



Food Waste Collection Trial in Mid Beds

Presentation by
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Background

- ◆ Introduction of AWC in October 2004
- ◆ 240 Litre bins for recyclables and residual waste
- ◆ Reusable sacks for garden waste
- ◆ Significant increase in recycling and reduction in total waste collected.



Why do it?

- ◆ Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme
- ◆ Recycling performance
- ◆ WRAP and Select Committee guidance on food waste collections supporting AWC
- ◆ Public concern on health

Setting up:

- ◆ Joint funded by Beds CC and WRAP
- ◆ First leaflet to 6,000 properties
- ◆ Deliver containers, sacks and second leaflet
- ◆ Door knocking
- ◆ Identifying problems, e.g. communal properties

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

Q. Why are we doing this?

A. Around 16% of the waste in your bin is food waste. Playing your part in the trial will mean you can recycle even more waste and we can landfill even less!

Q. Will the food in my bin smell?

A. Not if you empty your caddy regularly into the outside bin and wipe it clean after use. Remember to tie the corn starch bags or wrap the food in newspaper before putting it into the outside bin.

Q. I don't have time to do this - why should I have to?

A. It's important to reduce the amount of waste we send to landfill. Also the composting process we use produces gas which are used to create renewable energy which is fed into the national grid. This scheme is very easy to use once it is part of your day-to-day routine.

Q. Why can't I use plastic bags to line my caddy?

A. Plastic bags don't rot down properly upon the composting process and contaminate the end product. Even bags and packaging which may say it is biodegradable is not suitable. If you run out of bags use a sheet of newspaper to wrap food in. We'll tell you how to get more bags at a later date.

Q. I compost at home already. Why should I use this scheme?

A. Please carry on composting your uncooked vegetable and fruit peelings in your compost bin or heap. Use the food waste collection for cooked leftovers which you can't home compost.

Q. What about vermin?

A. Your outside bin has a lockable lid to stop vermin getting in so it can safely be left outside until your next collection.

TIPS FOR RECYCLING YOUR FOOD WASTE



You don't actually need to line your caddy at all or bag or double bag your food waste. If you run out of bags you can use newspaper instead.



Keep your kitchen caddy clean by rinsing with old washing up water. The caddy can then go in the dishwasher.



Make sure your food waste bin is out for collection by 7:00 am on your usual collection day.



If your whole family recycling? Keep as many of your rubbish bin to make use of!



Keep your outside bin clean by tying your corn starch bags when they are full or wrapping the food in newspaper before it goes in.



As a saving £100 worth of food per year is thrown away in the UK every year. Do not buy or cook more food than you need - it's not money food!

If you have any questions about the new Food Waste Collection Trial please contact the Mid Beds Customer Services Team on 08452 304040 / 01462 41232 or e-mail customer.services@midbeds.gov.uk.

If you would like this leaflet translated into another language or in large print please call 01324 230583.

The leaflet is printed on recycled paper with vegetable inks.



RECYCLE NOW

YOUR NEW FOOD WASTE COLLECTION TRIAL

INSTRUCTIONS INSIDE

Working in partnership:

Bedfordshire county council

MID BEDS DISTRICT COUNCIL

recycle

YOUR NEW FOOD WASTE COLLECTION TRIAL

We need your help to reduce the amount of waste which ends up in landfill. From week commencing 24th April 2009, Mid Beds District Council in partnership with Bedfordshire County Council is introducing a new weekly kerbside FOOD WASTE collection trial in your area.

The trial will run for 12 months. You should have received two new bins and 2 rolls of bio-degradable bags.

1. An outside collection bin

2. A kitchen Caddy

3. Two rolls of biodegradable corn starch bags

If you have not received all of these things please call 08452 304040 or 01462 41232.

Once collected your food waste will be taken to a special processing facility where it is treated in a fully enclosed vessel. As the food breaks down the temperature is carefully controlled. This is to ensure the waste food reaches a high enough temperature over a long enough period of time to kill any bacteria.

The finished product is totally sterile and can be used as a soil conditioner for general agricultural purposes - to grow more crops, vegetables and fruit. The process also produces gas which are used to make renewable energy which is fed into the national grid, so you could be helping your kettle using electricity made from your food waste!



Collection

- ◆ Following existing rounds
- ◆ Both operatives are drivers
- ◆ One load per day
- ◆ Participation and tonnage



Disposal

- ◆ Biogen – north of Bedford
- ◆ Feedstock – pig slurry, waste food from supermarkets and material from trial
- ◆ Energy generation
- ◆ Liquid fertiliser for host farm



Costs

- ◆ Liners for kitchen caddies expensive
- ◆ Containers – approx. £5.00 per household
- ◆ Gate fee at disposal site - £30.00 per tonne
- ◆ Over £600K to go district wide – just collection with MBDC providing vehicles
- ◆ Education and Promotional Materials

Conclusion

- ◆ Successful trial
- ◆ Popular with householders
- ◆ Supported by many Members
- ◆ Report to Members in December