



Oxfordshire
Waste Partnership

Annual Report 2010/11

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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 Oxfordshire County Council since July 2010 and will transfer to South Oxfordshire District Council in July 2012.

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

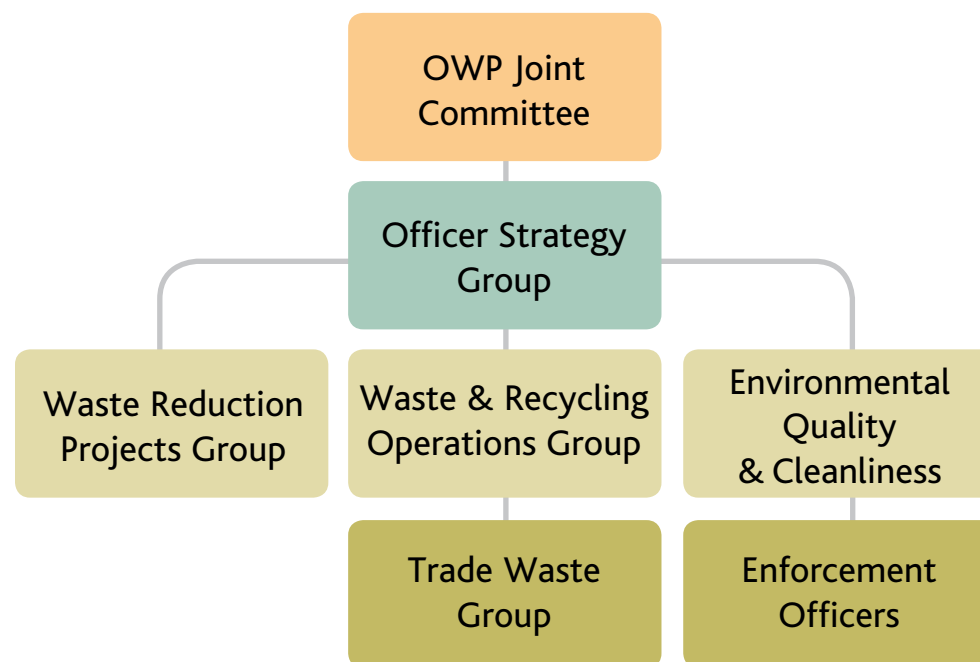


Figure 1 – OWP organisational structure



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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 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.



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Chairman's introduction

This year saw Oxfordshire pass a special milestone: for the first time we recycled more than we throw away with 55% of household waste recycled or composted.

Not only is this a significant achievement, it also shows how far we've come over the past few years and how fantastically Oxfordshire residents have embraced their recycling schemes.

All houses across the county can now recycle their food waste which is processed in one of two new Oxfordshire plants. The Anaerobic Digester at Cassington is one of the largest and most advanced in the country and not only does it recycle our food waste, but generates electricity to power over 4,200 homes. This really is a great example of where recycling works, not just in saving resources and reducing greenhouse gas emissions, but in helping to solve another environmental problem: sustainable energy production.

The next big project in the county will be dealing with the leftover waste after we've recycled all we can. With the contract signed for a new energy from waste plant this year, we've taken a major step towards that.

Working together through Oxfordshire Waste Partnership shows how together we make more of a difference than apart by reducing costs and improving services. By carrying out work with other partners in the coming year, such as with environmental colleagues on a joint education project, we hope to bring greater benefits to the public purse and the environment.

Lorraine Lindsay-Gale

Chairman of Oxfordshire Waste Partnership



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Report from the Partnership Coordinator

Overview

Good progress was made against many of our strategic objectives in 2011/12. The partnership continued to tackle the biggest waste stream within Oxfordshire's refuse bins – organic waste (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. Volunteer Master Composters ensured that residents have on-going support to help them home compost successfully.

Vale of White Horse and West Oxfordshire District Councils began food waste collections meaning that food waste collection services now operate countywide.

The opening of the new Anaerobic Digestion plant at Cassington, to accompany the In-vessel composting plant at Ardley, means that all collected food waste is processed within the county. The finished compost is spread on local agricultural land and green electricity is being generated and exported to the national grid.

It was nice to see a number of OWP projects and partners receive national recognition during 2010/11, with the partnership short listed for a number of awards including:

- Letsrecycle.com "Best local authority recycling Initiative" – OWP Love Food Hate Waste Campaign
- Association for Organics Recycling "Local Authority Partnership Award" – Agrivert and Oxfordshire Waste Partnership
- Local Authority Recycling Advisory Committee (LARAC) "Best waste minimisation or prevention project" – OWP Love Food Hate Waste Campaign
- LARAC "Best Communications Campaign" – Cherwell District Council "Time to switch" campaign
- LARAC "Best improved recycling rate" – South Oxfordshire District Council
- LARAC "Recycling Officer of the Year" – Craig Stephens, Cherwell District Council
- Government Business Awards "Environmental Innovation Award" - South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils.

Further information on all these projects, together with a number of other highlights is set out within this report. 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, making Oxfordshire cleaner and greener than ever before.



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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 commissioned a series of waste audits in March 2011 to measure progress resulting from improved recycling facilities within council offices. The audit results show huge improvements. Since 2008, district councils have increased their recycling at council premises from 46% to 65% and reduced their overall waste by over 25%.

Councils now have improved systems for printing double sided and reducing paper waste. This has had a significant impact on the amount of paper used and consequently the amount of waste produced.

Just one year after its launch the online materials exchange Retrader.org.uk has saved over 26 tonnes of waste from landfill. In addition, local organisations have saved almost £100,000 by reusing materials rather than buying new. This includes a £1,600 saving on new office furniture for Abingdon based charity Against Breast Cancer. The Retrader.org.uk website has recently been upgraded, enabling more organisations to pass their unwanted items to others to reuse.



Waste Audits

Report from the Partnership Coordinator

Progress against Strategic Policies continued

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

OWP responded to DEFRA consultations on meeting EU landfill targets and revisions to the Waste Framework Directive. Joint consultation responses help save officer time and can provide a stronger, unified voice to government on matters affecting the partner councils.

OWP officers attended the first round-table meeting between councils, supermarkets, WRAP and representatives from the packaging industry enabling joint discussion on sustainable packaging. A key aim of this forum is to make packaging materials more recyclable over time through council collection systems.

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

The successful “Love Food Hate Waste” (LFHW) campaign has gone from strength to strength. People are encouraged to save up to £50 per month and reduce their environmental footprint by wasting less food. Over 15,000 people have pledged to undertake simple activities to reduce their food waste and in return have been given an OWP produced leftovers recipe book and information cards to help them achieve this.

The popular live cookery demonstrations continued to be held across the county and volunteers were trained to take the key food waste messages out to their community; spreading the message further and helping others to waste less.

The campaign gained recognition as a finalist in two national awards:
'Best waste minimisation or prevention project'
LARAC awards 2010

'Best local authority recycling initiative'
letsrecycle.com awards 2011



Love Food Hate Waste campaign as finalist
at the letsrecycle.com awards



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Progress against Strategic Policies continued

Policy 3 (continued)

2010/11 saw the 50,000th home composting bin sold in Oxfordshire through OWP schemes. This represents around a fifth of all households.

Throughout the year, over 2,250 compost bins were sold through the OWP offer.

The OWP funded “Master Composters” scheme continued for its third year with 40 trained volunteers providing advice and information on home composting; helping to ensure residents and school children make the best use of their compost bins. Master Composters attended 68 community events in 2010/11.

OWP Real Nappy Fairs again proved popular, with two more run in 2010/11. These are run in partnership with local suppliers and enable parents and prospective parents to learn more about washable nappies.

At one of the fairs, a fun ‘baby fashion show’ highlighted how stylish as well as convenient real nappies can be!

OWP funded nappy trial kits continued to be managed by the local suppliers enabling parents to “try before they buy”.



Eve Beasley, Lucy Clarke and Ying Ge Hong at the baby fashion show

Report from the Partnership Coordinator

Progress against Strategic Policies continued

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

Four new Community Action Groups (CAGs) were established in 2010/11 taking the total number of groups across the county to 28. The CAGs held 170 events throughout the year including 69 swap shops where over 8,000 people helped keep 25 tonnes of waste out of landfill by donating or reusing unwanted items.

Council Officers worked with the CAG project on two high profile weeks. During the European Week for Waste Reduction in November 2010, various workshops were held giving people the chance to learn new skills to make new items from discarded objects. Oxfordshire Reuse Week in January 2011, saw swap shops run alongside other events such as film screenings, seed swaps, carbon coffee mornings, low carbon transport debates and a session on building an eco-house.

