

ANGUS COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENTAL AND CONSUMER PROTECTION COMMITTEE
23 MAY 2000

REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL & CONSUMER PROTECTION

WASTE TO ENERGY FOR HOUSEHOLD WASTE STREAM

Abstract

As Dundee Energy Recycling Limited Waste to Energy Plant has now been fully commissioned the Angus household waste stream has become feedstock for electricity generation.

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Committee: -

- (a) support the initiative to boost the awareness of all our household waste customers on the improvements in waste disposal practices as our waste becomes a feedstock for electricity generation.
- (b) welcome the increased recycling levels that Waste to Energy now brings to the Municipal Waste stream.

2. WASTE TO ENERGY

Following extensive periods of testing and proving the DERL plant has now become fully commissioned and the greater portion of the Angus household waste stream will be incinerated with heat recovery and electricity generation. (3000 tonnes per month).

This moves the Angus Waste up the waste disposal hierarchy and the waste effectively becomes feedstock for the combustion process. The waste is no longer simply landfilled but has become a fuel for generating electricity.

If we are to get the full benefit from this transition it is even more important that non-incinerables are removed from the household waste before it is placed in the wheeled bin as non incinerables increase ash production and reduce the capability of the DERL plant to generate heat and therefore generate electricity.

It is proposed that an awareness campaign of these improvements in our household waste treatment practices be published and that each household be given a leaflet explaining the changes in waste treatment expressing the increased benefits in recycling by householders at source of glass and other non incinerable material and the desirability of keeping stones and soil etc. out of the wheeled bins.

The waste to energy process also removes most scrap metal, tin cans and aluminium cans from the waste and we should see a resultant improvement in our recycling figures. Additionally the bottom ash is currently being used as an ingredient in the manufacture of roadmaking materials and the Director of Environmental & Consumer Protection is hopeful that the other ash fractions can also be turned to beneficial after use. This is subject to ongoing discussions.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The cost of the awareness campaign can be accommodated within the Waste Management budget.

4. CONSULTATION

The Chief Executive, the Director of Law and Administration, the Director of Finance and the Contract Services Manager have been consulted on the contents of this report.

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.

S R Heggie
Director of Environmental and Consumer Protection