

APSE Scotland Waste and Recycling advisory group

23 November 2018, Chatelherault Country Park, Hamilton

Minutes of this meeting

#### 1. Introduction and welcome

The Chair of the advisory group Councillor Peter Craig from South Lanarkshire Council opened the meeting by welcoming all to Chatelherault Country Park.

#### 2. Attendance and apologies

See attached.

#### 3. Minutes of Previous Meeting held 7 September 2018

The minutes of the previous meeting were deemed to be a true and accurate record.

#### 4. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

#### **5. SEPA's Household waste summary, waste landfilled, waste incinerated – Official Statistics Publication for Scotland – January to December 2017**

Peter Ferrett from the SEPA Dataflows Unit **attended the advisory group to present on SEPA's household statistics and landfill/incineration statistics.** In 2017, Scottish household waste generated fell by 1.5% from 2016, and 5.6% from 2011. Waste generated has levelled off since 2013. The household waste recycling rate was 45.6%, an increase of 0.6 points from 2016 and 6.0 points since 2011. For the first time, more household waste was recycled (1.12 mt) than landfilled (1.11 mt). Paper and cardboard were the highest waste material recycled, however recycling has declined since 2011. Food waste recycled has increased by 450% (82,000 t) from 2011 levels. Landfilling of household waste declined year on year each year since 2011. There has been an increase in incineration by 117% since 2011.

Peter also demonstrated how to use the Household Waste Discover Data tool that is hosted at <https://www.environment.gov.scot/data/data-analysis/household-waste/>. The tool presents data on the generation and management of Scottish household waste. The amount of Scottish household waste generated and managed (recycled, other diversion from landfill and landfilled) for each of the 32 local authorities in Scotland is available for 2011-2017. The tool allows you to compare performance in graph and map form, and supports the download of this information in CSV format (comma separated values) for use in Microsoft Excel and other packages.

Waste landfilled (not just household waste) increased in 2017 by 2.4% mainly due to increase in soils landfilled. BMW landfilled decreased by 4.9% from 2016 levels. Waste incinerated increased by 12.2% from 2016 to 2017; this increased was primarily due to rubber wastes incinerated. The predominant material incinerated is wood wastes, incinerated by co-incineration.

## 6. Red-tagging of bins initiative

**Kirsty McGuire from South Lanarkshire Council provided the group with an overview of the Council's red-tagging of contaminated bins initiative. Kirsty began by explaining the Council's previous recycling contract which had been in place since 2006 where a gate-fee applied, the quality and compositional risk was with the contractor and recycling performance was set out in the terms and conditions as being 95% minimum with no guarantees to the contractor about quality. This also left all of the risk from market fluctuations with the contractor.**

During an extensive market testing exercise prior to a new tender made it clear that contractors were no longer willing to accept risk; this meant that it would be necessary for the council to change its attitude towards risk in order to attract market interest and guarantee Best Value.

The new contract commenced on 1 April 2018 and on the delivery of the first 14 loads on 16 April 2018, 9 were rejected. This led to a 4 Phase Intervention Plan being devised.

- Phase 1: Short term operational changes
- Phase 2: Communication and awareness raising
- **Phase 3: Yellow 'information tags'**
- Phase 4: Formal service standard (red tags)

Phase 1 - Changes were introduced to divert heavily contaminated material away from the processor, with visual checks by loaders, who would then deliver acceptable material to processors and rejected bins to Rigmuir for landfilling. Phase 2 – website content was reviewed, the bin stickering programme was underway, internal communications were undertaken (global e-mails, briefings to housing/social work, and meetings/briefings to contact centre staff), social media updates were released, A5 flyers were delivered to all households and the issue was picked up by local and national press. Phase 3 – this phase commenced between July and August, with contaminated bins being yellow tagged. Yellow tagged bins were collected with residual bins the following week. Phase 4 – red tagged bins were not emptied, with householders required to remove contamination and re-present 4 weeks later or they had to take their waste to the HWRC.

In the first month of the red tag initiative, 4,390 properties out of 121,295 received a red tag and there were 194 enquiries received by the Waste Education Team. Blue bin material accepted by the processor increased from 362 tonnes in April to 792 tonnes in October. The net monthly contract cost increased from minus £48,200 to £3,730.

Future plans for the service include rolling red tags out to all recyclable and compostable waste streams, keeping the crews motivated, continued education and awareness training, on-going householder communications and planning for a new tendering exercise.

## 7. Discussion of issues affecting service delivery

There were a range of discussion topics that included: unknown substance protocols, kerbside glass collection, whether any authorities were collecting food waste separately from garden waste, Vegware to replace the use of plastic for catering, assisted pull-out policies and the health and safety risks associated with this, charging for replacement recycling bins, endorsements from organisations to assist with recycling improvement and several others.

8. APSE update

Garry Lee from APSE provided a comprehensive overview of the work of the Association including **recent briefings and publications, as well as an update on APSE's Performance Networks, Energy, Training and Solutions services.**

9. Date of next meeting – Friday 1 February 2019

10. Lunch

Attendee List

Name	Council
Garry Lee	APSE
John Mundell	APSE Associate
Ailsa Cunningham	Argyll & Bute Council
Scott Walker	Clackmannanshire Council
Cllr Donald Balsillie	Clackmannanshire Council
Anne Doubleday	Dumfries & Galloway Council
Nina Cameron	Dundee City Council
Stephen Dickie	East Dunbartonshire Council
Maureen McColl	East Dunbartonshire Council
Stuart Wood	East Lothian Council
Gillian Blaney	East Renfrewshire Council
Michelle Thompson	East Renfrewshire Council
Ross Vettrains	Fife Council
Steven Andrews	North Ayrshire Council
Tony Burns	North Lanarkshire Council
Kerry Tierney	North Lanarkshire Council
Lynn O'Neill	North Lanarkshire Council
Peter Ferrett	SEPA
Paul Dougall	South Ayrshire Council
Kirsty McGuire	South Lanarkshire Council
Nicola Maher	South Lanarkshire Council
Andrew MacDonald	South Lanarkshire Council
Bob Black	South Lanarkshire Council
Cllr Peter Craig	South Lanarkshire Council
Charlie Kelly	South Lanarkshire Council
Cllr Stephanie Callaghan	South Lanarkshire Council
Gavin Hutton	Stirling Council
Kevin McCormick	Stirling Council
Karen King	West Lothian Council
David Goodenough	West Lothian Council
Lindsey Patterson	West Lothian Council

Apologies

Sheila Best	Perth & Kinross Council
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