

## **SCRUTINY COMMITTEE REPORT**

Date Written	28 <sup>th</sup> June 2019
Report Author	Stephen Thomas / Paul Davies.
Service Area	Waste Management
Committee Date	8 <sup>th</sup> July 2019

*To: Chair, Ladies and Gentlemen*

## **Recycling Rates for Food and Household Waste**

### **1.0 SUMMARY OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 The report provides information on Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council's household recycling rates for both food and dry recycling participation. The percentage of households not participating is also included. The report illustrates the different types of household recycling services between 2015 – 2019 and the income generated from them.
- 1.2 The report also highlights a selection of areas that have high and low participation rates.
- 1.3 Information on the WRAP pilot plastic film trial is provided.

### **2.0 RECOMMENDATION(S)**

- 2.1 The content of this report to be discussed and noted.

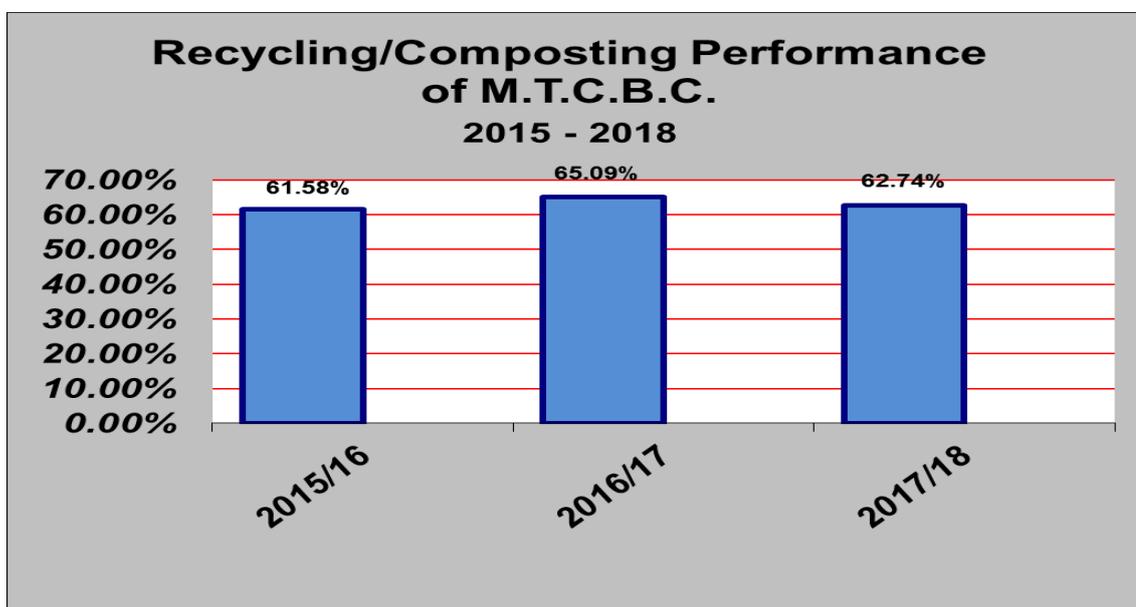
### **3.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 Since 2015/16 the Authority has achieved the Welsh Government's recovery (Prepared for Re-use, Recycled or Composted) target of 58% of total waste arising's (TWA).
- 3.2 The indicative recovery rate for 2018/19 (which won't be confirmed until October 2019) is 61.59% thus, achieving the target for that year.

- 3.3 The Welsh Government target for 2019/20 has increased to 64%.
- 3.4 To achieve the 64% target for this year, increasing the rate by 2.5%, public participation in the Authorities recycling services must improve.

#### 4.0 WHERE WE WERE

- 4.1 In 2015 the Authority implemented a service change to its refuse and recycling collections based on the Welsh Government's collections blueprint and funded through the Collaborative Change Programme (CCP).
- 4.2 Refuse bins were downsized from 240litre to 140litre per property (with some concessions made).
- 4.3 In June 2015 dry recycling collections changed from mixed recycling collected in 55l boxes or sacks to source separated materials collected in blue re-useable sacks and 55l boxes. These materials are collected on a bespoke vehicle where previously collections were made in Refuse Collection Vehicles.
- 4.4 The garden/food waste service was reduced in 2015 to seasonal for garden waste from an all year around service and the food waste was collected alongside the dry recycling.
- 4.5 In 2016 WEEE and textiles were added to the materials collected on the weekly recycling vehicles.
- 4.6 Further changes to the services were made in 2016 and 2017 that included the provision of recycling frames for flat complexes and trolley boxes for selected areas of the County Borough funded through CCP.
- 4.7 The table below illustrates the recovery rate since 2015/16. The WG target over this period was 58%.



