

Delivering a Food Waste Service for High-rise Properties in Fife

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Fife

- Population - C. 370,000
- Area – 1235 sq km
- Mixture of urban and rural properties
- 3rd Largest LA in Scotland



Fife - Domestic Waste Collection

- Every week over 186,000 properties receive a bin collection service, (4 x waste streams: Landfill, Cans & Plastics, Food & Garden Waste and Paper & Cardboard) - Over 13 million bins collected per year
- 27 x 26t front line RCVs and 3 x 16.5t RCVs– Rural & Hard to Access – Approx 240 employees
- Twin shift system (Day shift 06:00 – 13:42 & Back shift 13:18 – 21:00)
- Moving to a new 4 day shift pattern October 2024

Trial Overview

Fife Council colleagues worked with Sustainable Sidekicks on a 12-week food waste collection trial in high rise properties taking a research and science-informed communications approach.

Trial objectives:

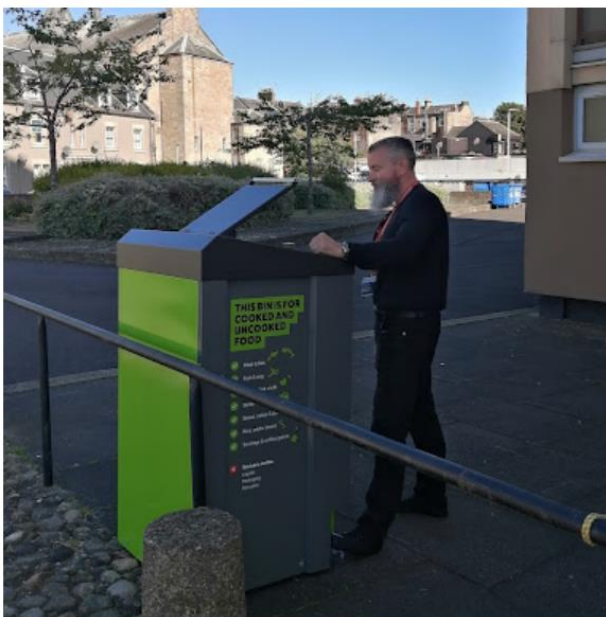
1. Maximise participation in food waste service
2. Learn about barriers and enablers
3. Trial communication materials
4. Gather insights for food waste service rollout across high and mid rise properties

Ravenscraig Flats Kirkcaldy

- 3 Flats each with 86 properties
- Mixture of 1 and 2 bedroom properties
- Mixed demographic of owners/private rent and council



- MetroSTOR FX-FP models were fitted with foot-pedal operated lids
- Touch free, making it easier for residents to participate in food waste disposal by enabling them to place their food into the container without touching the bin or lid – residents liked this



