

ANGUS COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENTAL AND CONSUMER PROTECTION COMMITTEE – 13 AUGUST 2002

RECYCLING STATISTICS AND RECYCLING PLAN 2001/02

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

Abstract

This report updates the Committee on the situation as regards recycling and serves to show progress in relation to the Council's recycling activities.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Committee note the contents of this report and appended statistics which provide details of all materials recovered by the Council for recycling during the year 1 April 2001 to 31 March 2002.

2. INTRODUCTION

The Council has an agreed policy in waste management which seeks to provide for waste minimisation through recovery, recycling and the promotion of re-use. The strategy employed by the Council aims to provide facilities to the public for the recovery of wastes for recycling on the basis of kerbside collections and "Bring" centres and sites.

The Council maintains a kerbside collection of cardboard and glass bottles from commercial premises and a newspaper/magazine collection service from households and certain commercial premises. The "Bring" system operates with seven purpose built Recycling Centres, one each in the 7 Burghs of Angus. There are also 35 recycling points throughout Angus.

In the main the recycling points are 'bottle banks' although 14 'neighbourhood' recycling points have been established over the last few years providing facilities for a wider range of recycling including plastic and metal food containers. Over the past two years the Council has established 10 of these sites within the rural areas of Angus providing close to home recycling for communities in remote areas.

"Bring" recycling accounts for approximately 46% of the total wastes recycled by the Council.

The Council currently recycles/recovers 16 categories of materials and most continue to show significant increases in the quantity by weight collected.

3. RECYCLING COMMENTARY

- a) Paper and cardboard products continue to show year on year increases. This can be attributed to changes in the method of collection and handling and the establishment of sound market outlets. The increases can mainly be attributed to increasing amounts of both paper and cardboard being received at the recycling centres. Quality paper (letter/copy papers) recovery is now underway from Council Offices.
- b) Glass cullet from bottles and jars continues to show modest increases. The increases are mainly as a result of the growth in neighbourhood bottle bank sites in the rural areas and the opening of the Recycling Centres at Brechin and Kirriemuir. Glass recovery over the last few years seems to have peaked around the 1000 tonnes. With little scope for increased tonnages from either the existing collection from licensed premises or bottle banks, a kerbside collection from households is shortly to be trialled.
- c) Compostable materials account for 28% of the total waste recycled. Although mainly garden (green) wastes, there is also a collection service for bio or kitchen waste from 1200 houses ('brown' bin). The amount of compostable waste collected through the 'brown' bin system has been falling over the last few years. In part this can be attributed to a lack of interest and in other areas householders switching to home composting for use in their own gardens. A recent campaign to promote home composters in Angus resulted in 1500 home composter units being purchased.
- d) Scrap metals (mainly cookers, fridges, washing machines etc) continue to increase reflecting greater use of the Recycling Centres. Since December the Council has had to collect end-of-life refrigerators separately for specialist disposal and recycling required under

EC Regulations. Something in the order of 1100 domestic type refrigerators were dispatched under the new regime.

- e) Food and drinks cans are recovered in two ways by the Council. High value aluminium drinks cans and other food cans are collected at the recycling centres and neighbourhood recycling points. These are sorted and dispatched by the Community Business – Angus Community Recycling Opportunities Partnership (ACROP). A lesser quality product is extracted from Angus refuse received at the Dundee Energy Recycling (DERL) Plant in Dundee.
- f) Plastic bottle recovery is an initiative in high value product recycling again undertaken by ACROP with collection at recycling centres and neighbourhood recycling points. With markets outwith Scotland, plastics require to be sorted, baled and stored for infrequent onward transportation to processing plants.
- g) Wood from DIY and trade sources for reprocessing by a local business into chipboard is now received at 3 of the Council Recycling Centres. The available space for siting a collection skip is not unfortunately available at all our sites. A quality wood waste, free of contaminants such as chipboard is demanded by the processor. This can be difficult to achieve without the vigilance of the site attendant. While the Council receives no income from this recyclate, savings are achieved in landfill costs and tax.
- h) The Council has a target to send in excess of 30,000T of municipal waste to the waste to energy plant (DERL) at Dundee. This year nearly 18,500T of waste from Angus was treated at the plant. Some 3750 tonnes of the waste received is recovered for recycling of which just over 3000 tonnes is residue ash used in the manufacture of asphalt materials.

Many of the recycling projects rely very much on the continued and expanding partnership with the community business ACROP and their involvement with the 'New Deal' Environmental Task Force. In terms of infrastructure this enterprise has much of the specialist processing equipment grant aided from the Scottish Executive Strategic Waste Fund. A major stumbling block to expansion has been a need for larger accommodation for sorting baling and holding products. Recently leased premises should resolve this problem, creating potential for new areas of recycling and increased capacity.

4. PERFORMANCE INDICATORS AND TARGETS

The National Waste Strategy Scotland provides a framework within which Scotland can reduce the amount of waste which it produces, dealing with the waste produced in more sustainable ways. A key directive which is driving targets for the Strategy is the EC Landfill Directive, which sets standards for reducing the quantity of biodegradable municipal waste sent to landfill. These targets are especially important for Angus, as an authority with a requirement to either minimise waste or to divert it away from traditional waste management practices.

During the year 1 April 2001 to 31 March 2002 waste collected by the Council included 46,553.26 tonnes household wastes and 11,441.12 tonnes of commercial wastes of which the following were recycled:

	Waste Recycled in Tonnes	
	Household	Commercial
Ash from incineration	2,570	564
Composted by the Council	2,347	929
Other recyclates (see Appendix for details)	3,704	1,621
Total recycled	8,621	3,114
%	18.52%	27.22%

5. CONCLUSIONS

The Council continues to meet its planned commitments to recycling and in pursuance of its broad policy on recycling (report No 10/97) consistently aims to encourage and enable the recovery of materials capable of recycling. Despite the fluctuations in the market place, commendable progress continues to be made in many areas of sustainable recycling and in the minimisation of waste.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications as a consequence of this report.

7. HUMAN RIGHTS

There are no human rights issues associated with this report.

8. CONSULTATION

The Chief Executive, Director of Finance and Director of law and Administration have been consulted on the contents of this report.

S R Heggie
Director of Environmental and Consumer Protection

No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to any material extent in preparing this report.

IW/FMCI
23.7.02