

SY/BDR Municipal Waste Strategy 2025 -?

Introduction: Advantages of Producing a Municipal Waste Strategy.

Creating a SY/BDR Municipal Waste Strategy is essential for the SY/BDR councils to effectively manage waste and promote sustainability within their communities.

Key advantages:

1. **Environmental Protection:** A waste strategy helps the Council's focus on its desire to reduce waste, increase reuse and recycling, and minimise the environmental impact of waste and contributes to cleaner air, water, and land, and supports biodiversity.
2. **Compliance with Legislation:** Ensures compliance with national and regional waste management regulations, avoid legal penalties and promotes best practices.
3. **Resource Efficiency:** Promotes the efficient use of resources by encouraging the reduction of waste generated, as well as increased reuse and recycling. This supports the transition to a circular economy and reduces the reliance on landfill.
4. **Cost Savings:** Can lead to significant cost savings for the councils. By optimising joint working, more efficient waste processes, reduce operational costs and allocate resources more efficiently.
5. **Community Engagement:** Aim to fosters community awareness. Educating residents and businesses about sustainable waste practices and support for waste reduction initiatives.
6. **Strategic Planning:** Provides a clear framework for long-term planning and decision-making. It helps set goals, prioritise actions, and allocate resources to achieve sustainable waste management.
7. **Economic Benefits:** Sustainable waste management practices can create economic opportunities, such as green jobs and investment in recycling infrastructure. This supports local economies and contributes to overall economic growth.

By producing a municipal waste strategy, the councils can effectively address the challenges of waste management, promote sustainability, and enhance the quality of life for their communities.

Current Waste Legislation and requirements

Key recent, and future government legislative changes and initiatives have and will influence on Municipal Waste Strategies:

Environment Act 2021

The Environment Act 2021 represents a significant shift towards a sustainable and accountable approach to environmental management. The SY/BDR Councils must align their waste strategies with the Act's provisions to achieve compliance and contribute to national environmental goals and resource efficiency.

- **Environmental Targets:** Sets legally binding targets, including air quality, waste reduction, and species abundance, designed to drive long-term improvements in the natural environment and ensure accountability.
- **Office for Environmental Protection (OEP):** An independent body established to oversee the implementation of environmental laws and hold public authorities accountable.
- **Waste and Resource Efficiency:** Promote a circular economy, extended producer responsibility (EPR) and Simpler Recycling aiming to reduce waste, increase recycling rates, and encourage sustainable resource use.

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) presents both challenges and opportunities for the SY/BDR Councils. While it places additional responsibilities on producers to encourage sustainable practices to cover the full costs of collecting, sorting, recycling, and disposing of packaging waste, providing funding for Council for waste infrastructure. Local councils must collaborate to ensure effective collection and disposal to maximise the benefits of EPR.

- **Reporting Requirements:** Producers must report packaging data and pay fees based on the recyclability of their products. This incentivises the use of more sustainable packaging materials and reduces the environmental impact of packaging waste.
- **Financial Impact:** The estimated costs for producers are around £1 billion annually. This financial burden encourages producers to design products with end-of-life considerations in mind, promoting a circular economy.
- **Implementation Timeline:** Fees have been deferred to 2025, with reporting starting in 2023. This phased approach allows producers to adapt to the new requirements and invest in sustainable packaging solutions.

Deposit Return Scheme

The Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) aims to create significant environmental benefits by reducing litter and increase recycling rates by placing a redeemable deposit on single-use plastic and metal drinks containers. It requires planning and coordination between local governments, producers, and retailers and councils must ensure the infrastructure is in place to support the scheme and engage with the community to promote participation.

- **Implementation:** The scheme is expected to be fully operational by 2027. Customers will pay a refundable deposit for certain single-use drink containers, incentivising the return and recycling of these containers.
- **Environmental Benefits:** DRS encourages recycling and reduces litter, contributing to cleaner public spaces and reduced environmental pollution. It also promotes the use of recyclable materials in product design.
- **Council Uncertainty:** It is unknown how the introduction of DRS will affect the volume and type of recyclable material collected kerbside.

