



Oxfordshire  
**Waste Partnership**

Annual Report 2009/10

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# Who we are

Oxfordshire Waste Partnership (OWP) is a partnership of the county and district councils of Oxfordshire who are working together to continuously improve waste management services within the county.

## The members of OWP are:

- Cherwell District Council
- Oxford City Council
- Oxfordshire County Council
- South Oxfordshire District Council
- Vale of White Horse District Council
- West Oxfordshire District Council

From April 2007, OWP has operated as a statutory Joint Committee. The chairmanship has been held by Oxford City Council from May 2008 until July 2010, when this role will transfer to Oxfordshire County Council.

The OWP Joint Committee is supported by an officer group structure outlined below.



Figure 1 – OWP organisational structure

# Our vision

We will work in partnership to reduce waste and to maximise reuse, recycling and composting. We will treat residual waste before disposal to recover further value and to minimise the environmental impact of disposal.

## Our objectives are to:

- a) Ensure waste is managed in accordance with the waste hierarchy: reduce waste first, then reuse, recycle and compost resources, recover value and, as a last resort, dispose of waste.
- b) Promote waste reduction, reuse and recycling initiatives to Oxfordshire communities to help everyone manage their own wastes.
- c) Seek the most appropriate and sustainable solution for waste that protects the environment, including minimising the transport of waste.
- d) Meet or exceed performance required by statutory and locally agreed targets.
- e) Work together through the provision of co-ordinated services and infrastructure for waste collection, treatment, transfer and disposal to maximise the efficient use of resources within Oxfordshire.
- f) Ensure that waste facilities are suitably sized and distributed and that site identification is informed in accordance with the Minerals and Waste Development Framework and the Regional Spatial Strategy.
- g) Assist the development of markets, especially those that are local, for recovered materials.
- h) Enable customer satisfaction through delivery of effective and efficient services to Oxfordshire residents that minimise the overall tax burden at the best possible value.
- i) Develop flexible and comprehensive waste management services that are robust and deliverable throughout Oxfordshire now and in the long term.
- j) Lobby Central Government and work with local business to improve the efficient use of resources, reduce the impact of activities on resource consumption, which results in the production of municipal waste, and encourage them to take responsibility for the wastes they produce.



# Our approach

OWP agreed a Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy in January 2007. This sets out our plans for dealing with Oxfordshire's municipal waste through to 2030.

The main themes of the strategy are:

## **Reduce**

We will provide advice and services to help householders reduce waste. We will also set a good example by reducing our own waste.

## **Reuse**

We will work with householders, schools, businesses and the community, to reuse waste.

## **Recycling & Composting**

As a minimum, we will achieve:

- a combined recycling & composting rate of at least 40% of household waste by 2010,
- a combined recycling & composting rate of at least 45% of household waste by 2015,
- a combined recycling & composting rate of at least 55% of household waste by 2020

## **Dealing with residual waste**

We will build new waste facilities to recover value from residual waste. Instead of being landfilled, it can be made into useful products or used to generate power.

## **Dealing with hazardous waste**

We will encourage the separation of hazardous wastes so they can be safely managed.

## **Land use planning**

We will work together to ensure that new waste facilities are built in suitable locations, using the Waste Planning role of Oxfordshire County Council.

## **Creating Markets**

We will help to develop markets for the recyclable materials that we collect.

## **Working in Partnership**

We will improve our waste management services by working together through the Oxfordshire Waste Partnership and with others.



# Chairman's introduction

Oxfordshire Waste Partnership has continued to deliver improved services to residents, to reduce costs and to encourage each member council to do better. The introduction of weekly food waste collections is popular, it has raised recycling rates dramatically and the food waste is composted here in Oxfordshire.

There are different views about the advisability of incinerating waste. But this has not prevented the Partnership from working well together on collection methods and on other approaches to disposal, including Material Recycling Facilities (MRFs) and composting plants.

The New Initiatives Fund has continued to encourage and enable councils to develop new improved ways of doing things. We probably need to get better at learning the lessons and applying these to other member councils.

The merger with the Oxfordshire Environment Partnership is challenging. It adds responsibility for reducing carbon emissions, for adapting to climate change and for supporting biological diversity. But both partnerships can bring their expertise and experience to bear to benefit Oxfordshire people.

I am pleased to see the Coalition Government looks likely to maintain the importance of recycling, reducing costs and minimising carbon footprint. The Waste Partnership is already a good example of cross-party working to those ends.

I would like to thank the members of the Partnership and the excellent officer team for the support they have given me over the last two years. I wish my County Council successor, Cllr Ian Hudspeth, well as the new chair of the Waste and Environment Partnership.

**Cllr John Tanner**

**Chair of Oxfordshire Waste Partnership**



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# Report from the Partnership Coordinator

## Overview

Strong progress was made against many of our strategic objectives in 2009/10. A number of projects focussed on tackling the biggest waste stream within Oxfordshire's refuse bins – organic waste (such as food and garden waste). Waste prevention activities such as our “Love Food Hate Waste” campaign encouraged residents to reduce the amount of food we waste. OWP continued to promote home composting as a sustainable way of dealing with organic waste. Our new supply agreement for home composting bins means that these are now available to residents at even better value, whilst our volunteer Master Composters ensure that residents have access to on-going support to help them home compost successfully. A number of district councils began collecting food waste for composting for the first time. The impact has been huge, with South Oxfordshire District Council's recycling & composting rate rocketing to 65% following the introduction of its new collection services. The opening of the new In-vessel composting plant at Ardley also means that all collected food waste is processed within the county, with the finished compost being spread on local agricultural land.

