

## **Submission to the South London Waste Plan, Part 1**

**Respondent ID: Con34**

**Jim Duffy, South West London Air Quality Monitoring Group**

**Matter 2.3 Self sufficiency of the area in waste management and**

**Matter 3.vi Q1 The restrictive approach to new development for waste uses and**

**Matter 4 (ii) Q2 Proximity.**

We would like to see a much greater emphasis on recycling in the four boroughs. This would reduce the amount of waste that might be incinerated and take us in the direction of a Circular Economy as being developed in the EU, Scotland and Wales as in their Zero Waste Plans.

This in turn would reduce airborne emissions of pollutants and greenhouse gases. The Material Recovery and Biological Treatment approach (MRBT) is a great improvement on the existing recycling method of MBT and can achieve a recycling rate of 85% as seen for example in Contarina in Northern Italy which serves 540,000 people. The South London boroughs currently recycle just 48%.

Wales,, Brussels, Milan, Ljubljana and many other cities are achieving recycling rates of 65%, with higher aspirations in the next few years.

<https://zerowasteurope.eu/downloads/case-study-4-the-story-of-contarina/>

This model is likely to involve more localised recycling sites which can serve populations of 100,000 upwards to achieve economies of scale. So each separate borough could accommodate one or two MRBT recycling sites.

The Contarina system uses no incineration but does potentially require a small amount of clean landfill. Their aim for next year is to achieve a recycling rate of 97% so the residual waste would be very small but might require one or several small landfill sites.

For clarity the residual waste is stabilised to prevent any greenhouse gases being emitted. Most methane from existing landfill sites comes from food waste but this is taken out of the landfill stream in this approach.

So the proposed system would require an open approach to existing waste management sites, which should all be retained if they might contribute to an MRBT recycling system, especially if this can be localised which would have numerous benefits in terms of transport, waste 'ownership' by communities, re-use shops etc.

<https://zerowasteurope.eu/2013/05/what-to-do-with-the-leftovers-of-zero-waste/>