The CAG project has also been successful in winning a series of awards:

'Best Statutory Authority use of the Voluntary Sector'

OCVA Awards, November 2010

'Best Charity – Low Carbon West Oxford'

OCVA Awards, November 2010

Greatest contribution to community 'Involvement' (Directorate level)

OCC 'CHOICE' Awards, December 2010

Greatest contribution to community 'Involvement'

(Corporate level – overall winner) OCC 'CHOICE' Awards, March 2010

Planning permission is currently being sought for a new Household Waste Recycling Centre in Kidlington. This includes a reuse shop where reusable items can be repaired and sold rather than going for disposal.

West Oxfordshire, Oxford City and Oxfordshire County Councils have conducted trials with local reuse charity Emmaus to explore the potential for and bulky waste items collected by the councils to be reused by the charity.



Dorchester CAG
refill station,
reducing plastic
bottle waste



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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 produced a revised Waste Prevention Strategy for 2010-2020 subtitled 'working towards a more sustainable Oxfordshire'. The strategy identifies ten key principles for waste prevention, and seeks to focus efforts on areas where local councils can have the greatest impact in reducing waste and carbon dioxide emissions. The waste prevention strategy is backed by a business case, which sets out the avoided waste disposal costs resulting from waste prevention activities.

Last year Dorchester on Thames CAG gained national recognition by becoming one of the first communities to gain the DEFRA Zero Waste Place standard. This year, other CAGs have been offered help and mentoring opportunities to become Zero Waste Places and a workshop was run to explain what Dorchester did to obtain the standard. While no other CAGs have yet come forward to try for the standard, many of them are already carrying out similar initiatives to Dorchester and are developing a zero waste ethos..

Residual waste (i.e. waste that is not recycled or composted) dropped by 82.5 kg per household during 2010/11. Over the last three years, residual waste per household has reduced by 26%. In the national league tables, Oxfordshire is ranked as the best county in England for throwing out the least amount per person.

In November 2010 Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) introduced a free van and trailer permitting scheme in order to reduce the amount of trade waste illegally deposited at Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs). Around 9,000 permits have currently been issued. It is too early to show the full impact of the permit scheme, but there has been a significant reduction in the amount of waste brought to HWRCs with no corresponding increase in fly-tipping. This has resulted in savings to the taxpayer: illegally deposited trade waste costs the county council up to £250,000 per year to manage.



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.

Substantial changes were made to recycling collections in Oxford City, South Oxfordshire and West Oxfordshire during October/November 2010, meaning all districts now collect food waste for recycling and collect residual waste fortnightly.

South Oxfordshire's successful scheme (identical to the new Vale of White Horse scheme operated under a joint contract with Verdant) has transformed the council's performance, with the authority now the second highest recycler in the UK. The South Oxfordshire scheme won the 2010 LARAC award for 'Best Improved Recycling Rates'.

West Oxfordshire's new waste services contract with May Gurney has seen the construction of a mini-materials recycling facility and transfer station in Witney where the kerbside sorted materials are bulked before being sent directly to reprocessors.

Oxford City retains its in-house operated service and moved from a twin box recycling scheme to one co-mingled collection from a wheelie bin. Not only does Oxford City have one of the highest recycling rates for a city in England, but the authority continues to be in the top five in the country for producing the least amount of waste per person.

These changes have helped to increase the percentage of household waste recycled and composted by 6.3% from last year to 55%. This means the 2020 joint municipal waste management strategy recycling & composting target has been met nine years early.



South Oxfordshire District Council, winners at the 2010 LARAC Awards

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

Cherwell, South Oxfordshire, Vale of White Horse and West Oxfordshire all received OWP New Initiatives Fund support to help implement flats recycling schemes. The new food waste collection services have also been introduced to flats across the county. This means that recycling schemes have now been provided to flats in all districts, with the exception of some premises with difficult access. Site assessments and conversion work continues at these more difficult sites.

Cherwell and Oxford City councils have engaged with housing landlords and managing agents to increase recycling participation in rented accommodation.

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

All new kerbside recycling schemes were supported with comprehensive communications campaigns to ensure that the public was fully aware of the changes and how they affected them.

West Oxfordshire brought its commercial recycling service in-house in October 2010 and continues to grow its customer base. Also in October Oxford City launched a full commingled recycling service to businesses which included glass. This builds on the success of the OWP NIF funded trade recycling project.

