

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

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

Community Safety and Environmental Services Committee: 4 April 2007

Subject: Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive

1. Purpose

- 1.1** To seek Committee approval to apply to register the Council's three Household Waste Recycling Centres as Designated Collection Facilities (DCF's) for waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE), and negotiate with the relevant Producer Compliance Scheme (PCS) to agree appropriate service levels for the collection of WEEE from the centres.

2. Background

- 2.1** The WEEE Directive was agreed by the EU on 13 February 2003, and after some delay the UK Regulations implementing the Directive were laid before Parliament on 12 December 2006 and became effective on 2 January 2007.
- 2.2** From 1 July 2007, producers of electrical goods will have to meet the environmental costs of dealing with waste electrical and electronic equipment. Producers must also have joined an approved Producer Compliance Scheme (PCS) by 15 March to ensure that they are able to comply.
- 2.3** The regulations allow for the continued collection of old electrical equipment by retailers at the same time as delivering new goods to customers. Enable consumers to dispose of their electrical waste free of charge at "accessible and appropriate places" for example Household Waste Recycling Centres.
- 2.4** Allow local authorities to become Designated Collection Facilities (DCF) for their current civic amenity sites/household waste recycling centres. Give electrical goods retailers the choice of how to meet their obligations by either joining the Distributor Take-back Scheme or by offering customers in-store take back.
- 2.5** Allow existing relationships currently managing electrical waste to continue and allow for and encourage the re-use of equipment after it has been discarded where possible.

- 2.6** Producers must collect all 'volunteered' WEEE from all DCF's. The quantity of WEEE that each producer is responsible for financing is proportionate to their market share within the UK. Through agreements with local authorities, producers and Council representatives will develop an 'allocation system' to agree suitable skips, containers and arranging uplifts on a site specific frequency.
- 2.7** All transport, treatment, recycling and administration costs from WEEE collected from registered DCF's will be met by producers.

3. Main issues

- 3.1** Establishing the necessary network of DCF's is the responsibility of the member state and the company organising the registration of the network is offering £6,000 for each household waste recycling centre. This could be increased by a further £3,000 per site dependant on site infrastructure needs.
- 3.2** Each registered DCF should meet relevant licensing/exemption requirements and allow producers to arrange collection of segregated WEEE. WEEE will be collected in the following categories
- A: Large household appliances other than cooling appliances
 - B: Cooling appliances containing refrigerants (fridges and freezers)
 - C: Display Equipment (TVs and monitors)
 - D: Gas discharge lamps (fluorescent tubes)
 - E: All other WEEE (minimum volume capacity 1m³)
- 3.3** Where this is not possible because of the size, policy, layout or accessibility of household waste recycling centres, either: fewer categories of WEEE may be collected, provided that collected categories are segregated or categories may be mixed, so long as C and D remain separate and B can be readily identified for uplifting separately.
- 3.4** West Dunbartonshire Council has three sites which are suitable for registration as DCF's. The sites are the three Household Waste Recycling Centres at Stanford Street, Clydebank; Ferry Road, Old Kilpatrick; and Dalmoak, Dumbarton/Renton which are licensed to collect special waste.
- 3.5** The Council currently offers a collection/drop off service for four of the five categories of WEEE and with minimal reconfiguration officers believe sites would be able to collect the majority of the categories at all sites.

4. Personnel Issues

- 4.1** There are no personnel issues.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1** The Council will receive a one off income of £18,000 associated with the registration of the three existing household waste recycling centres. There will also be an estimated saving of around £30,000 in the Waste Disposal budget (Strategic Waste Implementation Plan element)

6. Risk Analysis

- 6.1** Should the Council not register as a DCF provider, it would be liable for the ongoing transport, treatment, recycling and administration costs associated with waste electrical and electronic equipment.

7. Conclusions

- 7.1** The registration of the Councils household waste recycling centres as DCF's will improve the waste recycling/diversion infrastructure in West Dunbartonshire and help to sustain our improving recycling performance.

8. Recommendations

- 8.1** That the Committee approves that the Acting Director of Housing, Regeneration & Environmental Services (Land and Environmental Services) make applications for registration for the Council's three Household Waste Recycling Centres as Designated Collection Facilities.
- 8.2** That the Committee authorises the Acting Director of Housing, Regeneration & Environmental Services (Land Services & Environmental Services) to negotiate with appropriate Producer Compliance Schemes to provide the necessary infrastructure to collect, store and transport WEEE for reprocessing.

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8 March 2007

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Appendices: None

Background Papers: The Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment
Regulations 2006

Wards Affected: All Wards