Levels of engagement with the community and voluntary sector improved with the development of a reuse directory and the continued growth of the Community Action Group (CAG) project. One CAG, the Dorchester Carbon Project, has become one of the first “Zero Waste Places” within the country.

Support for local businesses to reduce waste was boosted in 2009/10 with the award of Business Resource Efficiency and Waste (BREW) project funding for the development of our new “Retrader” waste exchange website and for the development of a pilot commercial waste recycling centre at the Monument Business Park, Chalgrove.

Further information on all these projects, together with a number of other successes is set out below. Oxfordshire councils are recycling and composting more than ever before and the amount of waste that we landfill continues to decline. Performance against National Indicators for street cleaning and fly-tipping also improved further this year, meaning OWP is currently on track to meet each of its four Local Area Agreement (LAA2) targets.



# Report from the Partnership Coordinator

## Progress against Strategic Policies

### **Policy 1 - Oxfordshire Waste Partnership will encourage the efficient use of resources, reduce resource consumption and take responsibility for the wastes they produce.**

OWP sponsored the Sustainable Business Award category within the prestigious Oxfordshire Business Awards in 2009. The winning company, Fired Earth of Adderbury, demonstrated an excellent recycling rate of some 86%. The firm has also been successful in reducing its packaging and supports an eco-garden in a local school. The award encourages local business to reduce resource consumption and take responsibility for the waste they produce. Showcasing the efforts of the finalists also helps provide information and advice to other businesses that wish to follow suit.

A recycled products guide has been added to the OWP website [www.oxfordshirewaste.gov.uk](http://www.oxfordshirewaste.gov.uk) to promote the growing range of green products available. All print work commissioned by OWP is on recycled paper. OWP has also worked with council procurement officers to increase the amount of recycled products purchased by partner councils. Buying recycled helps to stimulate markets for recovered materials.

### **Policy 2 – Oxfordshire Waste Partnership will lobby central government to focus on waste as an integral part of sustainable resource management**

OWP's work with the Local Government Association, major supermarkets and waste management companies on the development of a guide for packaging designers came to fruition in March 2009 with the publication of a new guidance document. The guide provides practical tips and advice to packaging designers and purchasers so that goods can increasingly be packaged in materials that are widely recycled by local councils.

OWP was also amongst the consultees on the new Packaging Waste Strategy issued by DEFRA.



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# Report from the Partnership Coordinator

## Progress against Strategic Policies continued

### **Policy 3 – Oxfordshire Waste Partnership will help householders and individuals to reduce and manage their wastes through the provision of advice and appropriate services.**

A “Love Food Hate Waste” (LFHW) campaign was delivered throughout 2009/10. A variety of media including council newsletters, website information, road shows, poster and radio advertising were used to encourage residents to save money and protect the environment by wasting less food. Nationally, it is estimated that around a quarter of food is thrown out uneaten, costing the average family with children around £680 per year. Tackling this problem would provide a carbon reduction benefit equivalent to taking 1 in 4 cars off UK roads.

Over the year, the LFHW campaign increased the proportion of Oxfordshire residents committed to reducing food waste from 12% to 15%, which is above the national average of 13%. The 3% increase in Committed Food Waste Reducers saved an estimated £51,000 in waste disposal costs during 2009/10. So far, over 8,000 residents have pledged to reduce food waste, armed with a left-overs recipe book produced by OWP.

The Wild Waste Show (WWS) provides a waste education and awareness programme to schools and communities across Oxfordshire. It was set up in 1999 by the Northmoor Trust and since 2006 has been fully funded by OWP. During 2009/10, the WWS visited some 147 schools and 40 community groups. 98% of teachers surveyed agreed that the WWS had increased their pupils understanding of waste issues, whilst 100% said that they would use the WWS again. The benefit of the WWS is perhaps best captured in the feedback from the school pupils themselves. One secondary school pupil said “We learnt a lot about the world and how small things that we think don’t matter are in fact very important to the environment.”



Leftovers cookery demonstration at a “Love Food Hate Waste” roadshow.



# Report from the Partnership Coordinator

## Progress against Strategic Policies continued

### Policy 3 (continued)

OWP continues to provide home composting bins, with a further 1,900 distributed in 2009/10. 2010/11 will see the 50,000th home composting bin supplied by OWP schemes.

Following the withdrawal of the national Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) funded home composting bin scheme, OWP signed up to a new framework agreement negotiated by Improvement and Efficiency South East (IESE). Purchasing through the framework meant OWP councils did not have to undertake their own tender process, saving time and money as well as benefiting from economies of scale. Under the WRAP scheme a 220l compost bin cost £27 inclusive of VAT. Through the new IESE framework, the same bin costs just £19 (including delivery), saving around 30%.

