

PRESS RELEASE: Community R4C

District Council can do what it likes with our bin bags

Stroud District Council, it turns out, is not obliged to send our black bags to Gloucestershire County Council to be incinerated at Javelin Park, opening the way for the Community R4C recycling plant to go full-steam ahead.

Last year it was thought that the County Council would have the final say on waste.¹ GCC Spokesman Ray Theodoulou said at the time that if Stroud wished to send waste to the R4C recycling plant "it would need to be carefully considered to ensure they are following the law."

The law has now been examined and shows that District Councils are in fact free agents in this, as long as they are maximising recycling².

According to a report produced by international legal consultants SLR, District Councils, as Waste Collection Authorities, not only have the right to send black bags to a recycling plant such as that proposed by Community R4C but may **arguably have a legal duty to do so** if they can. The Community R4C plant would use MBHT mechanical sorting, through which a large proportion of black bag contents (eg glass, metal, plastics) can be retrieved as recyclates or recycled into sustainable biomass fuel, leaving very little truly "residual" waste.

By ensuring that further levels of recycling take place with black bag waste rather than sending it direct to landfill or incineration, District Councils would be carrying out their legal duty.

Furthermore, the County Council, as the Waste Disposal Authority, would be required to pay District Councils a rebate on recycling that resulted from the treatment of black bag waste by an R4C plant, making it cost neutral to the District.

“This is very good news for Community R4C and we can now go

1 (see http://www.stroudnewsandjournal.co.uk/news/13419542.Campaigners_fighting_Javelin_Park_incinerator_reveal_plans_for_alternative_bio_mass_centre/?ref=rl).

2 See attached SLR report

forward to make our community-supported plans a reality, improving recycling rates and environmental outcomes for Gloucestershire” said CR4C spokesperson Sue Oppenheimer.

END

NOTES

2011 regulations mandate that all local authorities treat waste according to a "waste hierarchy" - government guidance says (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/waste-legislation-and-regulations>)

If your business or organisation (including local authorities on behalf of householders) produces or handles waste (this includes importing, producing, carrying, keeping or treating waste; dealers or brokers who have control of waste, and anyone responsible for the transfer of waste), you must take all such measures as are reasonable in the circumstances to:

- prevent waste
- apply the waste hierarchy when you transfer waste

SIDE PIECE: Local campaigner hosts Rubbish Parties to support recycling plant

(SNJ already has copy on this, sent by Jojo Mehta)

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