

Proposed Waste and Recycling Service Efficiencies

1. Glass recycling – The current glass collection contract expires in February 2011. Up to £85,000 is spent with our contractor collecting glass. Bringing this work in house by the procurement of a vehicle for around £130,000 will deliver annual savings of £78,000. The pay back is less than two years and the life expectancy of the vehicle is eight years.
2. Gate fees – the collapse in recycling markets in the autumn of 2008 led to rising gate fees. Since then material prices have recovered and in some instances gone beyond the pre 2008 crash prices. Gate fees are being reviewed and a significant reduction is expected in excess of £80,000 per annum.
3. Containers – Over £150,000 (gross) is spent each year on bins & boxes. Some funds for blue bins and money from developers for new properties reduced the net expenditure to £110,000 in 2009/10. However by reusing and repairing more bins and by possible changes to charges for blue containers the intention is to reduce expenditure by £20,000 in 10/11.
4. Vehicle depreciation changes – The Refuse Collection Vehicles have been replaced on a six year cycle. The maintenance costs of vehicles rise with age. However the combination of better maintenance practices, more robust vehicles and the vehicles rarely going on landfill sites has helped increase the life of the vehicle. The intention is to replace refuse collection vehicles on a seven year cycle without increasing annual maintenance cost. This change will reduce capital requirements to replace vehicles by around £60,000 per year.
5. Bring banks – there are over 75 bring bank sites. The annual cleaning of bring banks and the Health & Safety lifting equipment inspection (LOLAR testing) has been carried out by external contractor. By carrying out this work in house and by maximising the value of the materials collected at the bring banks, costs should be reduced by £20,000 in 10/11.
6. Properties which cannot accommodate wheeled bins are supplied with single use grey sacks and paper organic sacks. This costs around £20/property per year. A reusable bag system is being investigated which if successful could save around £10,000 per year after spending around £5,000 on a reusable bag system.
7. Bartec system – the Bartec is an in cab system which allows better flow of information from the Customer Service Centre and the back office to the front line vehicles. The communication route between the vehicle and the Customer Service Centre is also improved. For example, contaminated bins will be identified and Customer Service Centre informed during the collection process so that customer queries can be responded to immediately. Similarly, missed bins reported immediately to the Customer Service Centre can be communicated to the drivers whilst hopefully still in the vicinity of the missed bin. The system is being rolled out through the fleet during 2010/11 and a number of operational efficiencies are expected to be realised which will reduce costs.

8. Christmas collections 2010 – Christmas falls on a Saturday this year. By collecting on the Bank Holiday Tuesday there will be no disruption to collections at Christmas. Householders will have their normal collections on the usual day. This not only reduces disruption and calls to the Customer Service Centre it will remove the need for printing and distributing stickers with the arrangements.
9. Rounds review – the rounds have not been fully reviewed for a number of years. New developments, new recycling and composting outlets and changes in recycling collections mean that the planned routes may not be as efficient as possible. The current rounds are being reviewed to reduce mileage (and hence fuel), reduce labour costs and obtain better balanced workloads. This work may involve changing the day of collection of up to 20,000 properties. Plans and proposals are being developed with the view to changing rounds in early 2011.

Proposed Improved Recycling Initiatives and Service Developments

1. Waste Electrical & Electronic Equipment - Currently there are 16 sites and 6 tonnes of waste electrical & electronic equipment including toasters, kettles, hair driers, small electrical devices have been diverted from landfill. As the number of sites is increased beyond 25, the amount of WEEE diverted from landfill will increase. Some 40 tonnes is expected to be collected in 2010/11. Each tonne of material recycled is worth around £90 in payments from the recycling industry, recycling credits and landfill diversion credits
2. Kerbside collection of batteries – batteries are currently collected via bring banks at over 30 locations. This collected around 8 tonnes in 2009/10. It is estimated that another 20-30 tonnes exist in the residual bins. The possibility of collecting batteries from the kerbside is being researched including making contact with some councils who currently collect. Such as scheme is aimed to be financially cost neutral or better
3. Increasing the amount of glass being captured by further expanding the number of bring sites making it easier for residents to recycle glass. The recent waste analysis shows that some 700 to 900 tonnes is still present in the green bin. By better utilisation of the existing banks, another 5 to 10 sites could be in operation by April 2011. This scheme should bring in additional income.
4. Increasing the amount of textiles being captured. Currently around 325 tonnes of textiles are being collected at a variety of bring banks across the district. However, a recent waste compositional analysis showed that up to 1000 tonnes still remain in the green bin. The current provision of textile banks and the providers will be reviewed – this project should generate some additional income.
5. Trade recycling – some funds secured from the Business Resource Efficiency & Waste (BREW) enabled some research work to be carried out by Oxford Brookes University, a report has just been received with a number of recommendations – this project will increase trade recycling generating additional income.
6. Schools recycling – schools waste as classed as chargeable household waste (Schedule 2). This means that a charge can be made for collection but not for disposal. The intention is to offer to schools, particularly primary schools the Schedule 2 service including food waste. Encouraging food waste in the classroom will have a positive influence on the overall food waste recycling scheme – this scheme will cover all costs and may generate some income.
7. The highest performing council in England for recycling in 2009/10 was Rochford which achieved a recycling rate of around 65% using a three bin collection system. This system includes a weekly brown bin collection system. Rochford is being approached to fully understand their scheme since initial calculations show that a weekly brown bin over the summer months may be possible from summer 2012 for a very low cost.

8. Door stepping campaign in the autumn/winter months to target properties not recycling their food waste. The aim is to increase participation and increase the diversion of food waste from landfill.
9. Two new refuse collection vehicles arrived at the start of September with the Agripa system fitted to the main sides of the vehicles. The Agripa system is essentially an advertising hoarding on the side of vehicle. Different mesh panels can be fitted to the sides of vehicles using an industrial Velcro type of fitting. Feedback on the value of this system will be sought during the rest of 2010/11.
10. Caddy liners – access to caddy liners is an important factor for residents using the food waste recycling scheme. Despite liners being available at most supermarkets and a number of smaller local shops, many residents appear to prefer to buy liners from Cherwell District Council. This seems in part to be price and also certainty about using the correct liners. For the first five months of the food waste recycling service, over 1,700 rolls of liners were sold from Banbury TIC and Thorpe Lane Depot. Physical constraints for storage in Bicester and Kidlington have precluded the sale in these outlets to date. Proposals to make liners more easily available for residents include looking at ordering online with rolls being delivered either by post or crews and also wall simple vending systems in Linkpoints.