

## **Executive Summary**

### **Introduction.**

The Waste Management Strategy for Northern Ireland identifies accurate and reliable information on waste arisings as essential to planning and decision making to improve resource and waste management. Annex B of the Strategy sets out the results of the results of the Pilot Survey for the Development of a Waste Arisings Database for Northern Ireland, which was carried out in 1999, with the data generated covering the financial year April 1998 to March 1999. The Pilot Study consisted of the following components:-

- a census of 'municipal waste' arisings;
- a sample of commercial and industrial waste producers; and
- a sample of waste management contractors and recyclers.

In January 2002 Environment and Heritage Service commissioned MEL Research and Envirocentre Ltd to carry out the Waste Arisings Survey Phase III, which consisted of the following elements:-

- a census of District Councils on 'municipal waste';
- a survey of industry and commerce.

This is the Executive Summary of the report of the results of the survey of local authorities on 'municipal waste', the results of the survey of industry and commerce is contained in a separate report.

### **Methodology.**

The key alteration to the methodology of the Phase III Municipal Survey is the decision to collect the data on the basis of calendar rather than financial year. This is to ensure that the results of the survey are compatible with the requirements of the Draft European Union Regulation on Waste Management Statistics (COM(2001)137 final).

### **Results of the Municipal Waste Survey.**

Key points.

- Approximately 878,560 tonnes of household waste was produced in Northern Ireland in 2001, compared with 830,816 in 1999/2000 and 867,503 tonnes in 1998/1999.
- Approximately 1,056,298 tonnes of 'municipal waste' was produced in Northern Ireland in 2001, compared with 1,003,736 in 1999/2000 and 959,954 in 1998/1999.
- The household waste recycling/recovery rate for Northern Ireland in 2001 was 8.9%.
- The household waste composting rate in Northern Ireland in 2001 was 4.3%, equating to 37,367 tonnes of waste composted.

## Key Waste Management Indicators.

Key waste management indicators are outlined in Table 1 to provide a snapshot of the municipal waste arisings for Phases I to III.

**Table 1. Key Waste Management Indicators for Northern Ireland 1998/1999, 1999/2000 and 2001**

Key Indicator	1998/1999	1999/2000	2001
No. of households	597,358	604,219	620,529
Household waste (tpa)	867,503	868,771	878,560
Waste per household (tpa)	1.45	1.38	1.44
Recovery rate of household waste (%)	4.9%	6.4%	8.9%
Commercial & Industrial Waste (tpa)	87,645	158,895	134,732
“Municipal Waste”	959,954	1,003,736	1,056,298

A summary of the household and municipal waste arisings for individual District Councils, together with the numbers of households and businesses served is given in Appendix I of the main report.

## Conclusions and Recommendations.

The 2001 Northern Ireland Waste Arisings Study Phase III represents part of an ongoing process of improvement with respect waste data, and the municipal waste survey builds on the data generated by Phases I and II to begin to build a coherent picture of household and municipal waste management in Northern Ireland. Key elements of waste data generated by the study include:-

- An increase in the household recovery/recycling rate from 6.4% in 1999/2000 to 8.9% in 2001.
- An increase in the quantities of ‘municipal waste’ generated from 1,003,736 in 1999/2000 to 1,056,298 in 2001.

Combined with the results of the Industrial and Commercial Waste Survey, the results of the Northern Ireland Waste Arisings Study Phase III will build on the data produced by the previous phases to provide information which can support the implementation of the Waste Management Strategy for Northern Ireland and support District Councils in the implementation of their Waste Management Plans.