

## PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL

## Enterprise, Infrastructure and Environment Committee

6 September 2017

## Zero Waste Update

## Report by Director (Environment)

**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

This Report provides an update on various activities linked to Zero Waste initiatives in Perth and Kinross and nationally. This includes the Zero Waste Highland Perthshire, Zero Waste City Funding and a national consultation on a deposit return scheme.

**1. BACKGROUND****Zero Waste Highland Perthshire Volunteer and Community Advocate Programme**

- 1.1 Zero Waste Scotland awarded funding across Scotland for Volunteer & Community Advocate Programmes (VCAP). The main aims of the programme were to work with householders, community groups, schools and businesses to help them divert waste away from landfill, improve food waste awareness, increase recycling participation, and encourage repair/upcycling.
- 1.2 The Environment Committee requested an update following the Year 1 Report (Report No. 16/372).

**Funding**

- 1.3 With letters of support from elected members and the local community capacity worker, Perth & Kinross Council applied for funding and were awarded:
  - £48,564 for Year 1 (1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016)
  - a further £39,587 for Year 2 (1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017) (following a positive review).
  - **Total = £88,151 over the two year project.**
- 1.4 The funding financed a full-time Zero Waste Highland Perthshire volunteer co-ordinator and associated project resources. The co-ordinator was based for two years at Breadalbane Community Campus in Aberfeldy.

## The Context for the Project

- 1.5 Between 2013 and 2015, Perth & Kinross Council delivered Zero Waste Auchterarder & Aberuthven. It was one of four Ryder Cup outreach projects and was fully funded by Ryder Cup Europe, the Scottish Government, the Golf Environment Organisation and other partners.
- 1.6 Zero Waste Highland Perthshire aimed to replicate the Zero Waste Auchterarder & Aberuthven Project, supporting Highland Perthshire to become the second Zero Waste Community in Perth and Kinross.
- 1.7 Zero Waste Highland Perthshire aimed to encourage local residents to increase their household recycling, reduce their food waste and expand opportunities for reusing, repair and sharing items.

## Year 1 and Year 2

- 1.8 Due to the size of Highland Perthshire and its rural nature, the area was divided into two parts, with the project being delivered over two phases:
  - Phase 1, delivered in Year 1, included Aberfeldy, Kinloch Rannoch, Kenmore, Grandtully and Glenlyon.
  - Phase 2, delivered in Year 2, included Pitlochry postcodes, Ballinluig, Blair Atholl and Logierait.

## Volunteer & Community Advocate Opportunities

- 1.9 By project completion (June 2017), 26 householders were active in volunteering with Zero Waste Highland Perthshire, helping with events such as Zero Waste Lunch, upcycling and repair classes and a composting workshop. In addition, a further 144 people volunteered their time between April 2016 and June 2017 in one-off events, such as litter picks.

## Outcomes Delivered To-Date (for the two-year project)

	<b>Overall</b>
Participants	4,118
Volunteers recruited	41
Volunteer hours	1,216
Events	171

## Highlights of Specific Projects undertaken during Year 2

- 1.10 Appendix 1 contains a summary of the activities which were implemented between July 2016 and June 2017.

### 1.11 Key highlights included:

- **Two separate bicycle maintenance courses** were held in conjunction with the Bike Station Perth – one in Pitlochry and one in Blair Atholl. These covered basic maintenance including tyres, brakes and gears, allowing participants to keep their bikes in active use for longer.
- **Upcycling workshops** – these have been a popular part of the whole project. In Year 2, highlights included a 6-week furniture upcycling course, led by a local artist who helped participants revitalise old chairs into modern pieces.
- **Activities to Reduce Food Waste** - Volunteers helped run a Zero Waste Lunch by making soups and cakes from ingredients which would otherwise have been discarded by the local Pitlochry Co-op store, such as fruit, vegetables and bread which had passed its Best Before date. A MasterChef competition involved the creation of meals using commonly wasted ingredients by participants under the guidance of professional local chefs.
- **The Highland Perthshire Home Composting project** - Free composters were offered on a first-come, first-served basis, with 50 allocated in total by the end of the project.
- **Christmas Advent Reuse Project** - This resulted in the collection of approximately 300 items which were made up as 144 parcels for children of all ages. As well as the re-distribution of goods, the project engaged the local community and young people who helped wrap the presents.

