Resource efficiency: Exploring the waste hierarchy

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Context: the Review of Waste Policy

- Review will cover all aspects of waste policy and delivery in England: with the aim of moving towards a ‘zero waste’ economy, with waste moving up the “**waste hierarchy**”
- How best to maximise the contribution that waste and resource management can make to the “Green Economy”
- Focus on products and materials throughout the economy (waste prevention)
- Encourage and enable people and businesses to do the right thing with their waste and resources
- ***but*** everything is subject to tackling the fiscal deficit.

Review: Vision & Ambition

- **Review has a 2030 horizon but with a clear focus on what can be <u>delivered in this Parliament.</u>**
- **Zero Waste Economy :** <u>not</u> an economy where no waste is produced, but one where nothing is actually 'wasted' and all resources are fully valued – financially and environmentally. A Resource Smart Economy.
- At home or at work people do their best **not to create waste**, including in choices about design, purchases and length of use.
- **Recycling** is a public norm and widely possible across England, whether at home, at work or on the go.
- Local communities are able to develop fit for purpose **local solutions. Government is a facilitator:** citizen and community help deliver outcomes.
- **Energy from waste** provides a valuable resource to local communities and businesses in making best use of waste which cannot be recycled.
- **"Zero waste" is sent to landfill.** Landfill is the option of last resort for biodegradable and recyclable waste, (some hazardous waste, treatment residues , inert waste).

All Delivered in context of LOCALISM and BIG SOCIETY

What's different about this Review?

A new focus on:

- **Products and Materials** throughout the economy (waste prevention);
- Integration of **business and household waste;**
- Waste as an exemplar for the role of **local communities & Big Society;**
- A smaller and different role for **central government;**
- The importance of this agenda - from waste prevention to waste management - to the **green economy.**

The waste hierarchy: current trends

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Prevention

- Total waste down from 263 mt (2004) to 228 mt (2008)
- C&I waste down from 68 mt (2002/3) to 56 mt (2009 provisional)
- Household waste down 2.7% to 23.7mt in 2009/10

Recycling

- Household waste recycling etc has risen to 39.7% in 2009/10
- C&I waste recycling etc has risen to 58% (2009 provisional)

Disposal

- LA collected waste to landfill is falling: 13.8 mt to 12.5 mt (2009/10)
- C&I waste to landfill is falling: 27.7 mt (2002/3) to 8.2 mt (2009 prov)

The waste hierarchy in the revised WFD

The waste hierarchy in the revised WFD

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"*The following waste hierarchy shall apply as a* ***priority order*** *in waste prevention and management legislation and policy:*

(a) prevention;

(b) preparing for re-use;

(c) recycling;

(d) other recovery, e.g. energy recovery; and

(e) disposal."

Member States are to encourage options which deliver the best overall environmental outcome, so departure from the hierarchy may be justified. Must be a fully transparent process.

Consultation proposals on transposing the revised WFD waste hierarchy (E&W)

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- Updating national planning policy
- Permits and exemptions
- Duty of care/waste transfer notes
- Guidance on the practical application of the hierarchy (in England)

Responses to the WFD consultation

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Over 100 responses commented on the waste hierarchy proposals

Strong support for the proposals overall

Some concerns over the likely effectiveness of the DOC/WTN proposals

Much useful feedback on the draft guidance (scope, length, accessibility)

Next steps for the revised WFD

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Publication of summary of consultation responses

