

## Wood Panel Industry welcomes Minister's commitment to landfill ban

The Wood Panel Industries Federation (WPIF) today warmly welcomed the Environment Minister's commitment to tackling the scandal of recyclable materials that go straight to landfill. Speaking to Sky News, Hilary Benn said:

"Why do we allow food waste, wood, cans, paper and glass to go into landfill at all when we already know there are other ways in which they can be used?

**"Banning** landfill of those products is going to be the next stage."

The WPIF has consistently urged the Government to take further steps to encourage and mandate better use of waste that is recyclable. There are many productive uses that waste wood can be put towards, including the production of wood panels, bedding for animals or, for the lower grade material, energy generation.

The wood panel industry is the UK's biggest recycler of post-consumer waste wood, consuming over 1m tonnes annually. The industry also makes extensive use of its own process-derived wood residues. In a highly efficient closed loop system, the residues are used to generate renewable heat for the production of MDF, chipboard and OSB board.

Speaking today, **Alastair Kerr, Director General of the WPIF** said:

"Sending waste wood to landfill is out of step with the times and we welcome Hilary Benn's commitment to amend this wasteful practice. The wood panel industry is committed to working with Government towards the goal of making the UK a 'zero waste' nation."

He added:

"The WPIF look forward to engaging in the public consultation due to be published on this issue."

### **Note to editors:**

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