

LONGFORD COUNTY COUNCIL



POLICY DOCUMENT RELATING TO THE RECYCLING OF TEXTILES

**Adopted by Longford County Council at its April Monthly
Meeting held on April 16th 2008
on the recommendation of the
Water Services and Environmental
Strategic Policy Committee**

*Policy Document Relating to the Recycling of Textiles
Adopted April 16th, 2008*

Context

This document sets out the policy of the Longford Local Authorities with regard to the Recycling of Textiles and the provision and operation of Textile Recycling Services in County Longford.

The Longford Local Authorities are committed to promoting the sustainable recycling of textiles. The Local Authorities will seek to ensure that Textile Recycling Services are available to those in County Longford who wish to avail of them. Equally the Local Authorities will strive to ensure that the provision of Textile Recycling Services does not cause difficulties that might detract from other recycling initiatives that are operated in the county.

The recycling of textiles poses challenges for both the operators of recycling services and the Local Authorities. Some of the challenges for the Local Authorities relate to the regulation of the service providers and to the possible littering of the sites at which Textile Recycling Banks are located. Some of the challenges for the service providers relate to the need to ensure that the Textile Recycling Banks are efficiently operated while ensuring that the sites are maintained to a standard that is acceptable to both the Local Authorities and the owners of the sites at which they are located. It is in the best interests of both the service providers and the Local Authorities that the services are available to those who wish to use them and that the services are provided to the highest standard possible.

Policy

It is the policy of the Longford Local Authorities to facilitate the recycling of textiles. In this regard the Local Authorities will work in a spirit of partnership with responsible service providers where the service providers demonstrate a commitment to operate their services in compliance with the requirements of the Local Authorities.

Every effort will be made to ensure that Textile Recycling Services are available in the county. The Longford Local Authorities will not be directly providing such services and consequently no guarantee can be given that such services will be provided.

Textile Recycling Options

There are a number of options that are available to persons who wish to recycle textiles. The principle options that are presently available in County Longford are:-

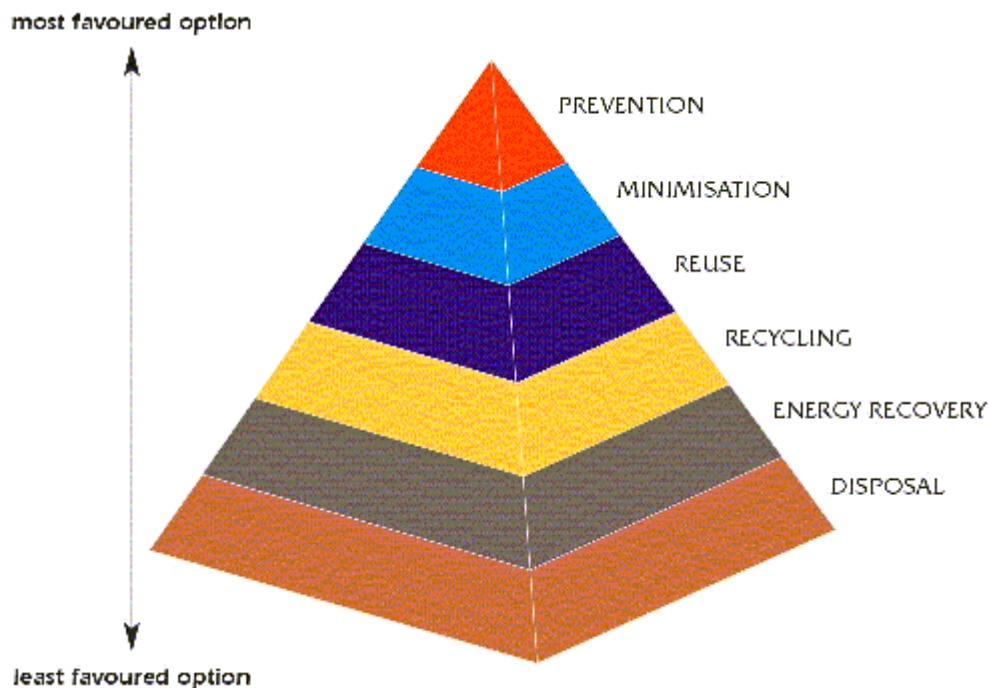
- Textile Recycling Banks that have been provided at a number of locations
- Textile Recycling facilities at the Mulleadys Civic Amenity Sites in both Longford town and Drumlish
- Donating clothes to charitable bodies that operate second-hand clothes shops
- Door to door collection agencies

Persons disposing of textiles of any sort should only give these items to service providers that are appropriately regulated. If there is any doubt as to the status of a service provider that offers a Textile Recycling Service the Environment Department of the relevant Local Authority should be contacted for clarification.

