting from the review of the National Waste Strategy or the Mayor’s Municipal Waste Management Strategy.

Box 1 Statutory Targets

Statutory Performance Standards for Household Waste Recycling & Composting		
Authority	2005/06	2007/8
Barking & Dagenham	18%	18%*
Havering	27%	27%
Newham	18%	18%*
Redbridge	21%	21%
East London Waste Authority	18%	18%*

**After the current strategy had been published, the Government increased the 18% targets to 20%*

Why ELWA’s Waste Management Strategy was reviewed

The original strategy was approved 10 years ago and had provided a robust and valuable sense of direction for the Authority leading, in 2002, to the joint venture with Shanks Waste Management. The joint venture was tasked with meeting the national waste targets for recycling and recovery of energy from waste and delivering a reliable environmentally and economically sustainable waste management service for our communities.

However, the Government introduced in 2003 new national and local landfill targets in the Waste and Emissions Trading Act (WET Act). The Act requires Waste Disposal Authorities to continually reduce, in the period up to 2020, the amount of biodegradable household waste that they send to landfill. If Authorities do not meet these reducing targets they are liable to heavy fines by central government.

ELWA’s strategy review in 2005 and 2006 was therefore amended to look at these new statutory requirements and consult on how they should be addressed.

The outcome of the review was to confirm that the original objectives and targets were still relevant and to add one new objective and some additional targets. The latter are aimed at reducing the amounts of biodegradable household waste that ELWA landfills over the next decade or so.

It is early days but the new strategy has already provided a valuable sense of direction and, as a result of consequential actions, ELWA is on track to meet the new statutory restrictions concerning the landfilling of waste.