

East Ayrshire Council - Food Waste



recycle for East Ayrshire

Everyone has



waste

Play your part in the fight against climate change and use your food caddy



Why should we stop sending food waste to landfill?
When food waste breaks down in landfill it gives off methane gas, which contributes to climate change and is a waste of a valuable product that can be recycled.

Help us care for our climate
#EANetZero
#EAClimateAction



Lost your indoor or outdoor Food Caddy?
Call 01863 894033
www.east-ayrshire.gov.uk/recycling



East Ayrshire Council
Comhairle Siorrachd Air an Ear



East Ayrshire Council - Food Waste



- Introduction to Food Waste Recycling
- The Importance of Data
- Why Communication and Engagement are Key
- Future Projects

Introduction of Food Waste in EAC



- Introduction of the Trolley Box System & Food Waste Caddy in 2017
- In 2018 food waste accounted for 5.2% of the total weight of waste produced in EAC
- Following on from the WCA & establishing a Food Waste Working Group Initial spikes in food waste tonnage were noticed in the data in early 2022 following on from the sticker campaign
- Tonnage began to decrease in early 2023 as people were now reacting to the Cost Of Living Crisis and changing their behaviour
- Currently in 2024 we have increased food waste collections to 6.1% which equates to a 17.3% overall increase in participation from our residents
- The total food waste tonnage has remained steady throughout the campaigns at approx. 3000 tonnes, while overall general waste has reduced from 53,500 to 50,000 tonnes pa.
- These pattern show that residents are listening and being encouraged by our campaigns

How did we get there?



- 2021 Waste Composition Analysis
- Establishing a Food Waste Working Group
- Keeping a track of Data
- Recruiting Community Waste Officers
- Working closely with Schools

Waste Composition Analysis Results



- In March 2021 we conducted WCA of our general waste bins within the authority
- Data analysis reported that of residual waste being discarded 40% was food waste
- Of the 40% food waste, 30% was avoidable food waste such as unopened food packets, out of date meats, unused fruit & vegetables, unused eggs, unopened yogurts, micro meals - ££££ being thrown away
- This extremely alarming data resulted in a working group being put together immediately to tackle food waste



Why Communication & Engagement are key



- Food Waste Working Group meet every 8 weeks since April 2021 resulting in completed campaigns projects:
- Food Waste Bin Sticker in Winter 2021
- Food Technology Information Booklet for Schools
- Food Waste Bin Hanger in Winter 2022
- Cost of Living Crisis 2022-23
- Eco Cook Book for Community Larders & Hubs



The Importance of Data



- In 2024 EAC has 62,300 households of which 59,270 have the option to participate in Food Waste Recycling
- **Recent street surveys in Jan 2024 showed:**
- Currently we have a presentation rate of 46.72% within the authority
- 27,690 caddies presented weekly for collection by the romaquip crews
- A varied participation rate from 87% in affluent areas to as low as 10% in areas of high deprivation
- We have many ongoing projects currently in place to increase this participation rate

Community Waste Officers



Community Waste Officers



- In 2023 we employed 5 Community Waste Officers
- Job role to educate & support the residents and schools within EAC on all aspects of recycling and managing their waste correctly
- Attending Community Events / Promotional Opportunities
- Attending School assemblies and community nights
- Supporting Cleaner Communities with all aspects of engagement with our residents
- CWO's – Range from MA's promotion to long term employees

Schools Education Initiative

“Dinnae Forget your Caddy”



- Campaign throughout all EAC schools & ELC to promote food waste in a fun interactive way
- Name your caddy contest with prizes for the best names
- Over 181 parents have requested a food waste caddy with pupils taking ownership of food waste at home & encouraging their parents



School Romaquip Visits



Our Community Waste officers have been visiting all education establishments with a 17 week programme ensuring to visit every location this term, giving every school a chance to win a Bronze/Silver/Gold award at the Clean Green Education Awards ceremony on 11th June by demonstrating their understanding of Food Waste Recycling.



Thing Link



Primary schools

Name Your family's kerbside Caddy!

We didnae forget our Caddy!

Dinnae Forget Your Caddy!

Cairey's Competitions

Parent/Carer News

Cairey's Challenge

Lessons & activities

- Potato waste
- Compost Wormery
- Compost in a bottle
- Food Energy
- Data Literacy

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thinglink

Thing Link



Compost Wormery

Starting a wormery

- Use an old plant pot or plastic box, with an open bottom and breathable holes on top.
- Keep your wormery in a sheltered bit in the garden.
- At the bottom, place some old compost or soil.
 - Add the worms
- Cover with small amounts of kitchen waste.

Compost

- Any raw vegetables, except for onions, shallots, leeks and garlic that are best used in small amounts or cooked first
 - Any cooked vegetables
- All fruit, except citrus peel, which needs to be limited
- Tea bags, eggshells, coffee grounds and small amounts of bread
- Limited amounts of paper (shredded)
 - Small amounts of garden waste

Compost

- Dairy products, fat, grease, meat, fish and bones
- Larger quantities of tough leaves and woodier material

Top tips

- Add small amounts of water if the compost is looking dry
- An established wormery can be left up to 4 weeks with no food.
- If any unwanted pests come - put a layer of newspaper before adding more waste.



Initial Results from Schools Initiative



- Using Darvel town as a test case, interim results from a participation survey found there was an increase of caddy usage by 1.5% in the period of the school initiative running.
- Capturing the full authority would increase to over 400 new users, at current disposal rate give a value of over £5,000 in cost avoidance for the council.
- Next year we will be continuing the collaboration with Education to build on food waste recycling
- Higher focus on participation in food waste recycling now that we have introduced the focus on food in pupils homes.

Communal Bins Food Waste Introduction



- April 2024 Introduced food recycling to 675 flatted properties
- £19,000 grant from Zero Waste Scotland for communal bins
- Current participation is 1.88kg/hh/wk VS WCA on a flat being 1.03kg/hh/wk
- Flatted properties require targeted approach of CWO visits
- Neighbourhood coaches & school initiative to increase participation
- Next phase is Street Hubs for 481 properties that have no food waste recycling currently



Thank you for Listening



Questions

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