A bin in situ with a council employee using the foot pedal

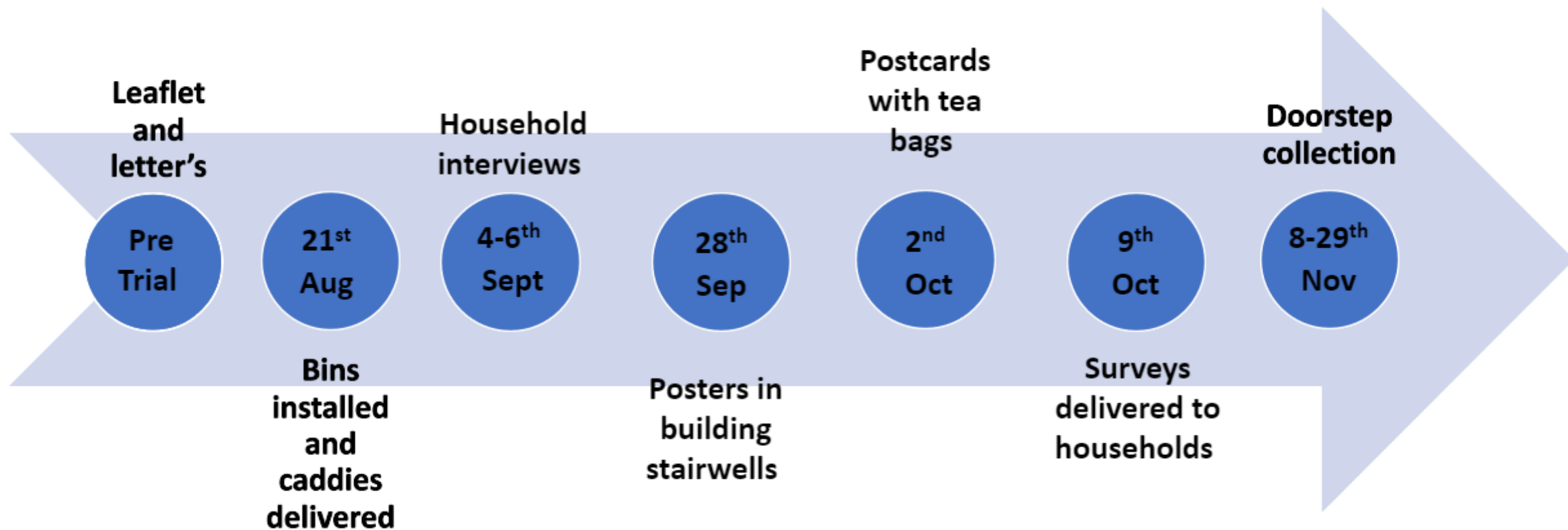


Food waste as a resource messaging



Food waste as a resource message positioning on side of bin

Project Timeline and Interventions



Intervention Examples

RAVENS CRAIG IS
COLLECTING
FOOD WASTE

WEEKLY COLLECTIONS:

BLOCK A	
BLOCK B	
BLOCK C	

IT'S TIME FOR A FRESH START FOR FOOD WASTE COLLECTIONS



Congratulations! You've been chosen specially.

Your estate has been selected to receive a fresh new food waste collection service. So you'll be able to put food waste in special bins, just outside your building.

You're the only estate that is being given these bins in the area for a 3-month trial.

It's a fresh start for the estate

We know local residents at Ravenscraig will make good use of this service, so we are offering you a service that makes it really easy and convenient.

Plus collecting food waste will help deter any rats, pigeons and foxes from the estate.

We'll give you a food waste caddy to keep in your kitchen – so you can easily collect any leftovers.

We'll give you bags to line the bins with.

The food waste bins will be just a few steps outside your building.

The bins will be emptied every week on a Thursday, and even more often if needed.

The bins have a pedal so you don't need to touch them.

Let us know how you are getting on

We want to hear from you about your experience. So will be in touch to ask for your thoughts and suggestions.

Any questions? Just get in touch.

We're going to give you all the information and support you need to easily collect your food waste, but if you have any questions in the meantime, please email us at: recycling.advisers@fife.gov.uk



