

Chartered Institution of Wastes Management Position on Developing MSW Infrastructure in Scotland

The following statements form the Chartered Institution of Wastes Management (CIWM) position on the need to develop the next generation of waste treatment infrastructure and services in Scotland. Whilst the focus is on municipal solid waste (MSW), the views expressed apply equally to commercial and industrial wastes (C&I).

1. CIWM in Scotland considers that in consideration of the protracted timescales incurred in developing waste infrastructure (planning, permitting and construction) there are no early solutions readily available. Accordingly, the opportunity should be taken by the Scottish Government as a high priority, to integrate their waste management policies with those for energy and carbon offsetting, thus ensuring that we achieve the best practicable option rather than an outcome based on the lowest unit price.
2. CIWM supports the promotion of high recycling rates from MSW and considers that targets for the recycling of MSW in excess of 60% are possible from a combination of front end recycling via kerbside and civic amenity recycling and where appropriate, post consumer mechanical recovery of recyclate from residual wastes.
3. CIWM recognises the concept of Zero Waste as an aspirational aim to continually improve waste prevention, re-use and recycling with the aim of conserving resources, reducing the environmental and health impacts of waste and limiting landfill.
4. CIWM believes that consideration requires to be given to the development of a range of policies designed to encourage manufacturers, retailers, consumers and waste producers to take greater responsibility for their products and consumption patterns and the wastes they produce in order to support the application of the waste hierarchy.
5. CIWM believes that in order to maximise the recovery of value from waste, the remaining inherent energy in waste should be recovered once all viable recycling opportunities have been exhausted.
6. CIWM considers the use of waste biomass (and secondary biomass from forestry and agriculture) should take priority over the use of primary grown biomass with the latter used only 'to top' up the demand from biomass in energy systems.

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7. CIWM recognises the complexity inherent in PPP which adds to the costs and timescales for delivering waste infrastructure in Scotland considering this to be a risk to the uptake and utilisation of the best available technologies and systems. Prudential Borrowing or the use of merchant facilities may provide better options in terms of value for money, timescale, flexibility and technology innovation whilst enabling the synergies in treatment between MSW and C&I wastes to be realised.

8. CIWM recognises the benefits to be obtained from local authority groupings that encourage logical synergies in appropriate scale and proximity of facilities, to maximise value recovery rather than a focus on lowest unit cost.

9. CIWM believes that in the National Planning Framework, the designation of 'waste infrastructure of national importance' should apply to the network of facilities as a whole and not just individual facilities over a certain size.

10. CIWM would recommend that the Scottish Government establish an advisory panel comprised of the significant interests in waste management in Scotland to bring forward, as a matter of urgency, the consensus of the opinion to assist in the creation of future policy and optimised delivery for waste management in Scotland.

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