
REPORT TO:	ENVIRONMENTAL & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM: 9
DATE OF MEETING:	8th MARCH, 2007	CATEGORY: DELEGATED/ RECOMMENDED
REPORT FROM:	DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES	OPEN/EXEMPT PARAGRAPH NO:
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	GILLIAN COATES SENIOR WASTE MANAGEMENT OFFICER (Ext. 5994)	DOC: u:\pmw\commserv\environ mental services\draft committee reports\in vessel compost (ivc) scheme - satisfaction survey and waste analysis report.doc
SUBJECT:	REVIEW OF IN- VESSEL COMPOST SCHEME	REF: EDS 07
WARD(S) AFFECTED:		TERMS OF REFERENCE:

1.0 Recommendations

1.1 Members are asked to receive the findings of the 'in vessel' compost scheme (IVC) satisfaction survey and waste analysis report.

1.2 Following the positive responses to the IVC satisfaction survey, Members are asked to confirm the following policies, initially suggested at the committee meeting on 25 January 2005, namely

- Nil side refuse collection.
- Larger refuse bin issued, if requested, for households of six or more.
- Alternate collection scheme for 48 weeks of the year.

To apply to the IVC kitchen and garden waste composting scheme.

1.3 Regarding the findings of the waste analysis and the satisfaction survey that the Waste Management Team undertake further promotion work in the IVC scheme area to increase the amount of food waste being placed in brown bins for composting.

2.0 Purpose of Report

2.1 To advise members of residents responses to the 'in vessel' composting (IVC) scheme survey. To inform members of the results of the analysis of the waste being presented by residents in their black (refuse) bins and brown (compostable waste) bins.

3.0 Executive Summary

- 3.1 The IVC scheme commenced in September 2006 and serves around 3,000 households in Findern, Mickleover and Stenson Fields. The IVC scheme provides an alternate weekly waste collection service for householders to compost garden waste, kitchen waste including meat and fish plus torn cardboard in their brown bin. The waste is taken to a transfer station in Derby where it is bulked up for transporting the compost facility in Ashbourne.
- 3.2 This Committee at its meeting on 27th January 2005 approved a review of current garden waste only composting policies on a trial basis and to consult with householders through the year to ensure the success of the scheme
- 3.3 The IVC scheme has made a successful start with 616 tonnes of waste collected in the first four months – 348 tonnes from the black bins (landfilled) and 268 tonnes from the brown bins (composted). This represents an impressive composting rate of 43% and means that 268 tonnes of waste, the large part of which would have been sent to landfill prior to the introduction of the IVC scheme, have been processed into a product.
- 3.4 To assess further the suitability of the IVC service the Waste Management Team developed a householder satisfaction survey and undertook an analysis of a sample of the waste presented by householders.
- 3.5 The householder satisfaction survey of 20 questions was distributed to 81 households participating in the 'in vessel' compost scheme. 68 questionnaires were returned, a response rate of 84%, which is a very high response for a Citizens Panel survey.
- 3.6 92% of residents replying to the survey stated that they were satisfied overall with the IVC scheme, less than 2% were unsatisfied with the composting scheme and just under 6% of respondents stated no preference.
- 3.7 A detailed analysis of the waste that is being presented for collection in the surveyed area showed that 81% of the total waste put out for collection could be recycled through either the Council's kerbside collections or at a recycling centre. 43% of all residents waste is being collected through the IVC composting scheme while 57% is collected in black wheeled bins and landfilled.

4.0 Detail

- 4.1 The IVC satisfaction survey was sent out to all householders living in the areas covered by the IVC scheme who are registered with the Council's Citizens Panel. Citizen Panel members are volunteers, representative of typical South Derbyshire households and take part in consultation exercises for the Authority. The survey was also sent out to the Parish Council for each area and they were asked to complete the survey either collectively as a Council or to select an individual to respond. 81 surveys were sent out of which 68 were returned giving an encouraging response rate of 84%.
- 4.2 The IVC satisfaction survey comprised 20 questions ranging from residents initial thoughts about the scheme, their opinions of the introduction, how they are managing

with the IVC scheme and the amount of waste they have in their black wheeled bin after recycling. The survey and the responses are shown in Appendix A.

- 4.3 92% residents replying to the survey stated that they were managing well with the IVC after the first two months. This response is very encouraging when compared to the 54% who were positive about the scheme before it started. Less than 2% declared they were not managing well with the scheme.
- 4.4 Residents were asked to how much waste they presented for collection in their black refuse bin every fortnight. Over 57% replied that they presented ¾ of a bin full or less. This would suggest that there is no requirement to collect side refuse alongside the black bin and that could be adopted as a policy for future IVC schemes.
- 4.5 To support the information given in the survey a sample of waste was taken for analysis during October, November and December. The contents of the bins were taken to Transcycle in Derby where they were sorted into different types of waste and weighed.
- 4.6 The results of the waste analysis are summarised below:

Waste Types	Black Wheeled Bin %	Brown Wheeled Bin %
Garden Waste	2.09	73.16
Kitchen Waste	24.16	12.28
Glass	5.10	0
Cans	4.43	0
Paper	8.86	0
Plastic Bottles	6.19	0
Cardboard	11.54	12.78
Textiles	6.19	0
Inert Waste	2.84	0.76
Residual	28.6	1.02
Total	100%	100%

- 4.7 The analysis shows that 68% of the waste being placed in black wheeled bins is not being separated out and could be recycled. If this material were separated and recycled, the IVC scheme area would achieve an impressive recycling rate. This would also indicate that there is no requirement for a side refuse collection and that households of 5 or more occupants could manage with the standard size wheeled bin if they recycled as much as possible.

