

**TO: JOINT WASTE DISPOSAL BOARD  
7 JULY 2015**

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**IMPROVING WASTE AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT IN ENGLAND  
re3 Project Director**

**1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The Board has an interest in the options available for recycle materials. One of the concerns discussed in the past by the Board is the general lack of sustainable local markets for materials recovered from the waste stream.
- 1.2 These concerns are shared nationally and the newly appointed Resource Minister has been contacted with a view to trying to encourage change in some key areas of direct interest to this Board.

**2. SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 2.1 Several of the UK's representative bodies for the waste and resource management sector and local authorities have sent the Minister a letter requesting a meeting to discuss the future direction of resource policy.
- 2.2 The letter highlights key areas that the signatories think Defra should focus on to improve resource management in England, and help boost England's waste and recycling performance. The letter has been sent by the Anaerobic Digestion and Bioresources Association (ADBA), Environmental Services Association (ESA), Chartered Institution of Wastes Management (CIWM), Renewable Energy Association (REA), Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE), Waste Network Coordinators (WNC) and the Resource Association.
- 2.3 The areas of concern cited in the letter include:
- Recycling. The organisations highlight the levelling off of recycling performance, the current weak market conditions for recycled materials and the need to increase efforts to prevent and recover food waste.
  - Investment. The letter calls for leadership from government to encourage investment in new waste treatment, recycling and reprocessing facilities, asking for a policy framework along the lines of those that have been instituted in Scotland and Wales.
  - Waste crime. Citing the economic and environmental impacts of waste crime, the groups say 'cracking down on waste crime' should remain a priority for the government, and that sufficient resources need to be allocated to the Environment Agency and local authorities to tackle the issue.
- 2.4 The seven signatures to the letter are seeking an early meeting to discuss the future direction of waste related policy. They take the view that waste is a valuable source of materials, energy and nutrients. The industry has grown strongly over recent years despite the adverse economic climate and has the potential to make a further important contribution to growth and job creation. However, there are concerns that progress in improving resource management in England has stalled and they would like to offer to work with government and officials at Defra to help turn this situation around.

2.5 Should this offer come to anything we will update the Board.

### **3 EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

3.1 Not applicable.

### **4 STRATEGIC RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES**

4.1 The more that helps increase the options available to us as a supplier of waste resources, the better. If the market is healthy the re3 Councils will not only secure a greater fiscal return but are more likely to achieve the 50% national recycling target.

#### Background Papers

Letter dated 4 June 2015 from the Anaerobic Digestion and Bioresources Association (ADBA), Environmental Services Association (ESA), Chartered Institution of Wastes Management (CIWM), Renewable Energy Association (REA), Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE), Waste Network Coordinators (WNC) and the Resource Association.

#### Contact for further information

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