



Delivery of priority services and outcomes

The initiative delivers on Aim 3 to have a High Quality Environment, clean and sustainable environment

- *Reduce CO₂ emissions from our own operations*
- *To increase recycling*
- *Reduce residual waste going to landfill*
- *Improve street and environmental cleanliness*

Background

Ryedale District Council (RDC) fundamentally changed its refuse and recycling collection service in 2003 by offering kerbside collections of glass, cans, paper and garden waste to every domestic property. As part of this service every resident was offered the opportunity to recycle garden waste in wheeled bins, or compostable bags, if a bin was deemed unsuitable.

In order to optimize travel and fuel use, together with ensuring practical operational requirements were met, RDC began the process of building a comprehensive network of local farms to take compostable garden waste to. This was deemed necessary as the District is around 575 square miles and to visit each domestic property requires a round trip of 2,670 miles. Refuse Collection Vehicles struggle to do 4 miles to a gallon of diesel, so using the proximity principle to deal with this element of the waste stream was logical and operationally practical to implement. RDC was amongst the first of the Authorities in the UK to develop the use of on farm composting. To date 7 farms are currently active on the on farm-composting network. Refer to map- locations which were determined by location and geological suitability.

What was done

In order to pursue the waste management function of composting Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) on agricultural land, each farmer had to register separately with the Environment Agency. By applying for an exemption from a Waste Management Licence (Environmental Permit) farmers were granted a licence to compost limited quantities of organic MSW. Currently, under existing

exemption licences farmers are permitted to hold around 1,000m³ in the whole composting process at any one time. As a way of diversifying their business, composting organic MSW gave farmers a viable return with relatively small capital investment. Being expert land managers, farmers are able to compost this organic garden waste with other agricultural material and re-use it back on their land. Although seasonal, it has provided seven farmers with a modest, but steady income.

Who was involved and how

To set up the network, RDC officers worked with Land Network International, Environment Agency and NYCC. In particular officers worked with local farmers to ensure they understood and complied with the legislation and understood the practical aspects of windrow composting. (Refer to Garden Waste technical explanation).



Latest Achievement

With one of the farm sites (Givendale Head Farm near Ebberston) the process has been taken to a further stage of development with the application for a full waste management licence. This allows the farm to recycle other materials, as well as organic matter.

This farmer has decided to blend organic green waste and screen it to a level, acceptable to meet the nationally agreed quality standard

(PAS 100). Rather than being re-used on the farm, this farmer is able to sell his material on to the marketplace as a soil conditioner.

An innovative Street Cleansing pilot was set up in late 2008 with NYCC and the farmer to trial composting of street cleaning waste collected by RDC's mechanical sweepers during the winter period, mixed in with the collection of leaf fall. This scheme was developed further into 2009/10, composting street cleaning waste throughout the year, mixed in with garden waste collected from the rounds. PAS 100 quality has been maintained throughout the period, realizing environmental benefits with regard to a reduction in biodegradable material to landfill and a reduction in CO₂ emissions.

Next Steps

In addition, through the generation of Recycling Credits during the Autumn/Winter period RDC has been able to fund an additional street sweeping vehicle, providing local residents with cleaner streets. The scheme has been rolled out to other farms regarding the composting of leaf fall, enhancing efficiency regarding reduced road miles in particular benefiting the more rural areas due to the proximity of the farm to collection areas. Though already upper quartile regarding NI 195 street cleansing performance, the scheme will enhance performance in this area.

RDC is currently in negotiation with NYCC regarding the payment to RDC of re-use credits during Spring/Summer from savings in landfill tax. It is planned to hold a "Compost Give Away Day" during summer 2010 to demonstrate the end of the garden waste recycling process to residents and offer the opportunity to take some "free" composted material to use back as a soil conditioner in their gardens. This will complete the recycling loop.

Enhanced removal of detritus helps to alleviate some risk regarding surface water flooding, a major priority in Ryedale regarding adaptation to climate change (NI188) and obviously a major area of concern for our population. NB. NI 37 – awareness of civil protection arrangements in the area and NI 189, flood risk management, both being top quartile performance.

Resources and Value for Money

One of the hidden benefits of the scheme has been the general absence of large degrees of contamination. There is local recognition of the personal involvement of individual farmers by the community.

The project delivers against the aims of the Council Plan:

- Reduce CO₂ emissions from our own operations
- To increase recycling
- Reduce residual waste going to landfill
- Improve street and environmental cleanliness

The project has also resulted in:

- The network of local farms has meant that RDC has minimised transport movements, reduced vehicle mileage, enhanced efficiency and had a significant positive effect on NI 185.
- Local farmers benefit from diversification and additional income regarding gate fees paid.
- The local community has benefited with 8,000 tonnes of garden waste being composted each year, reducing local impacts of CO₂ emissions from landfill and vehicle emissions.
- Vehicle miles saved by comparison to composting at a central site. Estimated 12,831 miles per year saved, making rounds more efficient through reducing turnaround time.
- Increased efficiency regarding staff savings from reduced miles traveled, 1.15 staff p. a.
- RDC is amongst the top recyclers in the UK. IN PWC detail, RDC comes out as 2nd in its family group and top of Yorkshire and Humber. Despite being by far the highest recycler in The Yorkshire and Humber region for the 5th year running RDC costs for Waste Management are 2% below the SPARSE average.
- CO₂ savings due to on farm composting: Estimated: 38,199kgs CO₂ saving per year from reduced mileage.
- Sweeper waste composted- due to new cleansing initiative- that would have gone to landfill equates to 850.52 tonnes per year improving cleanliness and recycling levels.
- The community benefits as roads are cleansed to a higher level regarding the sweeping initiative as evidenced by NI 195.
- Cleaner roads with less detritus helps alleviate the risk of surface water flooding, a major risk regarding adaptation to climate change. RDC is upper quartile regarding NI 189, flood risk management.

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