

Waste Strategy for  
England 2007



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# Waste Strategy 1½ Years On

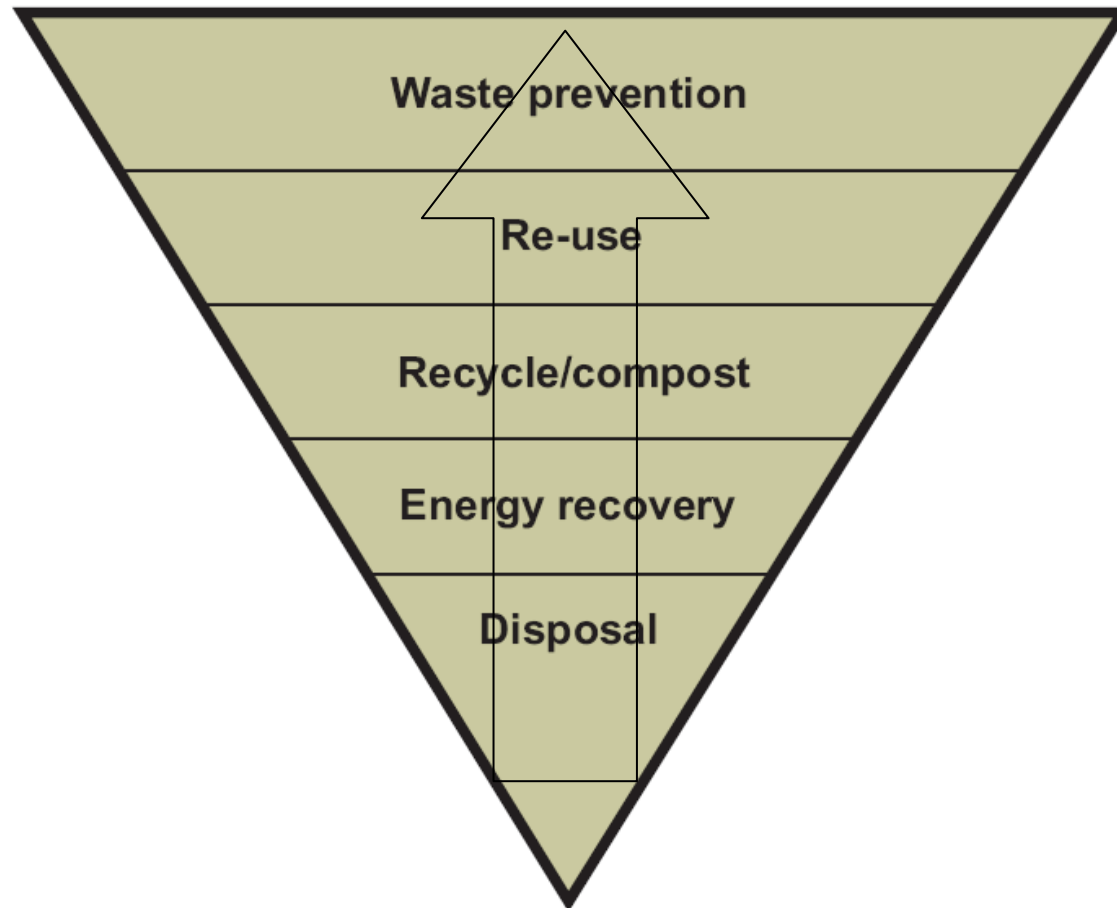
23 October  
2008

Public Policy  
Exchange

Daniel Instone

**This presentation summarises:**  
**a) Key aims in our waste strategy;**  
**b) Highlights in progress since,**  
**particularly on waste prevention**

