



Waste incentive pilot schemes: draft recycling service guidance

This briefing provides details of APSE's response to the waste incentive pilot schemes draft recycling service guidance.

Key issues

1. APSE's response to the consultation on the waste incentive pilot schemes draft recycling service guidance on 14 November 2008.
2. Consultation sets out both minimum and desirable criteria
3. Raises issues with the eligibility criteria as well as the timescales for the pilots.

1. Introduction

New legislation in the Climate Change Bill will allow 5 pilot authorities in England to trial specific charge-and-rebate schemes for household waste. In June 2008, Defra issued draft guidance for Waste Incentive Pilot Schemes and this was subject to APSE briefing paper 08/30 (please click on the following link: http://www.apse.org.uk/membership/pdfs/briefings/08_briefings/08-30%20Waste%20Incentive%20Pilot%20Schemes%20-%20Draft%20Guidance.pdf)

Under these schemes, residents who throw away the least will receive a rebate or reward and under some schemes, those who do not do their bit could pay a charge. Any money collected in charges must be returned to residents. This consultation also raised the issue that a 'good recycling service' needed to be in place before a local authority may introduce a waste incentive pilot scheme.

Defra subsequently launched a consultation paper detailing what constitutes a 'good recycling service' and the criteria that authorities wishing to pilot a scheme must meet

both when the incentive scheme is introduced and at all times thereafter whilst the incentive scheme is in place. This consultation was subject to APSE briefing paper 08/50 (please click on the following link: http://www.apse.org.uk/membership/pdfs/briefings/08_briefings/08-49%20Cleaning%20state%20of%20the%20market%20survey.pdf)

APSE has responded to this consultation on behalf of its membership and this is contained below.

2. Replicated below is APSE's response

Response from the Association for Public Service Excellence (APSE) to Defra

The Association for Public Service Excellence (APSE) represents officers and members involved in the management and provision of quality public services. APSE's mission statement positions the organisation as 'networking organisation which consults, develops, promotes and advises on best practice in the delivery of public services'. APSE is currently working with almost 300 authorities within the United Kingdom.

Many local authorities will be interested in the proposals set out in the consultation to introduce recycling incentive schemes and it is therefore important that the criterion for a 'good recycling service' is fair. APSE agrees that it is more appropriate to split the criteria in the consultation into 'minimum' and 'desirable' to take into account policy differences between local authorities.

APSE's state of the refuse market research 2008, a survey of local authorities completed by 118 respondents, found that over 90% of respondents recycle paper (99%), card (91%), glass (91%), cans (98%), plastics (90%) and green waste (96%). However, only 23% of respondents stated that they recycled food waste and this was due to difficulty in implementation. Therefore, APSE agrees that collecting food waste at the kerbside should not be included in or be part of the minimum criteria.

APSE would like further clarification from Defra on whether there is a minimum percentage of plastics or food waste that needs to be collected before a local authority is considered to meet the desirable criteria.

Feedback from APSE local authority membership has raised concerns about the number of local authorities who will be able to meet the desirable criteria; for example even where a local authority is able to meet the 40% rate of recycling and composting, their 'dry' recycling rate is still below the 25% expected.

Those authorities that are currently achieving high recycling performance are possibly already using incentives and therefore may not want to get involved in the pilot. The authorities that do perhaps need the assistance of the pilot are the lower performing ones who, with reference to the eligibility criteria, appear not to be able to participate.

The other issue raised is that the timetable for the scheme assumes a two year pilot commencing in 2009/10. By the time these pilots have concluded (in 2011/12) and a decision reached on the merits of charging and/or the use of incentives, most local authorities will have put kerbside recycling schemes and residual waste treatment solutions in place and will be achieving the high diversion rates required.

APSE would welcome feedback from the consultation exercise and if there is a project group established for the pilot, would like to be represented on this.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to this consultation.

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