

## PLANNING POLICIES RELEVANT TO RURAL WASTE MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENTS:

### PLANNING POLICY STATEMENT 11 – PLANNING AND WASTE MANAGEMENT

This note provides an outline of the process for development of waste management facilities, and the rationale which informs it.

**Planning Policy Statements (PPS)** set out the policies of the Department on particular aspects of land-use planning and apply to all of NI.

**PPS 11 ‘Planning and Waste Management’<sup>1</sup>** sets out the Department’s planning policies for the development of waste management facilities. It seeks to promote the highest environmental standards in development proposals, give guidance on likely material issues, and explains the relationship between the planning system and the waste management and regulation systems.

The **main policy objectives of PPS 11** are to:

- Promote development, in appropriate locations, of waste management facilities that offer the Best Practicable Environmental Option (BPEO) in meeting needs identified in the local Waste Management Plan.
- Ensure detrimental effects of waste management facilities on people, the environment and local amenity are avoided or minimised.
- Secure proper restoration of waste management sites for agreed after-uses.

PPS 11 is guided by the ‘precautionary principle’ and the ‘polluter pays’ principle, and is consistent with the NI Waste Management Strategy, local Waste Management Plan, and the **principles of sustainable waste management**:

- Sustainable Development.
- The waste management hierarchy.
- The ‘proximity principle’.
- Regional self-sufficiency.
- Development of integrated waste management facilities.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.planningni.gov.uk/AreaPlans\\_Policy/PPS/pps11/pps11\\_master.pdf](http://www.planningni.gov.uk/AreaPlans_Policy/PPS/pps11/pps11_master.pdf)

- Reduction in waste to landfill.
- The BPEO.

**What is the relationship between the planning and pollution control regimes?**

Planning and pollution control systems are separate but complementary systems of control and regulation, designed to protect the environment from harm as a result of development and related operations. The dividing line between each system is not always clearly cut, and matters relevant to a pollution control issue may be material planning matters. Pollution control authorities will be consulted on planning applications for waste management facilities.

**Planning control** focuses on:

- Whether development is an acceptable use of land, not on the control of the processes or substances involved.
- Regulating the location of the development in order to avoid or minimise adverse effects on people, the use of land and the environment.

**Pollution control** focuses on:

- Control and regulation of proposed operations and processes.
- Ensuring that waste is disposed of or treated without endangering human health or causing harm to the environment.

The **planning policies of PPS 11** set out the main planning considerations that the Department will consider when assessing proposals for development of, or in the vicinity of, waste management facilities.

**Policy WM 1 ‘Environmental Impact of a Waste Management Facility’** considers:

- Environmental information.
- Environmental Impact Assessment process.
- The precautionary principle.
- Health considerations.
- Visual intrusion and impact on the landscape.
- Transport, traffic and access.
- Nature conservation and heritage.
- Environmental pollution, including dust and airborne pollution, litter, vermin and birds, land instability, hours and duration of operations, protection of surface and groundwater, flooding from rivers, agricultural land quality and reinstatement of the site.

**Policy WM 2 ‘Waste Collection and Treatment Facilities’** considers:

- Waste separation and recycling.
- Composting.
- Civic amenity sites.
- Waste water treatment sites.
- Regional scale waste treatment facilities.
- Internal v external waste treatment.
- Hazardous waste.
- Waste treatment and energy recovery.
- Integrated waste management facilities.

**Policy WM 3 ‘Waste Disposal’** considers:

- Need and the Best Practice Environmental Option.
- Environmental impact.
- Mineral reserves.
- Land raising.
- Regional scale landfill.
- Restoration.

**Policy WM 4 ‘Land Improvement’** considers:

- Unacceptable adverse environmental impacts that cannot be mitigated.
- Local needs and the BPEO.
- Minimum necessary quantities of landfill.
- Measures for appropriate restoration of the site.

**Policy WM 5 ‘Development in the Vicinity of Waste Management Facilities’**  
considers:

- Impact on activities permitted to be carried out within the waste management facility.
- Unacceptable adverse impacts on people, transport and the environment.

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