



REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 29TH MARCH 2016

**SUBJECT: UPDATE ON PERFORMANCE AGAINST WELSH GOVERNMENT
STATUTORY RECYCLING TARGETS**

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR - COMMUNITIES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide the Scrutiny Committee with the latest update on the Authority's performance against the Welsh Government Statutory recycling target for 2015/16.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 As members of the Scrutiny Committee are aware, the Welsh Government has operated a statutory Recycling Target (SRT) regime for several years with specific years being designated as key target years with fairly large increase in the level of recycling to be achieved. 2015/16 is one of these years where the SRT increases to 58%.

- 2.2 The SRT key target years and Caerphilly's comparative performance to date is as follows:-

Year	WG SRT	CCBC Performance
2007/08	25%	32%
2009/10	40%	44%
2012/13	52%	57%

- 2.3 As stated above, the target for 2015/16 rises to 58% (In 2014/15 Caerphilly achieved 57.2%) and then continues to rise in future key target years as follows:-

Year	WG SRT
2015/16	58%
2019/20	64%
2024/25	70%

3. SUMMARY

- 3.1 As outlined above, WG have been operating a SRT regime for a number of years with further increases in the level of recycling required over the next 10 years.
- 3.2 The 2015/16 58% target is one of the most challenging target increases that Local Authorities have faced to date and this report aims to update members on the Authority's projected performance against this target while highlighting key issues in relation to the 2015/16 waste tonnages.

4. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 4.1 Managing waste more sustainably and achieving SRT's have implications across a range of strategies including the Single Integrated Plan and Corporate Plan in relation to the Cleaner, Greener agenda.
- 4.2 Moreover, the Well Being of Future Generations Act (coming into force on 1st April 2016) sets out a number of goals/principles which public bodies must apply in the strategies & services that they deliver. These include:-
- A prosperous Wales
 - A resilient Wales
 - A Healthier Wales
 - A more equal Wales
 - A Wales of cohesive communities
 - A Wales of Vibrant Culture and thriving Welsh language
 - A globally responsible Wales
- 4.3 Managing Waste more sustainably and achieving the WG SRT's provides a significant contribution to 6 of these 7 goals/principles..

5. THE REPORT

- 5.1 The collation and presentation of waste data (from which the Performance is calculated) is derived from weighbridge information from treatment/disposal contractors and is uploaded quarterly to the National Waste Dataflow IT system which is managed and audited on behalf of WG by Natural Resources Wales. However, as a result of the complexity associated with the data gathering, collation, upload, auditing and reporting mechanism it is a number of months after the end of each quarter before the data is fully validated.
- 5.2 Consequently, at the time of writing this report the Authority has the benefit of verified Q.1 & Q.2 data, actual Q.3 tonnages (although not yet audited/verified) and a projection for Q.4 based on historical/operational knowledge and experience. In this regard, it is important for the Committee to understand that Q.3 & Q.4 performance is always lower than Q.1 & Q.2 due to the winter effect on certain waste streams (garden and certain CA waste particularly).
- 5.3 Table 1. below illustrates the quarterly performance for 2015/16 for the various waste streams and includes the percentage recycling/composting by quarter.

Table 1. – 2015/16 Quarterly Performance

	15/16	15/16	15/16	15/16	15/16
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4 Projection	Total
Dry Recycling	10489.10	10438.80	11148.51	10259.92	42336.33
Organics	5057.15	5294.46	3715.86	2957.46	16984.87
Prosiect Gwyrdd (net of IBA)	8426.94	6707.25	8871.33	7392.34	31397.86
Landfill	1529.03	2462.06	2061.38	1511.97	7564.44
Total MSW	25502.22	24902.57	25797.08	22121.69	98283.50
% Recycling /Composting	61%	63%	58%	59%	60.4%

- 5.4 As can be seen from the table, this latest analysis is projecting year-end performance of 60.4%. While this is above the WG SRT of 58%, it must be recognised that this is very close to the SRT of 58% and could go up or down over the Q.4 period.

