

Report to	Sustainable development panel	Item
	25 June 2014	
Report of	Head of citywide services	8
Subject	Integrated waste management strategic objectives: Quarterly Update No 2 2014	

Purpose

To update members on progress against the waste and recycling service action plan (SAP) and the integrated waste management strategic objectives.

Recommendation

To note the contents of this report.

Corporate and service priorities

The report helps to meet the corporate priority 'a safe and clean city' and the service plan priority 'to deliver an efficient and effective waste service whilst increasing landfill diversion rates'.

Financial implications

Ward/s: All wards

Cabinet member: Councillor Stonard – Environment and transport

Contact officers

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Background documents

None

Report

Introduction

1. This is the second quarterly report updating members on progress against the service action plan (SAP) for the new waste and recycling strategic objectives. This report focuses on those areas within the SAP where there has been reportable progress since the previous quarterly update (March 2014). As mentioned in the March report, more detail is provided here on the new MRF recycling service (in paras 5 – 8).

Residual waste audits

2. Officers worked with M.E.L. Research, a waste analysis company, to gather information on the levels of recyclable material present in the residual waste stream (black bins). The purpose of these audits is to assess how much currently recyclable material is present in the residual waste and also to measure the levels of those 'new' materials that will be recyclable from October 2014 (e.g. food pots, tubs and trays).
3. The audits took place between Tuesday 10 and Friday 13 June. M.E.L. studied Norwich's socio demographic areas (Acorn profiles) and samples were taken from representative areas of the city. Refuse was collected from fifty properties on each day, the roads sampled were: George Pope Road, Wilson Road, Pettus Road and Connaught Road.
4. All waste collected was taken to the Mile Cross depot, sorted into categories and weighed. In due course M.E.L. will produce a compositional analysis of the residual waste which will then allow for an assessment of the effectiveness of the current service and will also provide benchmarking data to analyse the effectiveness of the new service. The key findings will be provided to members when the information has been collated.

New MRF recycling service

5. The construction works to the MRF at Costessey have progressed very well and are currently three weeks ahead of schedule. As a result of discussions over the last few months, Norse have installed more sorting equipment than was originally intended and, on completion, the plant will be significantly enhanced from the original proposal. The additional equipment will allow for increased material recovery rates, improved quality of the end product and 'future-proofing' of the sorting operations (i.e. it will be possible to enhance the sorting processes in future).

Programme

Activity	Date	Comments
Building construction completion	Mid-July 2014	
Demobilisation of existing machinery/installation of new machinery	Commences June 23rd	
Machine installation		

completion	Early September 2014	
Date/duration of any diversion of material	n/a	No material will be diverted from the plant. During shutdowns. Instead, all material will be baled and stored to be fed-through the plant when each phase of new machinery is operational. In this way there will be no loss of income.
Quality compliance assistant start date	August 2014	See Environmental Permitting information (para 6 below)
Start date for pre-contract sampling	Depends on the above	
Commissioning start date	Early September 2014	
Commissioning completion date	End of September 2014	
Contract deliveries commencement date	29/09/14 or 06/10/2014	Start date of new service will be a Monday

6. The Environmental Permitting Regulations 2014 are modifications of the legislation used by the Environment Agency to permit and regulate waste operations. These new regulations place significant extra responsibilities on MRF operators to provide sampling of all incoming and outgoing loads. The sample frequency is such that Norse will have to employ a new full-time member of staff to carry-out this role. The collected data will be published by WRAP and therefore the quality of collected material provided to the MRF and the quality of the processed material will be open to analysis by any group or individual registered with WRAP.
7. The materials which the new facility can recycle are the 'Target materials' listed in the table below. In addition, it is recognised that any recycling service always attracts additional items which are not part of the advertised service but which residents assume can be recycled because they are similar to the target materials. To counter this, the contract with the MRF allows for these additional items to be recycled as per the 'Accepted materials' in column two. It should be noted that the council will not advertise the accepted materials as part of the service and will not encourage residents to recycle these materials. This is because there is little or no market for these materials and/or they reduce the value of the end-products. Should these materials be presented in significant quantities they will have a negative impact on the financial performance of the joint venture.

