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A Zero Waste Economy Are we getting there?

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The build up....

- Coalition agreement, May 2010:
 - *“We will work towards a ‘zero waste’ economy”*
- Caroline Spelman, Launch of Review, June 2010:
 - *“We have been slowly moving in the right direction with recycling rates. The direction of travel is right – it’s the pace that’s the problem. We need to go faster and we need to go further.”*
- “Call for evidence” launched, July 2010
 - *“The purpose of the review is to look at all aspects of waste policy and waste management in England to ensure that we are taking the right steps to delivering this ambition.”*
- DEFRA business plan, Nov 2010:
 - *“Publish waste goals for 2014/20 – May 2011”*



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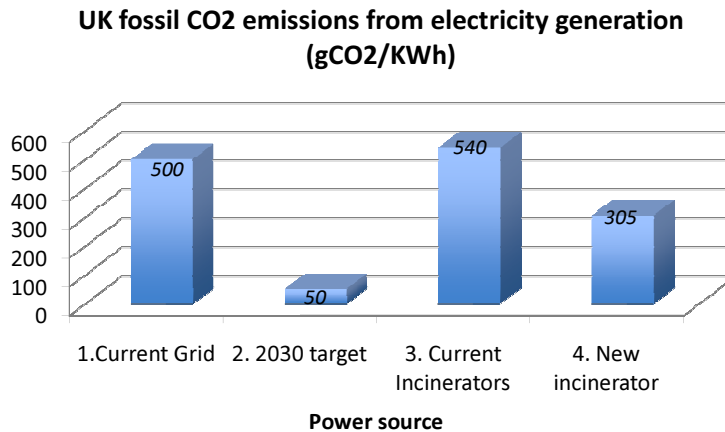
Key developments during the review period: (i) Climate

- The Committee on Climate Change proposed average grid emissions of 50 gCO₂/KWh by 2030 [1]
 - With important implications for waste policy
- Research found that developed countries like the UK are outsourcing their CO₂ emissions, not reducing them [2]
- Energy-related carbon-dioxide (CO₂) emissions in 2010 were the highest in history
 - According to the latest estimates by the International Energy Agency [3]
- In summary – we need to move fast
 - but we must make sure we are going in the right direction...



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Low carbon energy?



Sources: 1 & 2 from Committee on climate change [1]; 3. Parliamentary written answer from Greg Barker, 17th Jan 2011; 4. – Most efficient new incinerator, heat only, electricity equiv. 0.4* heat output; from 'Changing Climate' report [4]



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Key developments during the review period: (ii) Resources

- Commodity prices continue to be high
 - With increased demand (e.g. from India & China) expected to lead to further increases
- Resource efficiency is now a major EU priority:
 - “Continuing our current patterns of resource use is not an option...
 - increasing resource efficiency will be key to securing growth and jobs for Europe. It will bring major economic opportunities, improve productivity, drive down costs and boost competitiveness.”
 - Resource Efficiency Flagship Programme, European Commission, January 2011 [5]
- Yet the UK landfills or burns over £650 million worth of recyclable material every year [6]
- While 70% recycling could create over 50,000 UK jobs [7]



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Setting the goal

- We need to up our game on waste policy to respond to the climate & resources challenges
 - While also creating jobs & ensuring cost effectiveness
- Our analysis led us to a goal focussed on residual waste:
 - A goal to halve household residual waste by 2020
 - Equivalent to 70% recycling if no waste growth
 - With a similar goal for business wastes



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Tell David Cameron to talk half as much rubbish

Are you sick of waste, and having to throw stuff away that could be recycled or reused? We are. But we need your help to make sure the Government's Waste Review puts things right.

Help sort it.



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We support the goal...

“We support calls for a goal, as part of the Waste Review of English waste policy, to halve household residual ‘black bag’ waste by 2020, with a similar ambition for business waste.

This will drive waste prevention, reuse and recycling, and reduce councils’ spending on expensive incineration or landfill.”

Supporting organisations and individuals include:



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Key policies in the move to Zero Waste

- Government promotion of weekly food waste collections
 - not weekly residual waste collections
- An end to recyclable materials being burned or sent to landfill
 - and a residual waste tax
- Ensuring reusable, recyclable, and long lasting products through new EU & UK measures
- A requirement for waste companies to offer cost-effective recycling services to businesses
- High-quality household recycling collection and processing, preferably with waste separated at the kerbside.



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Are we taking the lead on the Zero Waste Economy?

- What's the competition:
 - Flanders: over 70% recycling for years
 - UK:
 - Wales: 70% recycling by 2025
 - Scotland: 70% recycling by 2025
 - Northern Ireland: 60% recycling by 2020
- In today's review:
 - England: *"at the very least meeting the revised waste framework directive target to recycle 50% of waste from households by 2020."*
 - ***Exactly the same 50% target as the 2007 waste review***



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Going 'further and faster' than the last Government?

- "Consult on the case for higher packaging recovery targets for some key materials"
 - As consulted in 2007 and 2010 by the last Government, with 2010 proposing substantial increases in recycling targets.
 - In October 2010:
 - "Targets beyond 2012 will be set following the Waste Review, the findings of which are due to be published in Spring 2011."
- "Consult next year on introducing a landfill restriction on wood waste, review the case for introducing landfill bans on other materials, such as metals, textiles and all biodegradable waste."
 - As consulted on in 2010 by the last Government
- "Encourage councils to sign the new Recycling & Waste Services Commitment, setting out the principles they will follow in delivering local waste services"
 - Launched in September 2009 under the last Government



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A wasted opportunity?

Where next for the Coalition's
commitment to a zero waste
economy?



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