THIS BIN IS FOR COOKED AND UNCOOKED FOOD

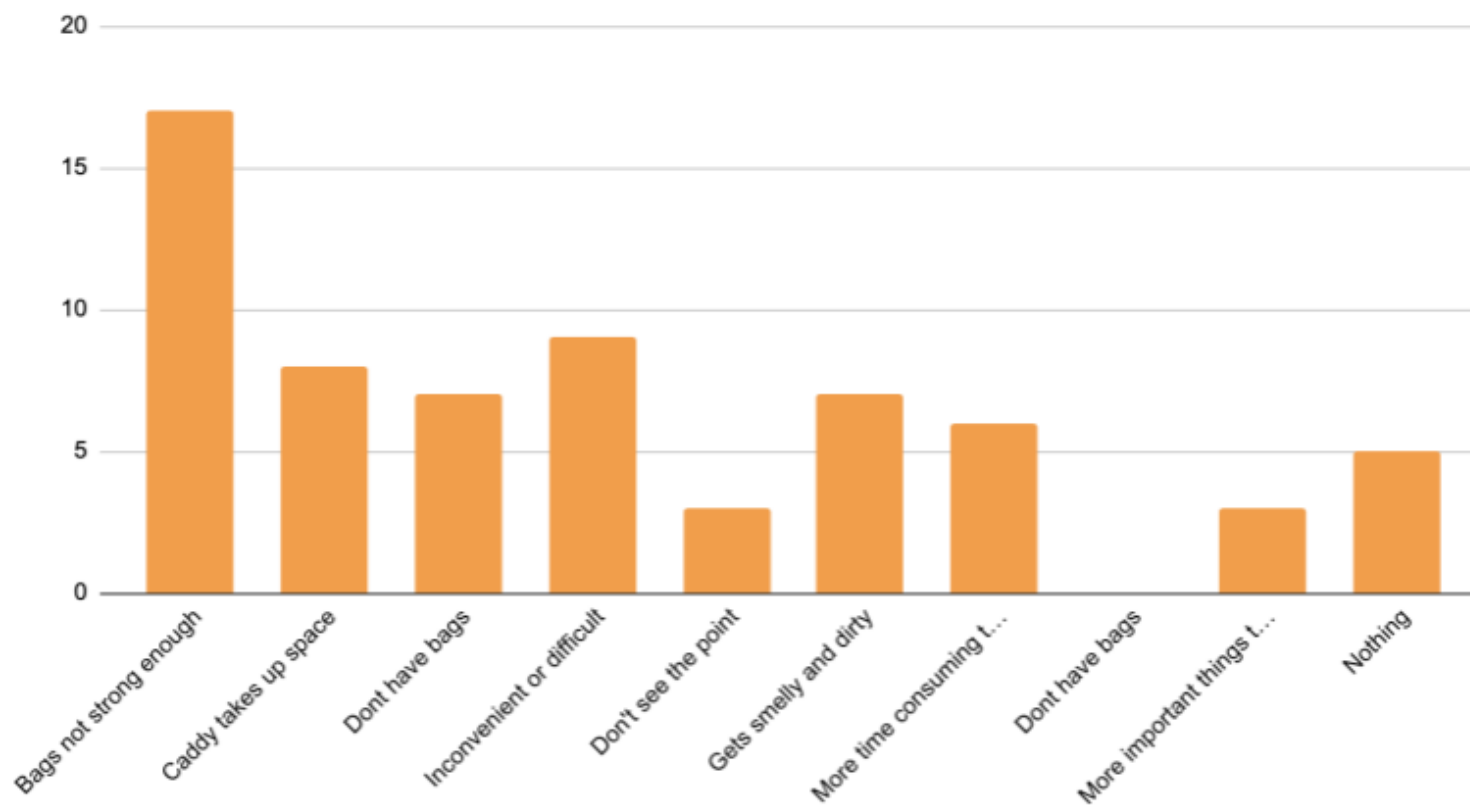
- ✓ Meat & fish
- ✓ Fruit & veg
- ✓ Eggs & their shells
- ✓ Butter & cheese
- ✓ Bread, cakes & pastries
- ✓ Rice, pasta, beans
- ✓ Tea bags & coffee grinds

