



Local Authority Recycling Advisory Committee

Catriona Cardiff
Defra, Zone 7/D11
Ashdown House,
123 Victoria Street
London SW1E 6DE

27th August 2004

Dear Catriona,

Waste and Resources R&D Strategy.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the draft waste and resources strategy. As you are aware LARAC was also involved with the earlier Stakeholder Forum and members present at that session have contributed to this response. Therefore, as members of the LARAC Executive Committee their views are representative of the wider membership of the Local Authority Recycling Advisory Committee (LARAC). LARAC is an association of well over 400 local authorities, including 373 in England, whose waste management and recycling professionals co-ordinate and operate waste management services. Membership is drawn from all types of authority including statutory Waste Collection (WCA), Waste Disposal (WDA) and Unitary Authorities.

The views expressed by colleagues attending the Stakeholder Forum was of the interconnectedness of the varying aspects of waste and resources and therefore the difficulties this presented for prioritisation of the strategy. The work undertaken to assess the policy and legislative drivers has been very thorough and it is therefore difficult to imagine that any specific aspect has been overlooked in compiling the draft strategy. As such the strategy is generally supported.

LARAC, however, does have views about the proposed prioritisation of funding streams within the overall strategy. In particular we note and support the fact that the strategy looks to additional funding streams that may be utilised to support areas of research such as in market development and new technologies. Furthermore we would welcome the additional allocation of funds to the 'social dimension' category of research as we feel that in addition to understanding resource flows, improving collections and providing assessment and implementation tools, issues around consumer understanding and behaviour continue to have a significant impact upon the level of participation in local authority-run campaigns.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and with the above slight amendment to the prioritisation, LARAC fully supports the implementation of the strategy.

Andy Doran

Chair, LARAC