1.12 Two **Zero Waste Challenges** have been held during Year 2. Zero Waste Challenges were used to create a baseline for the tonnage of general (non-recyclable) waste and the tonnage of recycling produced by the community, prior to Zero Waste Highland Perthshire undertaking any promotion of waste reduction, reuse and recycling. The challenges were repeated 12 months after the initial ones and the results were compared. For every increased tonne of recycling and for every decreased tonne of general waste, the Zero Waste Highland Perthshire project donated back to the community the approximate cost of sending one tonne of waste to landfill.

1.13 In the Phase I area, the Aberfeldy, Kinloch Rannoch, Kenmore, Glenlyon & Grandtully Zero Waste Challenge took place in September 2016. This was a follow-up to the initial Challenge in September 2015. Comparing results between the two, general waste decreased by 25% and recycling increased by 17%. This saved £973.66 in disposal costs, which was awarded to the Men's Shed in Aberfeldy. With this money, the Men's Shed was able to insulate the shed and install lighting so that they can continue to meet up there throughout the winter months and for longer periods. Additionally, Zero Waste Highland Perthshire

purchased a mechanics bike stand which is now housed at the Men's Shed. This allows a participant in one of the four bike maintenance courses to offer that service to members of the community.

- 1.14 In the Phase II area, the Pitlochry, Ballinluig & Blair Atholl Zero Waste Challenge took place in May 2017. This was a follow-up to the initial challenge in May 2016. Comparing results between the two Zero Waste Challenges, general waste decreased by 27% which saved £716.13 in disposal costs. This was awarded to the Pitlochry Pavilion Users Group (PUGs) and the Blair Atholl Village Hall. PUGs purchased a wheelchair-accessible picnic bench made from recycled plastics with their share. Blair Atholl Village Hall was able to do some essential upgrades to their heating system.

## **2. THE LEGACY OF ZERO WASTE HIGHLAND PERTSHIRE**

- 2.1 Waste Services also focussed on how Zero Waste Highland Perthshire could leave a positive and lasting legacy for the area as a Zero Waste Community. Particular focus has been paid to developing strong volunteers and advocates to continue undertaking community engagement work beyond Phase II of the Project. The co-ordinator also invested in legacy resources which can be utilised by continuing volunteers beyond Phase II. Consequently, in addition to the educational messages left behind after extensive community engagement, the following can be viewed as legacies of the Project:

### **Functional Upcycling Network**

- 2.2 A group of women who attended a 6-week furniture upcycling course in Pitlochry decided to continue meeting on a monthly basis to swap upcycling skills and pass these on to others. Zero Waste Highland Perthshire continued to support the Functional Upcycling Network (FUN) until the end of the project by paying for hall hire and expenses, providing a network of contacts, and by giving advice on future funding.

### **Zero Waste Highland Perthshire Facebook page**

- 2.3 The page will continue to be updated regularly by volunteers for promoting events, such as those run by FUN, as well as to signpost the community to local repair businesses, and to raise awareness of environmental issues.

### **Improved Recycling Facilities**

- 2.4 New recycling bins were purchased by Zero Waste Highland Perthshire for use in Breadalbane Community Campus. Additionally, a plastic bag recycling point was established in partnership with the Aberfeldy Co-operative store, and this continues to be located in the shop foyer for customer use.