Simpler Recycling

Simpler Recycling aims to streamline waste collection and recycling processes across England ensuring that all households and businesses have access to consistent recycling services. Local councils must balance the need for standardisation with the unique requirements of their communities to achieve the best outcomes.

- **Standardised Collections:** The new default requirement for most households and workplaces will be four containers for residual waste, food waste*, paper and card, and other dry recyclables. This standardised approach simplifies recycling for residents and businesses, reducing confusion and increasing participation.
- **Flexibility for Local Authorities:** Councils can adapt the system to local needs while maintaining consistency. This flexibility allows local governments to implement the most effective waste management solutions for their communities.
- * SY/BDR Councils have receive a Transitional Exemption from Collecting Food Waste Separately until the end of their current PFI contracts (due to the technology in place meeting the aims of this legislative requirement in preventing this waste becoming landfilled).

Future Waste Legislation and requirements

Waste Incineration and the Emissions Trading Scheme from 2028

The UK Government has announced that waste incineration plants will be included in the country's Carbon Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) starting in 2028 to align the waste management sector with the UK's net zero targets and promote a more sustainable economy.

Key Points

- **Scope of Inclusion:** - To reduce the substantial CO2 emissions released during the incineration process, particularly from burning plastic derived from oil and gas.
- **Environmental and Economic Benefits**
 - Reduction in CO2 Emissions to meet Net Zero Targets
 - Promotion of Sustainable Practices
 - Financial incentive to Invest in more sustainable practices and technologies.
- **Financial Impact:** is expected to increase the cost of waste management estimating to add approximately £40 per tonne of material incinerated, with some estimate being considerably higher.

- **Incentives for Recycling:** The extension of the ETS to waste incinerators will not impact the costs of recycling, thereby encouraging individuals and businesses to prioritize recycling over waste incineration. By making waste incineration more expensive, the UK Government aims to create a strong incentive for increased recycling efforts.

Strategic Integration

The inclusion of waste incineration in the ETS from 2028 must be integrated with other local policies, initiatives, and plans to ensure a cohesive approach to waste management. This includes aligning with the broader goals of the Environment Act, EPR, DRS, and simpler recycling initiatives.

Aims, Need and Desires of SY/BDR Councils

Barnsley MBC

- **Aims:** Barnsley MBC aims to increase recycling rates, reduce carbon emissions, and promote sustainability. The council is committed to aligning its waste strategy with national environmental goals and improving resource efficiency.
- **Needs:** Efficient waste collection systems, community engagement, and funding for new initiatives are essential for Barnsley MBC to achieve its aims. The council needs to invest in infrastructure and technology to support sustainable waste management practices.
- **Desires:** Collaboration with other councils, innovative solutions for waste management, and alignment with national strategies are key desires for Barnsley MBC. The council seeks to leverage partnerships and best practices to enhance its waste management efforts.

City of Doncaster Council

- **Aims:** The City of Doncaster Council aims to enhance recycling rates, support circular economy initiatives, and improve the effectiveness of waste management. The council is focused on reducing waste and promoting sustainable practices.
- **Needs:** Investment in recycling facilities, public awareness campaigns, and compliance with new legislation are critical needs for the City of Doncaster Council. The council must ensure that residents and businesses are informed and engaged in waste reduction efforts.
- **Desires:** Integration of waste management with broader environmental goals, such as carbon reduction and biodiversity enhancement, is a key desire for the City of Doncaster Council. The council seeks to create a holistic approach to environmental sustainability.