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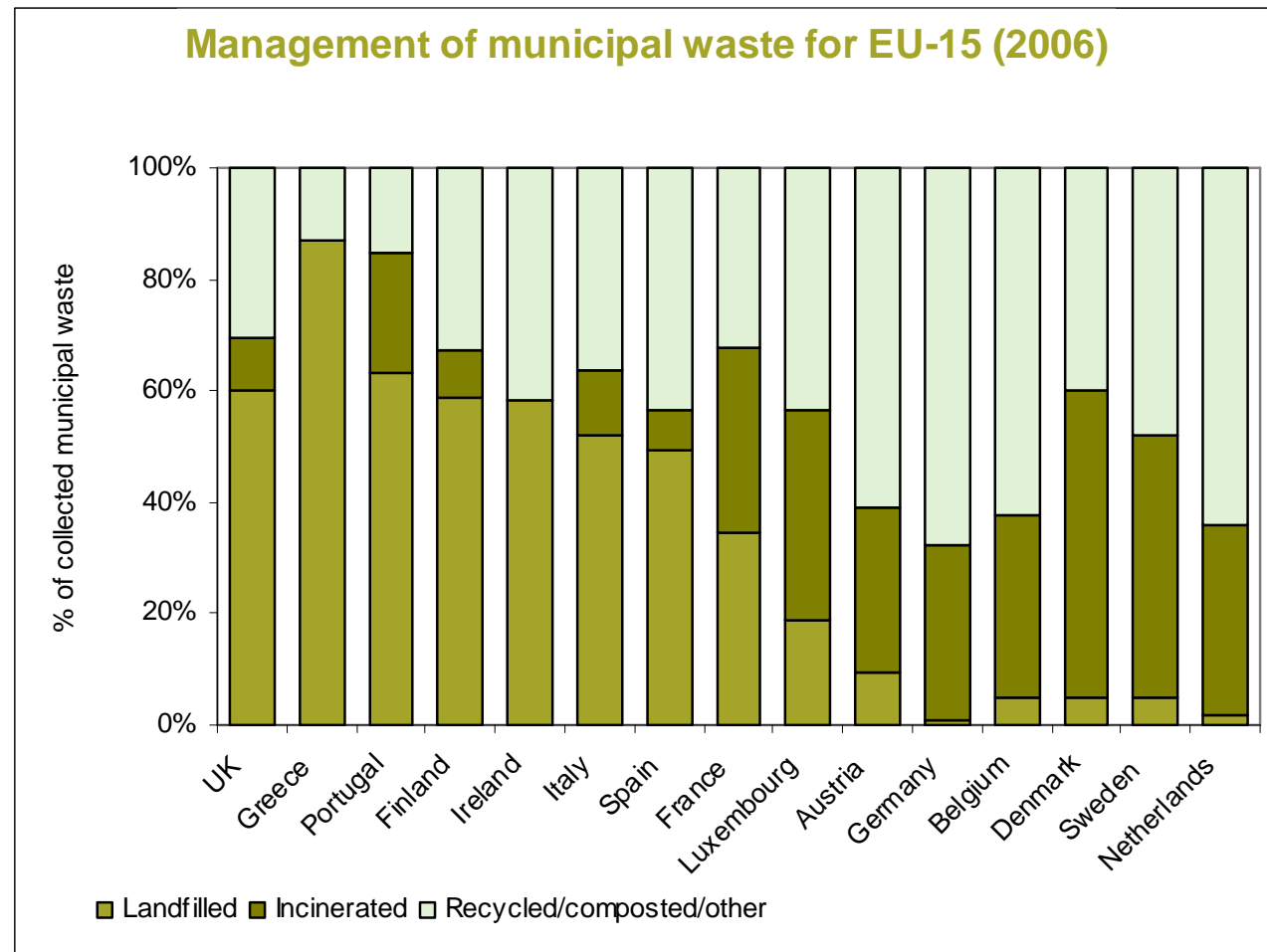
# Waste Strategy: Rationale for action

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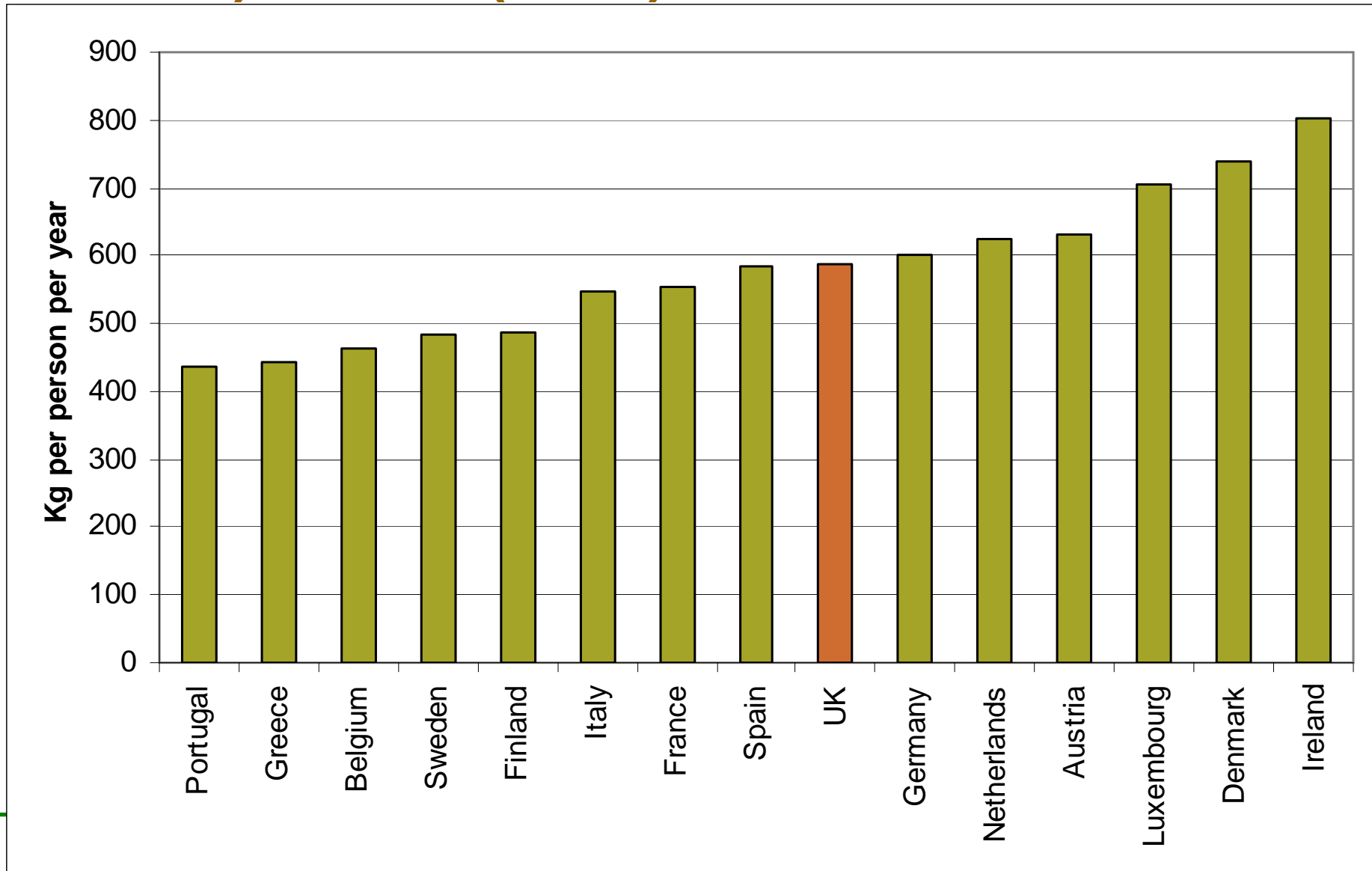
- Reducing **greenhouse gases** - notably methane from landfill sites (but also saving energy through re-use and recycling)
- Improving **resource efficiency** – saving energy/carbon, scarce materials, renewable energy recovery
- Protecting **public health** through safe management of hazardous substances
- Protecting **ecosystems** (soils, groundwater, emissions to air)
- Safeguarding social **amenity** – by ensuring household waste is collected, reducing fly-tipping by households and businesses, and limiting local nuisances from waste facilities

