

## Appendix 1: Scope and aims of the project

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In March 2008 Defra Waste Evidence Branch commissioned Resource Futures to carry out a review of UK Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) compositional studies.

### 1.1 Aims of the project

The principal aims of this project are detailed in the following extract from the original project specification issued by Defra:

'Defra is considering undertaking a Municipal Waste Analysis Programme (MWAP) to provide detailed information and data on waste composition / ... / However, prior to embarking upon such the Programme, Defra and its partners wish to commission a critical and structured analysis of the existing body of information in order to confirm whether such a project is required and, if so, what its scope and approach should comprise.

As such, the aim of this Review of Municipal Waste Component Analyses is to consider critically the methods and results from the different composition analysis studies undertaken to date in order to achieve the following objectives:

- a) consider the relative merits of the different methodologies used by these studies;
- b) understand the extent to which the studies provide robust results for the following:
  - 1) the proportion of BMW [Biodegradable Municipal Waste] in municipal solid waste and, in particular, determining whether there is evidence that it has changed from the values currently applied by Defra and the Devolved Administrations for the purposes of meeting the requirements of the Landfill Directive; and
  - 2) determining the detailed composition of municipal waste, linked if possible to socio-economic group;
- c) identify areas where further research is necessary; and
- d) if appropriate, develop detailed recommendations for a MWAP (Ref: WR0118) which will address these identified research needs.'

### 1.2 Scope of this report

The appendices to this report detail the findings of this study and its methods as follows:

- **Appendix 2:** Data collation methods;
- **Appendix 3:** Mapping of and coverage of collated data; selection criteria for studies included in further analysis; consideration of variation in composition at local authority level for the selected studies;
- **Appendix 4:** Updated national municipal waste compositional estimates;
- **Appendix 5:** Review of waste audit methodologies;
- **Appendix 6:** Gap analysis;
- **Appendix 7:** Conclusions and recommendations for future work;
- **Appendix 8:** Compositional data evaluation criteria;
- **Appendix 9:** Analysis of plastics composition at a secondary level of categorisation;
- **Appendix 10:** Statistical review.