Rotherham MBC

- **Aims:** Rotherham MBC aims to achieve higher recycling rates, reduce waste generation, and support sustainable practices. The council is committed to aligning its waste strategy with national environmental goals and improving resource efficiency.
- **Needs:** Effective waste collection services, partnerships with local businesses, and adherence to national waste strategies are essential for Rotherham MBC. The council needs to invest in infrastructure and technology to support sustainable waste management practices.
- **Desires:** Community involvement in waste reduction efforts, innovative recycling technologies, and alignment with the Environment Act and EPR requirements are key desires for Rotherham MBC. The council seeks to leverage partnerships and best practices to enhance its waste management efforts.

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Support of other Council Plans

It is envisioned that this SY/BDR Municipal Waste Strategy will help support, align and contribute to existing strategies, policies, initiatives, mission statements, themes, and plans, already existing or to be formed within in the SY/BDR Councils, helping to create a cohesive and comprehensive approach to waste management that supports their environmental, social, and economic objectives.

Barnsley MBC

- 1. Our Council Plan 2024-2027**
 - Sets out what BMBC aim to achieve by 2027 working together with residents, communities, partners and businesses.
- 2. Our Barnsley 2030 vision**
 - Created as the guiding force behind our Council Plan
- 3. Climate Emergency Declaration:**
 - Declared in September 2019.
 - Target for the council to be net zero carbon by 2040 and the borough by 2045.
- 4. Zero 40 and Zero 45 Programmes:**
 - Zero 40: Aims for the council to become net zero carbon by 2040.
 - Zero 45: Aims for the entire borough to become net zero carbon by 2045.
- 5. Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP):**
 - Guides carbon reduction work for the next five years.
 - Focuses on energy efficiency, renewable energy procurement, and reducing carbon emissions.
- 6. Local Plan:**
 - Contains climate change-related policies and provides guidance on sustainable development.

City of Doncaster Council

- 1. Corporate Plan 2025-2026**
 - CDC Corporate Plan detailing the priorities that we will deliver for the people of Doncaster.
- 2. Doncaster Delivering Together**
 - Includes priorities for cleaner neighbourhoods, environmental sustainability, and community engagement.
- 3. Climate and Biodiversity Emergency Declaration:**
 - Declared in 2019.
 - Acknowledges the urgent need to address climate change and biodiversity loss.
- 4. Doncaster Climate and Biodiversity Commission Report:**
 - Provides recommendations and a roadmap for tackling climate change in Doncaster.
 - Emphasises community involvement and sustainable practices.
- 5. Environment and Sustainability Strategy 2020-2030:**
 - Developed in response to the climate and biodiversity emergency declaration.
 - Aims to make Doncaster carbon neutral by 2040.
 - Focuses on green transport, energy efficiency, and increasing tree cover
- 6. Local Plan**
 - Doncaster's Local Plan sets out how Doncaster Borough will grow and develop from 2015 to 2035.

Rotherham MBC

- 1. Corporate Plan 2022-2025**
 - The Council Plan sets out the Council's priorities for serving residents and communities.
- 2. Climate Emergency Declaration:**
 - Declared in 2019.
 - Targets for the council to be net zero carbon by 2030 and the borough by 2040.
- 3. Policy Statement on Responding to the Climate Emergency 2020:**
 - Outlines the council's commitment to addressing climate change.
 - Includes the creation of a member working group and the development of a Carbon Action Plan
- 4. Climate Change Action Plan 2024/25:**
 - Details steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and achieve net zero targets.
 - Focuses on reducing emissions from council operations and the wider borough.

5. Local Plan:

- Contains policies and related to climate change and sustainable development.

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Challenges, Opportunities, and Risks

Challenges

- **Legislative Compliance:** Ensuring all councils meet the requirements of the Environment Act, EPR, DRS, and simpler recycling is a significant challenge. Local governments must navigate complex regulations and implement effective waste management practices.
- **Funding:** Securing adequate funding for new initiatives and infrastructure improvements is a critical challenge. Councils must balance budget constraints with the need for investment in sustainable waste management solutions.
- **Public Engagement:** Encouraging community participation and awareness of new waste management practices is essential for success. Councils must develop effective communication strategies to engage residents and businesses.