# Compared to Europe

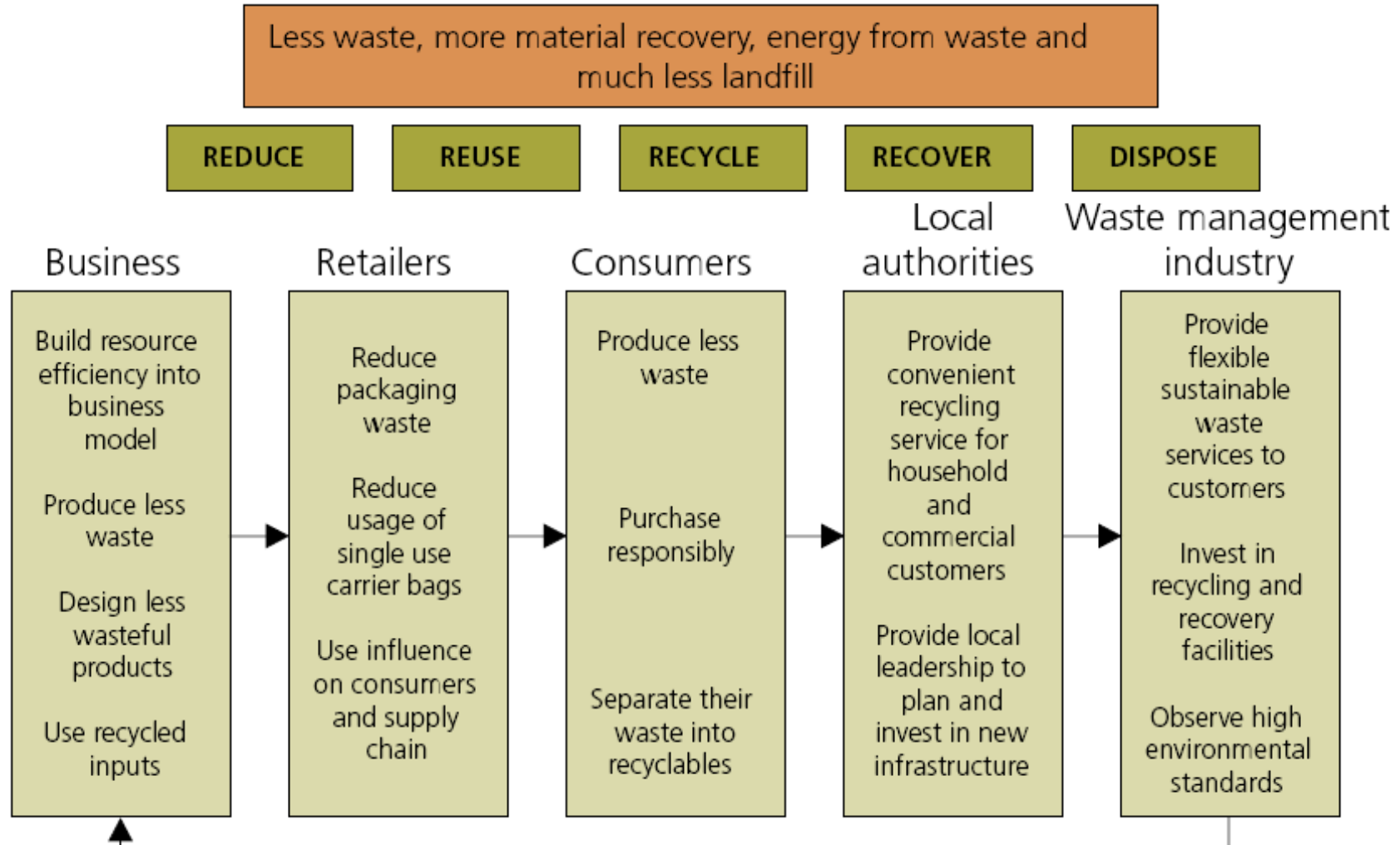
We still lag behind much of Europe on recycling, on energy from waste and on reducing landfill, though starting to catch up – but we are no worse on waste generation



