

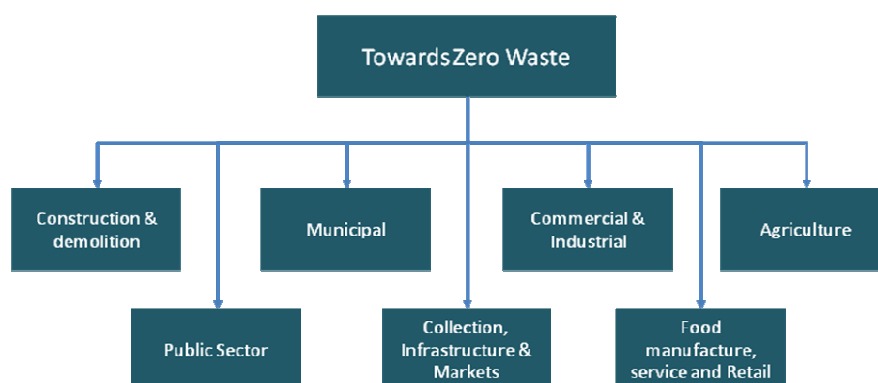
Food Manufacture, Service and Retail Sector Plan

Briefing document

Packaging waste and food waste are high on the political agenda, not least because food waste generates over 30% of the total ecological footprint impact of commercial and industrial waste in Wales². In parallel the growing consumer demand for more products and services leads to more opportunities for business and with that comes more packaging. The Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) has developed an overarching new Waste Strategy document for Wales, “Towards Zero Waste” (TZW). It describes the ways in which sustainable waste management can happen in Wales, such as through more efficient use of resources, and adds to the previous waste strategy, “Wise about Waste”, which was launched in 2002.

Wales is one of a small number of countries that has sustainable development written into its constitution. A new Food Strategy for Wales (Food for Wales, Food from Wales 2010-2020) will be launched late in 2010 that places sustainability as a central driver. This means that the Welsh food sector is in a unique position to respond to this objective. To be successful the Plan must be sensitive to the needs of Welsh business whilst acknowledging the social, environmental and economic challenges facing the sector.

A number of delivery documents called ‘sector plans’ are being developed by the WAG’s Waste Strategy Branch (WSB). The purpose of these sector plans is to implement TZW. They will define the delivery mechanisms and in doing so will enable the ambitious outcomes, policies and targets of waste reduction and resource efficiency that are laid out in this strategy to be met. Furthermore each of the sector plans must be supportive of and developed in conjunction with one another to maximise the opportunity for the common goals of TZW to be met. The diagram below shows the sector plans in relation to TZW.



The Plan will initially focus on some of the wastes listed in TZW; namely food and associated packaging throughout the supply chain. Priority wastes are also listed as follows:

- i. for waste prevention - food waste, paper and card;
- ii. for recycling and landfill diversion- diverting food waste to anaerobic digestion, recycling paper and card rather than landfill and recycling metals;
- iii. packaging waste (specifically glass, plastic, wood, metal, paper and card) is a key action with regards to both reduction, reuse and recycling

It will contain an action plan for:

- i. achieving an absolute waste reduction of 1.2% year on year until 2050, and;
- ii. increasing recycling rates in the following areas:

When?	Commercial	Industrial
2015/16	57%	63%
2019/20	67%	67%
2024/25	70%	70%

The Consultation period for the Plan is 30 March 2011- 30 June 2011. A final document will be published in December 2011.

²Figure taken from ‘Towards Zero Waste’ WAG, p.53