

DR. CAROLINE LUCAS
Green Party

for the South East of England

Joint Waste Local Plan Team
Transport and Environment Department
FREEPOST (LW43)
Lewes
East Sussex

March 24th 2005

Dear Team,

I am writing to make some points about the waste local plan. Firstly I would like to express my concern that the principle of waste reduction does not appear to be a priority in the plan. A whole raft of EU Directives are now in place or about to be so with the express purpose of reducing waste at a local level. Yet, in my experience, waste authorities are consistently using the EU legislation as an excuse for their failings to deliver comprehensive waste strategies.

The waste local plan that has been available for consultation concerns me in the following ways:

- The composting and recycling targets have been set too low. This will invariably lead to the excess waster being treated in less sustainable ways such as landfill and incineration. The targets are lower than those set at regional level.
- Sustainable waste management is not at the heart of this plan, rather there is too much reliance on dealing with waste using eg incineration, and not enough emphasis on reducing waste.
- The plan has several elements to it that rely on the transfer of waste, by road, to sites at a considerable distance from where it is generated. The inevitable increase in road traffic and associated pollution is another unsustainable feature of the overall strategy.
- Both national and regional policy require environmental appraisal and public consultation when deciding the siting of waste facilities and this has been inadequate.

In conclusion, it is my understanding that in June 2004 Inspectors made a series of recommendations that would improve the local waste plan. I urge you to revisit these recommendations and look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,



Caroline Lucas - Green Party MEP for South East England.

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