The OWP funded "Master Composters" scheme entered its second year in 2009/10. A network of around 46 trained volunteers continues to provide advice and information on home composting, helping to ensure residents make the best use of their compost bins. Master Composters attended more than 160 events in 2009/10.

OWP organised two successful Real Nappy Fairs in partnership with local suppliers. The events enable parents and prospective parents to learn more about washable nappies. Although a cheaper option in the longer term, there is an initial outlay for parents when buying real nappies. OWP recently funded some trial kits, so that parents can now "try before they buy".



Master composters offer advice at Wolvercote Farmers' market.

Real nappy fair.



# Report from the Partnership Coordinator

## Progress against Strategic Policies continued

**Policy 4 – Policy 4 - Oxfordshire Waste Partnership will encourage the controlled reuse and reclamation of items through the provision of advice and appropriate services.**

OWP produced a “Reuse Directory”, which for the first time lists all known charity shops and reuse organisations within Oxfordshire, together with information on the materials that they are able to receive as donations. Charity shops play an important role in waste reuse, keeping items of clothing, furniture, electrical goods and bric-a-brac out of landfill. However, charities can incur costs when unsuitable goods are left with them. The new guide aims to increase reuse through good quality charitable donations.

OWP gained BREW funding for the development of a new online waste exchange for local businesses. [www.retrader.org](http://www.retrader.org) was launched in February 2010. Retrader enables businesses to pass on materials they no longer need and get pre-used materials from other businesses. In its first full month of operation, the site diverted an estimated 9.5 tonnes of material from landfill and saved businesses in the region of £36,450 in procurement costs. Membership of the site has already grown to 90 organisations, with many community sector organisations also signing up. The introduction of Twitter feeds has proved effective at circulating new listings and interesting information. Trades completed so far include catering bags and containers going to wild flower seed manufacturers, wine boxes to bee keeping groups and plastic off-cuts to creative play organisations.

61 reuse Swap Shops were organised by the Community Action Group (CAG) project during 2009/10, where some 8000 people donated or took away items for reuse, diverting an estimated 17 tonnes of materials from landfill.



A reuse Swap Shop at Duns Tew.



# Report from the Partnership Coordinator

## Progress against Strategic Policies continued

**Policy 5** – In accordance with regional policy, OWP will seek to reduce the growth of municipal waste across the county to 0% per person per annum by 2012.

OWP working with the CAG Project and the Dorchester Carbon Project gained DEFRA funding for the development of a “Zero Waste Place” in Dorchester-on-Thames in South Oxfordshire. This community led project included a number of initiatives such as increasing recycling performance at the village primary school, regular village “swap-shops” and workshops and advice for local residents on reducing food waste, mending and sewing and using reusable nappies. Dorchester-on-Thames is now one of the first communities in the country to obtain the new DEFRA Zero Waste Place Standard.

The amount of household waste collected for landfill disposal in 2009/10 dropped by some 80 kg per household across the county; a 12% drop. Overall arisings (i.e. all collected waste, including recycling & composting) reduced by 3%.



A training event at the Dorchester Zero Waste Place project.

# Report from the Partnership Coordinator

## Progress against Strategic Policies continued

**Policy 6 - Oxfordshire Waste Partnership will provide an integrated system of collection and processing of household waste which will achieve, as a minimum:**

**By 31 Mar 2010: recycle or compost at least 40% of household waste;**

**By 31 Mar 2015: recycle or compost at least 45% of household waste;**

**By 31 Mar 2020: recycle or compost at least 55% of household waste.**

Recycling and composting rates increased by more than 5% in 2009/10 to 48.71%, meaning that we have met our 2015 JMWMS target five years early.

New food waste collections were introduced in Oxfordshire during 2009/10. South Oxfordshire became the first Oxfordshire district to collect food waste when its new collection contract with Verdant began in June 2009. The new collection scheme, together with the introduction of a new collection for dry recyclables and a switch to fortnightly refuse collections has seen the districts recycling rate increase massively to 65%; an increase of 22% on the previous year. This performance should see the council become one of the top ten recyclers in England. New food waste collections have also been introduced by Cherwell District Council and Oxford City Council, with new schemes planned for Vale of White Horse District Council and West Oxfordshire District Council in October 2010. All districts now have contracts and services in place to enable our recycling and composting target of 55% by 2020 to be met early (perhaps as early as 2011/12).

The new food collection schemes were made possible by the procurement of food waste treatment facilities by Oxfordshire County Council, which signed a 15 year contract with Agrivert limited for the construction and operation of new In-Vessel Composting (IVC) and Anaerobic Digestion (AD) plants. The first

of these new facilities, an IVC plant at Ardley, near Bicester opened in February 2010.

Oxfordshire County Council continued its refurbishment of the county's Waste Recycling Centres (WRCs) with the Oakley Wood site receiving a make-over. The recycling rate at the WRCs was 58.62% for 2009/10.



A composting tunnel at Ardley IVC



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# Report from the Partnership Coordinator

## Progress against Strategic Policies continued

### **Policy 7 - OWP will ensure that recycling facilities and services are available to all residents**

OWP New Initiatives Funding has been awarded for the set up of new food waste collections from the 7,500 flats across South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils. Residents are provided with kitchen top bins, which can then be used to take food waste to larger communal bins placed at flat complexes. A similar NIF funded scheme is also in development at Cherwell District Council.

