



Additional officer's comment

C2012-6 Waste to Energy (Residual Waste)

Wednesday, 9 December 2020, 6.00pm

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Strategic Implications

The City's updated One Planet Fremantle Framework 2020 (adopted by Council in October this year) sets the following waste targets for the City:

- Meet WA state targets of 67% diversion from landfill by 2025 and 70% by 2030 of business and household waste, exceeding this wherever possible.
- 80% of residents have access to FOGO by 2025.

It is expected that using waste to energy (WTE) will take the City's material recovery (waste diversion from landfill) rate to 85% compared to the maximum 65% that can be achieved through source separation only. The proposal is for the City's residual waste only (i.e. the waste that would otherwise go to landfill) to be disposed of through the WTE process.

Use of waste to energy (WTE) is broadly in alignment with the Environmental Responsibility key focus area of the Strategic Community Plan, and the ultimate goal of "Zero Waste" the City has committed to under the One Planet Fremantle Framework. The degree of alignment is contingent on a few factors, in particular that the WTE plant performs at optimum efficiency and with the appropriate bio-filter and scrubbers in place and is safe for public health and the environment.

In terms of carbon emissions, the City will need to account for any changes in its emissions profile (positive or negative) so that the appropriate sum can be included in its annual carbon accounting for purchasing offsets.

If Carbon Tax is introduced it is assumed that it would apply to landfill sites for uncaptured methane which is significant as well as to Waste to Energy processing. In broad terms the carbon efficiency of a WTE plant depends on the material being burnt. If there is a high proportion of recyclables in the input material then the emissions impact would be higher than if only residual waste is being burnt. In our case it will be just residual waste but for anyone not on a FOGO system their carbon impact would be much higher.