# Municipal waste collected (kg per head) EU 15 (2006)

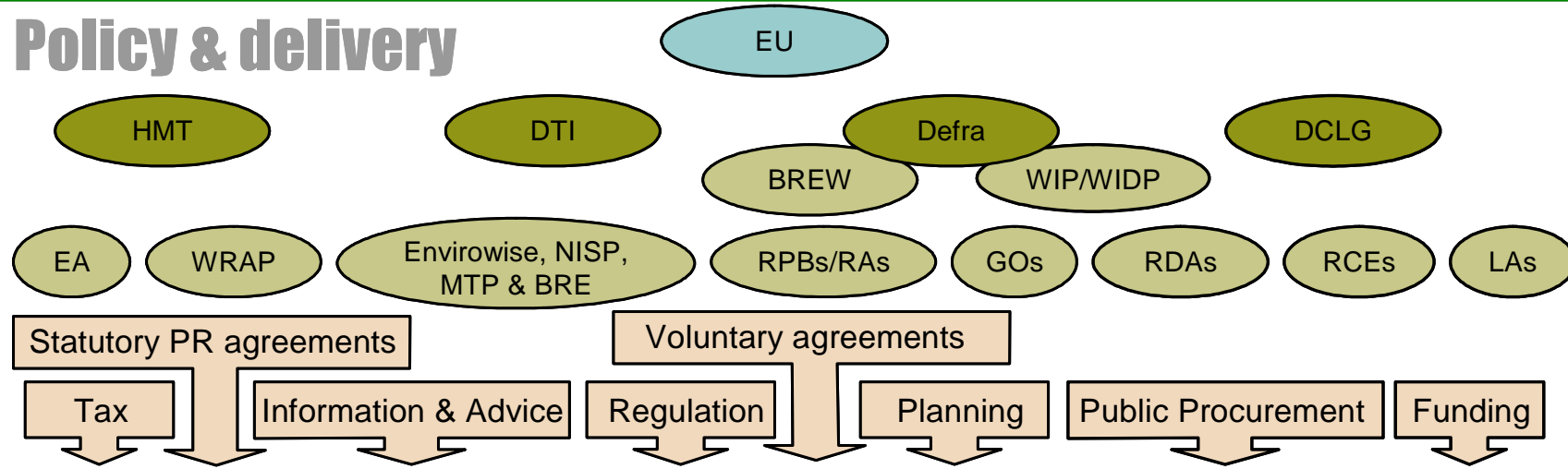


# Moving to a low waste economy requires shared responsibility...



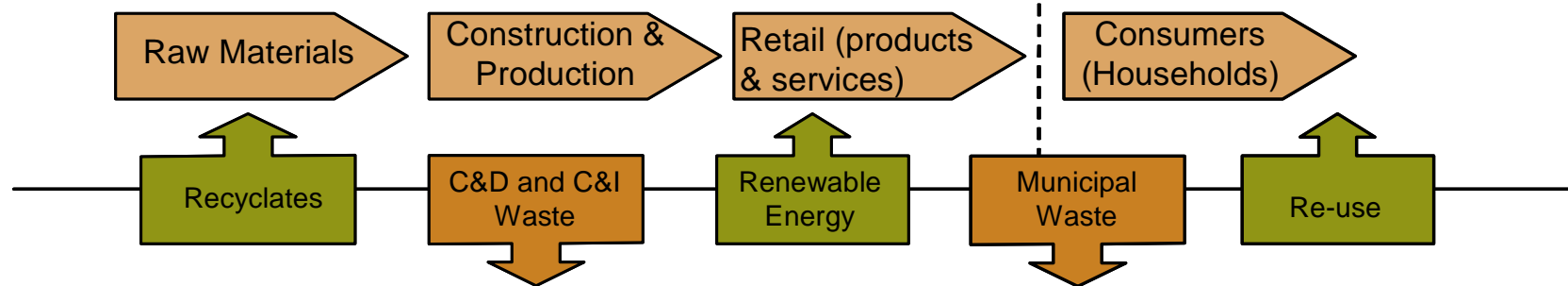
# ...with partnership in waste delivery chain

## Policy & delivery



## Business waste

## Household waste



## Waste treatment

# Objectives from waste strategy

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- decouple waste growth from economic growth; encourage prevention and re-use
  - meet and exceed Landfill Directive targets for biodegradable municipal waste (2010, 2013, 2020)
  - more diversion and better integration of municipal and non-municipal waste
  - secure major increase in investment in waste infrastructure
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# Waste strategy targets – include



