

RECYCLING AND COMPOSTING IN CHARNWOOD

A brief summary of the background and options available to Charnwood Borough Council in improving its recycling and composting performance.

Why do we need to improve recycling/composting performance to 36% or more by 2005/06?

- It is a priority of the Borough Council's Corporate Plan for 2003-2007.
- It is in line with statutory recycling and composting targets set by the Government.

What happens to household waste in Leicestershire?

- On average every household produces about a tonne of household waste per year.
- Most of it is collected by the Borough Council which is the Waste Collection Authority.
- Most of it is buried in landfill sites as directed by Leicestershire County Council.
- Charnwood Council and residents have already achieved a high recycling rate of about 18%.

How do Charnwood residents recycle and compost at the present time?

- The fortnightly "green sack" recycling collection (paper, mags, tins, cans & plastic bottles).
- The twice-yearly textile collection service.
- The network of about 60 recycling centres (bottle banks etc).
- The pre-paid garden waste collection scheme which goes for composting.
- Materials collected for recycling by a number of voluntary organisations within Charnwood.
- County Council Recycling & Household Waste Sites at Loughborough, Shepshed and Sileby.

What are the big decisions that we need to make about the future of recycling in Charnwood?

- Should we aim for 36% of household waste or even higher – what targets does the future hold?
- What additional materials should we aim to collect – cardboard, glass, garden waste?
- Should the materials be collected separately or mixed – vehicle and labour implications?
- What containers could the materials be stored in – wheeled bins and/or boxes and/or sacks?
- Where will the materials be collected from – householder's point of storage or the kerbside?

What assumptions have been made in developing and costing options A to F? (see over)

- All materials are collected from the kerbside.
- The County Council will continue to pay recycling credits (literally cash for the amount of waste we recycle) at the present rate.
- Where additional items such as boxes and wheeled bins are necessary, the cost is included as an annual lease cost.
- The cost of developing a waste awareness and promotional campaign, associated with waste minimisation and recycling issues, is included.

A successful scheme will ...

- Achieve the declared recycling and composting targets by 2005/06.
- Represent good value for money.
- Engage the interest and enthusiasm of Charnwood residents.

How is the consultation process being carried out?

- Through a series of 10 public consultation meetings at various venues around the Borough.
- Through the latest edition of the Charnwood News published week beginning 17th November.
- Through a questionnaire survey of the Charnwood Citizen's Panel.
- Through feedback forms obtained via the website or on request.

Where can I get more information?

- Visit the Borough Council's website www.charnwoodbc.gov.uk .
- Request a copy of the full Consultation Document and Appendices by telephone on 01509 634603 or contact the Policy Unit at Charnwood Borough Council, Southfields, Loughborough LE11 2TR. Translations and other formats can be provided.

What options are under consideration and at what cost? Note that the additional costs are estimated and are to be used for comparison purposes only. All of these options will increase Charnwood’s present rate of recycling and composting but **only options C, E and F approach or exceed the declared targets**. No other specific options are available that will produce the necessary “step change” in performance.

Option	A	B	C	D	E	F
Recycling container 1	Green sack	Wheeled bin	Wheeled bin	Green sack	Box sorted at kerbside	Box sorted at kerbside
Materials in container 1	Papers, mags, tins, cans, plastic bottles.	Paper, mags, tins, cans, plastic bottles + other materials?	Paper, mags, tins, cans, plastic bottles + other materials?	Papers, mags, tins, cans, plastic bottles.	Paper, mags, tins, cans, plastic bottles + glass and cardboard.	Paper, mags, tins, cans, plastic bottles + glass and cardboard.
Collection frequency of container 1	Weekly	Fortnightly	Fortnightly (alternating with residual waste bin)	Fortnightly (alternating with garden waste bin)	Fortnightly (alternating with residual waste bin)	Fortnightly (alternating with garden waste bin)
Recycling container 2	Red sack			Wheeled bin or re-usable sack	Wheeled bin	Wheeled bin
Materials 2	Cardboard			Garden waste	Garden waste	Garden waste
Collection frequency of container 2	Weekly			Fortnightly (alternating with recycling sack)	Fortnightly (alternating with residual waste bin)	Fortnightly (alternating with recycling box)
Recycling container 3	Box	Box				
Materials 3	Glass bottles & jars	Glass bottles & jars				
Frequency 3	Weekly	Fortnightly				
Residual container	Black sacks	Black sacks	Wheeled bin	Black sacks	Wheeled bin	Black sacks
Collection of residual waste.	Weekly	Weekly	Fortnightly (alternating with recycling bin)	Weekly	Fortnightly (alternating with box & garden waste bin)	Weekly
Recycling rate %	26 %	24 %	30 %	14 %	31 %	22 %
Composting Rate %	4 %	4 %	4 %	15 %	15 %	15 %
Combined rate %	30 %	28 %	34 %	29 %	46 %	37 %
Additional cost £ p.a.	£1,510,000	£1,040,000	£550,000	£820,00	£720,000	£1,260,000