- ✗ This bin is not for:
 Liquids
 Packaging
 Pet waste



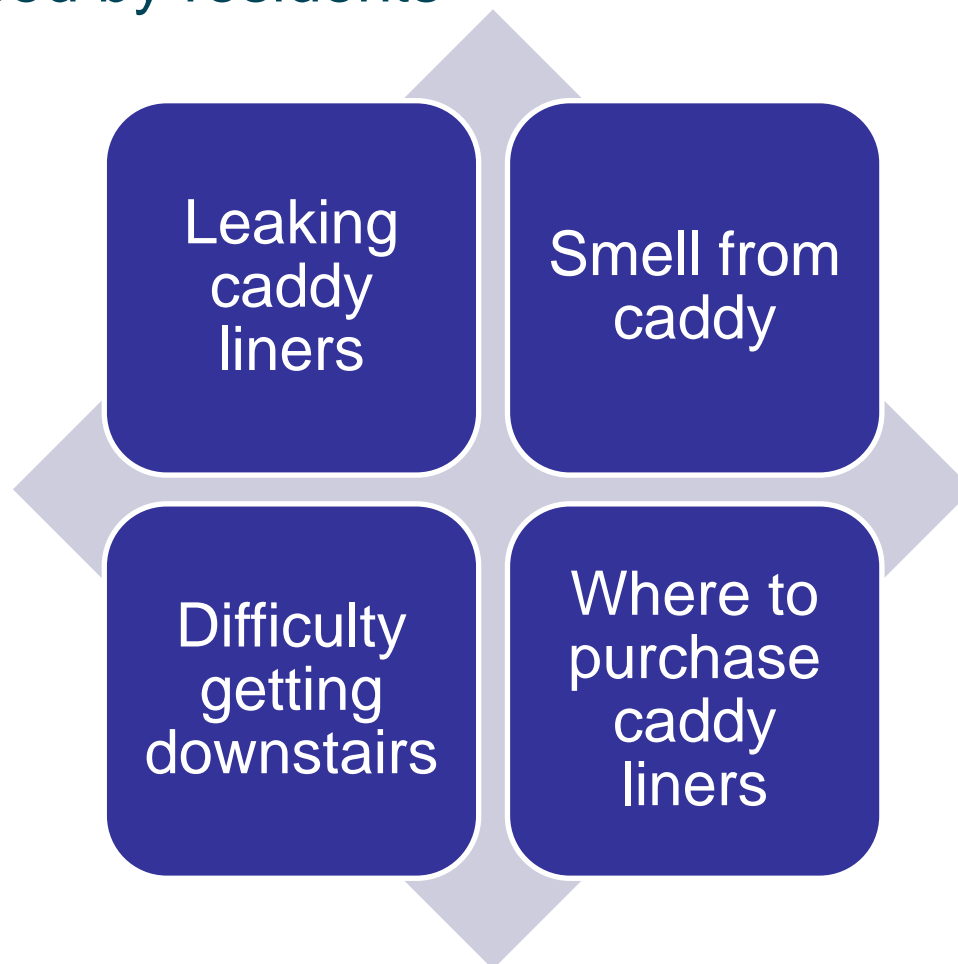
Survey Results

What, if anything, is off putting to you? (Please tick all that are relevant to you)



In-person Interview's

Main challenges raised by residents

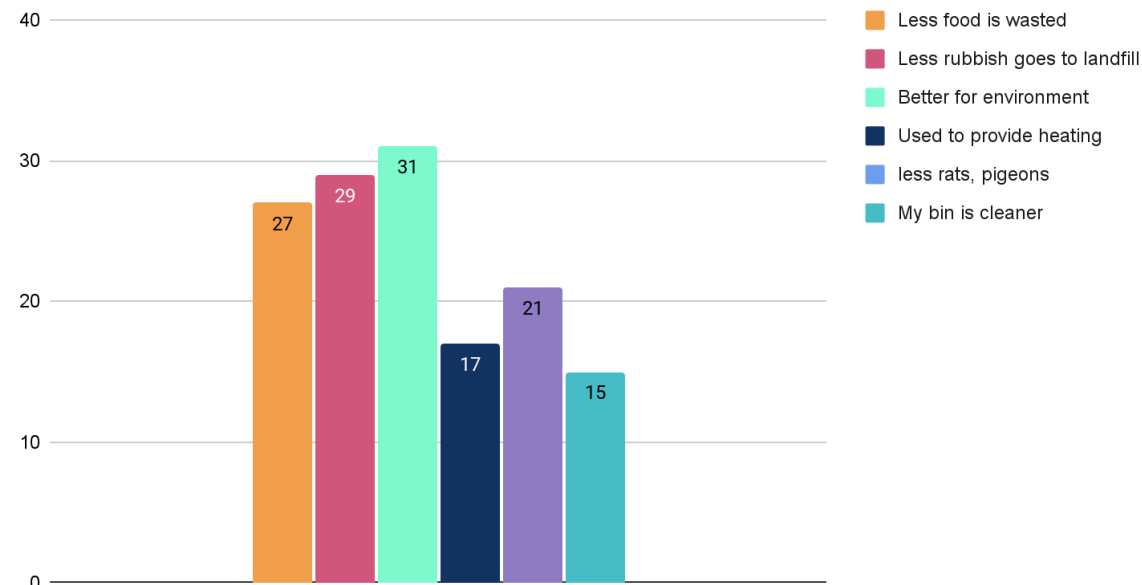


Interviews and Surveys

Benefits raised by the residents:

