

**PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL****Environment Committee – 22 August 2012****COMMUNITY WASTE FUND UPDATE****Report by the Depute Director (Environment)**

This report updates the Environment Committee on the distribution of Community Waste Grant Funding to community groups and identifies the positive outcomes arising from the granting of this funding.

**1. RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Committee is asked to:

- (i) Note the content of the report.
- (ii) Request a further report is brought back to Committee in 12 months time.

**2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The Community Waste Grant was introduced following approval at the Environment Committee on 26 March 2008 (Report No. 08/183). This report identified that the community and social enterprise sector were likely to be at the forefront of developing innovative new ways of increasing recycling rates further and achieving greater community awareness and involvement.
- 2.2. It was also noted that community recycling/reuse projects could bring many other social and economic benefits to the Council area such as offering employment, training and volunteering opportunities. The primary focus of the fund was reducing the amount of waste sent to landfill, together with building greater community involvement.
- 2.3 The scheme is jointly managed by the local Quality of Life Trust and the Waste Services team in the Environment Service. Funding of up to £15,000 for non-profit making, constituted community or voluntary organisations can be awarded to implement projects that will reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill. Greater amounts of funding can be released in particular circumstances, where the size and scale of the project is capable of delivering greater landfill diversion and/or social benefits.
- 2.4 At the Environment Committee of 27 January 2010 (Report No. 10/50) it was agreed to establish a pilot Community Fly-tipping Fund as part of the existing Community Waste Fund. This would allow local communities access to funding to assist in the management of fly-tipped waste on private land including preventive measures and clean ups. For example, the Community Fly Tipping Fund supported Fossoway and District Community Council in the clean up of Dunning Glen by River Devon in November 2011, with 1.7 tonnes of waste cleared from the site.

2.5 Since 2008, £310,000 of Community Waste Funding has been made available, with a total expenditure of £238,268 supporting 25 successful applications. Applicants receive payment after producing proof of purchase to the Quality of Life Trust (e.g invoices, receipts, contract of employment). The successful management of the fund has meant that all applications were processed, assessed and the applicant informed of the decision within the timescale specified in the grant procedures. As a condition of the grant, the applicants have to provide a report on how they spent the grant and the benefits achieved.

2.6 From these returns, a list of the funded projects and their main benefits are highlighted in Appendix 1.

In summary these projects have to date:

- Diverted 1,166 tonnes of waste from landfill
- employed 9 people in new full time equivalent positions
- created 55 volunteering opportunities
- generated 30 training opportunities

2.7 The success of the innovative fund has led to national recognition, with Perth and Kinross Council being awarded the Best Local Authority Initiative Award 2009 at the Scottish Waste and Resources Awards Event. In addition, this initiative received a Silver Award at the Council's 2010 Securing the Future Awards in the `Working with Communities` category.

2.8 Case studies highlighting how the Community Waste Fund has supported three projects, namely the Perth Bike Station, the Salvation Army Furniture Reuse Project and Starter Packs Perth, can be seen in Appendix 2.

2.9 As Appendix 1 indicates, £238,268 of the available £310,000 fund has been committed against projects. In addition to the fee there is an amount charged for the administration of the fund by the Quality of Life Trust (£3,000 per year for 5 years). This leaves £ 56,731 available for future quality projects. This fund is held by the Quality of Life Trust.

### **3. PROPOSALS**

3.1 It is proposed that the remaining Community Waste Fund continues to be utilised in order to divert waste from landfill, and to develop innovative recycling schemes and support community initiatives.

3.2. In particular, the Community Waste Fund can be used to complement other grant aid such as the Community Environment Challenge Fund.

### **4. CONSULTATION**

4.1 The Head of Legal Services and the Head of Finance have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

## **5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 There are no additional resource implications arising from this report.