An Equalities Impact Assessment was undertaken to ensure that OWP services are accessible to all. This will be repeated when the JMWMS is reviewed in 2011.

### **Policy 8 - Oxfordshire Waste Partnership will encourage householders and businesses to separate waste for recycling collections by providing targeted information and awareness raising campaigns**

BREW funding secured by the county council and match-funded through the OWP New Initiatives Fund during 2009/10 will be used to develop a trial recycling centre at the Monument Business Park in Chalgrove. This commercial waste recycling centre will be one of the first of its kind in the country.

OWP NIF funding has allowed growth of commercial waste recycling schemes in Cherwell and Oxford City. The NIF has also funded an options appraisal for West Oxfordshire on the future direction of its commercial waste service and assessed the feasibility of introducing food waste collections for commercial customers. Cherwell D.C was also awarded BREW funding to explore potential for expanding its commercial recycling service.

Collectively efforts to improve the recycling services offered to businesses during 2009/10 led to a 10% reduction in the amount of commercial waste landfilled by OWP councils.



Oxford City Council's new trade waste recycling vehicle.



# Report from the Partnership Coordinator

## Progress against Strategic Policies continued

### **Policy 9 - Oxfordshire Waste Partnership will provide a system for recovering value from residual wastes in order to meet LATS targets.**

The OWP Financial Arrangements began operating in 2009/10. An annual landfill allowance is set for each Waste Collection Authority (WCA). WCAs are paid a bonus for every tonne by which they remain within the landfill allowance. Those exceeding the allowance pay an equivalent penalty to the county council for each tonne by which the allowance is exceeded. The new arrangements are amongst the first of their kind in the country and create a shared financial stake for county and district councils in reducing the amount of waste landfilled.

Viridor Ltd was appointed as preferred bidder for the county council residual waste treatment procurement in September 2009 with an Energy from Waste solution to be built at Ardley, near Bicester. The proposed facility will process up to 300,000 tonnes of waste per annum, with 95% of this waste being diverted from landfill. This would generate around 22 megawatts of electricity; enough to power 22,000 homes. However, planning permission was refused for the facility and this decision will be challenged by Viridor at a planning appeal taking place in July 2010. Subject to the outcome of the planning appeal, the new Energy from Waste Plant is planned to open in 2013/14.

The new AD plant currently under construction at Cassington and a further plant at Benson will generate enough electricity from local residents' food waste to power around 5,000 homes. The compost produced at the new Ardley IVC plant is all used on surrounding farmland, off-setting the production and transportation other forms of agricultural fertiliser.



Cassington AD plant under construction

Oxfordshire currently remains within its LATS allowance, but does anticipate having to purchase permits in order to remain compliant in the years beyond 2013.

# Report from the Partnership Coordinator

## Progress against Strategic Policies continued

### **Policy 10 – Oxfordshire Waste Partnership will ensure optimum use of landfill void.**

A total of 167,290 tonnes of municipal waste were landfilled in 2009/10 compared to 190,458 tonnes the previous year; a 12% reduction. Since 1997, the amount of waste landfilled by Oxfordshire local authorities has dropped by 46%.

The county council awarded a new landfill contract and a contract for the management of six Waste Recycling Centres during 2009/10, securing on-going capacity for the management of Oxfordshire's household waste and achieving cost savings of over £500,000 per annum.

All district councils now have in place measures to limit the amount of waste landfilled. "No side waste" policies mean that only waste within wheeled bins will be collected each week, which when backed with our comprehensive recycling collection services help reduce waste sent to landfill.

### **Policy 11 – The Oxfordshire Waste Partnership will seek to provide waste management services for specialised, potentially polluting material streams, such as hazardous waste and WEEE, which meet and exceed legislative requirements.**

New collection banks for spent household batteries have been introduced at Waste Recycling Centres (WRCs) across the county and at local recycling centres within Cherwell with the support of NIF funding. Cherwell District Council has also used NIF funding to introduce new collection banks across the district for small electrical items (such as toasters, mobile phones etc). These supplement the recycling points for Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) that have been introduced at WRCs. The Cherwell Small WEEE scheme was shortlisted

for "Best Local Authority Recycling Initiative" at the 2010 letsrecycle.com national awards and for "Electrical and Electronic Equipment recycler of the year" at the MRW National Recycling Awards recycle.com national awards.

Portable Appliance Testing (PAT) kits purchased by OWP have been put to good use this year by Oxfordshire's network of Community Action Groups (CAGs). PAT testing took place at 32 swap shop events, with an average of 25 electrical items being tested at each. Around 80% of these (some 640 items) found a new home and were saved from landfill.



The BBC's Huw Edwards presents Cherwell District Council staff with their award for the WEEE banks recycling initiative.



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# Report from the Partnership Coordinator

## Progress against Strategic Policies continued

**Policy 12 – Oxfordshire Waste Partnership, working with the Waste Planning Authority, will ensure that waste facilities are suitably sized and distributed with the aim of minimising the transport of waste. Facilities will be well related to areas of population, given the environmental and amenity constraints, and the availability of suitable sites.**

Three new composting and treatment plants are to be delivered under the Food & Garden Waste Treatment Contract awarded to Agrivert Ltd by the county council. Two of these facilities have obtained planning permission, with the Ardley IVC now open and the Cassington AD plant in construction. Planning permission for the third facility in Benson will be sought in 2010/11. These facilities, together with a network of green waste facilities provided under the contract, mean that there is a localised network of facilities in place around the county minimising the distance that organic wastes travel for processing.