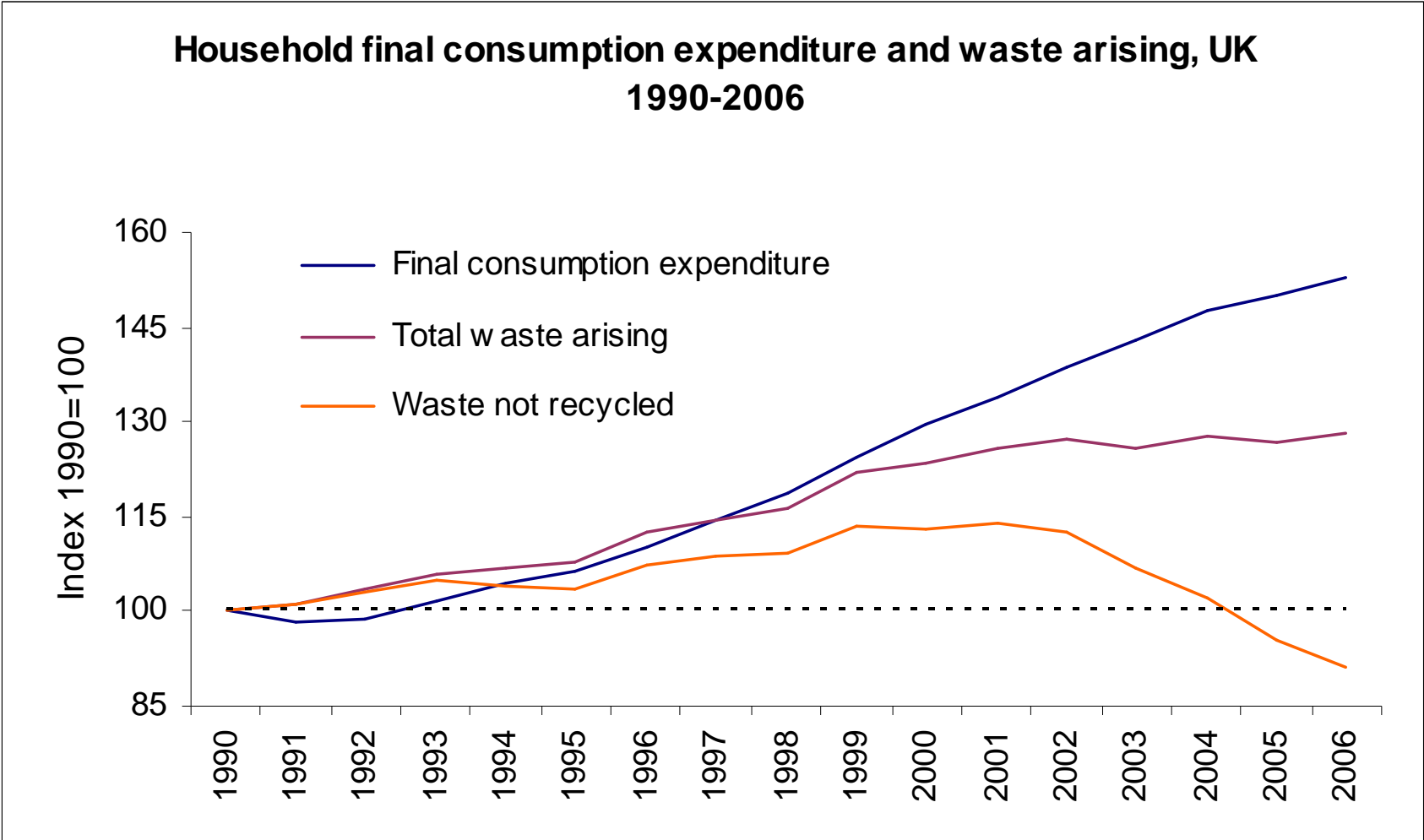
Department for Environment  
Food and Rural Affairs

- 50% reduction in residual household waste per head by 2020
- Household recycling and composting at least 40% by 2010, 45% by 2015 and 50% by 2020
- 25% energy from waste by 2020 (compared with 34% by 2015 in WS2000)
- 50% reduction in construction / demolition / excavation waste to landfill in 2012 from 2004
- Forecast fall in C&I waste to landfill of 20% in 2010 compared with 2004
- Waste framework directive negotiations in

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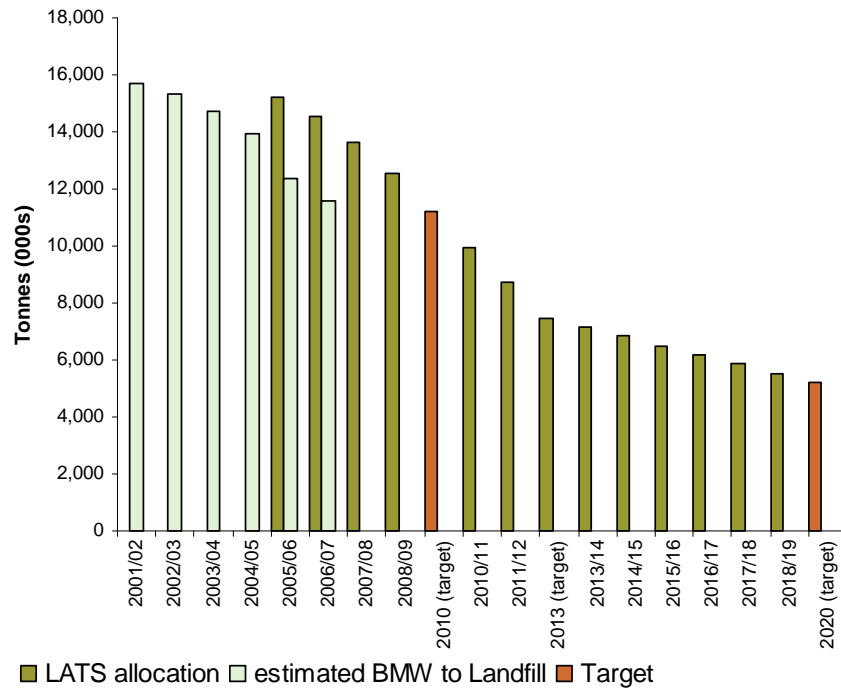
final stages

