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**Report To: Safe, Sustainable Communities Committee**

**Date: 01/09/2009**

**Report By: Corporate Director, Environment and  
Community Protection**

**Report No:  
ECP/ENV/AB09.20**

**Contact Officer: Kenny Lang**

**Contact No: Ext 5906**

**Subject: Compost to go Scheme**

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**1.0 PURPOSE**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform the Committee of the 'Compost to Go' service which provides compost back to residents of Inverclyde and to seek approval to implement this scheme.

**2.0 SUMMARY**

- 2.1 Inverclyde Council is part of a collaborative contract with Glasgow City Council and other Local Authorities within the Glasgow and Clyde Valley area for the treatment of garden waste from the kerbside brown bins and garden waste from civic amenity sites.
- 2.2 The re-processor composts the material and Inverclyde Council, like other councils, buys back some of the compost for land remediation and reclamation purposes.
- 2.3 Historically the compost produced was not up to a recognised standard and was not able to be sold back to the public.
- 2.5 Significant improvements in terms of the quality of material being processed and the processors quality improvements have enabled the compost that is generated to meet the Compost Associations PAS 100 quality standard late last year and as a result the compost can now be labelled for use by members of the public as a soil enhancer/compost.

**3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Committee endorse the Compost to Go scheme to residents who live within the Inverclyde Council area.

**Alan G Barnes**  
**Head of Environmental Services**

## **4.0 BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 In 2004, in common with other local authorities in the Glasgow/Clyde Valley area, the Council was part of the collaborative contract process through Glasgow City Council procurement section and the contract for Inverclyde was awarded to Wm Tracey Ltd based in Linwood.
- 4.2 Due to the process the compost produced was at a lower standard than that required to be sold to households for use in gardens and as such the only purpose for the compost was for land remediation and land reclamation.
- 4.3 In November 2008, WM Tracey, the re-processor of garden waste for Inverclyde Council, were awarded PAS100 standard. The PAS100 standard is the nationally recognized standard whereby the compost produced conforms to strict specifications. As a result this material is now able to be marketed for use within gardens as a compost/soil enhancer.
- 4.4 The Council's Grounds Maintenance section uses this compost.
- 4.5 The waste strategy unit regularly receive request from members of the public enquiring if they can purchase compost generated from Inverclyde's brown bin collection service.
- 4.6 Such schemes are in place in a number of authorities such as East Ayrshire where residents can purchase a 70 litre hessian sack for £2, limited to 4 per household, and are able to fill these sacks with the compost produced from their brown bin. An alternative scheme operates in East Dunbartonshire Council where the compost is pre bagged in 40 litre sacks and sold onto the public at £2.50 per sack.
- 4.7 Offering material which is generated from within Inverclyde allows the Council to effectively "close the loop" in that material generated by Inverclyde residents can be used again by the people who produced it.

## **5.0 Compost to Go Promotion**

- 5.1 It is proposed Inverclyde Council run a one year trial of the Compost to Go service to coincide with the growing season in 2010 by purchasing 1,000 70ltr sacks at £0.78 per sack and an initial allocation of 42 tonnes of compost. By selling the bags to the public for £2 each this would pay for the sacks and the publicity. The purchasers of the sacks would be made aware that the amount of compost available would be on a first come first serve basis. This would allow Inverclyde Council to gauge the popularity of such a service. If the trial is successful a further report will be submitted highlighting the success and how we would recommend further developing the service.
- 5.1 It would be recommended that Inverclyde Council adopt the same system as East Ayrshire and sell 70ltr sacks to the public at £2 per sack with a limit of 4 sacks per household.
- 5.2 The compost would be made available from the Council's Civic Amenity and Recycling Centre at Pottery Street where space has already been identified for storage of the material. Ideally this facility would also be offered at Kirn Drive Civic Amenity and Recycling Centre however space constraints make this unviable at present.
- 5.3 Wm Tracey would deliver the material to Pottery Street in minimum quantities of 14 tonnes per load at a cost of £15 per tonne including delivery.
- 5.4 The maximum weight of a 70 litre sack filled with compost is around 35 kg, this would mean that a 14 tonne load would be equivalent to approximately 400 sack loads of compost. Indications from East Ayrshire however are that the majority of bags are

considerably less heavy than the maximum.

- 5.5 Inverclyde Council will promote the Compost to Go Campaign using the existing communication strategy developed by Waste Aware Scotland as a template offered free to local authorities. Promotional materials will be Waste Aware Inverclyde specific and may include press adverts, press releases, posters, advert in the Council's Inview Magazine and advertising on the Council's website. The scheme will be promoted in any future leaflet drops and communication to the public regarding the kerbside recycling service.

## 6.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

### 6.1 Financial implications – one-off costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Year	Proposed Spend this Report	Virement From	Other Comments
Waste Strategy	Purchase of Bags	2010/11	£780	n/a	Spend from existing budget.
Waste Strategy	Sale of bags	2010/11	-£2000	n/a	Pay for promotion
Waste Strategy	Promotions / Publicity	2010/11	£500	n/a	Spend from existing budget

Financial implications – One year trial coinciding with growing season, subject to review in 2010/11

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Year	Proposed Spend this Report	Virement From	Other Comments
Waste Strategy	Compost	2010/11	£630	n/a	Spend from existing budget.

## 7.0 CONSULTATION

- 7.1 Consultation on this report has been held with Finance services.
- 7.2 Consultation has also been held with Wm Tracey Ltd, East Ayrshire Council and East Dunbartonshire Council.

## 8.0 EQUALITIES STATEMENT

- 8.1 The introduction of the Compost to Go scheme will not adversely impact on any equalities issues.

## 9.0 REFERENCES

- 9.1 WM Tracey Ltd, East Ayrshire Council