Cherwell too introduced commercial waste recycling to their existing trade waste customers.

Over a comparable period last year the amount of residual waste collected per customer for commercial waste collection services has reduced by around 18%. This helps reduce not only landfill costs and associated tax, but also helps to improve Oxfordshire's position within the Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme, which sets limits on the amount of waste that councils can landfill.



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.

In March 2011 Oxfordshire County Council signed a contract with Viridor Waste Management to provide an energy from waste incinerator at Ardley in north Oxfordshire. The Secretary of State granted planning permission for the facility in February 2011 following a public inquiry in July 2010. A second revised planning application was approved in October 2010. A legal challenge has been made against the Secretary of State's decision which will be decided in the high court. Subject to the outcome of the appeal, the new energy from waste plant is expected to open in 2013/14.

The new Anaerobic Digestion plant at Cassington officially opened in October 2010 and now processes food waste from Oxford City, South Oxfordshire, Vale of White Horse and West Oxfordshire. The plant produces fertiliser and also generates enough electricity to power around 4,200 homes. An additional plant at Benson is expected to begin construction in September 2011.

The OWP Financial Arrangements continue to operate, whereby district councils take a shared financial stake in the waste disposal costs falling to Oxfordshire County Council. Districts obtain "bonus payments" from the county council by collecting less than annual target amounts of residual waste. Conversely, district councils pay "penalties" for exceeding annual residual waste allowances.



School children watch food waste being unloaded at the Cassington Anaerobic Digestion plant

Report from the Partnership Coordinator

Progress against Strategic Policies continued

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

There has been a substantial reduction in the amount of waste landfilled for the second year running with total of 133,357 tonnes of municipal waste landfilled in 2010/11 compared to 167,290 tonnes the previous year. This has provided savings on disposal costs in excess of £2.3 million.

The county council van permit scheme introduced in November 2010 has also had a positive impact on the amount of waste landfilled.

“No Side Waste” policies are now in place within each district whereby residents are encouraged to use recycling services rather than leave excess unsorted waste. This relatively simple measure is widely acknowledged to have a positive effect on the amount of residual waste collected in an area.

Policy 11 – 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.

Recycling points were introduced at Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) and at Sainsburys stores to recycle low-energy lightbulbs. OWP promoted the use of these and other retailer take-back schemes such as battery recycling.

39 CAG swap shops involved Portable Appliance Testing of small WEEE (using OWP funded testers) with average of 20 items tested at each event.



Recycling bank for small electrical items

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.

A new HWRC at Kidlington which will serve the immediate local community and nearby residents of North Oxford was designed and planned during 2010/11. Planning permission for the site will be sought in 2011/12.

Two new facilities for processing food waste are now up and running within the county (the anaerobic digester (AD) at Cassington and the in-vessel compost plant at Ardley), with a third being built at Benson. This means that all organic waste (food waste and garden waste) is now treated within Oxfordshire minimising transport miles. In addition the end market for the materials (compost and fertiliser) is local farmland within a small radius of the plants. Electricity generated by the AD plant is exported to the national grid.

The proposed energy from waste plant at Ardley also means an in-county solution for residual waste treatment and further electricity generation.



Inspecting the steaming compost made from old food and garden waste at the in-vessel composting plant

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.

Councils have worked with organic waste contractor Agrivert to give composted food and garden waste back to the community. Cherwell ran three successful compost give-aways during Compost Awareness Week and also teamed up with the council's own landscape department to pass on old flower bulbs and compost to residents.

Compost from Agrivert has also been used for landscaping and gardening activities with local schools and community groups.

Both the Retrader materials exchange and CAG swap shops also help keep reusable items out of landfill and in used in the local community.

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.

OWP officers have been able to offer support to partner councils during particularly busy periods and to temporarily cover staff vacancies. The OWP Communications Officer provided support of one day per week to West Oxfordshire during the launch of its new collection services contract, whilst the OWP Coordinator has provided support to South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse councils to cover team absences.

Partner councils share promotional materials and resources meaning less overall expenditure is required and increasingly adopt a “one team” culture; helping out and supporting one another as needs be and resources allow.

OWP has developed new partnerships with local businesses Fresh Direct and Midcounties Co-op. This has meant extra support for the Love Food Hate Waste campaign, in the form of staffing and donations of food, which has enabled extra activities to be carried out than would otherwise have been possible.