# Progress: Decoupling – municipal waste

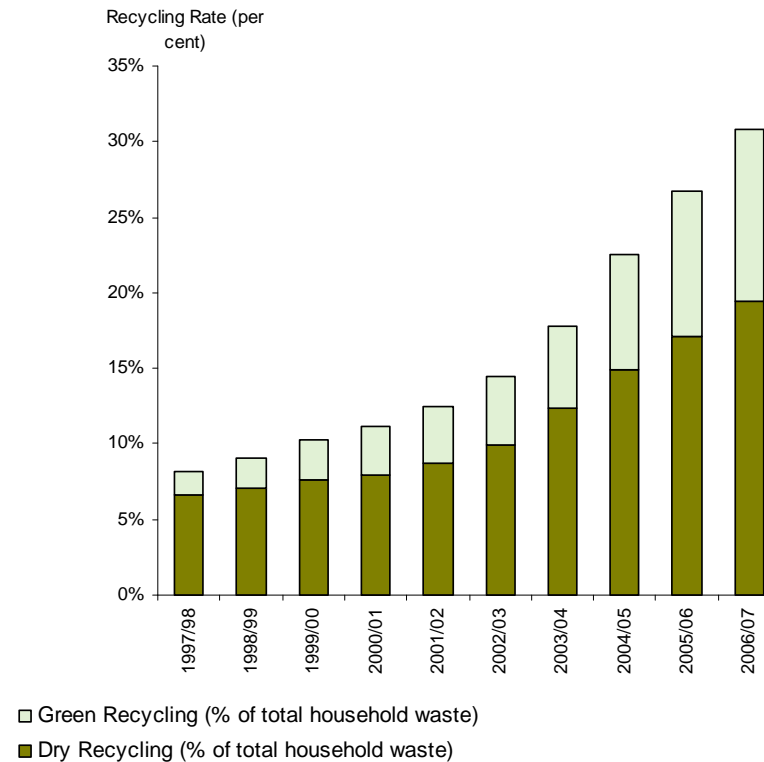


# Municipal waste – progress on landfill diversion and recycling (2007-08 figures due shortly)

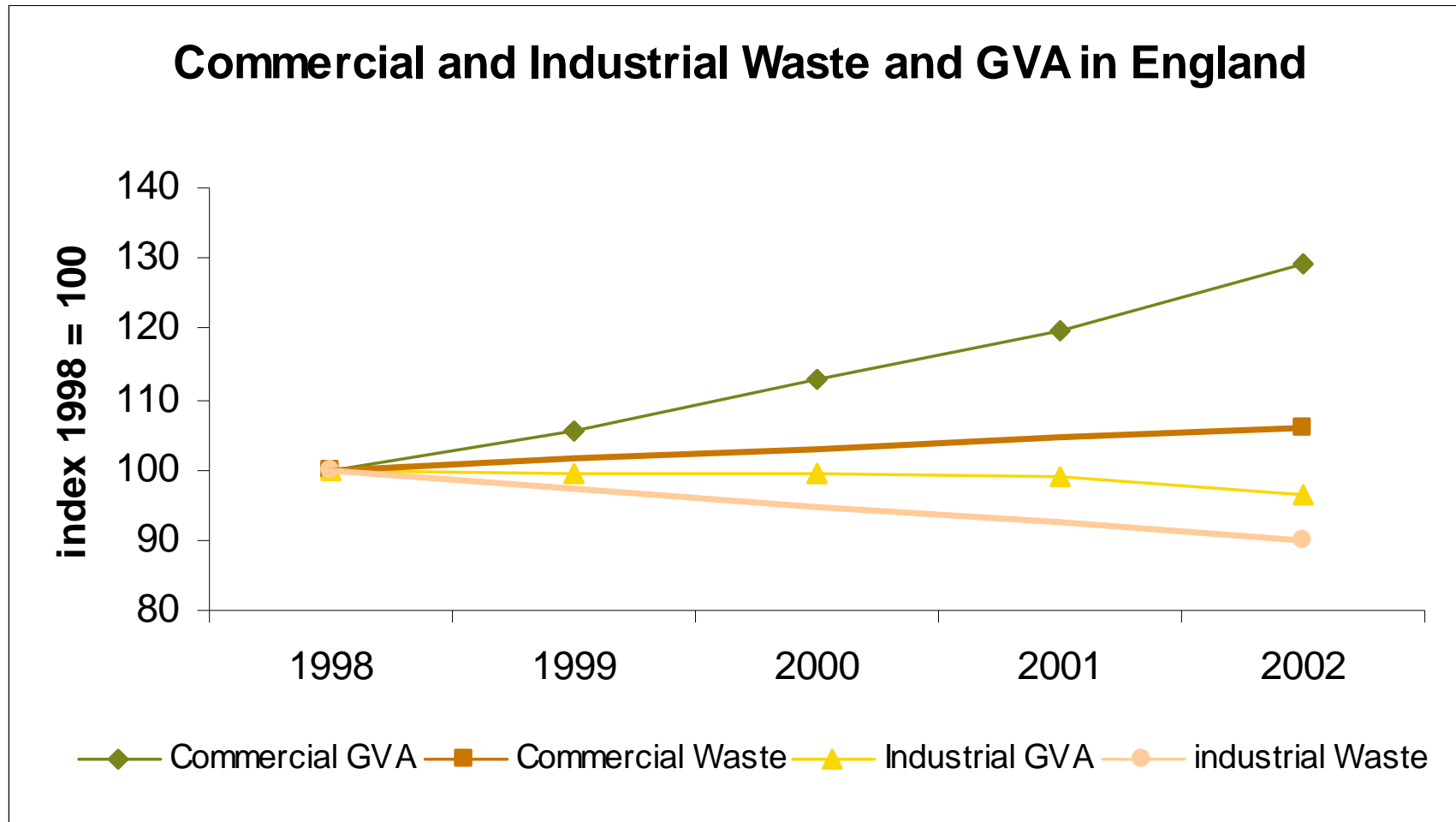
Landfilling Biodegradable Municipal Waste in England - Landfill Allocation Scheme Targets And Achievement