The county council began planning the development of a new Waste Recycling Centre in Kidlington during 2009/10. Whilst the site will be available to residents across Oxfordshire, it is being developed primarily to serve residents of Kidlington and North Oxford. This will reduce the distance that these residents have to travel to a WRC, whilst easing the traffic load at existing sites. The new Kidlington WRC is still subject to planning permission, which will be sought in 2010/11.

The vast majority of Oxfordshire's residual waste is currently disposed of at three landfill sites within county. The residual waste treatment procurement aims to deliver a single facility for the treatment of residual waste based at Ardley. A subsequent procurement exercise will invite proposals on waste transfer arrangements in order to minimise the environmental and financial cost of transportation to the proposed Ardley site.



# Report from the Partnership Coordinator

## Progress against Strategic Policies continued

### **Policy 13 – Oxfordshire Waste Partnership will assist the development of local markets for recovered materials.**

A number of compost giveaways were held during 2009/10, where residents had the opportunity to sample the compost made from councils garden waste collection services. These proved very popular and will be repeated again in 2010/11. Recycling Officers were on-hand at these events to promote other waste management services and answer questions.

The new Retrader website and the popular CAG Swap Shops have helped develop and support a new “market” for waste reuse by facilitating the exchange of unwanted goods between parties.

### **Policy 14 – Oxfordshire Waste Partnership will develop methods of working together to improve the level of service through effective and efficient use of resources within Oxfordshire.**

To date, the OWP New Initiatives Fund has funded 24 projects worth some £1.2 million. These include the funding of key strategic priorities such as the introduction of food waste collections, and the reduction of trade waste landfilled, as well as some truly new and innovative projects like the introduction of new recycling banks for old electrical goods and the piloting of commercial waste recycling banks at business parks.

The partnership gained a number of external project funding awards during 2009/10. These were:

- £7,050 from DEFRA for the development of a Zero Waste Place in Dorchester on Thames
- £22,500 from BREW for the development of a commercial bring site for recycling at the Chalgrove business park
- £20,000 from BREW for the development of the Retrader business waste exchange website

The new OWP financial arrangements create a shared financial stake in reducing waste to landfill. For the first time, district councils sending least to landfill are rewarded with a share of the disposal costs saved by the county council. Equally, those landfilling most pay a proportion towards the extra disposal costs incurred.



# Report from the Partnership Coordinator

## Environmental Quality

In July 2009, OWP worked with Keep Britain Tidy on a national effort to reduce the amount of litter thrown from cars. OWP also worked with the Highways Agency to promote usage of their car litter bags. These have been made available at council offices and other public buildings.

In August 2009 OWP launched a publicity campaign to reduce fly-tipping. The campaign included roadshows at DIY stores and builders merchants, which aimed to inform residents and traders of the need to manage their wastes responsibly. An outdoor poster campaign encouraged residents to report fly-tippers and sought to increase the perceived risk amongst fly-tippers that they may be caught. Information was also sent to parish councils, who were invited to work with us on tackling any fly-tipping hotspots within their local areas. Significant reductions in levels of fly-tipping followed. August saw fly-tipping levels fall by 40% compared to July figures, whereas over the course of the year levels of fly-tipping dropped by 12%.

OWP officers supported Oxford City Councils' Cleaner, Greener Oxford campaign, which sought to improve the cleanliness of the city centre through a combination of media activity, more street cleaning and increased enforcement activity. A staggering 119 Fixed Penalty Notices for littering were issued during the two week campaign. A further 242 FPN notices have been issued by the city council since.

Cherwell District Council used NIF funding to crack down on cigarette litter within the district. 20 new lamp post mounted cigarette bins were put up in Banbury town centre and 10,000 personal "mini bins" given away to smokers. A poster campaign, roadshows and two-week warning period preceded litter enforcement measures. These have since led to the issue of 69 Fixed Penalty Notices and 5 prosecutions for cigarette litter. The number of enforcement

measures has reduced over time, demonstrating that the message is getting through that dropping cigarette ends on the street is unacceptable.

All Oxfordshire district councils have now adopted powers to issue FPN notices for litter offences and have increased their capacity to prosecute for litter and fly-tipping offences.



Cllr John Tanner launches OWP's new fly-tipping campaign.

# Report from the Partnership Coordinator

## Performance Information

Table 1 summarises performance against waste National Indicators (NIs). From this it can be seen that the amount of residual waste (i.e. waste that is not recycled & composted) generated per household dropped by a massive 80.89 kg during 2009/10. This follows a drop of 24 kg per household the previous year (2008/09). This is due to lower overall levels of waste generation resulting from the current economic situation and also because of improvements to council recycling & composting schemes. The percentage of waste recycled and composted increased by a further 5.18% in 2009/10 so that a countywide recycling and composting rate of 48.71% was achieved. NI 193 measures the amount of municipal waste landfilled, which includes household waste plus other waste streams managed by councils such as street sweepings and litter. The percentage of this waste landfilled also dropped by 2.14% during 2009/10.

