



# Food waste

The Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) has released funds to help councils with the introduction of new separate food waste collections. This briefing outlines the criteria to qualify, deadlines and identifies progress to date. It is provided to local authority chief executives, council leaders and all APSE waste contacts in England and to Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland contacts for information.

## Key issues

WRAP has made £3.5 million available to support local authorities for separate collections of food waste.

This briefing set out the criteria to qualify, deadlines and how to apply  
It also includes key findings from the food waste trials

## 1. Introduction

Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) has £3.5 million available to support local authorities in introducing separate collections of food waste which follow a certain approach. This funding has been provided by Defra therefore only local authorities in England are eligible to apply. £1 million must be allocated and spent in year one (2009-10) and £2.5 million in year two (2010-11). All schemes must be operational by March 2011. WRAP are asking for expressions of interest from individual authorities or from partnerships. This briefing outlines the criteria to qualify for funding, deadlines and progress to date on food waste trials. More information is available from WRAP's website by clicking on the following link: [http://www.wrap.org.uk/local\\_authorities/support\\_funding/food\\_waste.html](http://www.wrap.org.uk/local_authorities/support_funding/food_waste.html)

## 2. What is the criterion for inclusion?

Funding will be awarded up to a maximum of **£10 per household** to be provided with a new food collection service. This funding can contribute towards the purchase of containers and liners, communications materials, vehicle costs or other service delivery costs.

Schemes proposed for funding must:

- Be new or additional to existing or planned provision – the funding can be used to support new schemes (e.g. this could include the first phase of the roll out of a new service) or the expansion of existing schemes. Services should be provided to at least 7,000 households. WRAP is not able to provide funding for food waste collection services already being delivered and cannot replace funding/budget that has been committed.
- Be separate – the food waste must be presented and collected separately and not combined with garden waste.
- Be weekly – householders must receive a weekly service. Refuse and recycling collections may be less frequent.
- Fit with the strategic aims of the Authority and have a medium to long term commitment to meeting the on-going revenue costs of delivering the service.
- Be willing to use WRAP communications templates and respond to technical advice provided by WRAP.

Schemes should also:

- Be designed to ensure optimum use of collection vehicles and have appropriate crewing levels. Schemes proposing to co-collect food waste on existing kerbside recycling vehicles or spilt-bodied vehicles will be considered.
- Provide a supply of kitchen caddy liners at the roll out stage. If ongoing supplies of liners will not be distributed by the local authority then a commitment to provide an easy to use alternative arrangement for residents to purchase liners locally should be given.
- Treat the collected food waste by In-vessel Composting (IVC) or Anaerobic Digestion (AD). Applications are welcomed from authorities with access to local facilities or where new plants are expected to be commissioned in the locality by March 2011. Details of facilities known to WRAP can be found at <http://web.adas.co.uk/wrap/maps/wrap/>.

Schemes incorporating collections from schools and commercial premises will be welcomed although the funding total will be set by the numbers of households covered.

Funding is not available for combined food and garden waste collections. However, WRAP will consider applications from authorities who wish to change their service provision from a combined garden and food scheme to a separate food waste collection service.

This is open for applications from local authorities in England – individual and partnership applications are welcome. A local authority can work with other organisations (e.g. community or private sectors) to implement the service but those organisations cannot apply directly to WRAP. Partnership applications will need to demonstrate the active commitment of all partners.

### 3. What are the deadlines?

There are two submission dates for expressions of interest:

- 31 July 2009 - is for schemes with well developed plans where the funding would most likely be needed to extend the planned service to additional households. Collections would need to be introduced by March 2010 or very shortly after.
- 26 October 2009 - is for authorities who may require more time to develop plans and would be looking to introduce schemes after 1st April 2010.

More detail on the phases is shown below:

2009/10	
<b>APPLICATIONS - Phase 1</b>	<b>Deadline Dates</b>
Submit Expression of Interest to WRAP	31 July 2009
WRAP notify applicants of decisions	w/c 31 August 2009
WRAP agree Support Agreements with authorities	Sept/Oct 2009
Authorities return signed Support Agreements to WRAP	Oct/Nov 2009
<b>APPLICATIONS - Phase 2</b>	<b>Deadline Dates</b>
Submit Expression of Interest to WRAP	26 October 2009
WRAP notify applicants of decisions	w/c 16 November 2009
WRAP agree Support Agreements with authorities	Nov/Dec 2009
Authorities return signed Support Agreements to WRAP	Dec 2009/Jan 2010
<b>IMPLEMENTATION PHASE</b>	
All Year 1 claims and relevant supporting information for project activities submitted	15 March 2010
Activities on all funded projects must be completed	31 March 2011
All final claims and relevant supporting information for project activities submitted	16 March 2011

### 4. How do I apply?

Please click on the following link for the Expressions of Interest form: [Expressions of interest form \(click here\)](#). You need to complete all sections and this must be approved by a head of service or portfolio holder. Applications will be selected on:

- The basis of the information provided in the completed Expression of Interest form
- Type of scheme being proposed – WRAP will only fund schemes that fit with its guidance
- Access / proximity to suitable current or planned treatment capacity for the collected food waste

- Value for money in terms of number of households served, the tonnage expected to be collected and the estimated cost per tonne

Following the selection process WRAP will discuss and agree a support package with each of the selected authorities. All successful authorities will be issued with a Support Agreement that they will need to sign and return to WRAP. All successful authorities will be expected to monitor the quantities of food waste collected (tonnes) for a least a 12 month period and provide details to WRAP.

