

Resource and Waste Management

What we have now

Government talks about reducing the use of resources. But its policies are not clear or strict enough to lead to change, for example in the use of plastic.

The UK is set to miss its existing target of 50% recycling by 2020, with the recycling rate stuck at 44% over the last few years. And yet recycling could bring financial benefits.

High Peak has improved its recycling rate in recent years but it's still low compared to many places.

There are complicated rules around recycling, without enough clear information for the public. Then there is not enough control of how recycling actually happens, to make the system work. Much material which could be recycled isn't actually taken for recycling.

There is also no clear approach to reducing resource use and waste. Waste going to landfill is taxed, so less waste saves the Council money as well as helping people and the environment.

What the Green Party proposes

Avoiding waste

- Encourage sharing and re-use through systems such as Freecycle.
- Allow removal of useful items such as domestic appliances from waste streams, then recondition them for sale back to consumers
- Work with shops and producers to avoid packaging, and, if that's not possible, reduce packaging
- Work with producers to use only packaging which can be recycled or which biodegrades quickly.

Improved recycling

- Work with partners to separate waste better, so more can be recycled. This will mean more income from recycling for the Council as well as better use of resources
- Find ways to work with different partners to increase recycling, for example to allow more plastics to be recycled
- Work towards systems where recycled goods are easy to find and can then be recycled again.

Green Waste

- Work with partners to collect everything that can be composted from households, business and municipal sources
- Make sure the green waste collected is effectively composted.
- Sell the compost back to consumers and businesses to help cover costs.

Information

- Give information and advice in different ways (the Internet, leaflets, face-to-face) so households and business can recycle easily and effectively
- Produce information to make it easier for people to share and re-use goods and resources.