

Report

Report to:	Community Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	12 July 2011
Report by:	Executive Director (Community Resources)

Subject:	Results of the Food Waste Collection Trial
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ advise of the results of the Food Waste Collection Trial.

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that the results of the Food Waste Collection Trial be noted;
- (2) that, from April 2012, the roll-out of a Food Waste Collection scheme to all premises in South Lanarkshire be approved.

3. Background

- 3.1. The Council has been set a number of statutory targets for recycling and landfill diversion through the adoption of the European Union (EU) Directives and Scottish Government Targets.
- 3.2. The Scottish Government recycling and composting targets require the Council to recycle and compost 50% of its waste by 31 March 2013, 60% by 31 March 2020 and 70% by 31 March 2025.
- 3.3. EU Landfilled Diversion Targets for Biodegradable Municipal Waste (BMW) require the Council by 2013 to reduce the amount of BMW sent to landfill to 50% of the amount produced in 1995 (51,040 tonnes) and to 25% by 2020 (35,960 tonnes).
- 3.4. At present, the Council delivers a comprehensive range of waste management services including various kerbside recycling schemes, civic amenity sites and recycling bring sites.
- 3.5. The Scottish Government's Zero Waste Plan introduces the requirement to source segregate food waste by 2013.
- 3.6. A Food Waste Collection Trial Scheme was approved at the Community Resources Committee on 1 March 2011.
- 3.7. The food waste collection trial commenced in April 2011 and ran for 8 weeks to determine the quantity of food waste available for collection and the acceptability of the proposed collection method operationally and for the householder.

- 3.8 2,389 households in the Hamilton and Cambuslang areas were identified to participate. Each householder was issued with a free kitchen container (caddy) and a supply of biodegradable caddy liners. The 'survival bag' method for centralised extraction requires residents to place the filled caddy liners, designated for food waste, in their general waste (grey/green) bin. The liners are designed to survive the Refuse Collection Vehicle compaction process and can be extracted at the waste treatment plant. The advantages of centralised extraction are the reduced need for dedicated food waste collection vehicles and crews and is a more efficient use of resources.

4. Outcomes from the Trial

- 4.1 At the end of the trial period, a doorstep survey was undertaken by the Waste Awareness team within Waste Services and the waste contractor identified the amount of food waste collected and the number of bags extracted.
- 4.2 For the 8 weeks of the trial, the food waste tonnage extracted per area and the participation rate (taken from the sample household survey) is shown below.

Trial Location	Average Participation (%)	Average Quantity of food collected per household per week (kg)
Eddlewood\Silvertonhill, Hamilton	67.5%	2.64kgs
Drumsagard, Cambuslang	75.9%	2.18kgs
Quarter\Torhead, Hamilton	67.4%	2.51kgs

- 4.3 The tonnage of food waste collected over the 4 collection weeks gradually increased, which is encouraging. Less than 1% of the bags appeared to have burst\tope during the collection process.
- 4.4 From the trial, the average quantity of food waste collected is equivalent to 2.51 kgs per household per week.
- 4.5 For comparison purposes, results from other pilots have shown tonnages ranging from 1.3kgs to 2.6kgs per household per week. The variation will depend on the collection method of the food waste. Due to the householder, performing the initial sorting, during the trial. higher diversion rates can be achieved, with minimal contamination of the material collected.
- 4.6 The waste contractor highlighted that, during the trial period, the liners used were similar in colour to those used by some large retail shops which made it difficult to identify. It was suggested that a brighter colour of liner be used.
- 4.7 Employees from Waste and Environmental Services' Waste Awareness Unit visited 1,132 households from the trial areas and 255 questionnaires were completed by the Waste Awareness employees through one-to-one interviews with householders.
- 4.8 The survey of the 255 properties was completed by 6 June 2011.
- 4.9 The questionnaire consisted of 10 questions and respondents were asked for their views on various aspects of the food waste trial.

4.10 The key findings from the survey can be summarised as follows:-

- ◆ 70% of respondents stated that they had participated in the trial, and 30% did not
- ◆ 24% of respondents who did not participate were not interested and 33% stated other reasons including forgot, dog eats scraps, no time or did not state specific reason
- ◆ 47% of the food waste was identified as peelings\egg shells\tea bags
- ◆ 85% of respondents felt the kitchen caddy provided was useful
- ◆ 90% of respondents were satisfied with the kitchen caddy liners provided
- ◆ 47% of respondents used a liner a day and 29% alternate days
- ◆ 77% of respondents felt that the trial had not changed their attitude to the amount of food waste disposed of

4.11 The results of this survey demonstrate the success of the Food Waste Collection Trial in that the majority of the householders surveyed support the scheme and the proposed collection method.

4.12 Preparation for the roll out of the scheme will commence in August 2011 with collections starting April 2012.

5. Employee Implications

5.1. There are no employee implications.

6. Financial Implications

6.1. The costs for the 8 week trial period were £30,000 to purchase sufficient caddies and biodegradable liners and communication/printing and for the sorting, treatment and disposal of the waste which will be met from the Waste Management budget.

6.2. The estimated first year's costs for the full roll-out are £1.194m, with recurring annual costs from year 2 of £459,000.

7. Other Implications

7.1. Directing food waste away from landfill will contribute to increased recycling\composting levels and diversion of biodegradable waste from landfill which are both key actions in the Sustainable Development Strategy, Council Plan and the Single Outcome Agreement.

7.2. The development of an appropriate mechanism for diverting food waste from landfill is necessary in order to avoid the risk of future financial penalties under the Scottish Government's Zero Waste Policies.

8. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

8.1. There are no equality issues arising from this report.

8.2. Consultation has taken place with householders by questionnaire as part of the trial.

Norrie Anderson
Executive Director (Community Resources)

27 June 2011

Link(s) to Council Objectives/Improvement Themes/Values

- ◆ Sustainable Development

Previous References

- ◆ Report to Community Resources Committee 1 March 2011

List of Background Papers

- ◆ Information leaflet provided to households entitled 'Food Waste Collection Trial'
- ◆ Regulations to deliver Zero Waste: A consultation on the proposed Zero Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2011.

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

Shirley Clelland, Head of Waste and Environmental Services

Ext: 4708 (Tel: 01698 454708)

E-mail: Shirley.clelland@southlanarkshire.gov.uk