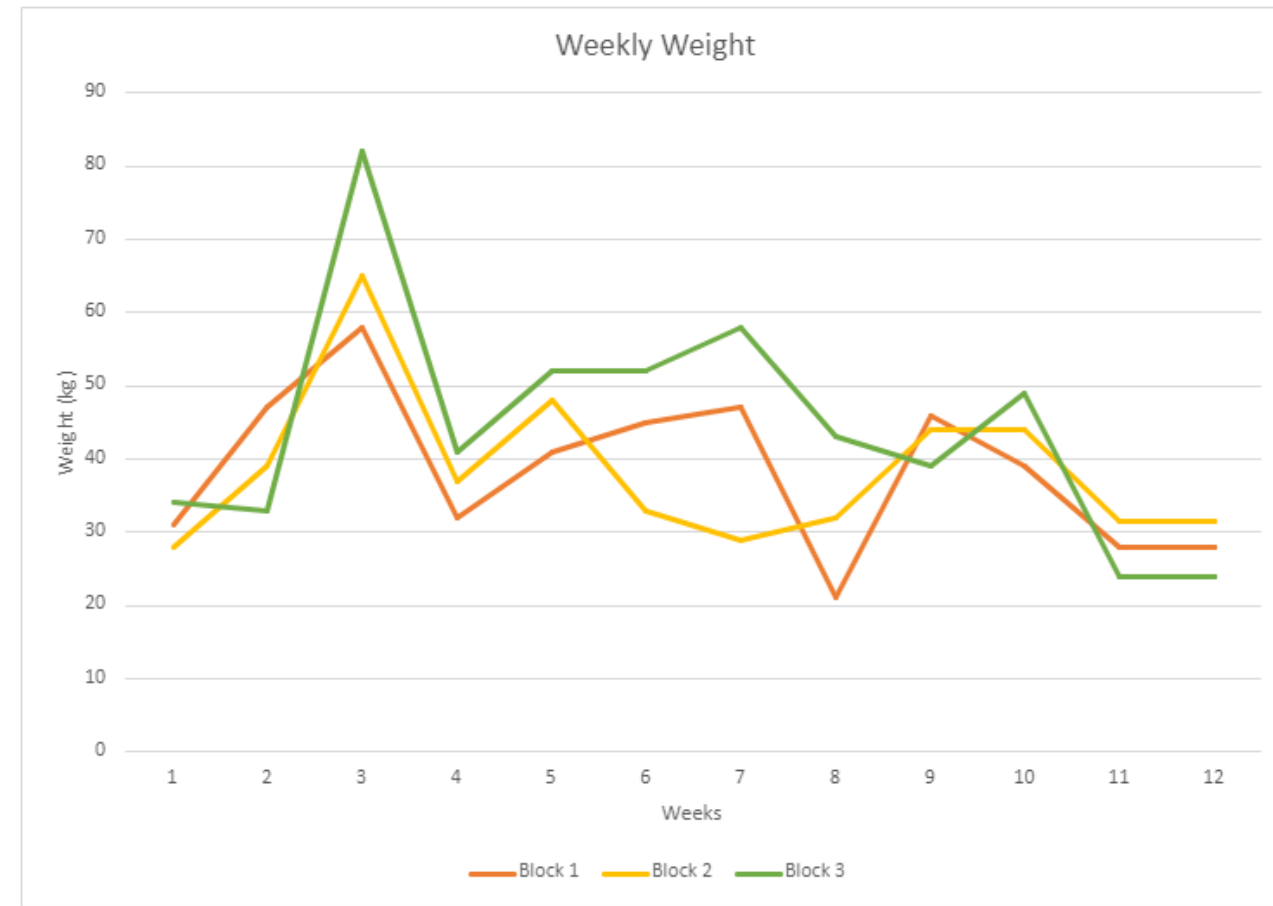
- We have heard from local residents and caretakers about the benefits:
- *“My general waste bin is cleaner and I need to go to the chute less”*
- *“With less food waste going down the chute, the chute and corridors will smell less”*
- *“My waste bin at 173 -258 is packed full and the difference in smell in the bin store it has made a big improvement.” Paul Erskine, **Caretaker***

Why do you think it is a good idea to collect food waste separately from the general waste?
(Please tick all that are relevant to you)



