

Local Authority Waste Policy and Performance Team  
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**To all organisations on attached list**

**14 October 2004**

Dear Sir/Madam,

### **Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategies**

The Waste and Emissions Trading (WET) Act, which received Royal Assent on 13 November 2003, included a provision introducing a statutory duty on authorities in two-tier areas, subject to certain exemptions, to have in place by April 2005 a joint municipal waste management strategy.

Local authorities bound by this duty must have regard when developing their Strategies to any guidance given by the Secretary of State. To assist Local Authorities, Defra is currently revising the 2001 Guidance on Municipal Waste Management Strategies, for consultation later this year. In recognition of the important links between strategic and land-use planning we are working closely with ODPM to ensure that the revised guidance on strategies and the new PPS10 are effectively integrated.

The Government launched a consultation on 20 July seeking Local Authorities views on guidance on the operation of the new duty to have in place a joint strategy, and the design of regulations under section 33 of the WET Act, exempting certain authorities and areas from this duty. The consultation period has now ended and the Government will publish a summary of responses in due course.

One concern raised by a number of authorities was that the April 2005 deadline set by the WET Act allowed insufficient time to develop a complete strategy in compliance with new Government guidance.

It is Defra's view, however, that a strategy is not simply a finalised document but an ongoing *process* of forward thinking and planning to meet the demands of the future.

We therefore do not necessarily expect Local Authorities bound by the duty to have in place a complete, updated, strategy by April 2005. Rather, we expect non-exempt authorities to demonstrate through a brief statement the active steps that they have taken to begin working together on the development of their joint strategy. This statement should also provide a synopsis of what progress has been made and what further strategy development is planned.

I would be grateful if you could ensure that your members are aware of this letter. A copy can be found on Defra's website at:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/waste/localauth/index.htm>

Yours faithfully,

**James Stevens**

**Organisations to which this letter has been sent:**

Association of London Government  
Chartered Institute of Waste Management  
Community Recycling Network  
Composting Association  
Environment Agency  
Environmental Services Association  
Government Offices  
Greater London Authority  
Local Authority Recycling Advisory Committee (LARAC)  
Local Government Association  
National Association of Waste Disposal Officers  
Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP)