

**CABINET MEMBER FOR GROWTH & INFRASTRUCTURE
25 NOVEMBER 2010**

**HOUSEHOLD WASTE RECYCLING CENTRES – OPERATING,
ACCESS AND WASTE ACCEPTANCE POLICY**

Report by Interim Head of Sustainable Development

Introduction

1. Oxfordshire currently has eight Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) in operation. The operation of these sites has been subcontracted to three operators, Viridor Waste Management Ltd, Waste Recycling Group Ltd and Weymouth and Sherbourne Recycling Ltd.
2. Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) monitor and manage the contracts in place to ensure the HWRCs are operated in accordance with EU and national legislation, health and safety requirements and within the terms of the Environment Agency Permit; ensuring a safe and accessible site for all Oxfordshire's householders.

Purpose of policy implementation

3. The HWRC – Operating, Access and Waste Acceptance Policy, is an amalgamation of the site rules and policies OCC currently have in operation at the HWRCs. The purpose of the document is to link, clarify and ensure consistency across sites in enforcement of site rules and policies.
4. The document is one point of reference for employees of OCC, contractors and members of the public/site users.
5. An apathetic attitude towards enforcement has meant an inconsistent approach to policies by site staff. This is being rectified through staff re-training and the instigation of meet and greets on site. The Operating, Access and Waste Acceptance Policy will give the written basis of support to site staff when approaching or being approached by members of the public.
6. HWRCs have in place a 'meet and greet' at or near the entrance to each site. The meet and greets have been instigated at all HWRCs since 1 September 2010, and the primary role remains to assist customers and ensure site rules are applied universally and fairly to all site users.
7. The Tyre and DIY '123 for Free' policies have been in place for a number of years and subsequently have been refreshed to ensure they are inline with current legislation.

Changes to DIY 1,2,3 for Free scheme

8. The DIY '1,2,3 for Free' scheme has been in place since 2000. The Council does not have a duty to provide a free disposal point for such waste under current legislation.
9. The proposed DIY '1,2,3 for Free' scheme allows householders to dispose of up to three items of DIY waste, or 3 sacks (80ltr) of DIY waste or plasterboard per calendar month for free. Householders may dispose of further items, or equivalent 80ltr sacks, of waste but at a charge of £1 per item up to a maximum of 10 (making a total of 13) in any one calendar month.
10. The alterations to the scheme have clarified what an 'item' is, removed the none specific 'other DIY wastes' and added in material streams, namely plasterboard and carpet. The charging for tree stumps, tree trunks and fence panels has been removed. However, an upper limit of 6 fence panels per month has been added to prevent abuse by trade persons.
11. Restrictions on accepting loose material have been added; only bagged material can be accepted. There is currently a 'negotiation' style approach to charging by the site staff for mixed/undefinable DIY waste. Some householders use a trailer and/or an open back vehicle, (due to ease of loading) and therefore will be reluctant to bag the waste. Unbagged waste in trailers will be charged at a set rate of £5 per load, equivalent to 8 'items' or in this case 8 x 80 litre sacks. This prevents inaccurate charging of householders as the need to estimate the quantity by the site staff has been removed.
12. Policy Statement 4 in the HWRC - Operating, Access and Waste Acceptance Policy (Appendix 1) contains full detail on the DIY '1,2,3' for Free scheme.

Changes to tyre recycling scheme

13. Tyres are banned from entering the landfill containers at HWRCs. Under SI 2002/1559 of the Landfill Directive, whole tyres were banned from Landfill in 2003 and shredded tyres in 2006. Under the legislation tyres are not classified as household waste and therefore a charge can be made towards the cost of collection and disposal.
14. The original scheme designated a two tier charging scheme for car or motorcycle tyres or an oversized tyre. Oversized tyres were defined as anything with a wheel hub rim of 18inch or above. Tyres from commercial enterprises and tractor/ lorry tyres are not accepted.
15. The suggested change is that a single charge of £2.50 per tyre be implemented for all tyres up to 20 inch hub. This encompasses a fairer system for owners of 4x4s and simplifies cash handling for site staff, but still prevents the acceptance of large tyres such as those from lorries or tractors, (these tyres are deemed to be commercial waste).

16. The current limit of 5 tyres per visit and a maximum of 2 visits per year is to remain.

Communications

17. The Operations, Access and Waste Acceptance Policy will be placed on the OCC website and copies made available at the HWRCs.
18. The DIY '1,2,3, for Free' scheme will be re-launched with a communications programme run during the 'grace period' of the Van and Trailer Permit Scheme. Both schemes will be fully implemented by 31 January 2011. The current DIY scheme is over 10 years old and many householders are no longer aware of the system, as proven during the last customer satisfaction survey (June 2010) 68% of respondents were not aware of the scheme.

Financial and Staff Implications

19. It is not expected the changes to the DIY '123 for Free' or Tyres charging will effect the revenue received from the HWRCs. Last years income was £16,984 set against the disposal cost for inert containers £195,782 including transport. Revenue raised from the scheme will look to be reinvested into local or onsite reuse and recycling projects in addition to covering the costs of tyre disposal.
20. Revenue at Redbridge HWRC has increased since the introduction of a meet and greet which occurred ahead of the other HWRC sites. This is due to the universal application of site rules rather than the previous 'ad hoc' approach by site staff. The primary role of the meet and greet is to assist members of the public.

Equalities impact

21. An equalities impact assessment has been carried out for the HWRCs and the policy and procedures reflect the outcomes.

Sustainability issues

22. The policies outlined in the HWRC - Operating, Access and Waste Acceptance Policy ensure that health and safety and legislative requirements are fulfilled whilst operating the HWRCs. The policy also looks to complement the waste hierarchy and maximise recycling at the HWRCs.

RECOMMENDATION

23. **The Cabinet for Growth & Infrastructure is RECOMMENDED to approve the annexed HWRC – Operating, Access and Waste Acceptance Policy and changes to DIY 1,2,3 for Free and Tyre policy as set out in the report.**

MARTIN TUGWELL

Interim Head of Sustainable Development.

Background papers: Reports for policies on:
DIY 1,2,3, for Free
Tyre Scheme charging
Van and Trailer Permit Scheme
HSE recommendation and Environment Agency reports
Customer Satisfaction Survey 2010

Contact Officer: Amy E Howard - Waste Contracts Officer
Tel: 01865 815349
Email: amy.e.howard@oxfordshire.gov.uk

November 2010