

Warwickshire Waste Partnership - 4th December 2006

Countywide Home Composting Scheme

Report of the Strategic Director for Environment and Economy on behalf of the Officers Group

Summary

This report updates Members of the countywide reduced price compost bin scheme, and provides information on a new scheme that provides training of volunteers to support our home composting scheme.

Recommendation

That Members note the contents of this report.

1. Background

- 1.1 One of the county's targets for home composting is to have a minimum of 12.5% (26,650) of all households across the County using home composters. Since the Warwickshire Waste Partnership began promoting home composting in March 2003, some 19,221 have been sold. It is estimated that this has diverted some 4,228 tonnes away from the green waste stream service per year.
- 1.2 As Members will be aware, over the past two years the Waste Partnership have been working in partnership with WRAP (Waste Resource Action Programme), who have been providing home composters at a very competitive rate to our residents. Each household received a leaflet outlining the promotion last year and the Waste Partnership have sent out press releases, as well as promoting this scheme within the A to Z of Recycling and on the County Council's website.
- 1.3 This partnership has benefited from the following contribution from WRAP:-
 - (i) The provision of a range of home compost bins and accessories to be sold at subsidised rates in partnership area. This year's prices have been £6.00 for a 330ltr and £4.00 for 220ltr including delivery, and each household can purchase up to 3 bins.
 - (ii) Storage, order processing and delivery of the home compost bins to the individual households.

- (iii) Organisation of one day sale events.
- (iv) Promotional material, advertising, advice and support services for home composting activity.
- (v) Additional materials and events such as videos, seminars, training as agreed appropriate to support the schemes.
- (vi) Access to a free helpline for residents.
- (vii) Home Composting Advisors dedicated to support us in our area.

2. Campaign 2007-8

- 2.1 WRAP has once again invited us to become a partners for 2007–2008. In 2006 WRAP distributed their one millionth compost bins and have a target of distributing a further one million compost bins over the next two years.
- 2.2 On that basis the funding they are given by Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) will need to go further over the next 12 months, and as such they have had to reduce the subsidy on next year's prices to £10.00 for a 330ltr and £8.00 for 220ltr respectively. However, there is also the opportunity of purchasing a new bin, the Komp250 (square bin) at £20.00. Residents will also have the option to purchase a kitchen caddy at £2.00, which were previously priced at £5.00.

3. Master Composter Scheme

- 3.1 Warwickshire Waste Partnership has over the past nine months been working in partnership with Garden Organic and WRAP to bring the opportunity for local residents to train and volunteer as a Master Composter. WRAP have funded most of this programme and there is no cost to the volunteer. Two courses have now been held, training over 35 volunteers.
- 3.2 Every Master Composter attends two days of training, after which they will have a very good understanding of composting. They then spend 30 hours over the following year promoting home composting in their local community before they 'graduate' to become an official Master Composter. The activities can take the form of talks to community groups and neighbours through to taking part in events.

Enquiries: about this report should be made to Glenn Fleet, Sustainability Group Manager, 01926 412961, email glennfleet@warwickshire.gov.uk

Background Papers

Held in the Home composting file.

JOHN DEEGAN
Strategic Director for Environment and Economy
Shire Hall
Warwick

15th November 2006