## **6. COUNCIL CORPORATE PLAN OBJECTIVES 2009-2012**

- 6.1 The Council's Corporate Plan 2009-2012 lays out five Objectives which provide clear strategic direction, inform decisions at a corporate and service level and shape resources allocation. This report impacts on the following:-

- (i) A Safe, Secure and Welcoming Environment
- (ii) Healthy, Caring Communities
- (v) Confident, Active and Inclusive Communities

## **7. EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EqIA)**

- 7.1 An equality impact assessment needs to be carried out for functions, policies, procedures or strategies in relation to race, gender and disability and other relevant protected characteristics. This supports the Council's legal requirement to comply with the duty to assess and consult on relevant new and existing policies.
- 7.2 The function, policy, procedure or strategy presented in this report was considered under the Corporate Equalities Impact Assessment process (EqIA) with the following outcome:
- i) Assessed as **not relevant** for the purposes of EqIA

## **8. STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

- 8.1 Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is a legal requirement under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 that applies to all qualifying plans, programmes and strategies, including policies (PPS). The matters presented in this report were considered under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 and no further action is required as it does not qualify as a PPS as defined by the Act and is therefore exempt.

## **9. CONCLUSION**

- 9.1 The Community Waste Fund has been well received by community and voluntary organisations, which have utilised the grant support to develop a wide range of projects, delivering innovative ways of increasing recycling rates, and achieving greater community awareness and involvement.

**BARBARA RENTON  
DEPUTE DIRECTOR (ENVIRONMENT)**

## **NOTE**

The following background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (and not containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to a material extent in preparing the above Report; (list papers concerned)

- Report to the Environment Committee on 26 March 2008 entitled New Waste Initiates (Report No: 08/183)

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**Summary of Grants Awarded and Benefits**

	Project	Project brief	Amount Awarded £	Estimate of tonnage of waste diverted from Landfill	Number of new posts established (FTE equivalent)	Number of volunteering opportunities created	Number of training / placement opportunities	Comments
1	Wood Again	Wood recycling project	15,000.00	54.7	0	4	4	This project, based in Perth, took timber off-cuts, and converted them into wooden products. This project has subsequently been discontinued
2	Meigle Primary Parent Council	Reuse bag project	1,030.77	Unable to quantify	N/A	14 parents volunteer on the school council and delivered this Project	N/A	Bags distributed during a local event and householders are still using them now. The school children have replaced their plastic school folders with the bags and these will last them throughout their time at the school. There are also enough bags to equip the next five years' worth of new-starters at the school.
3	Community School of Auchterarder	Plastics reuse project	5,940.00	2 tonnes to date	0	0	0	The Plastic Recycling machine was invested in to divert used plastics away from landfill and convert them into useable plastic sheets that can be used by the pupils to manufacture products.  The project also involves the primary pupils in the process and forms the basis of the eco education programme. It allows pupils to become involved, first hand, with the recycling process

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								and helps build an understanding of its importance from an early age.  The classes that have used the machine have found the process very effective and has really given them an insight as to what actually goes on in the recycling process.
4	Transform Commercial	Furniture Reuse Project	15,000.00	73 Tonnes	1 FT driver	N/A	6 (via the Community Job Scheme)	<b>Collections:</b> 26T, 800 items, 358 individuals <b>Deliveries:</b> 47T, 2060 items, 1409 individuals
5	Perth College WEEE Project	To collect WEEE, repair & sell back to community	10,871.50	10 tonnes	2	4 Future Jobs Fund posts	15 Get Ready For Work (GRFW) candidates	The WEEE Centre has won 2 public value awards from Scotland Colleges.  GRFW is a skills training and work placement scheme for people aged 16 to 19 who are finding it difficult to access training, learning and employment.
6	Perth & Kinross Real Nappy Network (PKRNN)	Delivery of Perth & Kinross Real Nappy Network	25,000.00	348	0	10	0	With over 8 million disposable nappies going to landfill each day within the UK, (PKRNN) is a local organisation which aims to reduce the number of disposables entering the waste stream. It is a voluntary group of

