

Warwickshire Waste Partnership - 21 September 2010

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 legacy situation with this project since it was completed in March 2009 and highlights some of the excellent work by the collection authorities and the County Council. The Leamington Spa and Rugby recycling centres accept a comprehensive range of recyclates from businesses, whilst recycling services are also being offered in the Districts. In addition, given that it is better to avoid waste than recycle, the companies that engaged in the Resources Efficiency Programme have continued developing improvement projects.

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 and Waste) funded project to enable the County and Districts to facilitate the recycling of trade waste. This is landfill tax money and also covered a Resource Efficiency (Waste Minimisation) programme. This note provides an update on the legacy from the project.

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 ways they are encouraged to recycle at home with the lack of support at their work location. The object of this project was to set up schemes that would enable these companies to recycle.

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. This report assesses the success or otherwise of the schemes that were set up to satisfy these requirements.

4. Response from Warwickshire County Council and the District Councils

- 4.1 The original 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, the schemes that were set up and the ongoing commitment reflected significantly changed circumstances.

North Warwickshire

- 4.2 North Warwickshire launched their scheme with their existing customer base of trade waste customers. Originally, collection of trade recyclates were a free add on service to their existing contracts and this was positively embraced by both existing customers and new clients. However, the combination of reduced value of recyclates and the extra work involved in their collection meant that this had to be modified. This, together with new additional collection capacity being offered by the private sector has resulted in a significant fall off in the number of participating businesses.

Nuneaton and Bedworth

- 4.3 The project was unable to facilitate a sponsored collection service in the Borough, but subsequently two new private operations were initiated and promoted.

Rugby

- 4.4 We had an excellent start with Rugby, collecting card from their existing customers in the BID (town centre) area of Rugby Town. The card collection scheme has subsequently been expanded to include 60 businesses in the BID area. In addition, the recyclate collection scheme has now been expanded to include collection of commingled material from a further 25 businesses based mainly on the Borough's industrial estates.

Warwick

- 4.5 HW Martin, the contractor managing the County's Leamington Spa Recycling Centre, set up a collection service initially in Leamington Spa and Warwick. They originally collected card and cans, but this has now been extended to include a comprehensive range of recyclates, as well as residual waste. They currently make just over a hundred collections a week and the customer base has been expanded across almost the whole district. Their customers are serviced utilising various collection arrangements from bins through to taped bundles of card, with pre-paid sacks being the most popular option. In addition, in July this year, they assigned an employee to specifically develop their customer base further. They were given advise on potential customers to contact and although it is too soon the give a proper progress report, early

indications are very positive. To date, they have serviced their customers using a van and trailer arrangement but given current and projected volumes are taking delivery of a RCV in October.

Stratford

- 4.6 Whilst we were preparing to launch a scheme the recyclate market collapsed. Despite this, Stratford and their contractor were still enthusiastic about participation in the project and a 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. The contract manager championed the promotion of the scheme to Stratford businesses, but unfortunately he subsequently left the company. Despite this, the scheme is progressing and they currently have 36 customers. However, a problem has recently been identified. The scheme was launched originally with a low introductory price which they subsequently failed to increase. This has now been addressed and the customer prices are being increased to viable rates.

5. County Council Recycling Centres

- 5.1 Two Warwickshire County Council (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. Both sites are now accepting a comprehensive range of recyclates. The scheme has been very successful at the Princes Drive site, with typically around a thousand trade customers a month. The two materials generating the most recyclates are Green Waste and Timber. However, the Rugby site is adjacent to a well equipped commercial site and, as a result, the volumes brought in are considerably lower. The extension of the initiative to other sites, particularly Burton Farm at Stratford, was originally discussed but there has been no progress with this. The high proportion of trade glass that is still land-filled is a matter of concern. With this in mind, the County Waste Group sponsored the inclusion of glass recycling bays at the Princes Drive site. This has provided a valuable facility within the County that is regularly used by both H.W. Martin and another contractor.
- 5.2 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). There were significant delays associated with their submission of the planning application and this in turn resulted in the loss of Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council (NBBC) as their major customer. This and a management change at WRG meant that this initiative did not progress satisfactorily.

6. Resource Efficiency

- 6.1 Twelve companies took part in the BREW sponsored Resource Efficiency Club (REC) and these, together with earlier cohorts, have continued along the resource efficiency journey. Collectively, these members are currently making savings of £2 million a year as well as reducing their carbon footprint.

7. Conclusion

- 7.1 Although the commitment of those involved is essential, what has become apparent is that the availability of a convenient transfer station is another key requirement for efficient recycling. These and continuity have been the significant elements of the success in Rugby and Warwick districts.

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

Background Papers

None.

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