Table 2 summarises performance against street cleanliness NIs. NI 195 measures the percentage of streets that when monitored by district councils were found to be below an acceptable standard of cleanliness. The number of streets found to have higher than acceptable levels of litter reduced by a further 2.2% during 2009/10, so that only 2% of streets were found to be below standard. Put another way, 98% of Oxfordshire's streets were found to be largely litter free. Considerable improvement was made in reducing detritus levels (NI 195b) with an 8.44% improvement achieved this year. Levels of graffiti also dropped, whilst fly-posting levels remained very low at 1%.

There were 501 fewer incidents of fly-tipping reported during 2009/10. Fly-tipping incidents have dropped by nearly 40% in the last three years. This reduction in incidents, together with increased levels of enforcement activity by district councils has resulted in Oxfordshire attaining the highest possible NI 196 grading of "Very Effective" in 2009/10.

**Table 1 Waste NI performance**

Indicator	Description	08/09 performance	09/10 performance	Change
NI 191	Residual Household Waste per Household (Kilograms)	632.96 kg	552.07 kg	-80.89 kg
NI 192	Household waste recycled and composted (%)	43.53%	48.71%	+5.18%
NI 193	Municipal waste sent to landfill (%)	56.46%	54.32%	-2.14%



# Report from the Partnership Coordinator

## Performance Information

**Table 2 Street Cleanliness NI performance**

Indicator	Description	08-09 performance	09-10 performance	Change
NI 195 a	Improved street and environmental cleanliness (levels of litter)	4.2%	2%	-2.2%
NI 195 b	Improved street and environmental cleanliness (levels of detritus)	15.4%	7%	-8.44%
NI 195 c	Improved street and environmental cleanliness (levels of graffiti)	2.2%	1%	-1.2%
NI 195 d	Improved street and environmental cleanliness (levels of fly-posting)	1%	1%	No change
NI 196	Improved street and environmental cleanliness – fly tipping (Number of reported incidents)	4393	3892	-501
	Improved street and environmental cleanliness – fly tipping (Overall Grading)	Effective	Very Effective	Grading improved



# Report from the Partnership Coordinator

## Performance Information

Table 3 sets out performance against Local Area Agreement 2 (LAA2) targets. LAA2 began in April 2008 and runs until March 2011. Each of the 2010/11 targets were met during 2009/10. Performance against these measures needs

to be maintained during 2010/11 to ensure that our strong performance continues through to the end of the LAA2 period.

**Table 3 LAA2 target performance**

Target	Description	08/09 target	09/10 target	10/11 target	09/10 performance
NI 191: Residual household waste per household Defra	To reduce the amount of residual waste collected to 715 kg per household or less by 2010/11.	730 kg	723 kg	715 kg	552.07 kg
NI 192: Household waste recycled and composted	To achieve a 45% recycling & composting rate by March 2011.	40%	42%	45%	48.71%
NI 195: Improved street and environmental cleanliness (levels of graffiti, litter, detritus and fly posting)	To ensure that the percentage of relevant land and highways that is assessed as having deposits of litter and detritus that falls below an acceptable standard (below grade B) by March 2011 are 4% and 7% respectively, or less.	Litter 6%	Litter 5%	Litter 4%	Litter 2%
		Detritus 10%	Detritus 9%	Detritus 8%	Detritus 7%
NI 196: Improved street and environmental cleanliness – fly tipping	To reduce the number of incidents of fly-tipping by 10% by March 2011. and to retain an “effective” grading. (from baseline no. of 6370)	6179	5994	5754	3892
		Effective	Effective	Effective	Very Effective

# Report from the Partnership Coordinator

## The year ahead

2010/11 will see a continued focus on reducing the amount of organic waste sent to landfill. Oxford City Council will extend the coverage of its food waste collections city-wide, whilst Vale of White Horse and West Oxfordshire District Councils will introduce new waste services contracts (including food collections) in October 2010. The new AD plant currently under construction in Cassington is scheduled to open in September 2010.

A public consultation exercise on our refreshed waste prevention strategy will be undertaken in the summer. This should see a continued focus on organic waste prevention, as well as plans to further improve our working with the community and voluntary sector on waste reuse.

Subject to the outcome of a planning inquiry during July 2010, Oxfordshire County Council will finalise a contract agreement with Virdor waste management for the design, build and operation of an Energy from Waste plant at Ardley to manage Oxfordshire's residual household waste. Again, subject to planning permission, work on the construction of a new WRC in Kidlington will also begin in 2010/11. The WRC will include recycling facilities for businesses and also a reuse shop which will be run in partnership with the community & voluntary sector.

2010/11 is the final year of LAA2. OWP's four targets are currently on-track. However, street cleaning and fly-tipping performance measures can be fairly volatile and efforts will focus on both continued communications activity and increased enforcement activity to reduce litter and fly-tipping incidents even further. OWP will work in partnership with the Environment Agency during the year on a joint implementation plan to reduce fly-tipping.

Oxfordshire County Council becomes the OWP Host Authority in July 2010 and will continue in this role through 2010/11 – 2011/12. West Oxfordshire District Council remains as the Auditing Authority for 2010/11.

