
To: ENVIRONMENT POLICY BOARD

On: 25 JANUARY 2017

Report by: DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Heading: RECYCLING PERFORMANCE - CALENDAR YEAR 2015

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report provides more detailed information on factors which impacted on the Household Waste Recycling rate during 2015, as reported in the Operational Performance Report to this Board on the 18 May 2016. SEPA formally approved the recycling figures for calendar year 2015 in November 2016, with this Board of 29th January 2017 being the first opportunity to report on the approved figures.
- 1.2 The principal provisions from Scotlands Zero Waste Plan which apply to local authorities include:
- Recycling 40 % of household waste by 2010, rising to 50% by 2013, 60% by 2020 and 70% by 2025,
 - From 2014 ensure that houses are provided with a separate collection service for dry recyclates and other waste,
 - Ensure that by 2014 commercial premises are provided with a separate collection service for dry recyclates and other waste,
 - Households must be provided with a separate collection service for food waste by 2016, and
 - By 2021 untreated biodegradable municipal waste is banned from landfill
- 1.3 In 2015, the Scottish average recycling rate was 44.2%, with Renfrewshire 0.3% below the national average at 43.9%. The performance in 2015 was due to a number of issues, namely;
- Reduced recovery of recycle materials from comingled dry recycle collections due to rejection criteria used by the Council's contractors (blue bins),

- A significant increase in the proportion of residual waste being collected (grey bins) mainly due to housing growth and general increase in waste materials being produced, and
- A significant increase in the presentation of non recyclable items at Household Waste Recycling Centres.

During 2015 nine other local authorities reported a decrease in recycling rates.

1.4 The current level of household waste recycling during 2016 is estimated at 48% and has been achieved through significant service changes and improvements that have been implemented and sustained since 2009 to date:

- Introduction of Managed Weekly Collections,
- Introduction of glass collection at the kerbside,
- Introduction of an on-request textile collection service and enhanced bring bank facilities,
- Provision of comingled food and garden waste services,
- Redevelopment and enhanced segregation options at Underwood Road Household Waste Recycling Centre,
- Introduction of a Commercial Waste Recycling Services,
- Roll out of new waste and recycling services to Erskine (3,500 households),

1.5 The anticipated 48%, on 2016, an improvement on 2015, has been achieved through the Council's residual waste contractor maximising recycling levels by demonstrating full compliance with SEPA's Thermal Treatment of Waste Guidelines. The SEPA guidelines require the removal of hard plastics and metals from any waste being processed for Refuse Derived Fuel. In addition to this, the recycling figure has increased due to the application of rejection criteria by the Council's current dry recyclate contractor. An indicative recycling figure will be available by March 2017 and verified by SEPA for publication in September 2017.

1.6 Further improvements to the Council's recycling performance will be achieved through a Renfrewshire wide intervention and engagement campaign during 2017/18, as we move towards the Scottish Household Recycling Charter.

Any costs associated with the planned intervention and engagement activities will be offset by subsequent reductions in waste disposal costs.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That the Environment Policy Board notes the content of this report.

3. Background

- 3.1 Renfrewshire Council collects waste and recyclable materials from a number of sources. This includes kerbside collections from households and commercial waste premises, household waste recycling centres, mini recycling centres, street cleansing operations and fly tipping. Collectively this is termed Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste (LACMW)
- 3.2 The Household Waste Recycling rate only includes the household waste stream. The total tonnage of household waste is collected from:
- i. The kerbside:
 - residual waste – “grey” bin, black sacks, communal bulk bins etc
 - dry recyclate – blue bins, mini recycling centres, textiles and shoes banks, “on-request” textiles collection service (as introduced in March 2013)
 - Garden waste and food waste collections – segregated and co-mingled
 - ii. Household Waste Recycling Centres - segregated and mixed waste streams
 - iii. Special uplifts (large bulky household items)

4. Recycling Performance

- 4.1 The manner in which the recycling rate is calculated is an arithmetic formula:

$$\frac{\text{Tonnage of Household Waste Recycled or Composted}}{\text{Total tonnage of Household Waste Collected}} \times 100\%$$

- 4.2 As highlighted in the table below, recycling in Renfrewshire has improved in recent years with an anticipated recycling rate of 48% for 2016, increasing from 44.3% in 2013, albeit a slight drop in performance in 2015.

Year	Recycling Rate
2013	44.3%
2014	46.6%
2015	43.9%
2016 (estimated)	48%

The factors contributing to the performance in 2015 are outlined from 4.2.1 below.

4.2.1 **A reduced recovery of recyclate materials from co-mingled dry recyclate collections (blue bins)**

Up to March 2015 the Council's contractor had a relatively low rejection rate of approximately 7%. This contract came to an end in late March 2015. The replacement contractor had an extremely high rejection rate of recyclable material of approximately 30%. This resulted in only 70% of the material collected at the kerbside (blue bins and mini

recycling centres) being recycled, with the remaining 30% of rejections typically being reprocessed to create fuel for Energy from Waste. It is the Council's view that the increase in rejection of materials was caused by the contractor's sorting equipment not being as advanced and well developed as the original contractor. Although this situation only existed for approximately 8 - 10 weeks (until a longer term contract was placed with an alternative contractor), the overall impact on performance resulted in the slight drop.

