



**Friends of  
the Earth**

# Consultation on waste indicators for local authorities

Response from Friends of the  
Earth

August 2007

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**<http://www.foe.co.uk/campaigns/waste/>**

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- a unique network of campaigning local groups, working in more than 200 communities throughout England, Wales and Northern Ireland
- dependent on individuals for over 90 per cent of its income.

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August 2007

## Introduction

Friends of the Earth welcomes this opportunity to comment on the Government's proposals for to modify the indicators used by local government to report on waste management.

We believe that waste policy should be aiming to improve the UK's resource efficiency, and minimise our climate impacts, by maximising prevention, reuse, recycling and composting, and by gradually phasing out residual waste. We therefore welcome the Government's focus on minimising residual waste with these new indicators.

## Response to questions

### ***Question 1: Do you agree with the waste indicators proposed for the new performance framework?***

Yes. We believe the targets are unambitious, but we support the indicators.

### ***Question 2: Do you agree with the inclusion of reuse in the household waste indicators?***

Yes. Reuse has an important role in diverting material away from residual waste.

### ***Question 3: Do you agree with the inclusion in the household waste indicators of metals recovered from the ash residues resulting from energy from waste which are sent for recycling (and not towards the energy recovery rate)?***

We have a number of points to make on this question:

(i) In our view, there should be a ban on the incineration (or landfill) of any material that can be reused, recycled or composted. Such a ban would maximise recycling, and help to ensure the quality of the recyclables through encouraging separate collection or early separation.

(ii) We are concerned that inclusion of ash-derived metals in the recycling total could discourage councils from collecting metals separately for recycling; the government must ensure that this does not happen.

Subject to (i) and (ii) being in place, we could accept metals that are genuinely recycled from ash being included in the recycling figures.

In addition, it is worth noting that metals (and other materials) genuinely recycled in MBT processes should also be included as recycling in the household waste indicators.

### ***Question 4: Do you agree that household waste composted in home schemes promoted and supported by local authorities should be included in the proposed recycling and composting indicator, subject to a practical and robust method being developed for reporting the mass of waste home composted.***

Yes.

### ***Question 5: Do you agree, in principle, to set a mandatory minimum level against the waste indicators?***

Yes

### ***Question 6: If yes, to Question 5 should the minimum level be set household waste reuse/recycling/composting, OR household waste not reused/recycled/composted per head?***

There should be a mandatory maximum amount of household waste not reused/recycled or composted, per head (the second option). This will give councils an incentive to promote waste prevention, reuse, recycling and composting & make it clear that they must be acting to minimise residual waste.

The maximum residual waste per capita figure should reduce year on year.