## 5. Progress to date

Between 2007 and 2009 WRAP provided funding and technical support to 21 local authorities (19 local authorities in England and 2 local authorities in Northern Ireland) to carry out trials of separate food waste collections. A full evaluation report from the trials is available by clicking on the following link: [Evaluation report \(click here\)](#). The key findings were as follows:

- Average food waste yields per household served per week ranged from 0.32 kg (bring scheme) to 2.1 kg (kerbside); this is equivalent to each household avoiding the equivalent of between 0.11 kg and 0.94 kg of CO<sub>2</sub> each week.
- Refuse collection frequency was found to be a statistically significant factor in the performance of the trials. The average food waste yields achieved by trial areas with fortnightly refuse collections were generally higher in comparison to trial areas with weekly refuse collections. Schemes with weekly refuse collections, particularly those where refuse was collected in wheeled bins, also experienced a dropping off in yields and participation over a period of several months.
- For trials running alongside weekly refuse collections, those trial areas using sacks for refuse tended to achieve higher food waste yields in comparison to trials using wheeled bins for refuse.
- Levels of deprivation were also found to be significant in affecting the food waste yields achieved in the trials, with trials in more affluent areas tending to achieve higher yields in comparison to trials operating in less affluent areas.
- Trials involving door-to-door collections of food waste from flats achieved average food waste yields of around 0.5 kg per household served per week. These relatively low yields reflect the challenges of collecting food waste from multi-occupancy properties and suggest a need to develop additional strategies for collecting food waste from these properties.
- Participation monitoring was carried out in 20 trial areas. Ten of these achieved participation rates of 70% or more during the first phase of monitoring. Average participation rates across all phases of monitoring ranged from 21% (for a flats collection trial) to 76%.
- The waste audits found that 'unavoidable' food waste, such as peelings, cores and bones, accounted for the highest proportion of separately collected food waste (53% of total food waste set out).
- High levels of satisfaction were recorded for the containers, caddies and liners, as well as for the publicity materials which were produced using WRAP designed templates.
- The most common reasons given by respondents for not participating in the food waste collections were related to concerns about potential hygiene, odour or vermin issues (24% of non-participants combined). However these issues were considered less important by residents who actually participated in the collections (6% of participants), indicating that these are often perceived issues rather than problems experienced in reality.

- The single main reason stated for non-participation was not producing enough food waste (21% of nonparticipants). For most households this is also likely to be an issue of perception rather than reality; WRAP has shown in The Food We Waste study that even households that claim to generate no food waste at all produce on average 2.9kg per week.

The Scottish Government food waste trials were managed by Remade Scotland and covered 7 local authorities; 4 focused on collection of food waste only (equating to 1500 tonnes) and 3 added to existing infrastructure, collecting food waste with the garden waste (equating to 7000 tonnes). These began in March/April 2008 and ran for a 12-month period. The results of the trials will be presented at the forthcoming APSE environmental services seminar on 15-16 October 2009.

## **6. APSE comment**

The 2009 budget showed a clear commitment to encourage investment in low carbon jobs and energy generation using organic waste. The Chancellor announced additional funding of £10 million for anaerobic digestion and waste infrastructure and a continued increase of £8 per tonne per year to the standard rate of landfill tax up to 2013. These measures aim to encourage investment in sustainable waste management and will enable over 850,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent savings to be made each year, which will help towards achieving the Government's carbon budget. The £10 million for food waste reprocessing will play a vital role in providing alternative energy, diverting a further 316,000 tonnes of food waste from landfill and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. In the last year alone efforts by local authorities have reduced their landfill from 18 million tonnes in 2006 to 15 million tonnes in 2008.

The commitment to reducing the amount of waste sent to landfill has been further evidenced in this allocation of funds for food waste collections. Local authorities can only access this funding, though, by meeting the criteria set out above, although this can be for new collections or expanding existing ones. APSE would encourage local authorities who are looking at introducing food waste collections to look at the lessons learnt from the trials. In addition, APSE lifelong learning and development are running a joint course with WRAP on food waste, for more information please contact Jan Mazzone: [jmazzone@apse.org.uk](mailto:jmazzone@apse.org.uk)

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