### **Promotion of reusable cups**

- 2.5 In partnership with Tayside Contracts, two initiatives to promote the use of reusable cups instead of single-use disposable ones were introduced in Breadalbane Community Campus. Customers who purchase their hot drinks at the Food To Go takeaway kiosk now receive a 10% discount if they bring along their own cup. To initially promote this, Zero Waste Highland Perthshire gave away 50 reusable cups to regular users of the kiosk when they agreed to sign a pledge to keep using them.
- 2.6 Secondly, Tayside Contacts now offer a loyalty scheme to pupils purchasing soup in a reusable cup, with pupils receiving every sixth soup for free. This followed on from a partnership project between the school's departments of Science and Home Economics, Zero Waste Highland Perthshire and Tayside Contracts, supported by the local Co-op store, in which second year pupils learned about food and packaging waste for a competition run by Perth College UHI.

### **Reuse of telephone box for book lending**

- 2.7 In partnership with the Aberfeldy caravan site, and with a great deal of practical support from the Breadalbane Men's Shed and other volunteers, a redundant red telephone box situated within the caravan site was refurbished to act as a book lending library during the summer months. It is anticipated that local people and holidaymakers alike will be able to swap books there for free for years to come.

### **Continued diversion of food waste**

- 2.8 Contacts made at both Aberfeldy and Pitlochry Co-operative stores have been passed on to two community groups who plan to continue a long-term diversion of food waste to them.

### **Social Benefits**

- 2.9 In addition to the environmental and economic benefits of the Zero Waste Highland Perthshire project, a great many social benefits have arisen, including greater community cohesion. People have worked together to improve their community and new connections have been made which will continue in the future. Lifelong friendships have been formed and in some cases, instances of loneliness have been reduced. By providing the opportunity for people of all ages and backgrounds to learn new skills and pass these on to others, individuals have gained in confidence and have felt valued.

- 2.10 Zero Waste Highland Perthshire was awarded a Gold Award in the Promoting Sustainability Category of the 2017 Securing the Future Awards. It has subsequently been nominated for a COSLA award, with the Ceremony held in October 2017.

### **Next Steps**

- 2.11 In addition, based on the successes of Zero Waste Auchterarder & Aberuthven and Zero Waste Highland Perthshire, Perth & Kinross Council has secured two further sets of funding: the Sainsbury's Waste Less, Save More funding and Zero Waste Scotland's Zero Waste City Funding.
- 2.12 Perth & Kinross Council's Waste Services was awarded Sainsbury's funding of £46,739 to deliver a 12 month project until May 2018. This focusses on food waste reduction in the Blairgowrie and Kinross-shire areas, in conjunction with PKC's Education & Children's Services, Housing & Community Safety, local community groups and the NHS.
- 2.13 Perth & Kinross Council formed a Consortium with Beautiful Perth and Perth College UHI's EcoTechnic. The consortium secured funding to develop a full project proposal and submitted a bid for £300,000 to deliver a three year Zero Waste Project in Perth's Wards 11 and 12 (Perth City Centre and Perth North). This would make Perth Scotland's First Zero Waste City, with a potential start date in autumn 2017 and concluding in March 2020. As part of this, it is proposed that two officers will be recruited – one to focus on the commercial sector, the other to focus on householders, schools and community groups. The consortium is awaiting confirmation of a grant offer from Zero Waste Scotland.

### **Update on the Deposit Return System (DRS) in Scotland**

- 2.14 A deposit return system (DRS) is one where consumers pay a small amount of money in addition to the purchase price at point of sale. This money is then returned to them if they choose to return the item after use. These systems, operating around the world, are cited as offering benefits such as reducing litter and increasing recycling.
- 2.15 In 2014, on behalf of the Scottish Government, Zero Waste Scotland commissioned a study to explore how a deposit return system might operate in Scotland and what key design choices might be relevant. Parallel work was also undertaken exploring alternatives to a DRS.

