

Annex A: Wealth from Waste Recommendations

Recommendation 1: Freeze the landfill levy at its 2014/15 level in recognition that there is no evidence that further increases would have an effect on recycling trends.

Recommendation 2: The MRF Code of Practice should require full transparency of information and a robust system of sampling to enable price differentiation to drive higher quality, improve confidence in quality, and recover the associated value for local tax payers.

Recommendation 3: Amend the PERN system and improve enforcement at ports of waste exports so that the domestic reprocessing industry has a level playing field.

Recommendation 4: Revise the PRN system to include greater transparency, a direct incentive to local authorities for increasing their capture of packaging for recycling and an incentive for producers to use more recycled material and better design for recycling.

Recommendation 5: Revise the WEEE compliance arrangements to ensure that local authorities that collect and store WEEE have the ability if they wish to manage and receive an appropriate income for it. There should also be additional incentives to reuse an increasing proportion of WEEE while providing assurance that the material will not be illegally exported and landfilled overseas.

Recommendation 6: Introduce targeted landfill bans in the UK on selected materials – potentially furniture, paints, and textiles – and link them to an increased producer contribution to encourage a thriving recycling and reuse industry.

Recommendation 7: Restore the principle of revenue neutrality with which the landfill tax was originally introduced. Tax receipts from local authorities should be redistributed to local taxpayers. One option for the proportion raised from the commercial sector is to provide underpinning capital for forward thinking waste infrastructure projects, e.g. by capitalising the Green Investment Bank or establishing a network of local Waste and Recycling Boards for investment in recycling infrastructure.

Recommendation 8: Build on the principles of the Courtauld Commitment with a new agreement binding more businesses and directly involving local authorities. The LGA is willing to convene discussions and lead a negotiation process that can lead to a new and more effective agreement with business.

Recommendation 9: To build the reuse market, develop a reuse product standard that will provide quality assurance to consumers.

Recommendation 10: To build the reuse market, introduce a tax incentive for reused and refurbished products, possibly by pressing in Brussels for a lower rate of VAT.

Recommendation 11: To drive public debate about reuse, bring partners together and develop new thinking, the LGA proposes to establish a Reuse Commission tasked with reporting by the end of 2013 on measures government, councils, businesses and the voluntary sector can take to mainstream reuse and drive growth in the reuse of products, including developing specific detail and implementation timetables for the two recommendations above.

Recommendation 12: The Government should recognise that kerbside collection arrangements reflect a local deal between councils and their residents and are not a proper subject of national policies.