

20. KERBSIDE COLLECTION REFUSE AND RECYCLABLES

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Corporate Plan Output: Solid Waste	

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on future short to medium term directions for the kerbside refuse and recyclable collection.

BACKGROUND

The Council's refuse and recyclable collection system has evolved over a number of years. It is very effective and compared with more sophisticated wheelie bin systems, it is also very low cost. Of the services that the Council provides, our refuse system is considered by the public to be the best by very significant margin – refer attachment. For these reasons it would be imprudent to consider radical changes to the collection system at this point in time.

Nevertheless in terms of achieving increased economies and the Council's goal of zero waste to landfill by 2020, various enhancements to the refuse/recyclable collection system are under consideration. These are briefly outlined below and will be considered by a subcommittee of Councillor O'Rourke, Councillor Buck, Mr Newbury and staff who will report back to this committee in the near future.

PROBABLE NEW INITIATIVES

The following initiatives are under consideration:

(a) **Recyclables**

- Collection of almost all grades of mixed paper including advertising literature, magazines, milk cartons the like. This paper will be processed by the Recovered Materials Foundation in a collaborative joint venture with others.
- In addition to PET (plastic soft drink bottles) and HDPE (plastic milk bottles), collection of other mixed plastic containers (eg detergent bottles).
- Collection of domestic kitchen putrescibles for composting in a new invessel compost plant. This could be via biodegradable supermarket bags used as kitchen tidy liners with handles knotted and placed at kerbside.

(b) **Refuse**

- A change from delivery of plastic refuse bags direct to residents to a system of coupon mailout. Coupons will be redeemable for refuse bags at supermarkets. This will reduce cost. Note that this initiative is covered in more detail in a separate report to this Committee.
- A possible reduction in either number of refuse bags or size of each bag balanced by an increased range of recyclable collection (see above).

EFFECT ON ONYX COLLECTION CONTRACT

Our contract with Onyx has a trigger point of 12,100 tonnes of collected recyclables above which the Council pays for additional collected tonnage. This trigger point has now been exceeded and we are in dialogue with Onyx concerning modifications to existing recycling trucks and extra trucks to cope with naturally occurring increase in quantities as well as increases due to the above new initiatives. It is to be noted that increased recycling collection costs are (at least partially) offset by reduced refuse tonnage and an associated reduced cost for this.

SUMMARY

To get anyway near its goal of zero waste to landfill by 2020 this Council needs to push forward with a variety of waste minimisation initiatives. Some of these which relate to the kerbside refuse and recycling system are foreshadowed in this report.

It should be noted that the Strategy and Resources Budget Committee recommended that \$300,000 and \$200,000 be allowed on the draft 2000/2001 budget for kerbside collection of extra grades of mixed paper and plastic respectively.

Chairman's

Recommendation: That the information be received.