



Waste Management

Landfill – the Future

Prof. Andrew Porteous

The EU landfill directive will enforce major changes and waste management practices in the UK and Europe. There will be a substantial reduction of biodegradable waste. A banning of liquid waste to land fill, a banning of co-disposal whereby for example, hazardous wastes are co-disposed with household wastes, and it will require pre-treatment of wastes before land fill.

Jane Van Hool:

One of the aims of pre-treatment is to reduce the volume of the waste going to land fill. How can this best be achieved.

Prof. Andrew Porteous

Pre-treatment embraces a spectrum of options. It almost certainly envisages, and will require the removal of biodegradable waste, or a substantial portion of biodegradable waste. It will look for recycling where possible, and recovery of any potential useful components, or energy if it's appropriate for incineration, you could use incineration.

Jan Gronon, Landfill Policy Manager, Environment Agency

By, 2020, we are going to have to have built probably of the order of a hundred incinerators, to deal with the waste. So you can see that from land filling the majority of our waste, and a small proportion of it going elsewhere, we're going to have to turn right round the other way. So this is a massive change for the industry, it means there'll be many fewer land fills.

Jane Van Hool:

The pre-treatment philosophy has also prompted another change in the industry. A move towards integrated waste management.

Lesley Heasman

Most waste management companies are now developing integrated waste management facilities in the same location where ever that is possible from a planning point of view. So it makes a lot of sense to be able to combine waste sorting, waste separation, waste treatment with land fill for the residues, and many companies are developing and already have in place that sort of operation.

Jane Van Hool:

Such an integrated waste facility is already planned.

Paul Tomes

What we plan to do here, is take the domestic waste, and first of all process it in a building here, which will reclaim as much material as possible for recycling. We shall then be composting some of the material which is either green waste, or elements of domestic waste which can be composted. Once it's been produced in a primary form, it'll then go to an area across here, where it'll be matured for a period of six to eight weeks. Waste that cannot be processed and reclaimed, will actually go to be land filled in the quarry.

Prof. Andrew Porteous

The EU. directive in my view is extremely good. It will lead to more recycling, waste minimisation, composting, energy recovery from waste, and higher land fill standards universally in the UK, and also, it will help eliminate a power greenhouse gas, methane, and we shouldn't overlook that one as well, the greenhouse effect is extremely important.