- 5.5 In order for the Committee to better understand how the projected year-end total of circa 59,000 tonnes of recycling/composting is made up. Table 2. below outlines the detailed make up by waste stream.

Table 2. – 2015/16 Projected Recycling/Composting Tonnage by Waste Stream Compared to 2014/15

Waste Stream	2014/15 Year End Recycling/Composting Tonnage	2015/16 Projected Year-End Recycling/Composting Tonnage	Change 2014/15 – 2015/16 & Comments where Relevant
Collected Dry Recycling	15,179	14,133	Reduction of 1046 tonnes due to rejection rate at Cardiff MRF.
CA Site Wood Recycling & Composting	8,308	4,905	Overall increase in CA Site Recycling/composting of 1,157 tonnes due to effect of improved secondary sort by new contractor and implementation of wood recycling contract.
CA Site Green Waste	2,203	3,039	
Other CA Recycling (eg: Metals, Hardcore, etc.)	8,557	6,885	
CA Secondary Sort	3,313	6,395	
Mechanical Sweeper Recycling	2,766	2,497	Negligible change.
Secondary Sort (Litter & other departments)	2,884	3,073	Negligible change.
Bring Banks	172	144	Negligible change.
Furniture/Fridge Reuse	168	157	Negligible change.
Incinerator Bottom Ash (IBA Recycling)	99	5,934	IBA recycling not fully implemented until 2015/16.
Collected Food & Garden (Green)	11,293	10,943	Negligible change.
Other Green (Street Cleansing, Bulky, etc.)	327	1,426	Increase of 1099 tonnes.
Total	55,269	59,531	Overall projected increase in recycling/composting of 4262 tonnages.

- 5.6 As stated above, the 2015/16 target has been very challenging and its projected achievement has only been possible after some key interventions have been implemented by officers throughout the year. These have included:-

- CA Wood Recycling Contract involving a fibreboard manufacturer;
- Carpet recycling (from CA waste);
- Mattress recycling (from CA waste);
- Recycling of IBA from the Project Gwyrdd Plant.

- 5.7 The next significant SRT (64% in 2019/20) will be even more challenging to achieve and the Authority will need to consider any recommended changes to the collection regime arising out of the service review currently being carried out by WG appointed consultants in accordance with the WG Collaborative Change Programme (CCP).

- 5.8 The CCP process is not yet complete and there are no firm recommendations to consider at this present time. Any recommendations that arise out of the review will need to be supported by a robust business plan.

6. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no equalities implications associated with this report.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 The service has seen its recycling costs increase significantly over the last couple of years due to global conditions in the recycling market combined with some contamination issues where residents place food, dirty nappies and other contaminants in the recycling bin which is an issue in current market conditions.

7.2 The relevant 2015/16 service budgets by waste stream are as follows:-

Waste Stream	2015/16 Budget (£)
Residual Waste Collection & Disposal	2,948,019
Organics Collection & Treatment	1,621,620
Dry Recycling Collection & Treatment	2,705,091
Civic Amenity Sites	2,676,490
Bulky Waste	130,993

7.3 The interventions outlined in section 5.6 have obviously resulted in increased costs in 2015/16. These costs to year end are projected as follows:-

- Wood Recycling £57,000
- Carpet Recycling £3,500
- Mattress Recycling £14,000
- Recycling of IBA £246,000 *

* NB: From April 2016 the recycling of IBA will not cost the Authority anything as it will then be part of the main Project Gwyrdd Contract.

8. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are no personnel implications associated with his report.

9. CONSULTATIONS

9.1 The report reflects the views of the listed consultees.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 Members are asked to note the projected performance against the 2015/16 SRT and the future challenges in terms of increasing SRT's.

11. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

11.1 To provide the Scrutiny Committee with an update on a key performance indicator for one of the services within its remit.

12. STATUTORY POWER

12.1 Local Government Acts.
Environmental Protection Act 1990.

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