

**COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 11 FEBRUARY 2011**

**Statement from: Cllr C L Strange, Executive Councillor for  
Waste Services & Green Issues**

During arctic conditions of the previous months, the magnificent efforts of our district colleagues should be commended for keeping our residents' bins and bags emptied. At a time when I received the last of my Christmas cards during the second week in January, the bins in West Lindsey had been collected in all but the most severely affected areas. I know from the other districts, and the household waste sites, that these teams once again responded to some of the worst conditions experienced in 30 years. The only blessing to this mind-numbing cold was that we did not experience blizzards - if that had happened, then more than rubbish collection would have been at risk.

And now back to the day job. Whilst statistics are only part of the story, they do show us that as an authority we are providing excellent value for money, ranking second among the shire counties. Figures recently released from the Environmental Agency show that recycling countywide stood at 51.4% for 2009-2010 (currently it stands at 52.3% April-April). District figures for 2009-2010 are given below:  
2009-2010 figures for the districts.

Boston	East Lindsey	Lincoln City	North Kesteven	South Holland	South Kesteven	West Lindsey
31.5%	56.3%	44%	53.8%	32.8%	51.1%	49.1%

As a West Lindsey councillor, I am pleased to report provisional figures for West Lindsey for the current year stand at 54.9%, a 5.8% increase. Our own Household Waste Recycling Centres are also contributing with average recycling rates at an impressive 72%.

Working within the joint recycling group next year, we hope to promote green waste collection in Boston, should Boston wish to follow that route.

I am pleased to report to Council that, during early February, we hope to sign a 25 year contract with WRG (Waste Recycling Group) to design, build and operate the Energy from Waste plant at Hykeham. The new facility will be built in conjunction with four new transfer stations at Boston, Gainsborough, Grantham and Sleaford, for which we expect to procure contracts within the next few months. These are to bulk up the collected waste from across the huge expanse of our county. The first is already up and running in Louth.

The acquisition of sites in Boston and Gainsborough are still under negotiation with land owners, whilst Grantham and Sleaford have been secured, planning permissions will be sought very soon. I cannot praise enough the efforts of our team, and local members, for their support through a time when opposition from members or residents would have risked a most important development for the future of our county.

On 4 March, our latest Household Waste Recycling site will open its doors, filling the gap in the north of the county between Lincoln, Louth and Gainsborough. Known as The Rasens, after the three parishes of Market Rasen, Middle Rasen and West Rasen, this site is not as large as Louth in keeping with the smaller catchment area, and our tight budgets.

We will continue to search for a suitable site in Stamford, providing the final site in our necklace of countywide facilities that offer 95% of our residents a recycling centre within a twelve mile radius of their home.