

## **Submission from SEPA**

SEPA welcomes the policy statement of 14<sup>th</sup> October 2011 on implementing the Zero Waste Plan and is supportive of the Plans vision of a society where waste is treated as a resource and the environmental and economic opportunities of waste are fully realised. SEPA has been working closely with the Scottish Government on the detail of the legislation and associated codes of practice to give effect to it. We will continue to work with the Government, and other partner organisations, as we move into an implementation phase.

The regulations will significantly affect the way waste is managed in Scotland and impact directly on SEPA's advice, permitting, inspection and enforcement work. We anticipate managing more exports, more biowaste, more incineration and the closure of many landfills all in the context of promoting high recycling and better resource management. The lead-in times provided within the regulations will enable us to adequately plan for these challenges and to deliver the necessary communication campaigns ahead of each implementation date.

Putting source segregation at the cornerstone of the policy will enable SEPA to restrict activity at the bottom of the waste hierarchy through both our regulatory role and our advisory role. Source segregation gives the highest quality of recyclate and the greatest opportunities for re-use of materials. The restrictions on wastes going to landfill and on key recyclables going for incineration will further help promote recycling rates.

SEPA will also use the requirement for pre-treatment of wastes and the efficiency targets in our Thermal Treatment Guidelines to push the recovery of waste materials as far up the waste hierarchy as possible.

SEPA is working with other partner organisations including COSLA and Zero Waste Scotland to ensure that there is an effective communications strategy to ensure that waste producers and their contractors are well informed of the regulatory changes ahead of them taking effect. This will form the first part of a longer term implementation strategy to enable the change in Scotland's waste management infrastructure to be managed effectively and with the maximum associated benefits.

In summary, SEPA welcomes the policy statement and looks forward to working with the Government and other key partners to delivering the Plans far reaching vision.