EWC Code	Target Materials	Accepted materials	Non-acceptable materials
	Residents shall be advised TO recycle these materials	Residents shall be advised NOT to recycle these materials	Residents shall be advised NOT to recycle these materials
	<u>The contractor shall ensure the recycling of these materials</u>	<u>The contractor shall ensure the recycling of these materials</u>	The contractor is NOT required to ensure the recycling of these materials

EWC Code	Target Materials	Accepted materials	Non-acceptable materials
20 01 01	Newspaper, magazines, office paper, white and coloured paper, greetings cards, envelopes (including window type) telephone directories/yellow pages, similar directories, wrapping paper, junk mail, shredded paper	Paper hand towels, brown paper, books (hardback and paperback)	Food contact papers - e.g. fish and chip wrapping
15 01 01 & 20 01 01	Cardboard, cardboard egg boxes, domestic cardboard tubes, food packaging card, composite card, plastic window food packaging, cardboard and fibre packing and carrier trays	Commercial cardboard tubes, card based commercial food trays, take away pizza boxes	
15 01 40 & 20 01 40	Steel and aluminium domestic and commercial food and drink cans, pet food cans and food trays	Bulk domestic and commercial food grade oil cans, biscuit and sweet tins	Metal paint tins
15 01 40 & 20 01 40	Aerosols - personal and beauty products, domestic insecticides, cleaning products	Car products, light lubricating oils, domestic and commercial glue, filler, paint aerosols	
15 01 02 & 20 01 39	Food and drink bottles, personal care products, household cleaning products, cooking and food oil bottles, trigger spray bottles, pump spray bottles, roller ball bottles	Bulk cleaning products (5 litre or greater), bulk liquid food containers, empty decorating/diy plastic bottles, domestic windscreen washer additives and power washer detergent bottles	Domestic and commercial motor oil, anti-freeze bottles, brake and clutch fluid
15 01 02 & 20 01 39	Plastic rigid containers including food pots, tubs and trays	Plastic flower pots, plant trays, video tape, CD and DVD cases, biscuit and sweet containers, clean plastic packaging film, empty carrier bags, plastic coat hangers	Toys, CD's and DVD's, plastic paint pots, polystyrene cups, polystyrene packaging materials, bubble wrap, corrugated plastic sheet, washing-up bowls, cutlery and drainer trays
15 01 05	Waxed composite food, beverage and similar containers including fabric conditioner	Take away hot beverage containers, card and aluminium composite take away containers	Aluminium composite foil laminate pouches (e.g. cat and dog food)
20 01 40	Food grade aluminium foil	Aluminium food trays	
20 01 02 & 15 01 07	Glass food and beverage containers		Window glass, pyrex containers, drinking glass

8. One additional change which may be of interest to members is that the onward destination for glass, Recresco, is now equipped with optical sorting technology. This means that even small fragments of glass from the MRF can be sorted-back into their individual colour streams. This means that the glass is then of sufficient quality to be re-melted to make more glass, rather than simply used as aggregate.

Schools recycling collections

9. A total of 26 schools now have a full complement of recycling services, including food waste collections. This comprises five infant schools, sixteen middle schools, three high schools and two special schools. Recycling assemblies are offered to all schools who join the food waste service and so far these have been successfully provided to Catton Grove primary, Angel Road infant, Clover Hill infant, Colman junior and West Earlham infant & junior. The schools receiving the full range of recycling services is as follows -

Angel Road Infant	Coleman Infant	The Hewett School	Norwich Free School
Angel Road Junior	Colman Junior	Lakenham Primary and Middle	Norwich Primary Academy (previously Larkman Primary)
Avenue Road Junior	Eaton Hall School	Lionwood Junior	Open Academy
Catton Grove Primary	Eaton Primary	Magdalen Gates School	Parkside School
Cavell Primary	George White Junior and Middle	Mile Cross Primary	St Johns RC VA Infants
Clover Hill Infant and Nursery	Harford Manor School	Nortre Dame	St Michael CA VA Junior
The Clare School used collections for 6 months, but they didn't have enough food waste to continue to take part in the scheme.			

