



REPORT REFERENCE: 2.3
23 FEBRUARY 2012

LINCOLNSHIRE WASTE PARTNERSHIP

SUBJECT:	FUTURE COMPOSTING CONTRACTS
REPORT BY:	WASTE OFFICER GROUP
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BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The seven collection authorities and the County Council currently send over seventy thousand tonnes of garden waste a year for composting. This goes to eleven separate composting operators located around the county, and makes up nearly half the total tonnage that goes toward the overall 52% recycling performance for Lincolnshire.

Defra are currently involved with the transposing the EU revised Waste Framework Directive into UK law, and are looking at how the current position of this material counting toward recycling performance can be continued.

Within the composting industry there is a standard that is acknowledged as representing a material that after composting operations have been undertaken is safe for sale to the public and this is known as Public Acceptance Standard (PAS) 100.

At a recent meeting of NAWDO (the National Association of Waste Disposal Authorities) Defra presented a proposal that from 2014 (or 2015 at the latest) only garden waste that was processed to PAS 100 (or similar) standard would be allowed to count toward overall recycling performance. In this way they believed that the requirements of the rWFD could be met.

A number of the operators in Lincolnshire already operate to this standard, but a number do not, being farmers who use the composted material on their land. The current contract encourages operators not holding PAS 100 to strive to obtain it but this is not an absolute requirement.

The following is a table of the current composting contractors being used in Lincolnshire:

Contractor	WCA	PAS 100
MEC Swinderby	CLC, NKDC, WLDC	Yes
Organic Recycling Crowland	BBC, SHDC	Yes
Cranberry Composting, Eastville	ELDC	No
Mid UK Caythorpe	NKDC, SKDC	Yes
Land Network Gainsborough (Sturton)	WLDC	No
Land Network NE Lincs (South Elkington)	ELDC	No
Clarkeson Recycling Riby	WLDC	Yes

It is estimated that around 28,000 tonnes of green waste is currently being sent to non-PAS 100 sites.

If formally adopted the Defra position would not stop the use of non-PAS 100 operators, but the material processed by them would not count toward the recycling performance for the county.

If that was to be the case and some contractors chose not to incur the expense of both achieving and operating to PAS 100 standard this would have an impact on WCA services as all the contracts are dependant upon direct delivery by the WCA's to the composting operators. There are optional sites available to some authorities, and to some it would make no difference.

However due to the location of PAS 100 sites for some authorities or some part of an authority's area there is a real risk that if no PAS 100 operator was available then a garden service would have to be stopped unless additional resources in terms of vehicles and crews were provided.

If a kerbside service had to be withdrawn then this would have impacts upon residual waste collections as some of this material would be likely to end up in black bins or bags.

This in turn would increase disposal costs to landfill or require additional transport from Waste Transfer Stations to the Energy from Waste plant.

The inclusion of additional garden waste in the residual stream would also impact on the overall capacity of the EfW to take this material, and if that capacity were to be

exceeded then additional alternative disposal costs would be incurred. The alternative would be to continue to use non-PAS 100 compost facilities but accept that this would impact in a negative way on the recycling performance of both the individual authority and the county as a whole.

If this amount could no longer be counted toward the recycling performance of the county then this would drop from 52% to 45%.

Waste Services have written to all current contractors advising them of this development, and that in future contracts LCC may only accept tenders from PAS 100 operators.

The rWFD includes the target of 50% recycling/composting by 2020 which Lincolnshire is currently exceeding, but this would cease to be the case if some of the garden waste collected in Lincolnshire could no longer count toward the recycling performance of the county.

The current composting framework contract runs to April 2013, and is likely to be re-tendered toward the end of 2012.

OPTIONS

- i) The next County Council contracts are with all composting facilities regardless of whether they hold PAS 100 or not;
- ii) The next County Council contracts are only let to composting facilities holding PAS 100 accreditation.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Lincolnshire Waste Partnership is recommended to:

- i) Support the use of facilities operating to PAS 100 standard in future composting contracts;
- ii) Request WCA's to report back through the Waste Officers Group to the Lincolnshire Waste Partnership the practical implications of only using PAS 100 composting facilities from April 2013.