4.2.2 A significant increase in the proportion of residual waste being collected (grey bins) mainly due to housing growth

Over 2015 residual waste collected in grey bins increased by approximately 3% whilst the collection of dry recyclates in blue bins for the same period was only 0.6%. The number of households in Renfrewshire is increasing and this is contributing to overall tonnages of waste increasing. This is consistent with trends across Scotland where there is a general trend of increasing tonnages of waste being generated but also general reductions in the proportion of recyclable waste being generated.

4.2.3 A significant increase in the presentation of non recyclable items at Household Waste Recycling Centres mainly due to housing growth

The increase in throughput at the Household Waste Recycling Centres which has not given a proportionate increase in the amount of material recycled appears to mirror the position seen at the kerbside where the increase in presentation of residual waste was higher than the increase in presentation of recyclable materials.

4.3 A full breakdown of waste "movements" between 2014 and 2015 is attached in Appendix 1.

4.4 Throughout 2016 there has been a marked improvement in recycling performance to date as illustrated in the table below.

% Household Waste Recycled – 2016		
	2015	2016
Q1 (Jan – Mar)	41.02%	43.27%
Q2 (Apr – Jun)	45.89%	53.4%
Q3 (Jul – Sep)	48.7%	53.6%
Q4 (Oct – Dec)	39.6%	Not available*

* Quarter 4, 2016 not available at time of writing

4.5 As mentioned in paragraph 1.5, the Council's residual waste contractor pre-treats the waste and the Council's recycling contractor rejects less material under the dry recyclates contract. Rejection rates are not as low as under the initial contract but current rejections are, at 17% a considerable improvement on the 30% rate recorded during April and May 2015. In addition to this improvement the Council's residual waste contractor is performing better at pre - segregating metals and hard plastics – removing these from residual waste for recycling prior to the remaining waste being sent for Energy from Waste Treatment.

5. Household Recycling Charter

- 5.1 The Household Recycling Charter identifies a number of collection strategies which are considered to best meet the overall objectives of improving recycling performance and developing a consistent national system. Flexibility remains for Councils to design specific services around their local needs. In essence the Charter is a declaration of the Council's intent to support the principles of a more consistent approach to recycling of domestic waste and assist in creating additional employment across Scotland. The Leadership Board of 1st June 2016 agreed to the Council signing up to the Charter and the development of a funding transition plan through Zero Waste Scotland.
- 5.2 With the Charter comes a supporting Code of Practice which contains a more detailed set of outcomes that will deliver the aspirations of the Household Recycling Charter. Through implementing the collection systems in the Code of Practice, it is considered that Councils will be able to:
- Stimulate inward investment and associated jobs in recycling and reprocessing industries,
 - Retain and enhance existing employment opportunities in waste and recycling collections,
 - Generate and retain the best value from waste streams whilst increasing recycling performance,
 - Provide Councils with a strong voice in the procurement market,
 - Enable Councils to manage market conditions to their collective advantage,
 - Empower Councils to demonstrate innovative thinking to develop solutions, and
 - Work together to communicate to the public the value in recycling, and the benefits that good recycling practice can bring to communities.

Implications of the Report

1. **Financial** – None.
2. **HR & Organisational Development** – None.
3. **Community Planning**

Children and Young People

Community Care, Health & Well-being

Empowering our Communities –

Greener -

Jobs and the Economy –

Safer and Stronger -

4. **Legal** – None.
5. **Property/Assets** – None.
6. **Information Technology** – None.
7. **Equality & Human Rights** - The recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report because it is for noting only. If required following implementation, the actual impact of the recommendations and the mitigating actions will be reviewed and monitored, and the results of the assessment will be published on the Council's website.
8. **Health & Safety** – None.
9. **Procurement** – None.
10. **Risk** – None.
11. **Privacy Impact** – None.

List of Background Papers: None

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TYPE of WASTE	2014	2015	Trend	+/-	Effect on overall recycling rate
Garden waste collected at the kerbside	8,021 tonnes	7,903 tonnes	↓	-118 tonnes -1.5%	Not significant
Food waste collected at the kerbside	2,995 tonnes	2,714 tonnes	↓	-281 tonnes - 9.4%	Not significant
Collection of waste streams for processing					
Frontline Residual Household Waste and Special Uplift Material					
Collected	33,875 tonnes	35,028 tonnes	↑	+1,153 tonnes + 3.4%	Significant
Recycled (following)	654 tonnes	1230 tonnes	↑	+576 tonnes + 88.1%	Significant
Comingled Dry Recycling (from the kerbside and recycling sites)					
Collected	15,585 tonnes	15,679 tonnes	↑	+94 tonnes + 0.6%	Not significant
Recycled	14,621 tonnes	13,048 tonnes	↓	-1573 tonnes - 10.8%	Significant
Household Waste Recycling Centre Material					
Total throughput	20,084 Tonnes	21,455 tonnes	↑	+1,371 tonnes +6.8%	Significant
Mixed waste collected	13,612 tonnes	14,136 tonnes	↑	+524 tonnes +3.9%	Significant
HWRC segregated Waste recycled	6,472 tonnes	7,319 tonnes	↑	+847 tonnes + 13.1%	Significant
Mixed waste reclaimed for recycling	4,654 Tonnes	3,970 Tonnes	↓	-684 tonnes - 14.7%	Significant
Total waste Recycled	11,126 tonnes	11,289 tonnes	↑	+163 tonnes +1.5%	Not significant