OWP partner councils worked with many other environmentally conscious organisations across the county in support of Climate Week 2011, which aims to inspire Oxfordshire communities to help tackle climate change. OWP, CAGs, The Earth Trust, Bicester Avenue Garden Centre, Bicester Vision, OxFood and organic waste contractors Agrivert worked together to motivate people into action by highlighting the positive work already undertaken to protect our planet, and to share ideas around creating a secure future. Activities in the week included site tours, school visits, Eco-days, seed planting and promotion of local food and food waste.



Report from the Partnership Coordinator

Progress against Strategic Policies continued

The OWP financial arrangements not only enabled districts to invest in new collection schemes by guaranteeing an additional income stream, but also contribute to larger savings on waste disposal for the county council as a result of increased recycling by district councils. The new arrangements have generated a Win:Win outcome for all partner councils and helped to ensure that strategy targets have been achieved.

The new OWP Waste Prevention Strategy identified the financial savings to be made by councils by looking at the business case around waste prevention. This shows that by 2020 waste prevention activities can reduce waste by 130,000 tonnes and save around £7.4 million in waste disposal costs.



Fresh Direct donate produce for the Love Food Hate Waste campaign

Report from the Partnership Coordinator

Environmental Quality

The successful OWP anti fly-tipping campaign was run again in 2010/11 and the county saw a noticeable drop in fly-tipping incidents: they reduced by over a quarter compared with 2009/10.

There has been a more coordinated schedule of litter picking and grass cutting between the district councils and the highways authority. The authorities have worked together to ensure areas are cleared of litter before the grass is cut preventing litter being shredded and making more mess. This improved partnership working is helping to improve cleanliness along some of the county's busiest roads.

Highways Agency in-car litter bags continued to be popular with OWP making these available at council offices and other public buildings to help reduce roadside littering.

Partner councils continued to support community litter picks and Sping cleans including the annual OxClean event in Oxford between the Oxford Civic Society and the city council.

A dog fouling awareness campaign was developed which included lamppost stickers and signs. Cherwell received a positive response from the public and has seen a reduction in number of dog fouling complaints.



Working with the Highways Agency to help reduce roadside littering.

Report from the Partnership Coordinator

Performance Information

Table 1 summarises performance against waste National Indicators. From this it can be seen that the amount of residual waste (i.e. waste that is not recycled or composted) continued to drop in 2010/11 by a further 82.5 kg per household. This means that over the last three years, residual waste per household has reduced by some 163 kg per household: a 26% reduction.

The percentage of household waste recycled and composted increased by 6.3% last year to reach 55%. This means that the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy target agreed in 2006 to recycle and compost 55% of household waste by 2020 has been met nine years early.

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 amount of municipal waste landfilled dropped by 33,933 tonnes last year. With landfill tax for 2010/11 set at £48 per tonne, this reduced tonnage represents a saving in avoided landfill tax of £1,628,784. When an average landfill gate fee cost is added, this represents disposal cost savings of some £2,375,310.

Table 1 Waste NI performance

Indicator	Description	2009/10 performance	2010/11 performance	Change
NI 191	Residual Household Waste per Household (kg)	552 kg	469.5 kg	-82.5 kg
NI 192	Household waste recycled and composted (%)	48.7%	55%	+6.3%
NI 193	Municipal waste sent to landfill (tonnes)	167,290 tonnes	133,357 tonnes	-33,933 tonnes

Table 2 summarises council performance against street cleanliness indicator NI 195. This indicator measures the percentage of streets monitored that fall below an acceptable standard of cleanliness. From this it can be seen that standards of cleanliness remain very high, with districts reporting that 95% or more of streets monitored were largely free of litter (NI 195 a). Detritus levels have reduced in some areas, but have increased in South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse. Levels of graffiti and fly-posting remain very low, with further improvements made to standards within Oxford City.

Table 2 also summarises fly-tipping performance. The number of fly tipping incidents reported across the county in 2010/11 reduced dramatically, with 1086 fewer incidents reported. This is a decrease of 28% on the previous year. The number of fly-tipping incidents in Oxfordshire has more than halved in the last four years.

