

---

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

**Date: 12/01/2010**

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

**Report No:  
ECP/ENV/AB10.32**

**Contact Officer: Kenny Lang**

**Contact No: Ext 5903**

**Subject: Food Waste Collection Trial Termination**

---

**1.0 PURPOSE**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Members on the food waste trial funded by the Scottish Government for one year and to advise on the planned cessation of the service by the end of January 2010.

**2.0 SUMMARY**

- 2.1 A Scottish Government grant was allocated to Inverclyde Council to allow a trial food waste collection scheme.
- 2.2 The food waste trial has proven to be very successful and popular among users. The high costs and lack of resources mean that it is not possible to fund the continuation of this scheme beyond the end of January 2010.

**3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Committee note the contents of this report.
- 3.2 A further report will be brought to Committee detailing alternative options for the development of a combined food and garden waste scheme.

## **4.0 BACKGROUND**

4.1 The food waste collection service was introduced, as part of a Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) one year trial, to 5,000 households throughout Inverclyde.

4.2 Funding of £252K, from the Scottish Government, was secured for the one year trial.

## **5.0 FOOD WASTE TRIAL PERFORMANCE**

5.1 The trial has been very popular amongst the residents who are on the service. Research carried out by Remade Scotland and Waste Aware Scotland shows Inverclyde with the second highest set out rate of the seven trial services.

5.2 To date 514 tonnes of food waste has been diverted from landfill and it is projected that by continuing the service to the end of January an additional 75 tonnes may also be diverted.

5.3 Comparing with other councils running the same service Inverclyde diverted the most amount of material per household per week (kg/hh/wk), along with Aberdeenshire Council. Inverclyde Council diverted an average of 1.55 kg/hh/wk compared to 1.44 kg/hh/wk for East Renfrewshire. Inverclyde Council also had the highest set out rates averaging 53% compared with 44% and 41% for Aberdeenshire Council and East Renfrewshire Council respectively.

## **6.0 TERMINATION OF FOOD WASTE TRIAL**

6.1 Due to the cost of the collection and treatment of the food waste it is not possible to continue beyond the end of January 2010.

6.2 The Scottish Waste Awareness Group (SWAG) developed the communication strategy for the food waste trials.

6.3 As part of our communication plan an information leaflet will be sent to all householders, thanking them for their participation and informing them of their last collection day.

6.4 This will be backed up by planned press releases to coincide with the end of the trial. Corporate Communications will also handle all press enquiries.

6.5 Terminating the service will reduce the Council's recycling and composting rate. This will increase the tonnage of food waste going to landfill in 2009/10 by around 70 tonnes at a cost of £4,200.

6.6 Officers have met with neighbouring authorities to consider a joint approach to a combined food and garden waste collection scheme. Using the existing infrastructure costs will be dramatically reduced. These plans are dependent on the development of treatment infrastructure within a reasonable travel distance. A report will be brought to this Committee in early 2010 identifying progress in respect of this.

## **7.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 The food waste trial was solely funded through a short term grant of £252K from the Scottish Government for a 1 year trial. This funding has now been spent, no additional funding has been provided to carry this service on.

7.2 There will be an impact of £4,200 for the cost of land filling food waste previously collected under the food waste trial for the remainder of the current financial year. In 2010/2011 there will be a further impact of £30,000 on the waste disposal budget.

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Year	Proposed Spend this Report	Virement From	Other Comments
Waste Strategy	Disposal	2009/10	£4,000	n/a	Spend from existing budget.
Waste Strategy	Disposal	2010/11	£30,000	n/a	Spend from existing budget.

## 8.0 CONSULTATION

8.1 Consultation for this report has been held with Finance Services.

## 9.0 REFERENCES

9.1 'Scottish Food Waste Collection Trials Performance and Evaluation' - Remade Scotland and Waste Aware Scotland - November 2009