Opportunities

- **Innovation:** Leveraging innovative technologies and practices to improve waste management efficiency presents significant opportunities. Councils can explore innovative solutions, such as smart waste collection systems and advanced recycling technologies.
- **Collaboration:** Collaborating with other councils and stakeholders to achieve shared goals offers valuable opportunities. Collaboration can enhance resource efficiency, reduce costs, and promote best practices.
- **Environmental Benefits:** Reducing carbon emissions, enhancing biodiversity, and promoting sustainability are key opportunities. Councils can contribute to national environmental goals and improve the quality of life for residents.

Risks

- **Implementation Delays:** Potential delays in rolling out new initiatives and meeting legislative deadlines pose risks. Councils must develop robust project management strategies to ensure timely implementation.
- **Financial Burden:** The cost of compliance and infrastructure upgrades may strain council budgets. Councils must explore funding options and prioritise investments to mitigate financial risks.
- **Public Resistance:** Resistance to changes in waste collection and recycling practices from the community is a potential risk. Councils must engage with residents and businesses to address concerns and promote participation.

Conclusion and Proposed Actions

The recent and future legislative changes and waste strategies present both challenges and opportunities for SY/BDR. By focusing on collaboration, innovation, and community engagement, the councils can effectively navigate the complexities of the new requirements and achieve their environmental goals.

Legislative Compliance and Strategic Alignment

The Environment Act 2021, Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), Deposit Return Scheme (DRS), and simpler recycling initiatives set a robust framework for waste management and environmental protection. These legislative changes require local councils to adapt their strategies to meet new standards and targets. Compliance with these regulations is not just a legal obligation but also an opportunity to enhance sustainability and resource efficiency.

SY/BDR Councils must ensure their waste strategies align with the broader goals of the Environment Act, such as improving air and water quality, reducing waste, and enhancing biodiversity. The councils should leverage the provisions of EPR to secure funding for waste management infrastructure and promote sustainable packaging practices. The implementation of DRS will require careful planning and community engagement to maximise participation and environmental benefits.

Collaboration and Innovation

Collaboration between the councils and other stakeholders is crucial for the successful implementation of these waste strategies. By working together, SY/BDR can share resources, expertise, and best practices to achieve common goals. Joint initiatives, such as the South Yorkshire Waste Needs Assessment and the Joint Waste Plan, provide a framework for coordinated action and strategic planning.

Innovation in waste management technologies and practices offers significant opportunities for improvement. Councils can explore advanced recycling technologies, smart waste collection systems, and circular economy initiatives to enhance efficiency and reduce environmental impact. Investing in research and development, pilot projects, and partnerships with private sector companies can drive innovation and create sustainable solutions.

Community Engagement and Public Awareness

Effective community engagement is essential for the success of waste management strategies. Councils must develop comprehensive communication plans to inform residents and businesses about new initiatives, legislative changes, and the benefits of sustainable waste practices. Public awareness campaigns, educational programs, and community events can foster a culture of recycling and environmental responsibility.

Engaging with the community also involves addressing concerns and resistance to changes in waste collection and recycling practices. Councils should provide clear information, support, and incentives to encourage participation and compliance. Building strong relationships with local communities can enhance trust and cooperation, leading to more effective waste management outcomes.

Environmental and Economic Benefits

The implementation of these waste strategies offers significant environmental and economic benefits. Reducing waste, increasing recycling rates, and promoting sustainable practices contribute to the overall health and well-being of the environment. These efforts can lead to cleaner public spaces, reduced pollution, and enhanced biodiversity.

Economically, sustainable waste management practices can create green jobs, stimulate local economies, and reduce costs associated with waste disposal and landfill. By investing in infrastructure, technology, and community engagement, councils can achieve long-term savings and generate economic opportunities.

Strategic Integration

The Municipal Waste Strategy for SY/BDR is designed to support and integrate with other local policies, initiatives, and plans. This integrated approach ensures that waste management efforts are aligned with broader environmental, social, and economic strategic goals for each council.



