

WASTE TRANSFER STATIONS - 20% RECYCLING ASSUMPTION

1.1 INTRODUCTION

This briefing paper has been produced for the Examination into the West of England Joint Waste Core Strategy (JWCS), to provide additional information and justification for the assumption that waste transfer stations (WTS) contribute to recycling capacity at 20%.

1.2 WASTE TRANSFER STATIONS

In their simplest form, WTS can be described as facilities that bulk waste in order to enable transport in larger quantities. Traditionally, the waste will have been transported for disposal to landfill. However, there are also sites that operate differently, where a large percentage of the waste received is recycled. An example would be a skip hire service that is classified as a waste transfer station via its licence, receives a waste delivery, separates / sorts the waste into recyclates and then transfers the separated / sorted material to be recycled at a relevant recycling plant. The residual waste that can not be recycled is taken to a local landfill or treatment facility. In this sense the WTS is a role comparable to a materials recycling facility. A material recycling facility does not itself recycle waste. It accommodates a process or number of processes that separate wastes into different material to be processed / recycled elsewhere.

Within the West of England there are a substantial number of operating WTS. In order to recognise the contribution that the waste transfer stations are making, an assumption is made within the JWCS that 20% of waste processed at these sites can be considered as recycling capacity. This assumption has been drawn from market knowledge and was previously used to prepare the East of England Plan. This assumption was accepted by the Panel examining the RSS without challenge.

1.3 SURVEY OF WASTE TRANSFER STATIONS - OCTOBER 2010

The West of England Partnership, as requested by the Inspector has undertaken an assessment of the estimated recycling rate at WTS (as classified by the Environment Agency (EA)) operating in the Plan Area. In total 21 of these sites provided estimates at short notice via telephone conversation or the information was published on their website.

The survey included local operators and local authority transfer stations, in order to provide a complete picture as far as possible. *Table 1* presents the sites for which estimates for their operations could be sourced in the given time period.

Table 1. Sites Classified by the EA as Transfer Stations that provided Estimates of Recycling Percentages.

Site Name	Authority	Address
Commercial Recycling	Bristol City Council	Albert Road, St. Philips, Bristol
McCarthy Waste Management	Bristol City Council	Sussex St, St. Philips. Bristol
Abacus Waste Management	Bristol City Council	Albert Road, St. Philips. Bristol
Weston Tyres Ltd	Bristol City Council	St Andrews Road, Avonmouth, Bristol
Towens Waste Management Ltd	North Somerset	Warne Road, Weston Super Mare, Somerset
Keynsham Depot - Waste Transfer Station	Bath and North East Somerset	Unit 4a, Ashmead Road, Keynsham
Bristol City Council, Avonmouth Refuse Transfer Station	Bristol City Council	Kingsweston Lane, Avonmouth, Bristol
Bristol City Council, Days Road Transfer Station	Bristol City Council	Folly Lane, off Days Road, St Philips, Bristol
BANES - Old Welton Refuse Transfer Station And C A Site	Bath and North East Somerset	Wheelers Hill, Radstock Road, Midsomer Norton
BANES - Midland Road Waste Transfer Station	Bath and North East Somerset	Midland Road, Bath
BANES - Bath Destructor Depot Waste Transfer Station	Bath and North East Somerset	Upper Bristol Road, Bath
BANES - Radstock Road Transfer Station	Bath and North East Somerset	Midsomer Norton, Bath
BANES - Westmoreland Railhead	Bath and North East Somerset	Station Road, Westmoreland
Churngold	South Glos	Unit 1, Severn View Industrial Estate, Severn Beach, Bristol
Bristol and Avon Waste Management Ltd	Bristol City Council	Ironchurch Road, Holesmouth, Avonmouth, Bristol
Batemans Skip Hire	Bath and North East Somerset	Broadmead Lane Industrial Estate, Broadmead Lane, Keynsham, Bristol
Smith Ltd, Eastern	Bristol City	Eastern Shed, Rear Of Moleson Holdings,

Shed Transfer Facility	Council	Smoke Lane, Avonmouth, Bristol
Safety Kleen UK Ltd	South Glos	Unit 202, Emerald Park, Emerson's Green, Bristol
T Quality Ltd	Bristol City Council	Avonmouth Way, Avonmouth, Bristol
Waste Recycling @ Bath Ltd	Bath and North East Somerset	The Old Fullers Earth Works, Odd Down, Bath
Black Ram Recycling	North Somerset	The Grainstore, Purn Farm, Weston – Super-Mare, Somerset

Due to commercial confidentiality individual figures can not be enclosed, but the collective averages can be calculated. The recycling percentages for the WTS varied, with seven of the sites recycling 0% of the waste received. These facilities were acting in a traditional manner and simply bulking waste to be transported on to disposal. There were also three local authority facilities, which have a waste transfer licence but are street cleansing depots that do not manage waste on the site, and therefore also have a 0% recycling capacity. The other 11 sites surveyed did process waste, but are classed as WTS by the EA. These recycled between 20% and 100% of waste received at the site. The average recycling rate from all of the facilities listed in Table 1 is 40%.

This estimate needs to be read with caution as the facilities are processing a range of waste streams and the site operators were not able to confirm how much of each waste stream was managed. It is generally accepted that higher levels of recycling of Construction, Demolition and Excavation (CD&E) waste are achieved over non-hazardous (Municipal and Commercial and Industrial) waste. Further clarification can be gained by reference to the EA data returns for 2009 discussed below.

1.4

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY INFORMATION

The EA has also been contacted and now provided data that enables a more accurate calculation for the rate of recycling of non-hazardous waste that is recycled at WTS. Full details of the data cannot be provided due to commercial confidentiality. Collectively, the data indicates that in 2009, 25% of non-hazardous waste that was managed at the transfer stations in the Plan Area was recycled or re-processed.

The EA also provided information on estimates at a national scale. This estimated that on average there is a 40% recycling rate at non-hazardous WTS. Therefore, the West of England figures are lower than the national average. However information is only available for 2009 and a complete picture of past trends cannot be gained.

The EA has provided the following statement '*The Environment Agency supports the approach that the West of England are taking with the 20% recycling*

capacity for transfer stations. Evidence suggests that this is a reasonable assumption for the recycling capacity at transfer stations. It is accepted that a certain proportion of waste will be removed for recycling during the transfer process. Depending on the type of waste and the type of transfer station, recycling figures will vary from operator to operator. For example, the recycling rates are higher for inert waste (stone and rubble) and hazardous waste but are lower for household, industrial and commercial wastes. Therefore 20% would be a reasonable average across the various types of transfer stations across the West of England. It is important to stress however, that the recycling capacity of the transfer stations should not over compensate or replace potential future recycling opportunities. Particularly for green and food waste'.

1.5

CONCLUSION

The information gathered demonstrates that there are many WTS in the Plan Area that recycle waste, to varying degrees. In order to acknowledge the contributions that some of these sites are making, a 20% assumption has been made in preparing the JWCS. The information presented above justifies and supports such an assumption and may even be considered a slightly conservative estimate.

Consultation with the industry throughout development of the JWCS, and significant site assessment research, has shown there are broadly adequate recycling sites within the Plan Area using the 20% assumption.

In any event, the JWCS provides a range of opportunities for additional recycling capacity to be provided. At paragraph 4.6, PPS12 advises that '*Core strategies may allocate strategic sites for development. These should be those sites considered central to achievement of the strategy. ...*' Delivery of additional recycling (including composting) capacity can be made at the range of sites and locations presented within the JWCS, such that the allocation of discrete sites is not considered necessary.