

Planning Policy: Briefing note Recycling in Southwark

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London

The adopted London Plan (Feb 2008) and the draft replacement London Plan (Dec 2009) require London authorities to set aside land that can be allocated for the treatment of waste. The draft replacement London Plan is due to be adopted in late 2011 following on from its Examination in Public in summer/autumn 2010.

Adopted London Plan (2008)

Policy 4A.21 Waste strategic policy and targets

The Mayor will work with boroughs to:

- increase re-use and recycling and composting of waste, and reduce landfill disposal
- exceed recycling or composting levels in municipal waste of:
 - 35 per cent by 2010
 - 45 per cent by 2015
- achieve recycling or composting levels in commercial and industrial waste of 70 per cent by 2020
- achieve recycling and re-use levels in construction, excavation and demolition waste of 95 per cent by 2020.

Policy 4A.22 Spatial policies for waste management

Boroughs should:

- identify new sites in suitable locations for new recycling and waste treatment facilities, such as MRFs, waste reuse and recycling centres (Civic Amenity sites), construction and demolition waste recycling plants and closed vessel composting
- require the provision of suitable waste and recycling storage facilities in all new developments
- support appropriate developments for manufacturing related to recycled waste

Policy 4A.25

- In their planning policy documents boroughs should identify sufficient land to provide capacity to manage waste apportioned at borough level.

Draft replacement London Plan (2009)

Policy 5.16

The Mayor will work with boroughs to:

- Encouraging the reuse of and reduction in the use of materials
- Exceed recycling/ composting levels in municipal solid waste (MSW) of 45% by 2015, 50% by 2020 and aspiring to achieve 60% by 2031
- Exceed recycling / composting levels in commercial and industrial waste of 70% by 2020
- Exceed recycling and reuse levels in construction, excavation and demolition waste of 95% by 2020

Policy 5.17

- Suitable waste and recycling storage facilities are required in all new developments
- Boroughs must allocate sufficient land and identify waste management facilities to provide capacity to manage the tonnages of waste apportioned

Southwark

The Mayor has set waste processing targets for boroughs through the London Plan. In Southwark's case, the council needs to identify enough land to process at least 243,000 tonnes of waste (municipal as well as commercial) per annum by 2016, 275,000 tonnes by 2021 and 343,000 tonnes of waste by 2031. This will help meet the London-wide target of processing at least 85% of the city's waste within London by 2020.

The council's current plan is the Southwark Plan (unitary development plan). The planning policy team have recently prepared a draft core strategy. This will replace some of the policies in the Southwark Plan. Other policies will be replaced by other development plan documents or area action plans as they are adopted.

The Core Strategy has been submitted to the Secretary of State and been independently examined by a Planning Inspector. The Inspector will be finalising his report in December 2010 and it is expected the Core Strategy will be adopted in early 2011.

Southwark Plan 2007

Strategic Policy 12

All developments should, where appropriate, reduce pollution and improve the environmental performance of buildings especially for energy, water and waste management.

Policy 3.7 – Waste Reduction

All developments are required to ensure adequate provision of recycling, composting and residual waste disposal, collection and storage facilities. The design of waste and recycling facilities must be easily and safely accessible, improving local amenity.

Policy 3.8 – Waste Management

- Existing waste sites will be protected
- New and extended facilities must demonstrate how the best environmental practicable option and principles of sustainable waste management have been applied.

Core Strategy DPD

Strategic Policy 13

Southwark will:

- Increase recycling and composting, reducing landfill and making more use of waste as a resource. By 2015 we will be recycling and composting at least 45% of municipal waste and by 2025 at least 70% of commercial and industrial waste. We are aiming to meet the Mayor's target of recycling or reusing 95% of construction, excavation and demolition waste by 2020.
- Safeguard existing waste sites unless it can be demonstrated that they are surplus to requirements
- Require applicants to demonstrate how they will avoid waste and minimise landfill from construction and use of a development.
- Meet the London Plan waste apportionment target set for Southwark of managing at least 343,000 tonnes of waste by 2031.
- Prepare a new waste management development plan to demonstrate how the waste apportionment target will be met.

The evidence Southwark presented at the examination of the core strategy demonstrated that:

- The integrated waste management site on the Old Kent Road will process 88,350 tonnes of waste pa.
- The Ideal Waste site at 32 Verney Road is capable of processing around 9,460 tonnes of waste pa.
- Using the GLA's generic standard, the residual part of the Old Kent Road gasworks site, may be capable of processing 256,000 tonnes of waste pa, although this is untested.

Sustainable Design and Construction SPD (2008)

Our Sustainable Design and construction SPD supplements the Southwark Plan. With regards to waste it states that:

Waste storage in developments must meet the minimum requirements of Part H of the Building Regulations. Through the use of site waste management plans, 95% of construction waste should be recycled.