

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

**NEIGHBOURHOOD, ENVIRONMENT & COMMUNITIES
CABINET MEMBER**

**PILOT KERBSIDE SCHEME FOR THE RECYCLING OF
SMALL ELECTRICAL ITEMS**

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 The object of this report is to seek approval from the Cabinet Member to run a pilot collection scheme for the collection of small electrical items from the kerbside.
- 1.2 The key points in this report are:
- To provide an overview of the proposed pilot kerbside collection scheme.
 - Currently the council receives small electrical items at all 8 Household Recycling Centres (HRCs) in North Lincolnshire.
 - The council is under no obligation to collect this material at the kerbside but has an opportunity to do so at no additional cost to the authority.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 The Waste from Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Regulations were introduced into law in July 2007. The WEEE Directive aims to reduce the amount of electrical and electronic equipment being produced and to encourage everyone to reuse, recycle and recover it. It places a 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. On average UK households buy nearly 18kg of small electrical items each year but only 3.2 kg per household is currently recycled.
- 2.3 The Waste Resource Action Programme (WRAP) carried out a trial in Bury St Edmunds to assess the potential for collecting small WEEE at the kerbside. The report published in February 2009 concluded that the kerbside collection of small WEEE could be a useful way for local

authorities to divert material away from landfill and divert a mass of items, which would otherwise have been placed in the residual waste stream.

- 2.4 Electrical items can contain toxic chemicals such as lead and mercury and currently most of this ends up in landfill where they can pollute the soil and water and potentially harm human health. In addition WEEE is made up of materials which are in finite supply, such as plastics and metals. Recycling enables the recovery of these materials, some of which can be used again to make other products.
- 2.5 In June 2010 a compositional analysis of the residual waste stream in North Lincolnshire was undertaken. Over 27 different types of small electrical items were found in the wheeled bins during the analysis including kettles, stereos, hair tongs, keyboards, toasters, etc. In terms of weight it is estimated that each North Lincolnshire household disposes of 14.56 kgs of small WEEE in the residual waste bin annually.
- 2.6 Currently the council does receive small WEEE at all 8 HRCs and in 2009/10 469 tonnes were recycled. From the figures given in paragraph 2.2 this suggests we are currently only capturing one third of the small WEEE waste stream available for recycling in North Lincolnshire. It is likely that the majority of the remaining small WEEE is being disposed of in the residual waste bin as detailed in paragraph 2.5.
- 2.7 The council's incumbent service delivery partner, Palm Recycling Ltd, which operates the kerbside box collection service, has indicated that it would be willing to undertake a pilot recycling scheme of small WEEE as part of the existing kerbside box arrangements at no extra cost. To participate in the scheme householders would simply need to place their small WEEE in a carrier bag (supplied by the householder) and placed next to the kerbside boxes. The carrier bag will restrict the size of the small WEEE which can be placed out for collection, which is necessary for operational reasons. Larger items can continue to be disposed of at the network of HRCs or via the council's bulky collection service. The council has arrangements in place for REPIC, a producer compliance scheme, to recover and recycle this material free of charge.
- 2.8 Four existing kerbside collection rounds have been identified to pilot this scheme and service a total of 3,300 properties. These rounds have been selected as currently they do have some limited spare capacity. Most importantly they are within the Scunthorpe area and the vehicles will be operating in close proximity to the waste transfer loading station.
- 2.9 The trial will help to determine both the weight and the volume of material which could be collected. This will provide valuable data when considering the feasibility of a borough-wide scheme and the financial and logistical implications. The data gathered will also be useful when considering what materials shall be included in the kerbside collection

service, which is soon to be retendered. The results from the pilot will be reviewed after the scheme has been in operation for 6 months.

2.10 A leaflet promoting the opportunity to recycle small WEEE would be distributed to those properties included in the pilot area.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

3.1 Option 1 - To expand the material range collected with the kerbside boxes to include small electrical items in a pilot area.

3.2 Option 2 - To continue to provide recycling disposal facilities at the 8 HRCs only.

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

4.1 Option 1 - Research by WRAP and the council's own waste analysis has indicated that two thirds of small WEEE is not being captured for recycling. In addition historical evidence in North Lincolnshire clearly demonstrates that the use of 'bring' schemes have limited impact on capturing material for recycling.

4.2 Option 2 - The existing 'bring' recycling facilities located at HRCs only captured 489 tonnes of small WEEE in 2009/10. On this evidence, Option 1, which has the potential to capture 1296 tonnes if introduced on an authority widescale, is preferred.

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

5.1 There is no additional cost to the authority of providing a pilot kerbside collection scheme for small WEEE.

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

6.1 Providing a kerbside collection scheme for small WEEE should increase the recovery rate of this material significantly, thereby having a positive environmental benefit reducing the number being sent to landfill.

6.2 The new opportunity to recycle at the kerbside could be communicated to residents in the pilot area via a leaflet distributed to all those households. The printing and distribution costs for the leaflet would be met either by the compliance scheme REPIC or by the current service provider (Palm Recycling Ltd). In addition further publicity could be arranged in the council's Direct magazine, a press launch and the council's website, incurring no additional cost.

6.3 An Integrated Impact Assessment has been completed in respect of the content 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 electrical items.
- 7.2 Palm Recycling Ltd has been consulted on the practicalities of small WEEE recycling and has recommended the approach detailed in paragraph 2.7 above.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 That the council expands the material range collected in the kerbside box collection scheme in a pilot area to include small WEEE. The pilot scheme will commence in Winter 2010 or early 2011.
- 8.2 The Waste Management Division will undertake all necessary publicity for the scheme in conjunction with the council's Public Relations section.

SERVICE DIRECTOR NEIGHBOURHOOD & ENVIRONMENT

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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