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								local parents, which provides information, advice and support about the wide range of real (washable / cloth) nappies to local parents, health professionals, nurseries and others. This funding is for 2010
7	Comrie Development Trust	Anaerobic Digestion Feasibility Study	8,400.00	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	The study was carried out but Anaerobic Digestion did not prove to be feasible at this stage.
8	Gateway Enterprise (PKAVS) Community Repaint	Further expansion of Re-paint Project	8,240.00	1703 litres	1x16 hours but not sustained beyond funding	2	2	This project took waste paint collected at Recycling Centres, and redistributed it to community groups for use on their project. This initiative has been discontinued.
9	Starter Packs	Household items reuse	2,889.60	359 Starter Packs with approximately 16 tonnes of reused materials	N/A	N/A	N/A	See Case Study 2 (Appendix 2)
10	Salvation Army	Furniture re-use	11,300.00	70 tonnes	0	8 so far	1 so far	
11	Better Bikes Better Lives	Bike recycling/maintenance	6,170.00	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Project has yet to commence so no results are available

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12	Beautiful Perth	Westbank Green Compost Project	5,820.00	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Funding for the Feasibility Study on a potential composting site
13	Plastic Bag Free Kinross-shire	Plastic bag free project in Kinross-shire	5,965.05	Unable to quantify	N/A	N/A	N/A	Bags distributed successfully and still in use now. Plastic Bag Free events subsequently delivered and local supermarket offered these bags and displayed Kinross-campaign posters for International Plastic Bag Free Day 2010.
14	Gateway Enterprise - Community Repaint	To improve and develop the current paint re-use project	10,000.00	1824 litres	1x16 hours but not sustained beyond funding	3	2	See item 8
15	Salvation Army - Furniture Reuse	To expand current furniture re-use project. Application for rent (2009/10)	3,667.00	Increased tonnage diversion by approx 20% - <b>193.5T</b> diverted between July 2009 to August 2010 inclusive	1 part time job	N/A	Training for existing staff, and temporary Future Jobs Fund staff, especially in terms of electrical testing	See Case Study (Appendix 2)
16	Salvation Army - Furniture Reuse	To expand current furniture re-use project. Application for rent (2010/11)	3,667.00	Unknown tonnages	N/A	N/A	Training for existing staff, and temporary Future Jobs	See Case Study (Appendix 2)



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							Fund staff, especially in terms of electrical testing	
17	Bankfoot Community Church	To develop an ornamental garden, including a plastic bottle green house & wormery	539.70	Unable to quantify	N/A	N/A	N/A	Project delivered successfully, reclaimed timber used as well as recycled plastic bottles. Wormery and compost bin in place.
18	The Perth Bike Station	To establish a bike recycling project	15,000	109.6	3	On average 10	See number of volunteers	Two staff recruited first, then the Robertson Trust Funding allowed for a third mechanic to be recruited. This mechanic started as a volunteer then trained up at The Bike Station and was taken on as staff thereafter. See Case Study – Appendix 2.
19	Starter packs Perth	To improve the already established household starter pack business	4,842.57	By the end of this year, on track for again <b>359 Starter Packs = approx 16 tonnes</b> of reused materials	N/A	N/A	N/A	Volunteers were in place before funding and are continuing to volunteer with this Project.
20	Coupar Angus Pride of Place	Plastic bag free project in Coupar Angus	3,250	Unknown tonnages	N/A	N/A	N/A	Project successfully delivered.

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21	Comrie Zero Waste Fortnight	Zero Waste Fortnight	1,704.79	0.3	N/A	N/A	N/A	Community run project to minimise the amount of waste produced by the public, for disposal to landfill.
22	Perth & Kinross Real Nappy Network	Real Nappy Project Work	25,000.00	273	N/A	N/A	N/A	See item 6, this item is for October 2011 – October 2012
23	Perth College	Reuse Website	13,000.00	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Under construction
24	Real Nappy Network	Real Nappy Project Work	28,500.00	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	This funding period hasn't started yet. Funding period is Oct 2012 – Oct 2013
25	Starter packs	To improve the already established household starter pack business	3,055.92	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Volunteers were in place before funding and are continuing to volunteer with this Project.
		<b>Totals</b>	<b>233,853.90</b>	<b>1166.1T</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>N/A</b>
	Fly tipping Fund Total expenditure		4414.54					
	<b>Total expenditure for the Community Waste Fund and the Fly tipping Fund</b>		<b>238,268.44</b>					

## **Case Study 1**

### **The Perth Bike Station**

The Edinburgh Bike Station expanded their operation to service Perth and Kinross, first by collecting bicycles for recycling from four of Perth & Kinross Council's Recycling Centres and by raising their profile through quarterly events across the area, then in the autumn of 2010, premises were secured at Mid Friarton Business Park. This enabled three staff to be employed - one Manager and two mechanics - as well as more than ten volunteers.

