

SIX MONTH REPORT ON KERBSIDE COLLECTION OF RECYCLABLE MATERIALS

Report By: DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT

Wards Affected

1. Countywide.

Purpose

2. To report on the progress of the scheme during the first six months of operation.

Financial Implications

3. There are no financial implications.

Background

4. The current kerbside recycling scheme is carried out in the current refuse collection contract. The scheme provides for the kerbside collection of refuse and recyclables. The scheme is based on a bag collection with weekly collections of refuse and collection of paper and textiles one week and cans and plastics the next.
5. Seven of the 24 rounds were designated for the scheme, involving approximately 50% of the properties in the county, and specially adapted vehicles were provided.
6. The 50% was concentrated in the urban areas of the county to provide the greatest return for the lowest outlay plus one semi-rural round to incorporate Credenhill as a major centre of population.
7. Ross-on-Wye was not included as it was already served by a popular and efficient kerbside scheme operated by a charitable organisation.
8. The service began on 7 April 2003 with one round. The remaining six rounds came on line in a rolling programme with all seven rounds being fully operational by the first week of June 2003.
9. Recyclables are collected using a coloured bag system and placed in a separate section to general waste, in the adapted vehicles – recyclables 30%; general waste 70% of the vehicle containers.
10. At the transfer station the two sides are separately weighed – the general waste tipped at the transfer station and the recyclables at the Materials Recycling Facility for sorting and processing.

11. A summary of the performance to date is detailed below.

Performance figures for the first six months of the kerbside collection scheme.

Total household refuse collected in county	30,754.90 tonnes
Total household refuse collected on recycling rounds	10,843.12 tonnes
Total recyclables collected on rounds	1480.79 tonnes
Percentage recycled – recycling rounds only	13.66%
Percentage recycled – All rounds	4.81%
Participation rate (from monitoring)	48.21%
Properties served by recycling rounds	approx 38,500

12. The figures need to be viewed with some caution as the rounds were brought in over a two-month period - thus the total recycled tonnage and hence the recycled percentages are slightly on the low side.

13. The scheme has reasonably good participation rates compared to national averages but does not perform at the levels of the best local authorities. Audit Commission work indicates that schemes using rigid containers tend to have higher participation rates than sacks. Participation rates can be as high as 80 – 100%. This variation is seen across the scheme in Herefordshire with rates in some areas being as high as 80% and as low as 15% in other areas.

14. Apart from initial promotion for the first round, the Council has used only press coverage to promote the scheme and a more extensive promotional campaign may produce higher participation rates, there are not, however, the resources to undertake this work at present.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT The report be noted