

## REVIEW OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND HEALTH EFFECTS OF MANAGEMENT OF MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE

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The Prime Minister's Strategy Unit report of November 2002, "Waste Not, Want Not: a strategy for tackling the waste problem in England," recommended that an independent review of the environmental and health effects of waste management should be carried out (Recommendation 15). This review was also the subject of a subsequent commitment in the Chancellor's Pre-Budget Report, 2002. The first stage of this review, focusing on municipal solid waste (MSW), was reported in spring 2004, following peer review under the auspices of the Royal Society. The aim of the review was to: i. Collate and evaluate the available information on the impacts on human health and the environment from different options for management and disposal of MSW;

- ii. Compare the performance of MSW management and disposal options to one another;
- iii. Compare the effects of MSW management and disposal options to other activities;
- iv. Assess the relative importance and risks of different impacts;
- v. Provide a clear, authoritative and quantitative assessment of the impacts;
- vi. Draw objective conclusions from the evidence on the relative environmental and health impacts of different MSW disposal options.

The study was designed to provide reference information for use in local planning and waste management decisions, and also makes allowance for offset electricity generation emissions for several of the waste management options. The study will also provide an input to the Treasury's consideration of the case for extending the use of economic instruments in waste management.