



Waste Management

Waste Minimisation

Jane Van Hool:

For decades local authorities have been carting away our household waste.

The process doesn't seem to have changed that much. Although we need bigger bins nowadays to hold all the extra rubbish we produce.

But there is one big difference.

Dustbin Man:

This is our recycling which is collected every two weeks. Goes up to Ottoborn, it's sorted by hand, or it goes to other places and gets sorted.

Jane Van Hool:

Recycling is carried out all over the country as part of routine curbside collections. Gone are the days when you could put what you liked in your own bin.

Dustbin Man:

If somebody puts food in a bin, and we happen to see it, we put an orange card on there, telling them that we can't take their rubbish because it's contaminated, and would they re-sort it, and we'll take it the next time.

Jane Van Hool:

Dustmen with attitude are a sign of the times.

Local authorities in Hampshire, put high recycling targets at the heart of their waste disposal strategy, but recycling is only one option for dealing with household waste.

Alison Austin:

My biggest regret and delight about the environment, is that it is never simple, and if you think you have an obvious answer, it's as sure as eggs are eggs going to be the wrong one, because the environment's just not like that. If you, if you can see a move that will improve one aspect, there is nearly always, a reaction somewhere else. So you're going to be balancing, decisions, and balancing issues, as to what you should be doing.

Andrew Porteous:

The demography of Britain, is such that there's more and more single households, or single families. They want their food pre-packaged, they want all the convenience of quick shopping quick cooking quick eating. There's going to be a lot of waste produced, it's growing three or four or five percent per year.

Jane Van Hool:

In the face of this growing mountain of rubbish, the government has created a waste hierarchy. The hierarchy gives a list of sustainable options for managing waste.

At the top of the hierarchy is minimisation. In other words, reducing the amount of waste we produce in the first place. That might sound obvious, but it's not so straight forward.

Alison Austin:

It's a very common misconception, that packaging is wasteful. There's too much packaging, it fills up my dustbin, and I can understand that to a certain extent because most people only

think of packaging at the point at which they put it in the dustbin, at which point it has finished its job, and it is in fact waste.

But what they tend not to think about is the amazing job that it's done to that point. If you minimise too far, you may actually put the product that you're trying to protect at risk, and that's a very real one when we're talking of food, and food safety and so on.