

# Managing our household waste

## Where we are now

How we manage our waste is an important issue. Even though we have been improving our performance by reusing and recycling materials, especially over the last year, we need to do more. In 2004/2005, we recycled 24% of the 277,000 tonnes of municipal waste (of which 94% is household waste) we produced in East Sussex. However, 197,930 tonnes (76%) still goes to landfill.



Continuing to throw away waste costs us money, is a waste of resources and damages our environment. We're also running out of landfill space, without any way of replacing it, and with the increasing pressure of government targets and legislation this means we have to recycle more and significantly reduce the amount of waste we send to landfill.



## What we need to do

We need to reduce, reuse and recycle our rubbish to cut down the amount we throw away and the resources we take from the planet. By making small changes right now, we can all make a big difference for the future.

## How are we going to do this?

The District and Borough Councils and the County Council of East Sussex have been working together to prepare a joint municipal waste management strategy, which will help us decide and plan how we can manage our waste throughout the period from 2006 to 2020. We have looked at a range of options in preparing the draft strategy, for example:

- reducing and reusing waste;
- recycling and composting waste that is produced; and
- dealing with any waste that can't be reused or recycled.

We have considered the effects the strategy will have on the environment by carrying out a 'strategic environmental assessment'. We have used the results of this process to make sure the strategy covers all of the relevant environmental issues.

## What does the strategy cover?

The strategy covers:

- waste collected from households;
- recycling collections;
- waste taken to recycling banks;
- collections of bulky household waste;
- street sweepings;
- collections of household clinical waste;
- waste collected from some businesses; and
- waste that has been fly-tipped (illegally dumped).



The strategy does not cover most industrial, commercial, building or demolition waste as this waste is not currently the responsibility of the local authorities. Also, the strategy does not look at where waste-management facilities are as this is included in another document called the Waste Local Plan.

## What are our aims?

Over the next 15 to 20 years, we aim to change the way that waste is managed in East Sussex.

To do this, we have agreed the following aims.

- To reduce the amount of waste we produce and increase the amount we reuse to become one of the top-performing local authority areas in the country.
- To increase the amount of waste we recycle or compost to become one of the top-performing local authority areas.
- To manage the other waste in an appropriate way, making the best use of modern technology.
- To improve our waste facilities and services, making them accessible to everyone.
- To make sure that our strategy is delivered effectively, by working together.

## What can you do?

To find out more about the strategy you can view it in full on [www.eastsussex.gov.uk/haveyoursay](http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/haveyoursay), or you can visit the council offices listed below, where copies will be available.

Lewes District Council, Southover House, Southover Road, Lewes, BN7 1DW

Eastbourne Borough Council, 68 Grove Road, Eastbourne, BN21 4UH

Hastings Borough Council, Hastings Information Centre and Town Hall, Queens Road, Hastings, TN34 1QR

Wealden District Council, Pine Grove, Crowborough, TN6 1DH

Rother District Council, Community Help Point, Amherst Road, Bexhill-on-Sea, TN39 3LG

East Sussex County Council, County Hall, St Anne's Crescent, Lewes, BN7 1UE

Please let us know your views and comments on our strategy by filling in the form attached and sending it to us at the Freepost address, or filling in a form on-line and e-mailing it to

[rethinkrubbish@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:rethinkrubbish@eastsussex.gov.uk)

**The closing date for replies is 15 October 2006.**

Please phone 01273 482323 if you have any questions about this questionnaire or if you need a copy of it in a different format, such as in large print, in Braille, on cassette tape or in a different language.



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