

ANGUS COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENTAL & CONSUMER PROTECTION COMMITTEE - 7 NOVEMBER 2000

RECYCLING STEEL CANS - SAVE-A-CAN

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL & CONSUMER PROTECTION

ABSTRACT

This report examines the options on steel can recycling following the steel packaging recycling body CORUS withdrawal from the Save-A-Can scheme.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Committee agree:-

- a) that Angus Council take over control of the "Save-a-can" scheme initially from CORUS.
- b) that the scheme should not be extended from the current level of operation meantime.
- c) that the Director report back in due course on the future viability of the scheme

2. INTRODUCTION

CORUS, the steel packaging recycling arm of the steel industry has advised that they intend to phase out the "save-a-can" scheme. As members who visit Angus recycling centres will be aware, the Council has save-a-can skip units at its sites to enable the public to recycle a range of food cans.

CORUS are to put their recycling efforts into routing and project based work where they can make a greater impact on steel recycling.

CORUS intend to pass over the control of "save-a-can" to local authorities by the end of December 2000. Currently the servicing costs for these skips is undertaken by CORUS with the scheme incurring no cost to the Council. At the same time Angus Council receives no income from cans recycled.

3. FUTURE CAN RECYCLING IN ANGUS

If Angus Council wish to accept the offer from CORUS to take over control of "save-a-can" locally, CORUS are prepared to offer on a free loan basis, the special collection skip units. The Council had purchased three skips some time ago, however, if we are to continue with the scheme and have the capability of providing a facility at each recycling centre, it will be necessary to take these skips at the terms and conditions dictated by CORUS.

By taking on the scheme, Angus Council will be bound by such conditions as:-

- skips must remain in the livery of CORUS and maintained by and at the cost of the Council;
- all metals collected in skips, including aluminium must be routed through a processor accredited by CORUS for recycling.
- Angus Council will have to meet all transport costs, for emptying skips.
- the Council will become responsible for compliance with "Duty of Care" on the transfer of wastes and other relevant waste, environmental and transport related matters associated with the scheme.

For their part CORUS is prepared to meet the cost of an agreed plan of skip refurbishment for a period of up to 12 months.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There is currently no cost to the Council for servicing/transporting skips for emptying. If the Council take on the scheme it is estimated the cost of servicing the existing five centres in a full year would be £2,600. With the addition of Brechin and Kirriemuir Centres opening within the next few months this total cost in a financial year is estimated at £3,000.

These estimates are based on a delivery to the nearest accredited re-processor collection point in Dundee. No income is likely, due to off-set costs related to onward handling and transport.

It is anticipated that transport costs can be met from within the current budget for the existing five centres as off-set by income from other recycling activities.

5. CONCLUSIONS

Currently Angus Council recycles in the order of 15 tonnes of steel cans through the "Save-a-can" scheme. This is considerably less significant along side 342 tonnes of food cans recovered from Angus refuse going (part year) through the Dundee Waste to Energy plant DERL. In a full year's operation at DERL the cans extracted from Angus refuse is likely to be in the order of 800 tonnes. This brings into question the need for Angus to continue with steel can collection at the recycling centres when a much more efficient and cost effective system can be achieved through DERL for the recycling of steel cans from Angus. Members will be aware that the DERL plant has been shut down for a number of months due to a serious fire at the plant. This situation has temporarily removed our can recycling capability leaving "Save-a-can" as the only alternative meantime.

Further consideration should be given to our means of recycling cans with a full appraisal of the options following the recommencing of operations at the DERL plant. In the meantime the "Save-a-can" system should continue but that there should be no extension ahead of a future reappraisal of can recycling.

6. 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

IW/JAS
20.10.00

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.