A copy of the OWP action plan for 2010/13 can be viewed online at [http://portal.oxfordshire.gov.uk/content/publicnet/other\\_sites/owp/about\\_us/meetings/100115/7-100115DraftOWPJointActionPlan2010-11app1.pdf](http://portal.oxfordshire.gov.uk/content/publicnet/other_sites/owp/about_us/meetings/100115/7-100115DraftOWPJointActionPlan2010-11app1.pdf)



# Finance summary

## The year ahead

OWP realised a surplus of £73, 375. This sum will be carried forward into 2010/11 and used to off-set partner council contributions, so that these can remain stable for the third consecutive year.

**Table 4 2009/10 budget outturn**

	Budget £	Actual £	Variance £
<b>Expenditure</b>			
<b>Core Budget</b>			
Salaries	134,512	134,512	0
Training and support costs	4,120	4,264	144
OWP Employing Authority costs	5,150	5,150	0
OWP Host Authority admin costs	2,060	2,060	0
OWP Accounting Authority costs	2,060	2,361	301
OWP Auditing Authority costs	1,030	985	-45
<b>Sub-total Core Budget</b>	<b>148,932</b>	<b>149,332</b>	<b>400</b>
<b>Development Budget</b>			
Wild Waste Show	128,600	128,600	0
Waste Reduction Packs	20,000	0	-20,000
Home composting	18,500	15,188	-3,312
Communications Plan	164,900	158,412	-6,488
Contingency/Opportunities	59,809	17,970	-41,839
<b>Sub-total Development</b>	<b>391,809</b>	<b>320,170</b>	<b>-71,639</b>
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>540,741</b>	<b>469,502</b>	<b>-71,239</b>



# Finance summary

Table 4 2008/09 budget outturn continued

	Budget £	Actual £	Variance £
<b>Income</b>			
Partner council contributions:			
Cherwell District Council	-45,820	-45,820	0
Oxford City Council	-45,820	-45,820	0
Oxfordshire County Council	-229,100	-229,100	0
South Oxfordshire District Council	-45,820	-45,820	0
Vale of White Horse District Council	-45,820	-45,820	0
West Oxfordshire District Council	-45,820	-45,820	0
<b>Sub total partner contributions</b>	<b>-458,200</b>	<b>-458,200</b>	<b>0</b>
Other Miscellaneous	0	-2,136	-2,136
Carried forward from previous year	82,541	82,541	0
Carry forward underspend 2009/10	0	73,375	73,375
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>-540,741</b>	<b>-469,502</b>	<b>71,239</b>



# Finance summary

## New Initiatives fund

The New Initiatives Fund forms part of the agreed OWP financial arrangements. It has been established by pooling Public Service Agreement and Local Area Agreement reward grant payments for the achievement of waste management stretch targets. The fund has been created to meet the one-off or start up costs of new projects and schemes that will deliver the OWP Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy.

Partner councils bid to the NIF through the completion of a standard application form. Applications are assessed by the OWP Officer Strategy Group, which makes a recommendation to the OWP Chair (or for applications for more than £50,000 to the full Joint Committee) on whether funding should be awarded. A list of projects supported to date is given table 5.

The current fund is valued at:

	£
Revenue -	£297,421
Capital -	£482,927

**Table 5 NIF supported projects**

Bid Ref no.	Bidding authority	Project	Funding awarded
NIF001	Vale of White Horse D.C	Hessian sack recycling containers for flat dwellers	£2,475
NIF002	Oxford City	Food waste collection trial	£-
NIF003	Cherwell D.C	Recycling containers at bus stops	£9,878
NIF004	Oxfordshire County Council	Study and compositional analysis of Waste Recycling Centre residual waste	£35,000
NIF005	Cherwell D.C	Lay-by recycling containers	£10,000
NIF006	Oxford City	Door knocking survey to flats and houses of multiple occupancy	£ -
NIF007	Cherwell D.C	Christmas sacks for kerbside recycling collections.	£7,550
NIF008	Cherwell D.C	Trade waste recycling	£7,250
NIF009	Oxford City	Trade waste recycling	£157,000
NIF010	West Oxfordshire	Trade waste recycling	£9,975
NIF011	West Oxfordshire	Interim green waste service	£90,000
NIF012	Cherwell D.C	Food waste collections.	£120,000



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# Finance summary

**Table 5 NIF supported projects continued**

Bid Ref no.	Bidding authority	Project	Funding awarded
NIF013	South Oxfordshire D.C	Food waste collections.	£106,000
NIF014	Oxford City Council	Food waste collections.	£204,188
NIF015	Cherwell D.C	Targeted door-stepping	£6,000
NIF016	Cherwell D.C	Battery recycling containers	£7,046
NIF017	Cherwell D.C	Cigarette litter reduction	£6,310
NIF018	Cherwell D.C	WEEE Banks	£10,000
NIF019	Oxfordshire County Council	Commercial Bring Site	£33,473
NIF020	Vale of White Horse D.C	Food waste collections.	£82,400
NIF021	South Oxfordshire D.C & Vale of White Horse D.C	Flats food waste and recycling scheme	£92,100
NIF022	Oxfordshire County Council	New WRC	£250,000
<b>Totals</b>			<b>£1,246,645</b>

## Auditors Report

The Oxfordshire Waste Partnership's appointed internal auditing Authority for 2009/10 is West Oxfordshire District Council.