Waste Figures and Trends

- Average of 45kg per week
- Peak in weight on week 3 when Council staff and researcher's on site to conduct interviews
- Weights peaked again on week 7 when postcards were delivered
- Some weeks two collections took place as bins were full by the beginning of the week
- There was contamination one week from takeaway material



Fife Wide Rollout – recommendations

Infrastructure

- **Ease and convenience** - Locate as close to buildings as possible to make it as easy as possible for people to use the service, like non-flat residents.
- **Stronger caddy liners** - Supply a quantity (three- four rolls) of 16-micron thickness liners (rather than the thinner quality ones provided at present due to internal cost-saving measures).
- **Bin design** - Choose high-quality bins that include pedals, and reduced aperture. Plan to put litter bins alongside them if contamination is found.
- **Doorstep collection** - If practical offer a doorstep collection for housebound residents where caretakers can facilitate.

Fife Wide Rollout – recommendations

Communication

- **Pre-launch comms** - Plan a pre-launch round of communications to let people know it is coming so that they feel involved and informed
- **Benefits to households** - All communications and leaflets focus on the benefits to the households and their blocks of flats
- **Pictorial checklists** - Include caddy stickers and bins with salient pictorial checklists that include icons of what goes in the bin and what does not.
- **Feedback** - Provide feedback on food waste collected and usage so people know their actions are making a difference and others are acting.
- **Address rumours and fears** - Address rumours and fears around vermin to avoid rumours escalating and the food bins being the root of the problem.
- **Answer uncertainties** - Advise people on where to get caddy liners from and alternative free ways to line the bin.

Feedback to residents to reinforce behaviours

- Posters
- Tenants magazine articles
- Newspaper articles
- Motivating users to keep going
- Highlighting the impact of their efforts
- Reinforcing it as a social norm

“Wow that’s the same as 20 bags of coal”

Cleansing Food Survey Kirkcaldy

Thanks, Ravenscraig

The Waste Collection team at Fife Council would like to say a huge THANK YOU to all of you who have been using the food waste service since it was installed. This was a pilot project to assess how well this service could work in a high-rise block.

Many thanks to all the survey respondents, your responses were really insightful with 67% of the respondents using the food waste bin.

The 12-week pilot has now ended, and we can confirm that the service will continue at Ravenscraig. Plus the Waste Collection team have plans to roll it out across the rest of Fife.

Sandy Anderson, Service Manager- Waste Operations

“I would like to personally thank all of the Ravenscraig residents for taking part in this trial. A trial of this nature with food waste has never been tried before in a high-rise block and the results have exceeded what was expected. I now aim to roll food waste units out across Fife to every high-rise block and hope that all the residents embrace recycling food waste as well as the residents of Ravenscraig have.”

Benefits you have noticed

We have heard from local residents and caretakers about the benefits:

- *“My general waste bin is cleaner and I need to go to the chute less”*
- *“With less food waste going down the chute, the chute and corridors will smell less”*

“My waste bin at 173 -258 is packed full and the difference in smell in the bin store it has made a big improvement.” Paul Erskine, Caretaker

- AMAZING EFFORT!

Every little bit has power!

We are pleased to announce that well over 1 tonne was deposited in 12 weeks. Which as a resident said “that is the same as 20 bags of coal”.

- One banana skin can charge a mobile phone twice-
- 32 bananas will power a family home for One hour!
- 100 tonnes of food waste a day can generate enough energy to power 800-1400 homes each year.

Reasons for collecting food waste

- The food waste goes to a processing plant that generates energy and fertilizer.
- The energy goes to heat care and retirement homes, Carnegie leisure centre, a supermarket, local art gallery and 388 houses on the local heating network in Dunfermline.
- The fertilizer is sold to local farmers.




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Your opportunity to participate

Fife wide rollout and next steps

- The findings and data from the trial were used to write an application for Zero Waste Scotland's Recycling Improvement Fund
- In December 2023 our application was successful
- The team are now working to rollout a food collection service across the 12 high-rise and 18 mid-rise blocks in Fife
- Next steps potentially will be chute closures for all high-rise blocks
- Dunfermline city centre and St Andrews town centre??

Thank you

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