Regulation of Textile Recycling

The Longford Local Authorities reserve the right to regulate the Recycling of Textiles in County Longford in line with best practice and any regulations or guidelines that

are introduced. The Local Authorities are charged with the responsibility of promoting sustainable development and initiatives that support the Waste Hierarchy. This policy has been developed in order to contribute to the overall effort of the Local Authorities to meet their obligations in this regard. Service providers and the owners of property on which Textile Recycling Banks have been installed which have not been approved by the Local Authorities will be required to remove them.



Textile Recycling Banks

Textile Recycling Banks can only be installed with the prior approval of the Local Authorities. In general service providers will not be permitted to install Textile Recycling Banks immediately adjacent to other Bring Banks. Service providers will be permitted to locate Textile Recycling Banks adjacent to other Bring Banks where this is acceptable to the Local Authorities. In rural areas it is recognised that users are most likely to drive to recycling facilities. In recognition of this fact the Council will be positively disposed to the location of facilities in the general vicinity of each other. However the location of Textile Recycling Banks and Bring Banks immediately adjacent to each other will only be permitted where there is no alternative. The reason for this is that the Local Authorities are directly responsible for the operation of Bring Bank sites other than Textile Recycling Banks. A situation cannot be allowed to arise whereby the provision of the Council's Bring Banks service might in any way be compromised by the provision of a Textile Recycling Bank.

Persons who are considering installing Textile Recycling Bank at any location in County Longford should seek advice from the relevant Local Authority before undertaking any installation work. Textile Recycling Banks that are in existence prior to the adoption of this policy will be subject to the requirements of the Local Authorities as set out in this policy. Where Textile Recycling Banks are installed the Local Authorities will monitor their operation. Service providers will be responsible for the servicing of them. Service providers will also be responsible for ensuring that litter does not accumulate beside their Textile Recycling Banks. Where the Local Authorities are dissatisfied with the manner in which particular Textile Recycling Banks are being operated the service providers may be required to remove them.

Textile Recycling Banks may be installed on private property. The arrangements relating to the installation of Textile Recycling Banks will in general be a matter for the service provider and the property owner. However the Local Authorities must have an input into the locating and operation of any such Textile Recycling Banks. The following general conditions shall apply in respect of Textile Recycling Banks located on private property.

- 1) Approval must be granted by the Environment Department of the relevant Local Authority relating to the proposed siting of a Textile Recycling Bank in advance of it being installed.
- 2) Evidence of the property owner having given consent to the service provider to install the Textile Recycling Bank must be submitted to the Environment Department of the Local Authority concerned.
- 3) Any Textile Recycling Bank that is installed must comply with the normal conditions of Planning Permission or Planning Regulations as appropriate. In particular the following restrictions will apply:-
 1. No more than 5 receptacles shall be provided at any one site
 2. The capacity of each receptacle shall not exceed 4.5 m³
 3. No receptacle shall be situated within 50 meters of any house, unless the written consent of the owner or occupier of the house has been obtained in advance

Textile Recycling at Civic Amenity Sites

Mulleadys Ltd. operate two Civic Amenity Sites in County Longford. These Civic Amenity Sites are located at the West Link Business Park, Athlone Road, Longford and at Cloonaugh, Drumlish. Textiles for recycling are accepted at both of these Civic Amenity Sites. Clothes and many other textile items are accepted free of charge.

Donating Clothes to Charitable Bodies

Many charitable bodies operate second-hand clothes shops. These shops rely on donations of used clothing and provide clothes for purchase at low cost at their outlets. There are a number of such outlets located in the county and there are also many similar outlets in surrounding counties. Some charitable bodies offer a collection service while others accept recyclable textiles at their outlets.

Donating Clothes to Door to Door Collection Agencies

There are a number of regulated service providers that operate door to door collection services. Generally speaking the service providers deliver notices indicating the dates and times at which they will be in an area to householders. In many instances the service providers also deliver plastic bags into which householders are asked to place items that they wish to donate. Door to door collection services may be provided in an unregulated manner by some service providers. Where this occurs there are risks that items which are collected may not be appropriately disposed of. Persons seeking to dispose of textiles for recycling should be aware that it is their responsibility to ensure that the service provider to whom they give their textiles is regulated. If items you intended to recycle are not properly disposed of you could incur a Litter Fine.

Review

This policy document and the items covered in it will be subject to ongoing review. If any person has concerns relating to any aspect of textile recycling whether or not it is referred to in the policy document they are advised to contact the Environment Department of their Local Authority.