Report from the Partnership Coordinator

Performance Information

Table 2 Street Cleanliness NI performance

Indicator	Description	Council	09-10 performance	10-11 performance	Change
NI 195 a	Improved street and environmental cleanliness (levels of litter)	Cherwell	2%	3%	+1%
		Oxford	1%	0%	-1%
		South	2%	5%	+3%
		Vale	1%	4%	+3%
		West	3%	1%	-2%
NI 195 b	Improved street and environmental cleanliness (levels of detritus)	Cherwell	8%	7%	-1%
		Oxford	2%	1%	-1%
		South	3%	13%	+10%
		Vale	13%	15%	+2%
		West	9%	4%	-5%
NI 195 c	Improved street and environmental cleanliness (levels of graffiti)	Cherwell	0%	0%	0%
		Oxford	1%	0%	-1%
		South	0%	0%	0%
		Vale	0%	0%	0%
		West	3%	2%	-1%
NI 195 d	Improved street and environmental cleanliness (levels of fly-posting)	Cherwell	0%	0%	0%
		Oxford	1%	0%	-1%
		South	0%	0%	0%
		Vale	0%	0%	0%
		West	2%	2%	0%



Report from the Partnership Coordinator

Performance Information (continued)

Table 2 Street Cleanliness NI performance

Indicator	Description	Council	09-10 performance	10-11 performance	Change
NI 196	Improved street and environmental cleanliness – fly tipping (number of reported incidents)	Countywide	3892	2806	-1086
	Improved street and environmental cleanliness – fly tipping (overall grading)	Countywide	Very effective	Very effective	Grading maintained



Report from the Partnership Coordinator

The year ahead

2011/12 will be the first full year of operation for the new waste collection services introduced by a number of partner councils last year. The schemes will be consolidated by ongoing promotion and by extending collections to “harder to reach” properties such as flats. The full year effect of the new schemes should see the Oxfordshire recycling & composting rate approach 60%; amongst the highest in the country.

A five year review of our Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (JMWMS) will be undertaken in 2011/12, which will review achievements over the last five years and identify future priorities. A key question will be whether to stretch the current targets within the strategy (such as our 55% recycling target by 2020) as these have largely been achieved. The affordability of future targets will be carefully considered alongside environmental goals.

The partnership’s waste prevention strategy (which forms part of the JMWMS) was updated in 2010/11. Next year’s implementation plan will focus on food waste prevention by continuing the successful “Love Food Hate Waste” campaign. We will also attempt to increase waste reuse throughout the county by working with charities and local groups to develop reuse centres (places where goods are repaired, refurbished and sold on again).

Project planning is underway for the creation of new reuse centres in Bicester (linking with the eco-town development) and Kidlington (co-located with the proposed new Household Waste Recycling Centre).

The Wild Waste Show schools education service will be market tested in 2011/12. OWP will join up with Environment & Climate Change colleagues to jointly tender the service with the Energy Busters education service funded by Oxfordshire County Council. Both are currently delivered by the Earth Trust (an environmental charity based at Long Whittenham).

Oxfordshire County Council remains the OWP Host Authority for 2011/12, whilst Cherwell District Council becomes the Auditing Authority.



Finance summary

Budget 2010/11

OWP realised a surplus at outturn of £56,768 and this sum is carried forward into 2011/12. An under spend in the Communications Plan of £27,168 was offset by overspends in Home Composting (£7,564), the Core Budget (£3,800) and contingency (£812).

The carry forward, together with budget reductions mean that total Partner Council contributions for 2011/12 have been reduced by £183,280; a 40% reduction.

Table 3 2010/11 budget outturn

	Budget £	Actual £	Variance £
Expenditure			
Core Budget			
Salaries			
Partnership Officer	60,513	68,704	8,191
Clean & Green Officer	30,550	28,973	-1,577
Communications Officer	39,346	46,437	7,091
Training and support costs	4,120	1,773	-2,347
OWP Employing Authority costs	5,150	1,242	-3,908
OWP Host Authority admin costs	2,060	2,060	0
OWP Accounting Authority costs	2,060	2,060	0
OWP Auditing Authority costs	1,030	-2,620	-3,650
Sub-total Core Budget	144,829	148,629	3,800

Finance summary

Table 3 2010/11 budget outturn continued

	Budget £	Actual £	Variance £
Development Budget			
Wild Waste Show	133,600	133,600	0
Home composting	18,500	26,064	7,564
Communications Plan	164,900	137,732	-27,168
Contingency/Opportunities	10,000	10,812	812
Keep Britain Tidy - countywide membership	17,970	17,970	0
Sub-total Development	344,970	326,178	-18,792
Total Expenditure	489,799	474,807	-14,992
Income	£		£
Carried forward from previous year	73,375	73,375	0
Partner council contributions:			0
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
Sub total partner contributions	458,200	458,200	0
Total Income	531,575	531,575	0
Net Position	-41,776	-56,768	-14,992



Finance summary

New Initiatives fund

The New Initiatives Fund (NIF) was established by pooling Public Service Agreement and Local Area Agreement reward grant payments for the achievement of waste management stretch targets. The total income to the NIF was:

Capital -	£719,358
Revenue -	£615,594
Total -	£1,334,952

The fund was created to meet the one-off or start up costs of new projects and schemes that help deliver the OWP Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy.