The audit has been completed with a 'satisfactory' summary conclusion, thus providing sufficient assurance that the service is effective and secure.

Appropriate accounting records have been maintained with income and expenditure properly recorded; accounting statements have been prepared on a correct basis.

Systems, processes and interfaces tested have adequate controls in place and work effectively, risks have been formally assessed and regularly reviewed.

Where OWP transactions have been processed under the financial procedure rules of the accounting body, Oxfordshire County Council, some reliance has been placed on the effectiveness of controls as reviewed by that body's internal auditors. This particularly applies to the internal mechanisms of accounts payable and bank reconciliation.

Last year's agreed audit recommendations have been actioned and the control environment shows a continuing improvement.

**Peter Burton**

**Internal Audit Manager**

**West Oxfordshire District Council**



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# Governance and accountability

OWP is a Joint Committee established in April 2007 under Sections 101 and 102 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Local Authorities (Arrangements for the Discharge of Functions) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2001 made under Section 20 of the Local Government Act 2000 and all other enabling legislation. A detailed Partnership Agreement has been sealed by each Partner Council.

## Purpose of the OWP

OWP provides a framework to enable joint working between the Partner Authorities on waste matters.

The purpose of the Joint Committee is to carry out the strategic, financial and operational functions set out below and in doing so to discharge, on behalf of the Partner Authorities, their statutory responsibilities for waste management as are delegated to the Joint Committee from time to time.

## The functions of OWP Joint Committee are to:

### Strategic

- develop a strategic policy framework within which the Partner Authorities can each discharge their functions as waste disposal authority or waste collection authority
- discharge on behalf of the Partner Authorities, responsibilities in relation to county-wide waste promotional activities, public engagement, research, technical evaluations, achievement of the wastes element of the Local Area Agreement (LAA) stretch target. This does not preclude district authorities from undertaking public engagement or other activities on waste collection issues specific to their district
- annually review and revise as necessary the objectives and strategic policies of the OWP for consideration and approval by the Partner Authorities

- contribute to achievement of sustainable development through waste minimisation, reduction of waste going to landfill on a year by year basis, development of alternative methods of disposal, and increased proportion of waste being recycled on a year by year basis
- develop proposals for the future development of waste management that achieve the core objectives

### Financial

- prepare, commit and oversee expenditure of pooled budgets to ensure the prioritised jointly operated waste functions described above are delivered
- agree a draft budget by 31 October for the forthcoming financial year to include the proposed contribution from each OWP Partner, for consideration by Partner Authorities
- oversee the operation of the agreed partner incentivisation arrangements and monitor effectiveness of these arrangements
- make recommendations to the Partner Authorities to request resources as required to meet the core objectives
- annually review the costs of administering the OWP and determine the contributions of the partners ensuring that the distribution is equitable

# Governance and accountability

## Operational

- take decisions as required on the matters presented, voting on such matters if any voting member present requests it. Voting is by a show of hands with the Chair having a casting vote in the event of a tie. In the event that any proposition would have contractual or financial implications for a Partner Authority, then the vote of that member in favour of the proposal is required
- continually seek more efficient and cost effective ways of delivering the waste objectives including opportunities for joint procurement and shared services
- prepare and jointly deliver an annual action plan that delivers OWP objectives and strategic policies, for approval by the Partner Authorities
- consider and comment on progress reports from the LAA Clean/ Green group and report to PSB on progress towards the LAA 'Clean/ Green' targets
- commission research and public opinion surveys into matters relevant to the core objectives
- issue press releases and carry out publicity as the Committee deems necessary for the furtherance of the core objectives.

## Composition of the Joint Committee

The Committee comprises 6 members; one member appointed by each Partner Authority. Each is a member of the Executive at their respective Partner Authorities.

Each Partner Authority also appoints another named member of its Executive to act as a deputy for its appointed committee member.

## Role of Committee Members

The role of each Committee Member is to:

- attend meetings of the OWP Joint Committee, vote on items of business and make a positive contribution to the Committee, and ensure that if unable to do so, a named deputy attends
- demonstrate commitment to and act as champion for the OWP vision and objectives and OWP key principles
- act as ambassador for the Committee and ensure that his/her Authority supports the OWP and abides by the OWP key principles
- act as advocate for the Committee in seeking any necessary approvals from his Authority in connection with the annual JMWMS action plan
- keep up-to-date with changes in legislation and all relevant statutory and non-statutory guidance



# List of abbreviations

**AD** – Anaerobic Digestions

**CAG** – Community Action Group

**DEFRA** – Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

**IVC** – In-Vessel Composting

**JMWMS** - Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy

**LATS** – Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme

**LAA** – Local Area Agreement

**NI** – National Indicator

**NIF** – New Initiatives Fund

**OCC** – Oxfordshire County Council

**OWP** – Oxfordshire Waste Partnership

**WEEE** – Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment

**WRAP** – Waste and Resources Action Programme

**WRCs** – Waste Recycling Centres

**WWS** – Wild Waste Show

