

ANGUS COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENTAL & LEISURE SERVICES COMMITTEE – 28 AUGUST 2003

RECYCLING STATISTICS UPDATE

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL & CONSUMER PROTECTION

ABSTRACT

This report updates the Committee on the situation as regards recycling achievements.

1. RECOMMENDATION

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, 2002 to 31 March, 2003.

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 a facility for the recovery of waste for recycling on the basis of kerbside collections, "Bring " centres and sites and material recovery facilities (MRF).

The Council maintains a kerbside collection of cardboard and glass bottles from commercial premises customers and a newspaper collection service from households and businesses. A trial kerbside box collect and sort scheme was introduced this past year for over 1000 households recovering up to six different commodities in the single uplift.

A "Bring" system operates with seven purpose built recycling centres one in each of the Burghs of Angus. There are also 32 recycling points throughout Angus. In the main these are 'bottle banks' although this number includes 6 'neighbourhood' mini recycling centres dealing with a wide variety of recyclates.

Materials recovery has also been introduced this year through facilities provided by a private contractor for sifting through the contents of the civic amenity waste skips and recovering items suitable for recycling.

3. RECYCLING COMMENT

The Council recycles/recovers something in the order of 20 categories of materials all of which continue to show significant increases in the quantity by weight collected. The Department is always looking to new initiatives to extend the range of materials for recycling although this is always determined by market outlets and logistics of collection, handling and dispatch.

- a) **Paper and Cardboard** have shown considerable increases - +12% and +16.5% respectively. This is due to a number of influences not least improved handling and storage, bulk transportation, high quality products and good markets. Angus is also the leading authority in Scotland for the recovery of 'Yellow Pages' reaching many households through the participation of school children. A scheme for the recovery of quality/office papers has been introduced. While many tonnes have been collected, this does not appear in the statistics as the papers have not yet been dispatched to the processor.
- b) **Container Glass (Cullet)** bottles and jars recycled this year has been increased some 12%. A new collection vehicle with colour separate compartments has enabled simultaneous collection of clear, green and brown glass. This improvement in efficiency is a contributory factor in the increased amounts of glass and avoidance of colour contamination and rejection. Other factors include the trial kerbside collection and additional bottle bank sites.
- c) **Composting of bio and garden waste** has increased a staggering 36%. This is a result of improved processing to compost at the Council's landfill site. Currently most of the green waste is received at the recycling centres both from householders and commercial gardeners. Only a small proportion of such wastes are currently collected by the brown bin scheme at the kerbside.
- d) **Fridges and White Goods (metals etc)** have increased 29% largely due to the legal requirement to recycle and process fridges for the removal of CFC's. The contractor engaged by the Council

to deal with end-of-life fridges is able to recover for reprocessing 90% by weight of the components in a fridge including metals and plastics.

- e) **Plastic bottle** recycling has seen a steady increase over the years. Initially restricted to fizzy drinks and milk containers, there has been some expansion into a wider range of plastic recovery at selected mini recycling points and with the trial kerbside box collection scheme.
- f) **Residues and Materials** recovery processes have seen a considerable range of recyclates 'picked' out from the general waste stream and civic amenity skips. Various arrangements are now in place for such segregation of recyclates involving a commercially operated Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) where ahead of final disposal either landfill or incinerator value materials such as wood, ferrous and non ferrous materials, plate glass and hardcore are extracted for re-use or processing. Even certain ash residues from the incineration of wastes at the Dundee Waste to Energy Plant (DERL) are recovered to be used in the making of asphalt.

4. PERFORMANCE INDICATORS AND TARGETS

A Scottish target has been set for 25% recycling and composting of municipal wastes by 2006. The EC Landfill Directive further aims to reduce the amount of biodegradable waste going to landfill and by 2020 targets to achieve must include 35% recycling and 20% composting.

During the year 1 April 2002 to 31 March 2003 59,309 tonnes of household waste was collected of which 13,715 tonnes was recycled. This represents 23% of household wastes recycled (0.3 tonnes per household per year).

Of the 14,165 tonnes of commercial wastes collected by the Council, some 4,168 tonnes (29.5%) was recycled.

5. CONCLUSIONS

The Council continues to meet its planned commitments to recycling and in pursuance of its broad policy on recycling consistently aims to broaden, encourage and enable the recovery of materials capable of recycling. Despite the fluctuations in the market place, commendable progress is being made in many areas of sustainable recycling and the minimisation of waste. This will be built upon incrementally as the Waste Strategy funding is made available to the Council by the Scottish Executive.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLCIATIONS

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

7. HUMAN RIGHTS

There are no human rights issues arising from 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
29.7.03