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 Chairman (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 X

The 2010/11 close position was:

Capital -	£307,108
Revenue -	£121,530
Total -	£428,638

The vast majority of the remaining fund has now been allocated to projects.



Finance summary

Table 4 NIF supported projects

Bid Ref no.	Bidding authority	Project	Funding awarded	Funding spent	Funding yet to be claimed
NIF001	Vale of White Horse D.C	Hessian sack recycling containers for flat dwellers	£ 2,475	£ 2,475	£ -
NIF002	Oxford City	Food waste collection trial	£ -	£ -	£ -
NIF003	Cherwell D.C	Recycling containers at bus stops	£ 9,878	£ 9,878	£ -
NIF004	Oxfordshire County Council	Study and compositional analysis of Waste Recycling Centre residual waste	£ 35,000	£ 35,000	£ -
NIF005	Cherwell D.C	Lay-by recycling containers	£ 10,000	£ 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	£ 7,550	£ -
NIF008	Cherwell D.C	Trade waste recycling	£ 7,250	£ 7,250	£ -
NIF009	Oxford City	Trade waste recycling	£ 157,000	£ 157,000	£ -
NIF010	West Oxfordshire	Trade waste recycling	£ 9,975	£ 4,277	£ 5,698
NIF011	West Oxfordshire	Interim green waste service	£ 90,000	£ 75,818	£ 14,182
NIF012	Cherwell D.C	Food waste collections.	£ 120,000	£ 120,000	£ -
NIF013	South Oxfordshire D.C	Food waste collections.	£ 106,000	£ 106,000	£ -
NIF014	Oxford City Council	Food waste collections.	£ 204,188	£ 195,000	£ 9,188



Finance summary

Table 4 NIF supported projects (continued)

Bid Ref no.	Bidding authority	Project	Funding awarded	Funding spent	Funding yet to be claimed
NIF015	Cherwell D.C	Targeted door stepping	£ 6,000	£ 6,000	£ -
NIF016	Cherwell D.C	Battery recycling containers	£ 7,046	£ 7,046	£ -
NIF017	Cherwell D.C	Cigarette litter reduction	£ 6,310	£ 6,310	£ -
NIF018	Cherwell D.C	WEEE Banks	£ 10,000	£ 10,000	
NIF019	Oxfordshire County Council	Commercial Bring Site	£ 33,473	£ 33,473	£ -
NIF020	Vale of White Horse D.C	Food waste collections.	£ 82,400	£ 70,720	£ 11,680
NIF021	South Oxfordshire D.C & Vale of White Horse D.C	Flats food waste and recycling scheme	£ 92,100		£ 92,100
NIF022	Oxfordshire County Council	New WRC	£ 200,000		£200,000
NIF023	Cherwell D.C	Food Waste Collections from flats	£ 27,500		£ 27,500
NIF024	Oxfordshire County Council	Development of Zero Waste Places	£ 12,000	£ 12,000	£ -
NIF025	West Oxfordshire	Flats food waste and recycling scheme	£ 58,700		£ 58,700
NIF026	South Oxfordshire D.C & Vale of White Horse D.C	On street recycling	£ 30,206		£ 30,206
Totals			£1,325,051	£ 865,797	£459,254



Finance summary

Auditors Report

Oxfordshire Waste Partnership's appointed internal auditing authority for 2010/11 is West Oxfordshire District Council.

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

Last year's main audit recommendation has been implemented and the control environment shows a continuing improvement.

Peter Burton

Internal Audit Manager

West Oxfordshire District Council



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 Digestion

CAG – Community Action Group

DEFRA – Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

HWRC – Household Waste Recycling Centre

IVC – In-Vessel Composting

JMWMS – Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy

LARAC – Local Authority Recycling Advisory Committee

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

WWS – Wild Waste Show