<http://www.zerowastescotland.org.uk/sites/default/files/Review%20of%20feasibility%20study%20for%20a%20Deposit%20Return%20System%20for%20Drinks%20Containers.pdf>

- 2.16 Subsequently, further discussions have taken place including a formal call for evidence. The call for evidence asked for any additional evidence relevant to the consideration of the suitability of a deposit system, any evidence to support how such a system could be designed and managed and, lastly, sought evidence on anticipated impacts of a deposit return system.
- 2.17 Issues that required further consideration, particularly from a Local Authority perspective, before a firm position on DRS could be taken, include:
- Evidence on how the public's non-financial contribution to the scheme should be valued,
  - The potential impact on litter and its associated financial benefit, and
  - The cost implications for local authorities – how these costs and benefits are distributed and that they are realisable.
- 2.18 The outcome of this additional investigation is summarised and a full report is also available - Deposit Return: Evidence Summary (June 2017)  
<http://www.zerowastescotland.org.uk/sites/default/files/Deposit%20Return%20Evidence%20Summary.pdf>
- 2.19 On 30 June 2017, further detailed work on how a potential deposit return scheme might operate in Scotland was commissioned by the Scottish Government.
- 2.20 The Environment Secretary, Roseanna Cunningham, has confirmed that ZWS will investigate design options and the associated costs and benefits of how a deposit return scheme could operate in Scotland's unique environment. Options will then be put to the public for consultation before Ministers come to a final decision on the future of deposit return.
- 2.21 It is recommended that Waste Services will keep a watching brief on the unfolding DRS debate and public consultation. A future report will be brought forward to the Environment, Enterprise & Infrastructure Committee presenting an evidenced and balanced appraisal of DRS in order to allow the Committee to reach an agreed position.

### **3. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 Zero Waste Highland Perthshire has encouraged the community to sustainably minimise their waste. This has enabled the area to become the second Zero Waste Community in Perth and Kinross.
- 3.2 Building on these successes, further funding has been secured to divert waste from landfill, improve food waste awareness, increase recycling participation and encourage repair/upcycling.

3.3 Nationally, following studies and evidence gathering, the Scottish Government have committed to a public consultation on the options regarding the introduction of a Deposit Return System in Scotland, including the costs and benefits.

3.4 It is recommended that the Committee:

- i) Notes the contents of this Report;
- ii) Requests the Director (Environment) to report the outcomes of Zero Waste Perth and Sainsbury's Waste Less, Save More for 2017/18 to the Committee in 12 months' time; and

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#### Approved

Name	Designation	Date
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## 1. IMPLICATIONS, ASSESSMENTS, CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

<b>Strategic Implications</b>	<b>Yes / None</b>
Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement	Yes
Corporate Plan	Yes
<b>Resource Implications</b>	
Financial	Yes
Workforce	Yes
Asset Management (land, property, IST)	None
<b>Assessments</b>	
Equality Impact Assessment	Yes
Strategic Environmental Assessment	Yes
Sustainability (community, economic, environmental)	Yes
Legal and Governance	None
Risk	None
<b>Consultation</b>	
Internal	Yes
External	Yes
<b>Communication</b>	
Communications Plan	Yes

### 1. Strategic Implications

#### Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement

1.1 The proposals in this report relate to the delivery of the Perth and Kinross Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement in terms of following the priorities:

- (i) Developing educated, responsible and informed citizens
- (ii) Promoting a prosperous, inclusive and sustainable economy
- (iii) Supporting people to lead independent, healthy and active lives
- (iv) Creating a safe and sustainable place for future generations

#### Corporate Plan

1.2 The proposals relate to the achievement of the Council's Corporate Plan Priorities:

- (i) Developing educated, responsible and informed citizens;
- (ii) Promoting a prosperous, inclusive and sustainable economy;
- (iii) Supporting people to lead independent, healthy and active lives; and
- (iv) Creating a safe and sustainable place for future generations.

## **2. Resource Implications**

### Financial

- 2.1 Zero Waste Scotland awarded Perth & Kinross Council the following amounts of funding to deliver the Volunteer & Community Advocate Programme: Zero Waste Highland Perthshire:
- £48,564 for Year 1 (1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016)
  - £36,548 for Year 2 (1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017).

