

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by Acting Director of Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services (Land and Environmental Services)

Community Participation Committee: 21 March 2007

Subject: Progress on recycling and waste minimisation issues

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To report to the Committee on the further progress made in recycling and waste minimisation.

2. Background

- 2.1 At the meeting of the Community Participation Committee on 21 June 2006, the Waste and Transport Services Section gave a presentation on the various recycling schemes in West Dunbartonshire. This report provides an update on the information previously provided.

3. Main issues

- 3.1 The target set by the Scottish Executive for recycling and composting rates for 2006 was 25%. In the calendar year 2006, the council recycled over 25% and is now progressing towards meeting the Scottish Executive 30% recycling and composting target by 2008.

3.2 Household recycling schemes

Due to the success of the blue box recycling pilot scheme for high rise and tenemental housing, West Dunbartonshire Council received further funding from the Scottish Executive of £2,958,200 to continue expand the service and maintain it until 2020. The blue box scheme is therefore being rolled out to a further 8000 properties, enabling the residents to recycle the same materials as the blue bin kerbside recycling service. The blue boxes will be emptied by Greenlight Recycling on a fortnightly frequency from each resident's doorstep. This service has also been offered to other properties which are not suitable for the wheeled bin system. As a result, from May 2007, a total of 42,000 households will have access to "at home" recycling services.

3.2 Waste Guidance

A-Z guides have been issued to every household of West Dunbartonshire. These guides provide information and guidance on what residents can recycle, reuse and reduce.

3.3 Recycling Points

The number of mini recycling points available to residents of West Dunbartonshire has increased from 30 to 39 and the council has opened a new Household Waste Recycling Centre at Stanford Street in Clydebank. The Waste and Transport Services Section is currently searching for further locations in local communities that are suitable for recycling points.

3.4 Education

The Schools Recycling and Waste Education programme is continuing with Primary 4 pupils. All schools now have their own recycling facilities and have also been offered compost bins and been invited to participate in a textile recycling scheme which helps to raise funds for the schools participating.

The Waste and Transport Services Section is working with Glasgow and Clyde Valley Area Waste Strategy Group and SEPA to develop a DVD which will be available to community groups. This DVD will be an introduction to waste and recycling issues such as composting, glass recycling and Materials Reclamation Facilities (where waste is processed).

The Waste and Transport Services Section was one of four finalists for the Best Environmental Initiative Award from the Association for Public Service Excellence, for their innovative waste education 'Binman' DVD, in October 2006.

3.5 Real Nappy Scheme

To date 55 parents have made use of the scheme and Waste Services are continuing to promote the scheme to interested groups such as pre-natal groups and mid-wives.

3.6 Home Composting Scheme

West Dunbartonshire Council is now working in partnership with WRAP (Waste and Resources Action Programme), a government funded organisation, to offer home composters to householders at a subsidised cost of £6 to £25 (dependant on the size of the composter).

WRAP has also funded the appointment of a “Compost Doctor” to work in partnership with the Council to promote the scheme and give advice to residents and schools.

3.7 Waste Audit

The Council is committed to reducing the waste it produces on a day to day basis. The majority of West Dunbartonshire Council staff now have access to “in house” recycling facilities, and all staff were issued with a Waste Prevention Guide

3.8 Other developments

The introduction of a bag collection scheme for green garden waste is currently being considered for areas which are not suitable for the brown wheeled bin system.

4. Personnel Issues

4.1 There are no personnel issues.

5. Financial Implications

5.1 There are no financial implications.

6. Risk Analysis

6.1 There are no issues concerning risk analysis.

7. Conclusions

7.1 The Waste and Transport Services Section is continuing to promote the various recycling schemes now available throughout West Dunbartonshire to ensure that the landfill diversion targets set by the Scottish Executive are met.

7.2 Community groups wishing further information, guidance or attendance at their meetings can contact the Community Waste Officers on 0845 111 0050.

8. Recommendations

8.1 The Committee is invited to note the content of this report.

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Appendices: None

Background Papers: None

Wards Affected: All Wards