

Executive

FOOD WASTE RECYCLING

3 August 2009

Report of Head of Environmental Services

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To approve the policies and the delivery strategy of the food waste recycling service

This report is public

Recommendations

The Executive is recommended to:

- 1) Approve the policies set out for the food waste recycling scheme using the existing brown bin
- 2) Note the changes in rollout strategy due to delays in the provision of the outlet
- 3) Note the proposed rollout programme of food waste recycling from October 2009

Executive Summary

Introduction

- 1.1 The Executive in March 2009 authorised the launch of food waste recycling across the district from October 2009.
- 1.2 Since March detailed plans including the rollout of the scheme across the district have been developed.
- 1.3 The food and garden waste mixture collected in the brown bin will be processed at an In Vessel Composting plant at Ardley. This plant should have been ready in late autumn but delays in Agrivert securing funding for the plant has led to some slippage into early February 2009. However until this plant is on line Agrivert and Oxfordshire County Council are developing interim arrangements which will involve the use of the Banbury Waste Transfer Station.

- 1.4 The aim is to launch the food waste scheme from October 2009 for villages around Banbury. The scheme will rollout so that all villages around Banbury and the village of Kidlington will be covered prior to Christmas 2009. The rest of the district including Banbury, Bicester and all villages in the south of the district will be covered by the end of March 2010.
- 1.5 The new scheme aims to divert a considerable amount of food waste which is currently entering the green bin. During the first full year of operation the aim is to divert 3000- 4000 tonnes out of landfill. This should give a recycling rate substantially above 55%.
- 1.6 To achieve high levels of recycling food waste all households will receive a kitchen caddy with an initial free roll of liners along with comprehensive information on food waste recycling.

Proposals

- 1.7 To rollout a food waste recycling collection service during the period October 2009- March 2010.

Conclusion

- 1.8 The rollout of food waste recycling collections from October 2009 will raise the recycling rate to beyond 51% in 2009/10 & substantially beyond 55% in 2010/11.

Background Information

- 2.1 The Council has been successfully operating an alternate week collection scheme since 2003/04. This scheme has seen the amount of waste being recycled rise from 10% in 2002/03 to 49.5% in 2008/09. In addition the amount of waste going to landfill has fallen from 54,000 tonnes to around 28,500 tonnes in 2008/09.
- 2.2 The recycling scheme has been embraced by the public. However the one area of concern that remains is food waste going two weeks between collections.
- 2.3 Food waste makes up around 12,000 tonnes of the 28,500 tonnes in the green bins. Hence recycling food waste can make a big contribution to boosting the recycling rate and reducing landfill tonnages. Consequently adding food waste to the range of materials which can be recycled at the kerbside has been an aim for sometime. A pilot Food Waste Collection service was expected to be launched in 2008/09. However the lack of any local food waste processing facilities has meant this pilot has not taken place.
- 2.4 Oxfordshire County Council was requested in Autumn 2007 by OWP partners to provide food waste processing facilities by April 2009. Unfortunately the procurement process was delayed and Oxfordshire County Council only signed the contract with the successful company, Agrivert in late January 2009. The new financial climate has made the process of Agrivert securing bank funding elongated and this has further delayed the provision of food waste processing facilities
- 2.5 The new food waste processing In-vessel Composting plant at Ardley is now estimated to be in operation by February 2010.
- 2.6 The new contract operates from 1st December 2009 although the County Council has given assurances about offering interim arrangements from October 2009. These arrangements now look to involve the use of the transfer station in Banbury. Assurances from the County Council that these interim arrangements will be robust as tonnages increase are being sort.
- 2.8 The revised interim arrangements have led to a change in the initial thoughts on the rollout of food waste recycling and the plan will now concentrate on villages around Banbury and the village of Kidlington. The rollout of the rest of the district including Banbury, Bicester and villages in the south of the district will follow from January 2010 once the facilities at Ardley come on line. It is expected that rollout will be completed by the end of March 2010 subject to the processing facilities being available
- 2.9 Launching the scheme in the autumn/winter 2009/10 is very important for a number of reasons, these include
 - Customer expectation – the customer has been expecting the launch of food waste collections for some time

- The new OWP financial arrangements which came into place from April 2009

The provision of facilities was suppose to have been in place by April 2009 but there has been in total ten months slippage due to the combination of procurement problems by Oxfordshire County Council and funding issues by Agrivert. There is little scope for any further slippage in the provision of facilities without it having a major impact on the proposed rollout.