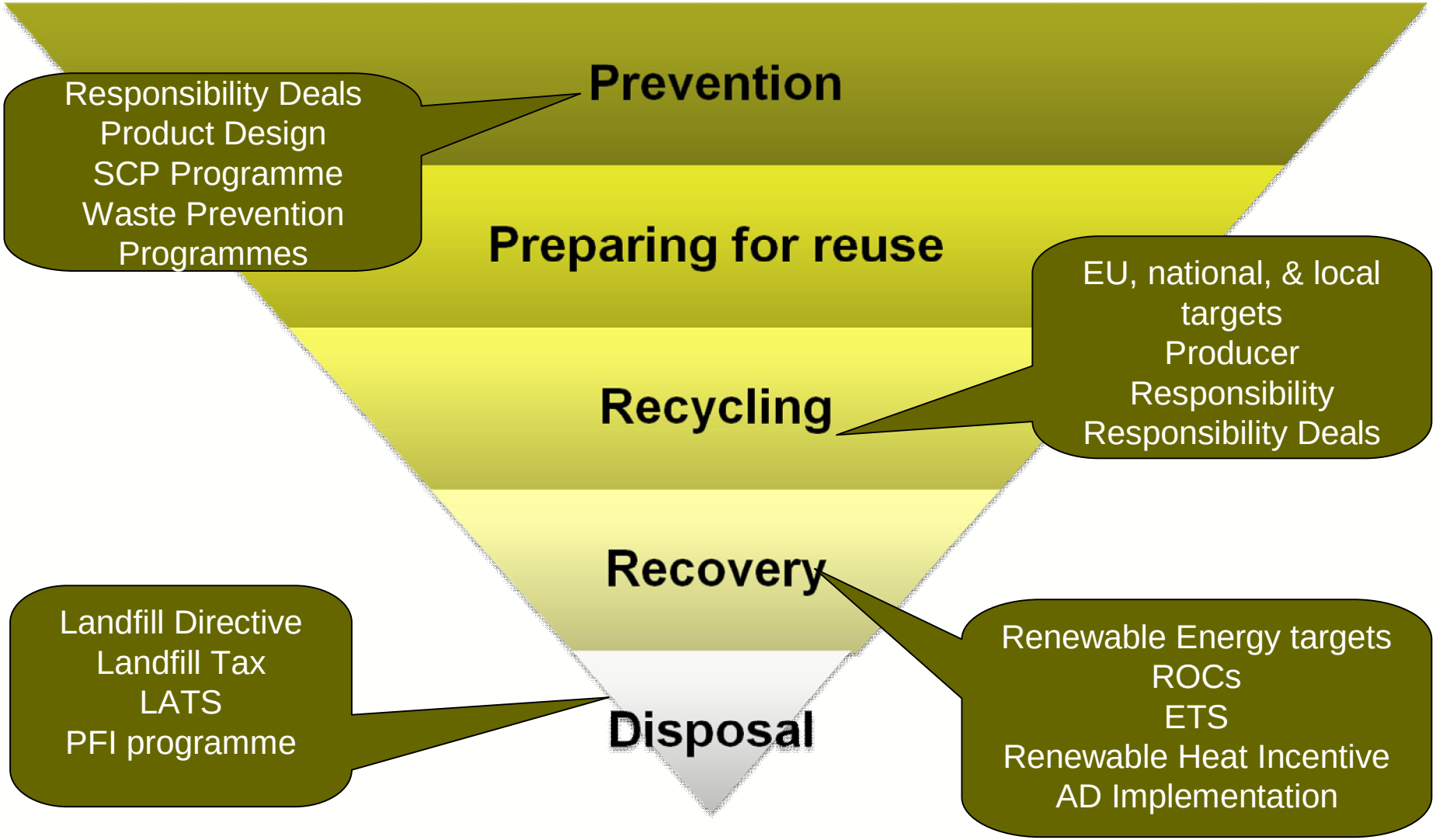
Collective Ministerial agreement on final shape of transposing regulations in England & Wales

Regulations laid before Westminster Parliament & Welsh Assembly

Subject to approval by both Houses of Parliament and by the Welsh Assembly, regulations come into force

Timing depends on progress at each stage,
but regulations likely to be laid in January 2011

Implementing the waste hierarchy



The waste hierarchy – some conclusions

- Trends are in the right direction but much more needs to be done – particularly on waste prevention
- The revised WFD will give added impetus to the waste hierarchy in planning, permitting, the duty of care and guidance to businesses and local authorities
- The Review of Waste Policies will set the future direction in England towards the zero waste economy
- Key to progress on the waste hierarchy will be putting the right mix of incentives and instruments in place

Thank you for your attention

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