Some of the volunteers were previously employed with the CanAble Recycling Project which came to an end. These volunteers have been subsequently trained on how to dismantle and maintain bicycles. To date, 109.6 tonnes had been diverting from landfill. The figures also show that The Perth Bike Station is becoming better known – in 2010, 1316 bicycles were donated and in 2011, 2082 bicycles were donated.

The Perth Bike Station used the Community Waste Fund to acquire the premises and have had the support of the Steering Group (consisting of a mixture of Council representatives from different departments – Waste Services, Sustainable Transport and Planning and Regeneration – and a selection of cycling groups and enthusiasts). Waste Services continue to organise Quarterly Events which enable the Cycling Project to reach the more rural parts of Perth and Kinross, providing refurbished bikes for sale at affordable prices, cycle training and a Dr Bike Service for fixing and tuning bikes to encourage people to cycle more. Signage has also be designed and put in place at some of the Recycling Centres where bicycles are donated, so as to promote the work of The Perth Bike Station and direct potential customers to the premises to make use of the resources. These resources include:

- Workstations and tools for £4 an hour to facilitate people to fix their own bikes with trained mechanics on hand to assist where necessary
- Bike Sales so people can buy affordable, good quality bikes, parts and cycling accessories for children and adults
- Volunteering opportunities
- A location to donate unwanted bicycles and bike parts for reuse and refurbishment.

The Perth Bike Station has received funding from The Robertson Trust so that prisoners in Perth and Kinross can be trained as Bike Mechanics, increasing their opportunities for gaining employment once their sentences are complete.

## **Case Study 2**

### **Salvation Army Furniture Reuse Project/Starter Packs Perth**

The Salvation Army Furniture Project has twice applied for funding to cover the costs of renting premises – once when they were based at Kilda Place and required an additional unit to sort and store furniture for re-sale, and again when the Project moved to larger premises at Riverview Business Park near Friarton.

These new premises have the added advantage of providing enough space for partition walls to be built in the unit so that the area can be divided to meet the needs of the Project. There is now a display area for furniture for sale, an area out of sight for sold items that are ready to be delivered, a charity shop area for clothes, household items and electricals, office space, an indoor area to park and load/unload the van and also a workshop area for furniture that does not sell but can be taken apart so that the components can be salvaged for reuse – e.g. the timber, textiles, metal, etc.

The additional storage space and sorting area for newly received furniture at both sites has enabled the Project to run more efficiently and collect more furniture from households, diverting more tonnage from landfill and providing good quality, affordable items to householders across Perth and Kinross.

To encourage householders visiting the Recycling Centre to pass on good quality items for reuse rather than sending them to landfill, The Salvation Army works with the Perth College WEEE Centre (Waste Electronic and Electrical Equipment) to service a Reuse Container at Friarton Recycling Centre. Householders are now able to donate unwanted furniture, household items and working electricals for reuse. The two organisations collect them on a weekly basis and sell them on for reuse at affordable prices from their respective premises.

The Salvation Army has had a good relationship with Starter Packs Perth – a fellow reuse organisation which diverts household items, bedding, curtains and towels from landfill for reuse. The Furniture Project delivers the Starter Packs to householders whilst they are on route to collect and drop-off furniture. Starter Packs Perth helps individuals and families on low incomes who have been given the tenancy of a house or flat but who don't have access to basic household goods. The Volunteers at Starter Packs Perth make up packs of household goods to give people a positive start to their new home lives. They supply everything that contributes to a comfortable home from crockery and bed linen to cleaning materials and toiletries. In the main these items have been donated to Starter Packs Perth by members of the local community but occasionally the Volunteers have to buy items such as new bedding for children, which are funded through donations to the Project or through the sale of items that have been donated but are not suitable for reuse through this Scheme.