- 4.8 A participation monitoring exercise was conducted on 2 collection rounds over a period of 3 weeks that commenced in November 2016 to give an indication of participation rates. The rounds selected had a good representation of the different socio-economic household groups. Where resources are not available to monitor every collection round this size sample is standard industry practice. Participation in the services was; dry recycling 78%, food waste 55% and overall 79%. The overall figure includes households that use the food, dry recycling service or both.
- 4.9 The table below illustrates the income per tonne for the dry recyclables and the cost per tonne to process the food waste.

	Dry Recyclables	Food
2015/16	£229,047	-£112,587
2016/17	£382,885	-£139,113
2017/18	£420,042	<b>-£135,574</b>
2018/19	£374,088	<b>-£137,881</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1,406,062</b>	<b>-£525,155</b>

## 5.0 WHERE WE ARE NOW

- 5.1 The provisional recovery rate for 2018/19 is 61.59%.
- 5.2 A pilot project funded by WRAP Cymru to collect plastic film from a selected collection round over a 10 week period was implemented between October and December 2018. We are currently awaiting the report and recommendations.
- 5.3 Since the participation monitoring exercise in 2016, mentioned in section 4.7 no further exercise has been implemented.
- 5.4 A sample of areas deemed to be high or low participation based on information collated from the operational Supervisor along with the Waste and Recycling Wardens is:
- High Participation (>85%) – Ty Llwyd Park and Hollies, Heolgerrig, and Upper Cefn Coed.
  - Low participation (<30%) – Morgantown, New Gurnos, Fir Tree Drive, and Gellidawel.
- 5.5 The list above is a sample and has been used as an example. There are other areas that would be categorised under either of the headings or as a separate, average category. There are exceptions in terms of streets or individual properties within each category.
- 5.6 Assumed participation in the food collection service is 55%, dry recycling collection service is 78% and the overall participation is 79%.

5.7 Since February 2019 free paint has been available to residents from the HWRCs. Good re-useable paint is decanted from the paint collection containers on site and re-located to a chem-safe container from where members of the public can take any paint that they may require, by providing their postcode to a site operative. Volumes of paint taken by the public are recorded, collated and included in the recovery rate calculations.

## **6.0 WHERE WE WANT TO BE**

6.1 To achieve the recovery target of 64% for 2019/20.

6.2 To improve participation in the kerbside collection services as well as to extract all recyclable materials from the wheeled bin in order to achieve the above target and provide a more cost effective service.

## **7.0 WHAT WE NEED TO DO NEXT**

7.1 We are currently working with WRAP Cymru to identify and implement projects in order to achieve the short term goal of recycling 64% of our waste for 2019/20 as well as introducing sustainable long term services that will allow continual improvement.

7.2 Service areas that have been prioritised to develop are:

- Improve the current food and dry participation rates.
- Improvements to the trade recycling and residual services to obtain more recyclables and become more cost effective.
- Provide more effective communication and education.
- Enforcement of recycling in the wheeled bin. We are currently working in partnership with WRAP Cymru to develop a campaign which would involve following a set procedure where we would provide households that have been identified as having recyclables in their wheeled bin with an advisory letter and leaflet. If that household continues to use the wheeled bins to contain recyclables a second advisory letter that alludes to s46 legislation will be provided. Further occurrences would be dealt with under the Env Protection Act.
- Develop and operate the Re-use shop.

## **8.0 CONTRIBUTION TO WELLBEING OBJECTIVES**

8.1 The Waste Services Department contributes to the Council's environmental wellbeing objective: communities protect, enhance and promote our environment and countryside.

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## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

<b>Title of Document(s)</b>	<b>Document(s) Date</b>	<b>Document Location</b>
List the Background documents which have been relied on in preparing the report. E.g. previous minutes of relevant committees		
<b>Does the report contain any issue that may impact the Council's Constitution?</b>		