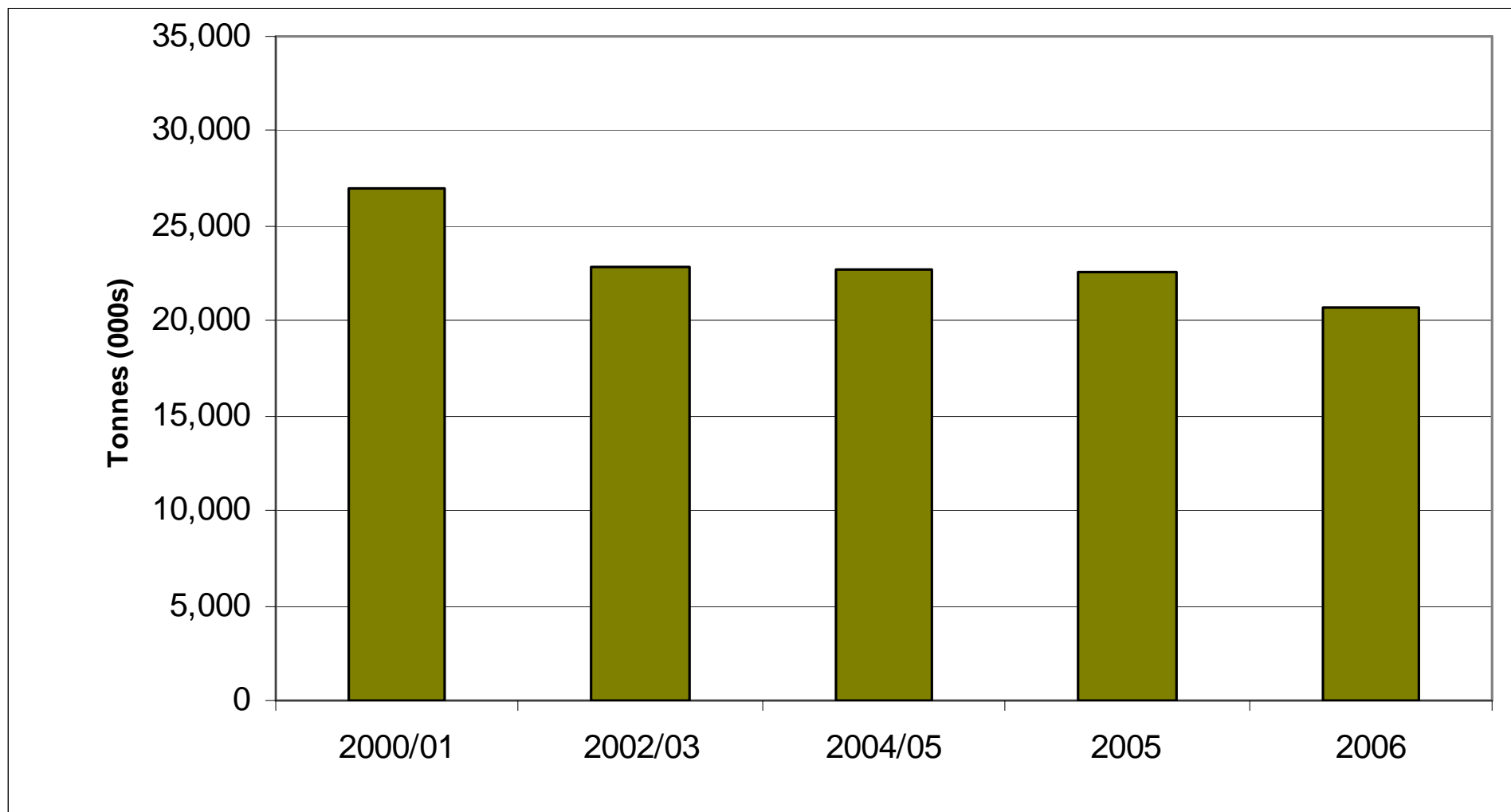
Household waste: green and dry recycling rates: 1997/98 - 2006/07



# C&I waste growth



# Non-municipal waste to landfill (tonnes excluding inert waste)



# Progress - Economic incentives

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- Landfill tax escalator - £8 increase per tonne per year from 2008 to 2010-11. Budget 2008 announced there would be further rises beyond that (i.e. to over £48/tonne).
  - Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme – some additional trading taking place between local authorities.
  - Energy from waste – more strongly linked to renewables targets – BERR consultation on renewable energy strategy published. ROCs as key measure.
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# Household waste incentives