### Workforce

- 2.2 The funding has enabled a full-time Zero Waste Highland Perthshire Volunteer Co-ordinator to be recruited for a fixed term of 2 years, between 2015 and 2017.

### Asset Management (land, property, IT)

- 2.3 The proposals in this report have no impact on asset management.

## **3. Assessments**

### Equality Impact Assessment

- 3.1 Under the Equality Act 2010, the Council is required to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between equality groups. Carrying out Equality Impact Assessments for plans and policies allows the Council to demonstrate that it is meeting these duties.
- 3.2 The function, policy, procedure or strategy presented in the VCAP Report were considered under the Corporate Equalities Impact Assessment process (EqIA) and were assessed as relevant and the following positive outcomes are expected following implementation.
- 3.3 The Volunteer Co-ordinator consults widely with householders, schools and community groups and there is significant community support for the project from these parties and from the Ward Councillors. A monthly review, and quarterly reviews, are undertaken with the funder (Zero Waste Scotland) to monitor the success of the Project and address the progress on meeting the project targets.

### Strategic Environmental Assessment

- 3.4 The Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 places a duty on the Council to identify and assess the environmental consequences of its proposals.

- 3.5 The proposals have been considered under the Act and no further action is required as it does not qualify as a PPS as defined by the Act and is therefore exempt.

#### Sustainability

- 3.6 Under the provisions of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 the Council has to discharge its duties in a way which contributes to the achievement of sustainable development. Under the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 the Council also has a duty relating to climate change and, in exercising its functions must act:
- in the way best calculated to delivery of the Act's emissions reduction targets;
  - in the way best calculated to deliver any statutory adaptation programmes; and
  - in a way that it considers most sustainable.

#### Legal and Governance

- 3.7 The Head of Finance and the Head of Legal and Governance have been consulted on the contents of the report.

#### Risk

- 3.8 No risks have been identifies through the assessment process.

### **4. Consultation**

#### Internal

- 4.1 The Head of Finance and the Head of Legal and Governance have been consulted on the contents of the report.

#### External

- 4.2 Perth & Kinross Council is in regular communication with Zero Waste Scotland regarding the Projects and the targets.

## **5. Communication**

5.1 Below is a list of the communications which continue to be undertaken as part of implementing the proposals, including the key target audiences and the communication methods:

- Zero Waste Highland Perthshire Facebook Page
- Zero Waste Highland Perthshire Twitter Account
- PKC website
- Posters about becoming a Zero Waste Volunteer
- Articles in the Highland Perthshire Newsletters
- Information circulated via the Highland Perthshire Community Capacity Worker
- PKC Yammer posts
- Press Releases and Photo-calls

5.2 The target audience is all householders, schools and community groups across Highland Perthshire.

## **2. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

2.1 Perth & Kinross Council's Volunteer and Community Advocate Programme – Zero Waste Highland Perthshire – 7 September 2016 – Committee Report 16/372.