5.0 Financial Implications

- 5.1 The further promotion work to encourage more food waste composting and recycling of dry materials highlighted by the waste analysis would be met within existing budgets.
- 5.2 The withdrawal of the policy exemptions would save around £4,000 in the cost of purchasing larger bins.

6.0 Community Implications

6.1 The IVC scheme will impact on the whole community as the scheme is expanded throughout the district over the next fifteen months.

7.0 Conclusions

7.1 The IVC composting scheme provides a one stop recycling point for a wide range of materials and enables households to manage the alternate weekly collection for their waste.

7.2 The results of the consultation exercise and the waste analysis demonstrate that the Council's previous policy concessions in regard to the garden waste compost scheme can be withdrawn as the IVC scheme is implemented across the district.

7.3 It is suggested, however that, as the IVC scheme is expanded across the whole of the district during the next fifteen months, further consideration should be given as to whether any closure period at all is necessary.

7.4 It is apparent from the waste analysis that residents are used to placing garden waste in their brown bins but that the majority of food waste continues to be placed in the black wheeled bin for disposal. There is a need for further promotion of dry material recycling and food waste composting to encourage residents to make full use of their brown bins.

7.5 Residents in Findern, Mickleover and Stenson Fields have put a great deal of effort into separating out their waste. Thanks are due to them for their efforts and support for composting, the IVC scheme has made a very successful start.

IVC SATISFACTION SURVEY

68 Responses Received from 81 Questionnaires - 84% return

1. What did you think of the leaflet you received which explained the new 'brown bin' composting scheme?	
Very helpful	54.4%
Information about right	41.1%
Needed more information	1.5%
Not helpful	1.5%
Confusing	0.0%
Non responses	1.5%
Total	100%

2. Did you attend any of the compost roadshows?	
Yes	10.3%
Didn't see them mentioned in the leaflet	10.3%
No	79.4%
Non responses	0.0%
Total	100%

3. What were your initial thoughts about the alternate weekly refuse and composting collection?	
Postive I recycle and/or I do not have a full bin every week anyway	54.4%
Doubtful but willing to try	30.9%
Not happy	13.2%
Non responses	1.5%
Total	100%

4. If you have contacted the Council's call centre regarding the composting scheme, how did you find the service?	
Helpful	16.2%
Misleading	0.0%
Unhelpful	2.9%
Non responses	80.9%
Total	100.0%

5. Do you use your brown bin?	
Yes	91.2%
No	8.8%
Non Responses	0.0%
Total	100.0%

7. If yes, what sort of compostable waste do you put in your brown bin? Please tick all that apply	
Garden Waste	89.7%
Torn pieces of cardboard	75.0%

Food waste - including meat or fish	51.5%
Food Waste - no meat or fish	29.4%

9. Do you use compostable sacks?	
Yes	5.9%
No	83.8%
Non Responses	10.3%
Total	100.0%

10. Do you find the kitchen caddy helpful?	
Yes	58.8%
Not sure how I should use it	7.4%
No	25.0%
Non Responses	8.8%
Total	100.0%

11. How do you keep your bins clean?	
Wrap food waste in a sheet of newspaper	44.1%
Use bin cleaning products	22.1%
Compostable sacks purchased from Council/local shop	7.4%
Food waste put in the bin, which will be emptied next	7.4%
Wheeled bin liner firmly fixed firmly to bin	5.9%
None	23.5%

12. Do you use a wheeled bin washing service?	
Yes	16.2%
No	80.9%
Non Responses	2.9%
Total	100.0%

13. Have you had to manage your waste differently since the introduction of the 'brown bin' scheme?	
Yes	66.2%
Non Responses	2.9%
No	30.9%
Total	100.0%

14. If Yes, How? Please tick all that apply.	
Recycle using the kerbside green box scheme	44.1%
Recycle at a recycling centre	42.6%
Stamp on/crush my waste to get it all in the bin	29.4%
Home composting	22.1%
Avoid buying excess packaging	11.8%
Other, Please specify	8.8%
Go to the tip more often	2.9%

15. How often do you visit a civic amenity site (tip)?	
Never	23.5%
Less than monthly	54.4%
Monthly	11.8%
Fortnightly	4.5%
Weekly	2.9%
More than weekly	2.9%
Total	100.0%

16. How Much refuse do you put out fortnightly in your black bin?	
Bin is full	35.3%
3/4 full	30.9%
1/2 full	23.5%
1/4 full	5.9%
Less than 1/4 full	2.9%
Non Responses	1.5%
Total	100.0%

18. Which of the following changes would help you to manage your waste even better?	
Plastic bottle recycling at the kerbside	82.4%
Make it easier to buy compostable sacks	38.2%
More advice from the Council on reducing waste	13.2%
Collect other materials at the kerbside	10.3%

19. Do you think you have reduced the amount of waste you dispose of as a result of the composting scheme?	
Yes	67.6%
No	30.9%
Non Responses	1.5%
Total	100.0%

20. What are your thoughts now the scheme has been in place for 2 months?	
Managing very well with the scheme	60.3%
OK now I've got used to it	32.3%
Not managing well, Could you give me some help please?	1.5%
Non Responses	5.9%
Total	100.0%