

**Warwickshire Waste Management Forum
29 September 2009**

Business Waste Recycling

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

Summary

This report updates members on the progress made with this project since the last report to the partnership in December 2008 and highlights some of the excellent work by the collection authorities and the County Council.

Recommendation

That the Waste Partnership endorses the action to-date and supports the work to consolidate and expand the activities.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 In May 2008 we received funding for a BREW (Business Resource Efficiency & Waste) funded project to enable the county and districts to facilitate the recycling of trade waste. This is Landfill Tax money made available to local authorities because of the recognised shortage within the county of recycling infrastructure for business recyclates and the role that local authorities could play in overcoming this. The funding also covered a Resource Efficiency (Waste Minimisation) programme.

2. Background

- 2.1 Many businesses want to recycle but have difficulty securing a service. In addition, they and their employees have difficulty in reconciling the difference between the way they are encouraged to recycle at home with the lack of support at their work location. It is also anticipated that improved recycling at work will encourage improved recycling at home.

3. Key Issues

- 3.1 For recycling to be successful it has to be both financially and environmentally viable. Typically, a combination of customer density and a local depot is required to achieve this. Utilising partnerships within the Districts and the County we worked to use our contacts and capacity to satisfy these requirements.

4. Response from Warwickshire County Council and the District Councils

- 4.1 The funding application was made on the basis of the general positive feedback from the Districts and the County Waste Group, some of whom had very specific proposals. However, through a combination of the extra work for the Districts associated with implementing new collection arrangements and the collapse in the recyclate market, progress was slow and uptake lower than anticipated, but this has now improved.

North Warwickshire

- 4.2 North Warwickshire set up their trade recycling project in tandem with the project to recycle arisings from northern and central area county council properties. Once a vehicle had been secured, the scheme was launched in Atherstone in February followed by expansion into other towns in May. To date paper and card are collected, but plans are in hand to extend this to glass.

Nuneaton and Bedworth

- 4.3 Nuneaton and Bedworth implemented a new recycling contract in the summer of 2008 and although it was progressing quite well, they were concerned about asking their contractor to expand into trade recyclates at that time. However, they have a trade waste collection operation and expressed an interest in utilising and promoting a recycling centre if one were available. With this in mind, work to open a trade recycling centre at Judkins was initiated. Waste Recycling Group needed planning permission for change of use, and this was secured at the end of July 2009. (see additional notes below). It is intended that the facility will be operational at the beginning of September. In addition, initial discussions have been opened recently with a recyclate collection company interested in working with smaller companies within the borough.

Rugby

- 4.4 We had an excellent start with Rugby District collecting card/paper from their existing customers in the BID area of Rugby Town. Their plan was to extend this to include glass recycling in July 2008 and then to expand into other areas of the Borough. Unfortunately, there was some concern about how expanded trade recycling would fit with their plans for alternate weekly collections from April 2009. As a result they shelved the project until after that date which meant they were unable to access the funding.

Warwick

- 4.5 Warwick district implemented a radical new recycling contract last year, and could not devote the time to this scheme. On that basis, it was agreed that alternative arrangements would be made with HW Martin who, as the contractor managing the County's Leamington Spa recycling centre, had access to a local depot. They set up a collection service initially in Leamington Spa and Warwick. They now collect a range of recyclates, as well as residual waste, utilising various collection arrangements. The build-up of a customer base has been slow, but initiatives are still in hand to expand

this. (The scheme will be promoted at a meeting of companies on the Sydenham industrial estate scheduled for October 8th).

Stratford

- 4.6 Whilst preparations were in hand to launch a scheme, the recyclate market collapsed. Despite this, Stratford and their contractor were still enthusiastic about participation in the project and a revised collection scheme was launched in April. A key aspect of the scheme was that we were able to secure the support of the county's waste group to include the collection of recyclates alongside domestic material. Promotion of the scheme across the district has been a joint initiative between Stratford, Verdant and the county's Business Support group, with the rolling programme of mail shots completed in September.

County Council Recycling Centres

- 4.7 Two WCC sites are licensed to accept trade waste, Princes Drive in Leamington Spa and Hunters Lane in Rugby, and as such it was agreed that these would be the location for initial trials. The Leamington site is now accepting trade cardboard and glass, whilst the Rugby site has been accepting a comprehensive range of recyclates since April 2009. The potential of extending the initiative to include other sites, particularly Burton Farm at Stratford, is still under discussion.
- 4.8 The WRG, who are responsible for the landfill site in Nuneaton as well a residents' recycling centre, agreed to work with us to set up a recycling centre for business recyclates (initially paper/card). Registration as an exempt activity was handled speedily but there were delays associated with the planning application. As stated above, planning permission has now been secured and Nuneaton and Bedworth Council have expressed interest in utilising the facility for and by their trade customers which will provide a useful kick start to the initiative.

5. Financial Implications

The project was funded entirely by £117k of external finance and there are no financial liabilities for the County or the Districts associated with it. It is anticipated that the foundations created by this funding will enable all the schemes to continue on a self financing basis.

Enquiries: about this report should be made to, Stephen Lewington -
Business Environmental Adviser 01926 414145,
email: stephenlewington@warwickshire.gov.uk

Background Papers: None

PAUL GALLAND
Strategic Director for Environment and Economy
Shire Hall, Warwick
4 September 2009