

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE - 26TH MAY 2004

IMPLEMENTATION OF 3 BIN SYSTEM – PROGRESS REPORT

Report by Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To advise the Committee of progress made in implementing the 3 bin system of kerbside household waste recycling.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Committee has considered a number of reports on the introduction of the 3 bin system and on 31st March, Emergency Powers Committee approved a report setting out the recommendations of the Member/Officer Working Group.
- 2.2 The first route converted to the new system undertook a collection of separated paper and cardboard, glass and cans during week commencing 5th April 2004. The following week (commencing 12th April 2004) households were provided with a residual waste collection service.

A collection service for separated garden waste, glass and cans was provided during week commencing 19th April and the second residual waste collection was provided during week commencing 26th April 2004.

In addition, the second converted route commenced collection of recyclate material on Monday 26th April 2004, following the same pattern of collection as the first route.

- 2.3 Members of staff preceded the collection vehicles to check that waste/recyclate was properly presented and where appropriate, left advisory stickers explaining why waste could not be collected and how it should be presented in the future. Community Waste Officers also visited householders where possible and advised them on the correct use of the service.

Staff also manned the special helpline service to deal with enquiries/complaints raised by householders.

- 2.4 The preliminary performance figures relating to the first four weeks of the new service are attached as an appendix to this report.

3. DISCUSSION

3.1 In general terms, the vast majority of householders have co-operated fully with the Cleansing Service in separating out recyclate and presenting this (and residual waste) as provided for in the guidance issued to householders. The amount of recyclate separated out by householders has exceeded all expectations and the quality of product has been excellent so far.

3.2 A number of householders have expressed concern at the restricted residual waste collection service and have been given appropriate advice and guidance. Many householders have had to be reassured that a wheeled bin with a fortnight's residual waste poses no greater a difficulty than a bin with one week's waste. Where circumstances dictated, home visits have been made by staff to deal with specific difficulties raised by individual householders.

Many of those householders originally expressing concern have now embraced the new system and have been able to adjust their waste disposal arrangements accordingly.

Rather than making provisions for "large houses" or "large families", the approach has been for staff to consider each case on its individual merits and apply the Council's policy.

3.3 As the programme has developed, a number of initial procedures have been reviewed and where necessary amended to accommodate issues raised by the public and/or Cleansing staff.

3.4 Several householders have commented on the lack of kerbside plastic recycling facility and have been advised that as the recycling and waste diversion targets are based on tonnage, it is appropriate for the Council to identify paper, cardboard, green garden waste, glass and cans as components which have considerable density and also markets available for resale.

The intention is to see plastics as the next logical recyclate stream for consideration once the current 3 bin system is fully implemented.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The implementation programme and associated performance anticipated has been approved by the Scottish Executive as part of the award from the Strategic Waste Fund.

The financial plan approved by the Scottish Executive requires savings generated from reductions in waste disposal and landfill tax charges associated with diverted waste to be re-invested in the roll-out of the new service and replacement of vehicles, equipment etc during the life of the project (i.e. until 2020).

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The National Waste Strategy requires Councils to recycle 25% of domestic waste by 2006 and divert 25% of municipal waste away from landfill by 2010.

6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The report approved by Emergency Powers Committee on 31st March sets out an amended refuse collection and recycling policy which is designed to allow compliance with the appropriate legislation.

7. CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 The first route to be converted to the new 3 bin system received collections during week commencing 5th April 2004.
- 7.2 The vast majority of householders appear to welcome the introduction of the new scheme and see the benefits for making substantial improvements in household waste recycling in East Ayrshire.

So far the quantity and quality of recyclate separated out by householders has exceeded the initial estimates prepared by the Cleansing Service,

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 The Committee is invited to: -
- (i) note that further progress reports will be submitted for consideration; and
 - (ii) otherwise note the report.

William Stafford
Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

WS/JFC/CAM

26th April 2004

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil

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APPENDIX 1

	w/s 5th April	w/s 12th April	w/s 19th April	w/s 26th April	w/s 3rd May	TOTAL
Paper & Cardboard	21.460 tonnes (Route 1)			36.320 tonnes (Route 3)	64.960 tonnes (Route 1)	122.74 tonnes
Glass & Cans	7.900 tonnes (Route 1 (12))		14.700 tonnes (Route 1 (12))	9.460 tonnes (Route3 (12))	14.280 tonnes (Route 1 (12))	46.340 tonnes
Green Garden Waste			24.240 tonnes (Route 1)			24.240 tonnes
TOTAL RECYCLATE	29.360 tonnes		38.940 tonnes	45.780 tonnes	79.240 tonnes	193.320 tonnes