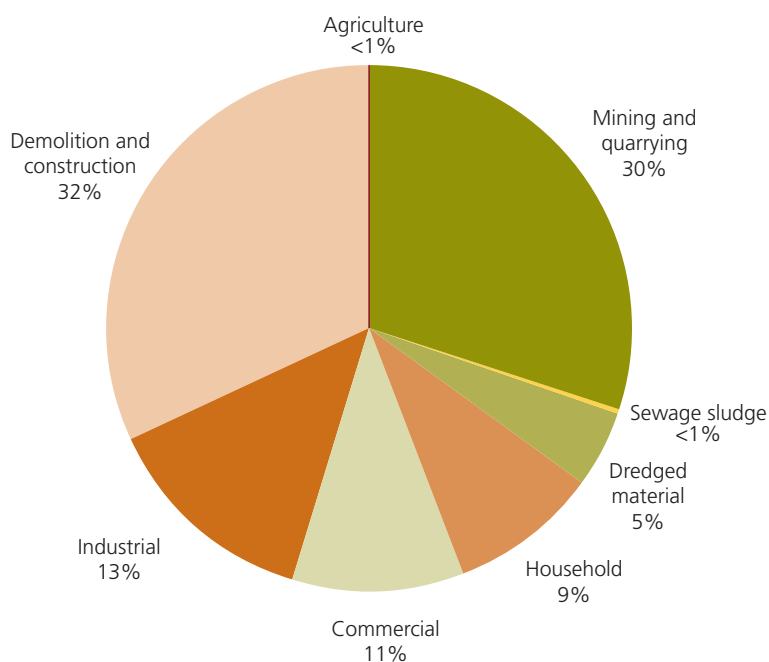


Introduction

1. Waste Strategy 2007 addresses all types of solid waste covered by the Waste Framework Directive.¹ It does not consider radioactive waste² which is governed by a further, separate EU legislative and policy regime.

2 It is estimated that, overall, England produces about 272 million tonnes of waste annually. Chart C.1 below shows the estimated proportion of waste produced by the main sectors covered by the Directive.

Chart C.1: Annual waste arisings, England, by sector (2004)



Source: EA, Defra, British Geological Society, Water UK, CEFAS, DCLG.

¹ The principal Directive controlling waste management throughout the European Union is the Framework Directive on Waste, Council Directive 2006/12/EC. See Annex J for further information.

² Radioactive waste policy in the UK is framed within the context of international guidelines and regulations. In particular, as a Member State of the EU, UK activities involving radioactive substances are governed by legislation set down under the Euratom Treaty, and radioactive waste policy and legislation are separate from those for other sorts of waste. See <http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/radioactivity/waste/rwpg/guidelines/index.htm> for further information. The Waste Framework Directive (Article 2) in turn, allows for the exclusion of certain wastes where they are already covered by other legislation, and this includes radioactive waste. WS 2007 does not, therefore, deal with radioactive waste.

UK policy on the long-term management of solid, low-level radioactive waste, which includes wastes that may be disposed of to conventional landfills or incinerators, was published by the Welsh Assembly Government, Scottish Executive, the Department of the Environment in Northern Ireland, Department for Trade and Industry, and Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on 26 March 2007. This document is available at <http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/radioactivity/waste/pdf/llw-policystatement070326.pdf>

3. The following waste stream summaries set out how the strategy is being taken forward in each of these sectors:

- municipal – household and other waste collected by local authorities;
- commercial and industrial;
- construction, demolition and excavation;
- mining and quarrying;
- agricultural;
- sewage sludge; and
- dredged material

4. Further summaries are provided covering priority waste streams and products covered by specific European or domestic legislation which may occur in a number of these sectors, including:

- packaging waste;
- hazardous waste;
- waste electrical and electronic equipment;
- end-of-life vehicles;
- tyres;
- batteries;
- waste lubricating oil; and
- healthcare waste

5. Finally, there are a number of summaries covering other waste streams where there are specific voluntary producer responsibility agreements or strategies, including:

- direct mail;
- newspapers;
- magazines; and
- end-of-life ships.

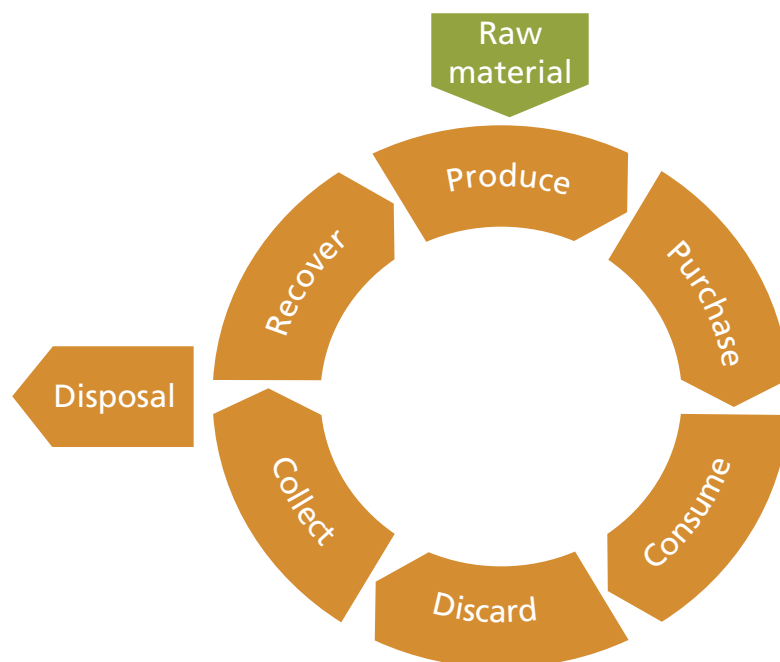
6. Each summary contains the following information where relevant:

- definition and rationale;
- arisings, trends and projections;
- management routes;
- policies and targets;
- implementation and timescales;
- roles and responsibilities;
- infrastructure and capacity needs; and
- references or other information.

Life cycle approach

7. Almost all environmental impacts are linked to the goods and services that the economy provides, and these impacts occur across the whole life cycle of these products or services. Figure C.2 below shows the generic elements of the life cycle.

Figure C.1: Life cycle



8. It is important to consider the whole life cycle in order to manage waste streams as part of the wider resource economy, looking across the whole life cycle of products and services to identify opportunities for improving resource efficiency and waste management across the production, consumption and disposal chain.

9. This means moving away from a purely end-of-life approach, towards a framework that seeks to better manage the flow of resources through the economy as part of the wider production and consumption cycle.

10. The policies outlined in the strategy and the accompanying waste stream summaries are intended to impact at various points in the life cycle and to influence behaviour by all of us during all stages of the cycle as appropriate. Waste policies need to focus on those parts of the life cycle which have the greatest influence on waste generation and recovery from waste, while minimising the impact on disposal of waste that could not be dealt with in any other way.