10. In addition to this table, officers are currently discussing enhanced recycling services (including food waste) with CNS, Sewell College, Tuckwood Primary and Heartsease Middle school and it is hoped that these will be included in the coming months.

Ensuring that existing services are delivered efficiently and effectively

11. Fortnightly blue bag recycling collections were launched in 400 city centre properties in March. These properties were previously on the white hessian re-usable bag collections for recycling but the take up of this service was very low, in part because the bags often went missing after collections. The new single-use

blue recycling bags accept the same material as the blue wheelie bins and, from October, will also accept the extended range of recycling material.

- 12 Monitoring of the collections to date indicates participation rates of around 30%, although this reflects the location of the properties (and the lack of internal storage space) it is still a considerable improvement on the participation in the white bag service, which was rarely above 10%.
- 13 A further 470 properties will be added to the collections by the end of July and these will be properties that have not previously had any doorstep recycling services, including historic areas of the city centre such as Bishopgate. Collection calendars with information about the new service and how to order additional bags will be sent to households each year. This will act as a reminder to existing participants and will also inform new residents.

Cooking oil recycling

- 14 As previously reported, six new cooking oil recycling banks have now been installed alongside the existing bring banks at Waitrose (Eaton), Sainsburys (Queens Road), Morrisons (Albion Way), Tuckswood (Tuckswood Centre), St Saviours car park (St Saviours Lane) and Enfield Road.
- 15 The cooking oil will be collected regularly from the banks and taken to a processing plant to be treated and processed into biofuel. The council is working with Anglian Water to promote this scheme via leaflets, our website and citizen magazine. Residents will be advised to place cooled cooking oil and fats into a sealed plastic or glass bottle, the bottles can then be placed into the recycling banks (the bottles will also be recycled).
- 16 This service was due to start in April, unfortunately there were problems with the sub-contractor who was to supply the banks and therefore the biodiesel re-processor, Bensons Oil, had to source an alternate supplier which delayed installation until this month.

Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE)

- 17 Holding public events for the collection of WEEE is extremely useful in raising public awareness of the requirements to dispose of WEE through the correct outlets. The success of the council's first WEEE re-use and recycling event in February was reported to the SDP in March. A second event has now been confirmed for 28th June at the City of Norwich School, again in conjunction with the British Heart Foundation. The event has been promoted on the council website, in the latest editions of Citizen & TCL, on posters in the school and through leaflets distributed in the local area. Tonnages and other feedback will be reported to members in the next update report.
- 18 In addition to these public events, officers are currently investigating the possibilities for kerbside collections of WEEE by our contractor, Biffa. Whilst this would be a very useful addition to our collection services there are operational issues, particularly costs, which will need to be resolved if this aspiration is to be realised. An update on progress will be provided in the next quarterly report (September 2014).

Food waste collections

- 19 Members will be aware that participation in the food waste service is disappointingly low. The waste audits (paras 2-4) will go some way to identifying whether this is due to an actual absence of wasted food or whether there are significant quantities of food in the residual waste stream.
- 20 From customer surveys, doorstep engagement work and the experience of other councils, it is clear that some residents will only participate in a food waste service if the council provides free caddy liners. Should the waste audits indicate that more needs to be done to divert food waste from the residual stream, officers are committed to working with Biffa to investigate any options which may allow for the provision of free liners without incurring excessive additional costs.

Recycling performance update.

- 21 Norfolk-wide tonnage data for 2013/14 Quarter 4 will not be finalised until the end of June. This data will be reported at the next Sustainable Development Panel.
- 22 The graph below shows tonnages of waste to landfill and recycling collected in Norwich from April – December 2013. Although recycling tonnages are still falling, waste to landfill is also falling and therefore overall waste arisings in Norwich are reducing. As waste reduction is at the top of the waste hierarchy it is encouraging to see that this is the general trend.

