

**NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL**

**NEIGHBOURHOOD, ENVIRONMENT & COMMUNITIES  
CABINET MEMBER**

**KERBSIDE SCHEME FOR THE RECYCLING OF  
SMALL WASTE ELECTRICAL & ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT**

**1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT**

1.1 The object of this report is to seek approval for the introduction of a borough wide collection scheme for small waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) from the kerbside.

1.2 The key points in this report are;

- To advise on the outcome of the pilot scheme implemented in December 2010.
- To provide an overview of the proposed kerbside collection scheme.

**2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

2.1 The Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Regulations were introduced into law in July 2007. The WEEE Directive aims to reduce the amount of waste electrical and electronic equipment being produced and to encourage everyone to reuse, recycle and recover it. It places responsibility on the producers of electrical goods to finance the collection (from designated collection facilities), treatment and recovery of waste electrical equipment.

2.2 Electrical and electronic waste is the fastest growing waste stream in the UK. Around 1.8 million tonnes are generated every year. Each year UK households buy an average of 18 kg of small electrical items, but only 3.2 kg per household is currently recycled. The European Parliament has recently confirmed a target of recovering 85% of all WEEE by 2016.

2.3 Electrical items can contain harmful chemicals such as lead and mercury and currently most of this ends up in landfill where they can pollute the environment. In addition, WEEE is made up of materials such as plastics and metals, which are in finite supply. Recycling enables the recovery of these materials, some of which can be used again to make other products.

- 2.4 Currently, the council receives WEEE at each of the eight Household Recycling Centres (HRCs) and in 2009/10, 1706 tonnes were recycled. This waste comprises of televisions (647 tonnes), small domestic appliances (470 tonnes), large domestic appliances (305 tonnes), refrigeration equipment (284 tonnes), and fluorescent tubes.
- 2.5 In June 2010 a compositional analysis of the residual (landfill) waste stream in North Lincolnshire was completed. Over 27 different types of small electrical and electronic items were found in domestic wheeled bins including kettles, stereos, hair tongs, keyboards, toasters, etc. On this evidence, it is estimated that a further 1048 tonnes of small WEEE could be diverted from landfill each year.
- 2.6 In October 2010, approval was given to implement a pilot scheme for the recovery of small WEEE. This was to form part of the existing kerbside box collection arrangements operated by Palm Recycling Ltd. The company agreed to do this at no additional cost. REPIC, the council's appointed producer compliance scheme for the recovery of WEEE deposited at HRCs, would receive and recycle the material, also at no cost to the council.
- 2.7 Four existing kerbside box collection rounds involving a total of 3,313 properties, mainly in Scunthorpe, were selected for the pilot scheme, which was scheduled to commence in December 2010.
- 2.8 After a delayed start due to inclement weather, the pilot scheme has captured 203kgs of small WEEE in the first two months of operation. Whilst this is significantly less than expected when compared with the weight of material identified in the compositional analysis, only limited promotion of the scheme has been undertaken.
- 2.9 The scheme operator, Palm Recycling Ltd, has now confirmed that, based on the performance of the pilot scheme, it would be able to expand the scheme to all households currently in receipt of the blue and green box recycling service at no additional cost to the council. The company has suggested that the scheme expansion could coincide with the annual distribution of collection calendars and other scheme information, which is scheduled to take place in early May.

### **3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION**

- 3.1 Option 1 - To extend the scheme for the kerbside recovery of small WEEE to all households currently in receipt of blue and green box collections.
- 3.2 Option 2 - To continue to provide WEEE recycling disposal facilities at the 8 HRCs only.

#### **4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS**

- 4.1 Research by the Government's Waste Resource Action Programme (WRAP) and the council's own waste analysis has indicated that two thirds of WEEE is not being captured for recycling.
- 4.2 The component parts of small WEEE pose a risk to the environment if landfilled and may have a detrimental impact on the long term residual waste treatment solutions currently under consideration by the council.
- 4.3 The existing 'bring' recycling facilities located at HRCs only captured 489 tonnes of WEEE in 2009/10. Option 1 has the potential to capture an additional 1048 tonnes if implemented on a borough wide scale.
- 4.4 National targets for the recovery of WEEE are unlikely to be achieved without kerbside collection of some or all elements of this waste stream.

#### **5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL, STAFFING, PROPERTY, IT)**

- 5.1 The practical operation of the scheme will be undertaken at no additional cost to the Council. Palm Recycling Ltd will collect small WEEE alongside the range of materials currently recovered through the kerbside box recycling service. REPIC, the council's appointed producer compliance scheme, will arrange recycling of recovered items also at no cost. Diversion of waste away from landfill will reduce the council's landfill tax burden. Landfill tax will be £56/tonne in 2011/12.

#### **6. OTHER IMPLICATIONS (STATUTORY, ENVIRONMENTAL, DIVERSITY, SECTION 17 - CRIME AND DISORDER, RISK AND OTHER)**

- 6.1 Local authorities have no statutory obligation under the WEEE Regulations to implement recovery schemes. This is a producer responsibility issue. The active participation of councils is necessary if national targets are to be met.
- 6.2 Adding small WEEE to the existing kerbside collection regime will add to overall recycling rates and deliver positive environmental benefits.
- 6.3 An Integrated Impact Assessment has been completed in respect of the contents of this report.

#### **7. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION**

- 7.1 The council frequently receives enquiries from North Lincolnshire householders requesting information and advice on how to recycle small waste electrical and electronic items.
- 7.2 Palm Recycling Ltd has been consulted on the performance of the small WEEE pilot scheme and recommended the approach detailed in 2.9 above.

## 8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 That the council expands the scheme for the kerbside recovery of small WEEE to all households within North Lincolnshire currently in receipt of the blue and green box collection service.
- 8.2 The Waste Management Division will undertake all necessary publicity for the scheme in conjunction with the council's Media Relations section.

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### **Background Papers used in the preparation of this report**

Compositional Analysis of Kerbside Collected Small WEEE (Author –WRAP) – February 2009.  
Case Study – Promoting the recycling of small electrical (Author – WRAP).  
North Lincolnshire Council Waste Composition Study (Author M.E.L) June 2010