

Kerbside Recycling Service Appraisal

Phase 1 of the new

Alternate Weekly Collection Service

**Executive Summary Report to
West Dunbartonshire Council**

August 2010



WDC Kerbside Recycling Service Appraisal – Executive Summary

Submitted to: West Dunbartonshire Council

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Executive Summary

In April 2010 West Dunbartonshire Council (WDC) implemented the first phase of its new kerbside waste and recycling service.

The service changes consisted of a number of key elements:

- The blue bin dry recyclate collection frequency was increased from once every four weeks to once a fortnight
- The brown bin garden waste collection frequency was increased from once every four weeks to once a fortnight
- Food waste collection was added to the brown bin service
- The brown bin service was extended from nine months per year to twelve months per year
- The residual waste collection frequency operated in conjunction with the new recycling service was reduced from once a week to once a fortnight

As part of the implementation, a team of support assistants was deployed to monitor rates of participation, contamination and extra waste as well as to provide support to householders who required assistance. In Cycle 1 (i.e. the first two weeks of the new service) yellow hangers were placed on residual bins if extra waste was presented and on recycling (blue or brown) bins if the bins were contaminated with materials that could not be recycled.

The hanger stated that the bin and/or extra waste would be uplifted on this occasion but not on subsequent occasions. In Cycle 2 (i.e. Weeks 3 and 4 of the new service) red hangers were placed on bins for the same reasons as yellow hangers, however, on this occasion the hanger informed householders that the bin or extra waste would not be uplifted. A record was kept of all households which received hangers and these households were re-visited by support assistants who provided assistance and support.

This approach was found to be very effective in communicating the requirements of the new system, and a general drop off in interventions required was observed between Cycles 1 and 2.

Following analysis of the data for the first eight weeks of the new service this report has found:

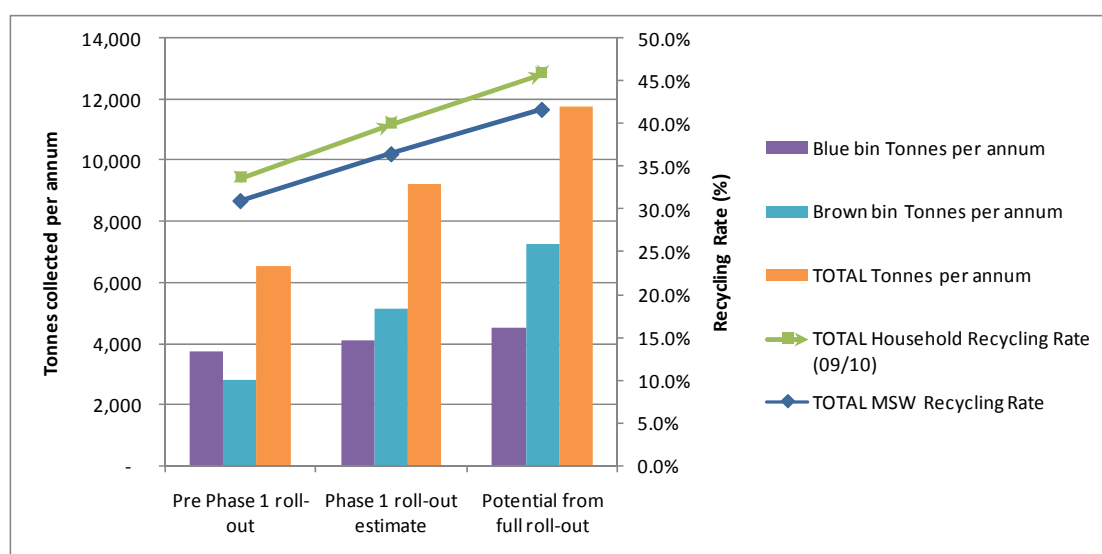
- Although it is often perceived that the new service is a reduction in service, it is clear that households on the new service receive the same number of collections per week and have the same weekly waste capacity as households on the old service

		Bin capacity (l)	Collections per 4 weeks	Weekly waste capacity (l)
Old service	Residual bin	240	4	240
	Blue bin	240	1	60
	Brown bin	240	1	60
	TOTAL		6	360
New service	Residual bin	240	2	120
	Blue bin	240	2	120
	Brown bin	240	2	120
	TOTAL		6	360

Table of Collections and capacity

- The average participation rate for the three routes in Phase 1 of the implementation of the AWC on the new service is 78% on the blue scheme and 82% on the brown bin scheme
- The monitoring and intervention by support assistants engaged by West Dunbartonshire Council has facilitated a smooth transition from the old service to the new service delivery model
 - Contamination rates of blue bins and brown bin are very low and appear to be reducing
 - The overall percentage of households that presented extra residual waste reduced greatly between Cycles 1 and 2. In routes where initial rates of extra residual waste were already low the rates stayed low throughout Cycle 2
- The most deprived areas in Phase 1 are performing equally as well (in terms of participation) as other areas in Phase 1.
- Average yield per household of residual waste noticeably decreased between Cycles 1 and 2 of the new service
- Average yield per household of total waste at the kerbside increased throughout the first four cycles – this is thought to be attributable to an increase in garden waste yield throughout the first four cycles.
- Analysis of data after the first four cycles may be required in order to gauge seasonal variation in garden waste yield
- Not all households are thought to have presented their residual waste bin every week in the old service – the fortnightly residual waste service may, therefore, not be such a challenge for as many households as may have been expected
- After the first cycle, average blue bin yields were quite consistent each collection day and peaked at 2.99 kg/hh/wk in Cycle 4

- After the first cycle average brown bin yields varied each collection day and peaked at 6.03 kg/hh/wk in Cycle 4
- The recycling rate of all combined kerbside schemes on the new service was 54% by Cycle 4
- The Scottish Government through its Zero Waste Policy has set new challenging targets for local authorities. It is estimated that following the implementation of Phase 1 of the new service a recycling rate of 40% of household waste could be achieved (compared to 33.7% in 2009/10), thereby meeting the Zero Waste Policy 2010 recycling target.
- In order to exceed the Zero Waste Policy 2010 household recycling targets of 40% it is recommended that WDC continue with its programmed roll-out of the new service to the remaining suitable low level households and that the Council continue with the use of support assistants to help the transition process.
- Were the new service to be extended to all suitable low level households it is estimated that a recycling rate of 46% of household waste could be achieved in 2011/12.



Impact on Recycling Rate of Full roll-out

- In order to help meet the Zero Waste Policy 2013 household recycling target of 50% it is recommended that WDC develop optimisation programmes aimed at increasing recycling across all households, however, it may also be required to extend the kerbside service and consider collecting other material such as glass.