



# West London Waste Authority

## Notice of Best Value Performance Plan 2004-05

### Annual performance summary 2003-04

#### About the Authority

The West London Waste Authority is the statutory body established for the principal purpose of transporting and disposing of municipal waste arising within the administrative areas of the London Boroughs of Brent, Ealing, Harrow, Hillingdon, Hounslow and Richmond-upon-Thames.

Each of these boroughs appoints one of its Councillors to the Authority, and the current Authority members are:



Cllr. Valerie Lamey  
LB Hounslow  
Authority Chair



Cllr. John Delaney  
LB Ealing  
Authority Vice Chair



Cllr. Lesley Jones  
LB Brent



Cllr. Alan Blann  
LB Harrow



Cllr. David Routledge  
LB Hillingdon



Cllr. David Marlow  
LB Richmond

#### The Authority's Services

The Authority's three main statutory responsibilities are to provide:

- the storage and disposal of the abandoned vehicles that are removed by the constituent boroughs;
- the transport and disposal of the waste that the constituent boroughs receive at their civic amenity sites;
- facilities for the receipt and disposal of the waste that is collected by the six constituent boroughs.

A key objective for the Authority has always been to ensure that the boroughs are offered a reliable disposal service that has adequate flexibility and capacity. Most of the Authority's waste is transported by rail and this has a particular environmental benefit in reducing heavy lorry movements on the roads and thereby reducing air pollution and road congestion.

#### Best Value Performance Plan

Similarly to other local authorities, the West London Waste Authority has a legal duty of Best Value - to secure continuous improvement in the quality and cost effectiveness of its services. This involves subjecting all aspects of the organisation to Best Value review, and publishing a Best Value Performance Plan (BVPP) by 30 June each year.

The BVPP for 2003-04 published on 30 June 2003 contains a great deal of information about the Authority's work and has been made available throughout the Authority's area at main public libraries and at town halls or civic centres. Additionally it may be downloaded from the Authority's web-site at [www.westlondonwaste.gov.uk](http://www.westlondonwaste.gov.uk).

The BVPP for 2004-05 is now being prepared and will be published on or shortly before 30 June 2004. It will be widely distributed as before and on the Authority's web-site, or obtainable from Mr. M.J. Smith, Clerk to the West London Waste Authority, Civic Centre, Lampton Road, Hounslow, Middlesex TW3 4DN.

The BVPP will include a summary of the Authority's strategic objectives and priorities for improvement, arrangements for pursuing the improvement priorities, information about the performances achieved in 2003-04 and targets set for future performance.

The overwhelmingly most important waste objective for the Authority and its constituent boroughs in the coming years is to increase the diversion of biodegradable waste away from landfill. Achieving this will avoid the heavy financial penalties Government plans to impose to ensure the UK meets its targets under the EU Landfill Directive.



Green waste being loaded into a shredder before being taken by railway to be recycled into compost

## West London Waste Authority 2003-04 Performance

During 2003-04 the Authority has continued to provide its constituent boroughs with reliable and cost effective services.

**Abandoned vehicles.** The number of vehicles collected by the boroughs has fallen this year to a projected total for 2003-04 of 11,500 compared with 19,191 in 2002-03. Fewer abandoned vehicles are being left for the boroughs to collect because an increase in scrap metal prices has made it profitable for scrap metal dealers to collect them. The Authority has made arrangements to enable it to comply with the EU End of Life Vehicles Directive that is now in force in the UK and requires vehicles to be depolluted of all hazardous materials before disposal. This will add to the Authority's costs until January 2007 when the Directive requires vehicle manufacturers to meet the costs of disposal.

**Civic amenity site waste.** The tonnage of waste sent for disposal from constituent borough civic amenity sites has fallen this year to a projected total in 2003-04 of 180,000 tonnes compared to 208,000 tonnes in 2002-03. There are a number of reasons for this including the very dry summer (that reduced garden waste because of slower plant growth, and also reduced the weight of waste because of lower moisture content), the temporary closure of a major site for refurbishment, and an increase in recycling and composting - for example, the amount of green waste diverted from landfill and sent for composting in 2003-04 has increased to a projected 20,000 tonnes compared to 15,000 tonnes in 2002-03.

**Waste collected by the constituent boroughs.** The waste collected by the constituent boroughs and delivered to the Authority for disposal has fallen this year to a projected total in 2003-04 of 518,000 tonnes compared to 530,000 tonnes in 2002-03. This probably is attributable partly to the very dry summer and to some increase in recycling (for which data is not yet fully available from the constituent boroughs).

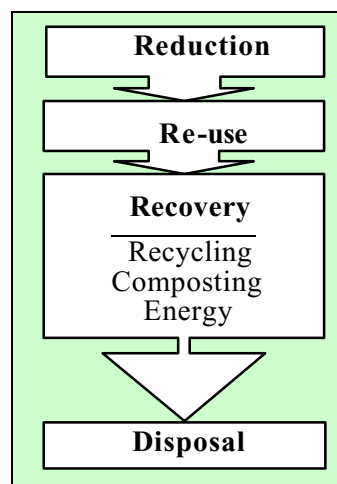
**Best Value Performance Indicators (BVPIs).** The Government specifies BVPIs for waste authorities. Data for the Authority's BVPIs for 2003-04 is not yet available and these will be published in the Best Value Performance Plan 2004-05. The Government has set a statutory performance standard for the Authority in 2003-04 to achieve a combined recycling and composting rate of 18%.

The Authority's BVPI figures for 2002-03 were:

Tonnage of household waste arisings - percentage recycled	11.7%
Total tonnage of household waste arisings - percentage composted	2.2%
Total tonnage of household waste arisings - percentage used to recover heat, power & other energy sources	0.1%
Total tonnage of household waste arisings - percentage landfilled	86%
Kg of household waste collected per head	466kg
Cost of waste disposal per tonne for municipal waste	£34.70

The Authority has worked hard to ensure continuity and improvement of the service against a backdrop of a changing climate of environmental concern, where the emphasis has changed from simple waste disposal to waste management via reduction, re-use and re-cycling; more rigorous environmental controls and increasing budget pressure. These factors have required the Authority to regularly review its services within the framework of its commitment to an environmentally responsible approach to waste management.

The main issue for the Authority and its constituent boroughs now is to plan and implement waste arrangements that are more sustainable for the longer



term by reducing the use of landfill and moving further up the national waste strategy's waste hierarchy shown left.

By 2020 the EU Landfill Directive requires the UK to cut the amount of biodegradable waste sent to landfill by two thirds of the amount sent in 1995. This is because landfill produces methane, which is a powerful greenhouse gas that causes global warming.

Diverting waste from landfill will be expensive, though less so than continuing to use landfill because the Government is steeply increasing Landfill Tax as a disincentive and is going to impose financial penalties on waste disposal authorities that exceed their allowed landfill tonnage.

In order to plan for the future, 2003-04 has seen the Authority and its six constituent boroughs commit themselves to working together to produce a joint municipal waste strategy by early 2005, which will involve consultation to ensure that the views of local residents are fully taken into account. 2003-04 has also seen increased diversion of waste from landfill by increased recycling, including sending some civic amenity waste for mechanical sorting, and by increased segregation of garden waste for composting. Recycling of garden waste has been boosted by the Authority's new facility at Brentford where green waste is shredded and sent by railway for composting in Oxfordshire.

