



LINCOLNSHIRE WASTE PARTNERSHIP

24 NOVEMBER 2016

SUBJECT :	DRY RECYCLING COLLECTION METHODOLOGY
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PURPOSE OF REPORT

To consider new guidance from the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP)

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

WRAP has recently issued two new guidance documents relating to recycling:

1. A Framework for Greater Consistency in Household Recycling in England (Consistency Guidelines) – see Appendix 1
2. Wrap Recycling Guidelines – see Appendix 2

Both documents contain useful guidance which is worthy of consideration by the LWP.

The Consistency Guidelines set out a vision where every household in England can recycle a common set of dry recyclable materials and food waste, collected in one of three different ways. The vision also includes a move, over time, to a nationally consistent colour scheme for containers to simplify communications. It is important to note that the guidelines are not binding on local authorities and there is no current indication that they will be made binding in the future.

The guidelines identify the following commodities as being appropriate recyclables for all local authorities to collect, following consultation with the recycling industry:

- Plastic bottles
- Plastic packaging – pots, tubs and trays
- Metal packaging – cans, aerosols and foil
- Glass bottles and Jars

- Paper
- Card
- Food and drink cartons
- Food waste

The three methods of collection are described as

A. Multi-stream with separate food

- Up to 120 litres per week of residual waste (in bags or sacks);
- Collections in 3 separate containers of
 - Plastic, metals and cartons
 - Glass and card
 - Paper;
- Separate food waste collection

B. Two stream (fibres separate) with separate food

- Up to 120 litres per week of residual waste (in bags or sacks);
- Collections in 2 separate containers of
 - Plastic, metals, cartons and glass,
 - Paper and card;
- Separate food waste collection

C. Co-mingled with separate food

- Up to 120 litres per week of residual waste (in bags or sacks);
- Co-mingled collections of plastic, metals, cartons, glass, paper and card;
- Separate food waste collection

The Recycling Guidelines build on the consistency guidelines. They give more detailed guidelines and specifications for each of the 8 recyclable materials identified. They give descriptions of what is included and excluded for each material; for example metal packaging includes aluminium foil trays but excludes laminated foil packaging. It also gives guidance on cleanliness and deals with the 'tops on/tops off' controversy.

DISCUSSIONS

There are a number of issues arising from the Consistency Guidelines:

1. Dry recycling mix

It is useful to see for the first time a nationally promoted list of materials that should be accepted for dry recycling. It would be appropriate for the emerging Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (JMWMS) to include a commitment that LWP members accept this list as a common dry recycling mix for all Waste Collection Authorities (WCAs). It would also follow that this list (along with the associated detailed recycling guidelines) would form the materials specification for future Mixed Dry Recycling processing contracts let by the Waste Disposal Authority (WDA).

Agreeing the common mix of materials as advised by WRAP would of course remove the scope for coming to local arrangements on dry recycling which may present themselves. However adding materials in addition to the common mix may well restrict competitive tendering responses in what is a national marketplace.

2. Food Waste

All 3 of the suggested collection methodologies include for the separate collection of food waste. All the WCAs currently collect food waste in the residual waste stream.

Moving to a food waste collection service would have a number of implications

- A significant cost for WCAs;
- A significant increase in recycling performance;
- A significant reduction in the amount of residual waste for disposal, with a positive impact on the problem of waste disposal capacity through the EfW;
- An impact on the calorific value of waste burned in the EfW;
- Increased number of vehicles with potential impacts on traffic congestion (particularly in urban areas) and climate change gas emissions;
- A potentially significant reduction in WDA capital and revenue costs;
- Arising from the above a need to recognise that a decision on food waste collection would need to include consideration of the whole costs (collection and disposal) and a funding mechanism which reflected this.

This will also create a need to ensure the food waste is sustainably disposed locally. These are matters that should be explored fully during the production of the JMWMS.

3. Collection methodology

It is noteworthy that co-mingled collection is included as one of the three options (subject to consideration of TEEP). Current TEEP assessments for Lincolnshire WCAs have indicated that a change to separate collections is not necessary due to the high costs of making the change and impacts on collection quantities. The development of the JMWMS should include consideration of the arguments for a change to collection methodology in light of developing cost and contamination considerations. It may be that a change to separate collections for some materials would increase their value, reduce the high levels of contamination and reduce disposal/processing costs. However there would be significant additional collection costs (vehicles/containers/staffing). This would therefore also require consideration of the whole costs (collection and disposal) and a funding mechanism which reflected this.

4. Consistent Colour Scheme

Although given as an aim no suggestion is made as to what this consistent colour scheme should be. It would not be appropriate to consider moves towards a consistent bin colour scheme for Lincolnshire in advance of proposals for a national scheme.

Having a consistent colour scheme would have benefits in clarity of communication. Any move towards a consistent colour scheme would however be very lengthy (and/or very expensive) and during the transition the impact on communication could be to

make communication even more complex (as depending on the final colour combination each WCA could have two bin colours for each waste stream.)

The Recycling Guidelines are less contentious. It would be appropriate to use these guidelines as the basis for consistent future recycling and contamination messages across the partnership (subject to considerations of differences between WCAs for the time being.) It would be necessary to consult with the WDA's current contractor regarding this proposal.

The Framework for Greater Consistency in Household Recycling in England, was launched in September 2016.

WRAP is able to support local authorities in England to assess the business case for implementing recycling collection services in line with the Framework and to work towards implementation of collection service changes.

During 2017/18, WRAP is able to provide the following technical support:

- appraisal of collection options that would bring local authorities in line with the consistency framework for recycling;
- support with the development of business cases and identification of local opportunities and benefits;
- advice on collection system design; and
- support with commissioning and introducing new collection services.

WRAP will meet the full revenue cost of providing the technical support work. No capital funding can be provided.

There is no obligation on authorities to roll out amended services following the completion of this work.

In order to apply for this funding authorities must (jointly) complete an Expression of Interest from which will be assessed by WRAP.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Note – all references to a consistent dry recycling mix exclude, for the time being, the separate collection arrangements for glass at ELDC

- 1) That the Lincolnshire Waste Partnership accepts that a consistent dry recycling mix of materials taking account of the Consistency Guidelines should be the aim of the next JMWMS;
- 2) That the Lincolnshire Waste Partnership recommends that each constituent

Council adopts the dry recycling mix in the Consistency Guidelines (as expanded by the Recycling Guidelines) as soon as is practicable;

- 3) That the Lincolnshire Waste Partnership recommends that future tendering processes for Mixed Dry Recycling Processing be based on the dry recycling mix in the Consistency Guidelines (as expanded by the Recycling Guidelines);
- 4) That the Lincolnshire Waste Partnership recommends that, subject to discussion with contractors, the Recycling Guidelines be used as the basis for future recycling/contamination publicity and campaigns by all constituent Councils;
- 5) That the Lincolnshire Waste Partnership considers that the next JMWMS should include consideration of
 - The implications of separate food waste collections and its disposal;
 - The implications of potential changes to collection methodologies;
 - The implications of developments in relation to consistent national colour schemes for waste containers
- 6) That an expression of Interest be jointly completed in order to apply for WRAP funding to develop business cases to work towards implementing changes to collection regimes.

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