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- Climate change bill gives new powers to pilot revenue-neutral local incentives for household waste minimisation and recycling.
  - No change in this policy despite several misleading press reports.
  - Pilots starting from next year.
  - Alongside much other development of collection policies by local authorities.
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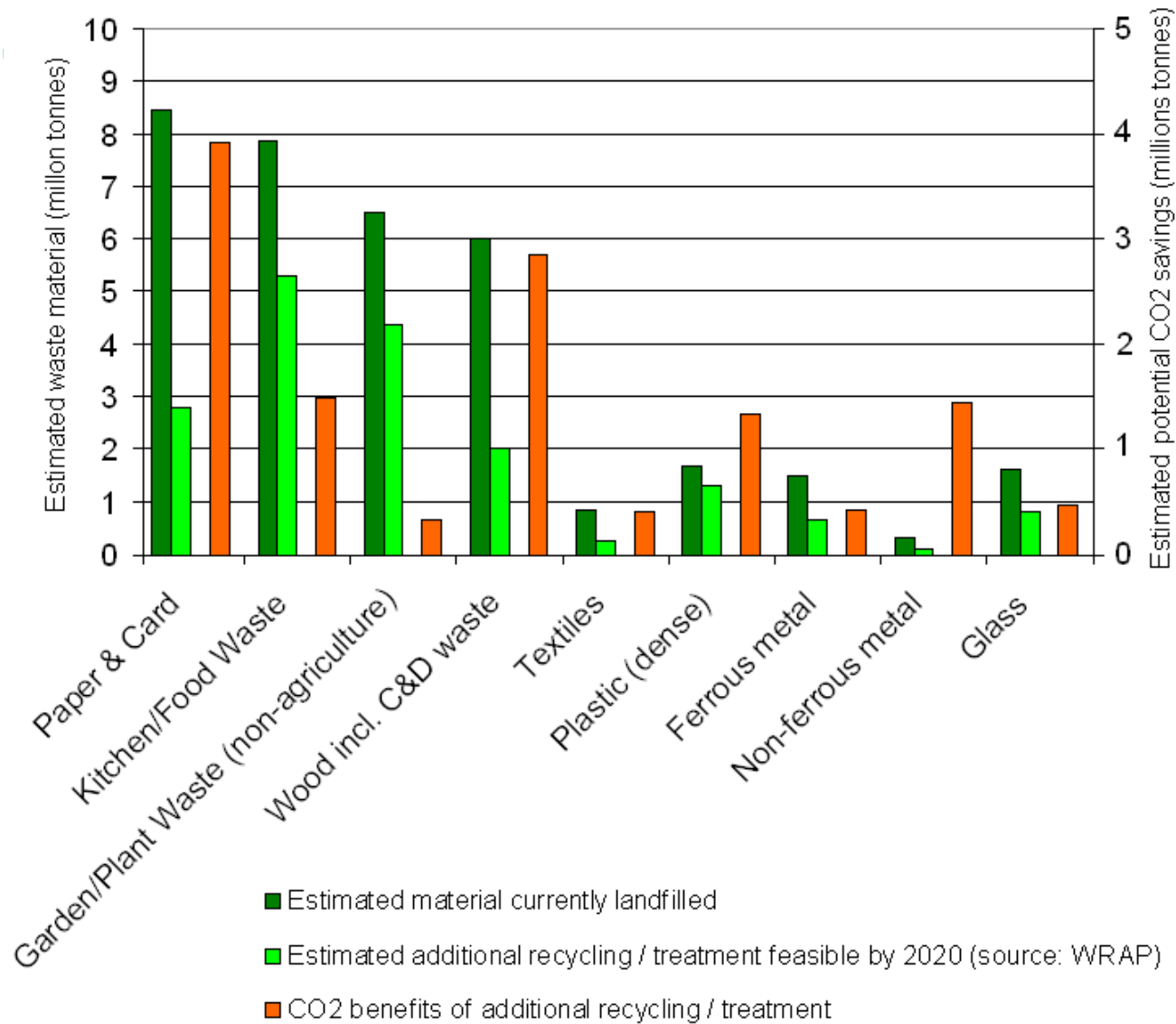
# Waste funding and governance

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- Private Finance Initiative spending on waste more than doubling from £280m in 2007/08 to £700m by 2010/11. New PFI proposals and projects announced.
- Looking for better joint working between local authorities.
- Waste targets prominent in local area agreements – including waste prevention

# Progress – materials & sectors

## CO<sub>2</sub> reduction from materials diversion



**Waste currently landfilled, additional feasible treatment by 2020 and relative carbon benefits of additional treatment in 2020 assuming:**

- paper & card, textiles, plastics, metals and glass are recycled;
- wood is incinerated with energy recovery
- food waste is anaerobically digested
- garden / plant waste is composted.

# Targeted action on materials, products and sectors – new action



**defra**  
Department for Environment  
Food and Rural Affairs

- Sustainable products and materials progress report; product road-maps incl on clothes
- Reviewing scope for new action on C&I waste
- Opt-out scheme for unaddressed mail
- Higher packaging recycling targets; reviewing packaging policy
- 'Recycling on the go' rolled out
- Considering selective landfill bans
- Food waste: WRAP campaign & collection trials
- New focus on sustainable public procurement – covering waste reduction
- Zero waste places successful bids launched
- Single-use carrier bags
- Site waste management plans mandatory

# Economic downturn – implications for waste

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- Changes in commodity prices (especially food, oil) promoting resource efficiency but can affect recycling levels
  - Greater cost-consciousness, including consciousness of waste
  - Impact on infrastructure prices and delivery
  - Appetite for environmental messages among public – need to be linked to economic self-interest
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- Hence effects very mixed

# Continuing key aim: promoting greater resource efficiency