2.2 Perth and Kinross Zero Waste Communities – 20 January 2016 – Committee Report 16/12.

## **3. APPENDICES**

3.1 Appendix 1 - Projects and activities undertaken between July 2016 and June 2017

3.2 Appendix 2 – Statistics of Events in Year 2

**Projects and activities undertaken between July 2016 and June 2017**

- i) **Repair activities** These included a community event in Pitlochry focussing on clothing. Repair and alterations were carried out by skilled local professionals and semi-professionals, and advice on how to care for clothes and make them last longer was made available. There was also a free screening of *The True Cost* – a documentary film regarding sustainability in the fashion industry – and a clothing swap-shop so people could bring something old and leave with something new to them.
- ii) **Two separate bicycle maintenance courses** were held in conjunction with the Bike Station Perth – one in Pitlochry and one in Blair Atholl. These covered basic maintenance including tyres, brakes and gears, allowing participants to keep their bikes in active use for longer. 100% of surveyed participants strongly agreed that their knowledge and skills had increased and 100% agreed or strongly agreed they would use the skills again.
- iii) **Upcycling workshops** have been a popular part of the whole project and in Year 2 highlights have included a 6-week furniture upcycling course led by a local artist who helped participants revitalise old chairs into modern pieces using chalk paint, decoupage and basic upholstery techniques. It was intended that these skills could then be reproduced on other furniture items in participants' homes.
- iv) **Activities to reduce food waste** These included a Zero Waste Lunch and a 4-week "MasterChef" competition held in Pitlochry. Volunteers helped run a Zero Waste Lunch by making soups and cakes from ingredients which would otherwise have been discarded by the local Pitlochry Co-op store, such as fruit, vegetables and bread which had passed its Best Before date. The MasterChef competition involved the creation of meals using commonly wasted ingredients by participants under the guidance of professional local chefs. Competitors and the audience also learned how to reduce food waste by planning better, understanding date labels, storing food properly and using up leftovers.
- v) **The Highland Perthshire Home Composting Project** continued for households not served by the brown-lidded bin collection for food and garden waste in both the Phase I and Phase II areas. Free composters were offered on a first-come, first-served basis, with 50 allocated in total by the end of the project. Workshops were held in Aberfeldy, Kinloch Rannoch, Kenmore and in conjunction with the Biodynamic Garden in Camserney to help those taking part in the project get the best out of their composter.
- vi) **Engagement with local primary schools** In total, 13 separate visits have taken place between July 2016 and June 2017 to schools within the Phase II area, with an additional 11 visits to schools in the Phase I area. Activities have included litter picks, upcycling projects, talks and games. Particular support was given to

projects carried out by the Pitlochry Primary eco-group including their delivery of a whole-school Assembly on recycling.

- vii) **Christmas Advent Reuse Project** Working in partnership with Breadalbane Library and Breadalbane Academy in Aberfeldy, the community was asked to donate good condition unwanted toys and books so they could be redistributed as Christmas presents to children associated with Perthshire Women's Aid. This resulted in the collection of approximately 300 items which were made up as 144 parcels for children of all ages. As well as the re-distribution of goods, the project engaged the local community and young people who helped wrap the presents.
- viii) **Zero Waste Challenge Fun Day** A number of launch events were held in both the Phase i and Phase ii areas, including school talks, repair and upcycling events, a Dr. Bike fix-it session in conjunction with the Perth Bike Station and a Zero Waste Lunch. Where possible, events coincided with larger gatherings to maximise exposure, such as at the Pitlochry Recreation Ground Pavilion Users Group fun day and the Cairngorms Nature Festival in Blair Atholl.

The launch event for the Kinloch Rannoch, Kenmore, Glenlyon & Grandtully 2016 Zero Waste Challenge hosted the publicity of Perth & Kinross Council signing Scotland's **Household Waste Recycling Charter**, with a visit from Rosanna Cunningham MSP.

- ix) **Events** offering the public more information on different aspects of the reduce, reuse, recycle message have included stalls at Pitlochry Markets, Aberfeldy Farmers Markets, Blair Atholl summer fair, information stands at both the Aberfeldy and Pitlochry Co-operative stores, and talks to community groups including the Scottish Women's Institute.
- x) **WEEE Amnesty Term** During all Zero Waste Challenges, Highland Perthshire schools were encouraged to hand in broken small electricals during a term-time WEEE amnesty:
- During the September 2016 Phase I area Zero Waste Challenge, five local schools collected 0.14 tonnes for recycling.
  - During the May 2017 Phase II area Zero Waste Challenge, three local schools collected 0.1 tonnes of small-electricals for recycling.

**Statistics for Year 2**

- 21 engagement activities with school pupils
- 19 upcycling events, including furniture upcycling
- 12 repair workshops, including bike maintenance
- 5 litter picks
- 16 public engagement events, including farmers markets
- 9 events specific to food waste, including cookery classes
- 1 composting workshop
- 6 volunteer specific events, including 2 x volunteer celebration evenings

	<b>Year 2</b>
Participants	2,758
Volunteers recruited	16
Volunteer hours	778
Events	89