- 2.10 The new scheme will involve the collection of food waste commingled with garden waste. No additional bins will be needed. For the scheme to be successful it is important that as many residents as possible take part in the scheme and that residents recycle the full range of food waste including
- Vegetable peelings
 - Over ripe fruit
 - Food scraps
 - Meat including bones
 - Cooked and uncooked food
 - Tea bags
- 2.11 Provision of a caddy and an initial free role of liners is seen as important to encourage participation in the scheme. Liners do not need to be used, food waste can be added and left loose or wrapped in newspaper. However, the use of corn starch liners does make food recycling very easy. To provide all households with free liners could cost up to £180k/year. Consequently it is not intended to supply future liners free. However making liners freely available through as many outlets as possible is important to encourage maximum participation by making the recycling of food waste as clean as possible.
- 2.12 The initial aim is to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill by 3000-4000 tonnes in 2010/11. This diversion of food waste is expected to increase to around 5,000 tonnes by 2011/12. A recycling rate in excess of 55% is expected in 2010/11. 55% is the Oxfordshire Waste Partnership Waste Strategy target for 2020.
- 2.13 Plans to ensure maximum participation in the food waste recycling scheme include
- Meetings to inform elected members on the scheme
 - Meetings to inform and engage parish councils on the scheme
 - Meetings to inform and engage all Council staff on the scheme
 - Roadshows in each area where the scheme is launched
 - A leaflet to each household prior to launch of the scheme locally
 - A caddy, liners, a sticker for the brown bin and literature to each household when the scheme moves into that local area
 - Updating existing recycling literature
 - Information on the website
 - Articles in Cherwell Link
 - Raising the awareness of the Love Food Hate Waste campaign
 - Press Releases
- 2.14 At outline rollout plan for food waste recycling has been developed based upon the need to deliver the food waste/garden waste mixture temporarily to

Banbury Transfer Station. The scheme starts in villages north of Banbury, followed by villages to the south of Banbury and then Kidlington. By Christmas 2009 around 17,000 households should be on the scheme with the 40,000 households coming onto the scheme during the period January - March 2010. By April 2010 all properties with the exception of some blocks of flats will be on the scheme.

- 2.15 Large blocks of flats will present a particular difficult challenge and consequently the implementation to large blocks of flats will be delayed until 2010/11.
- 2.16 The list of policies associated with the food waste recycling scheme is fairly short and these are set out in Appendix 1.

Key Issues for Consideration/Reasons for Decision and Options

- 3.1 Launching food waste is expected to increase customer satisfaction levels with recycling services as well as substantially increasing the recycling rate and reducing the amount of waste going to landfill.
- 3.2 Launching a food waste service does require some one off expenditure. This expenditure is a mixture of capital funds and some revenue funds provided by the Oxfordshire Waste Partnership. All funds are identified within this year's budget

The following options have been identified. The approach in the recommendations is believed to be the best way forward

Option One	To start rolling out across the district food waste recycling collections from October 2009
Option Two	To roll out food waste recycling collections over a longer timescale

Consultations

Oxfordshire Waste Partnership	The proposed plans have been discussed with the OWP Co-ordinator and other OWP partner councils
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Implications

Financial:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The financial effects of collecting food waste along with the new financial Oxfordshire Waste Partnership arrangements are present in both 2009/10 revenue and capital budgets.
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Legal: Financial arrangements with the Oxfordshire Waste Partnership was approved by the Executive in October 2007

Comments to be checked by Liz Howlett 01295 221686

Risk Management: The introduction of food waste does introduce risks regarding the successful implementation of the new service.

However an experienced project team with a resourced implementation plan minimises any risks

Comments to be checked by Rosemary Watts 01295 221566

Wards Affected

All

Corporate Plan Themes

Cleaner Greener Cherwell

Executive Portfolio

Councillor George Reynolds
Portfolio Holder for Community, Health & the Environment

Document Information

Appendix No	Title
1	Food Waste Policies
Background Papers	
None	
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