

# Transport and Environment Committee

10am, Tuesday, 28 October 2014

## Landfill and Recycling

Item number	7.10
Report number	
Executive/routine	
Wards	All

### Executive summary

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This report updates the Committee on performance in reducing the amount of waste being sent to landfill and increasing recycling.

The positive trend in performance is continuing, with the amount of waste sent to landfill in the period April to August 2014 reducing by 3.1% compared to the same period in 2013.

Taking into account seasonal factors, it is anticipated that 124,956 tonnes of waste will be sent to landfill in 2014/15, 7,608 tonnes or 5.7% less than in 2013/14. Further, it is anticipated the year end recycling figure will be 40.4%, a 1.1% increase on that achieved in 2013/14. This figure is expected to be revised upwards as the impact of the new kerbside recycling service is incorporated. In a full year the recycling rate is anticipated to increase to 46%.

This report also includes an update on complaint numbers. In the first 5 months of financial year 2014/15 (April to August), there have been on average 624 complaints per week. This is 12% more than for the same period in 2013/14. With around 460,000 collections per week, this equates to a complaint occurring in 0.14% of collections between April and August.

### Links

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Coalition pledges	<a href="#">P44, P49, P50</a>
Council outcomes	<a href="#">CO17, CO18, CO19</a>
Single Outcome Agreement	<a href="#">SO4</a>

## Landfill and Recycling

### Recommendations

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- 1.1 It is recommended that Committee notes the contents of the report.

### Background

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- 2.1 At the meeting of the Transport and Environment Committee on 15 January 2013, members requested regular updates on performance in reducing the amount of waste sent to landfill and increasing recycling.

#### Landfilled Waste and Recycling

- 2.2 Capital coalition Pledge 49 outlines the commitment towards increasing recycling levels across the city and reducing the proportion of waste going to landfill. This includes targets to reduce annual landfill tonnage to 118,000 tonnes (from 132,564 tonnes in 2013/14), and to increase the percentage of waste that is recycled to 50%.
- 2.3 Significant progress in implementing the changes required to deliver both service improvements and landfill savings have been made. This includes the implementation of managed weekly collections in September 2012 and the kerbside recycling redesign which commenced roll-out in September 2014.

#### Complaints

- 2.4 At the meeting on 27 August 2013, members requested that the performance reports also include updates on complaints made about waste services.
- 2.5 There are 236,000 properties in Edinburgh which receive multiple refuse and recycling collections. On average there are approximately 90,000 collections a day and 460,000 collections a week. Current complaint targets are based on the the number of collections carried out, but are not adjusted for seasonal variation.

### Main report

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#### Landfill Waste

- 3.1 Landfill tonnage to date (April to August 2014) is 55,517 tonnes. This is a reduction of 1,776 tonnes, or 3.1% on the same period in 2013/14 (Table 1).

3.2 The projected tonnage of landfill to the year end, taking into account seasonal fluctuations, is currently 124,956 tonnes. This would be a reduction of 5.7%, or 7,608 tonnes on the year 2013/14.

	YTD Apr-Aug 2014	YTD Apr-Aug 2013	Difference		14/15 Target	14/15 Year End Forecast	13/14 Year End Actual	Forecast difference to 13/14	
			Tonnes	%				Tonnes	%
Landfill	55,517	57,293	-1,776	-3.1%	118,000	124,956	132,564	-7,608	-5.7%

Table 1: Landfill Tonnages – actual YTD and anticipated 14/15 & 13/14

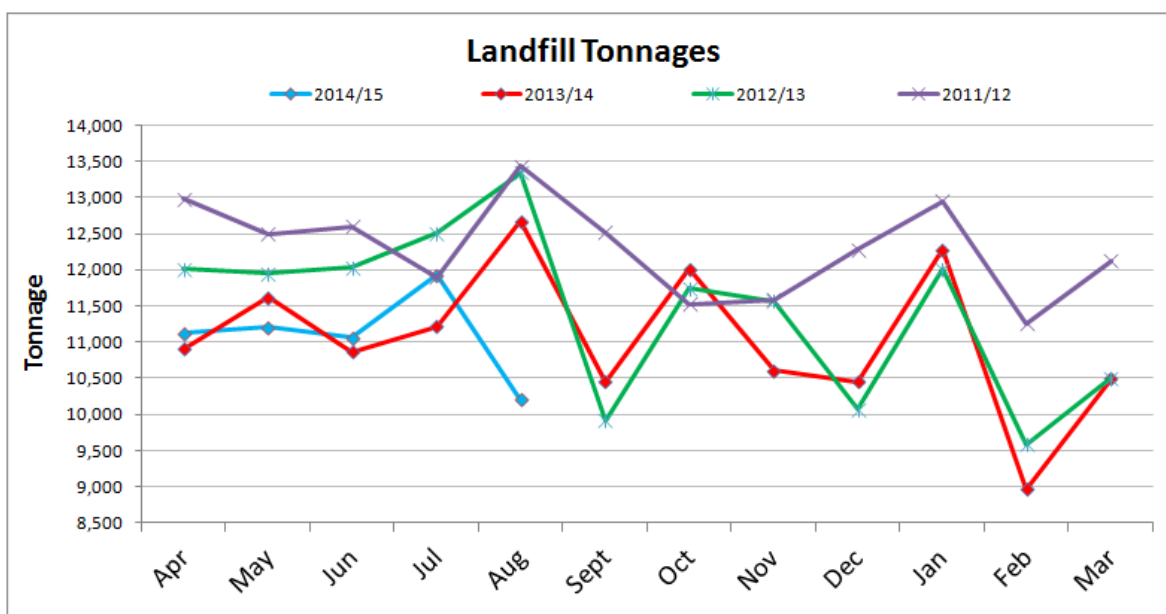


Chart 1: Landfill tonnages 11/12 - 14/15

3.3 The trend in monthly landfill tonnages compared to 2013/14 is detailed in Table 2 below:

Year	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
2013/14	10,907	11,619	10,871	11,220	12,676	10,455	12,011	10,606	10,454	12,284	8,967	10,494
2014/15	11,119	11,206	11,061	11,928	10,202							
% difference	1.9%	-3.6%	1.8%	6.3%	-19.5%							

Table 2: Landfill comparison per month

3.4 The total tonnage of waste has been falling in recent years. The amount of total waste (waste arisings) collected in 2013/14 was 1.2% less than 2012/13. However, despite a decrease in arisings in August 2014, waste arisings overall, between April and August 2014, are above that experienced in the same period in 2013/14 by 2.6% (Chart 2). It was anticipated that a continuation of the decreasing trend would occur, and waste arisings are therefore being monitored closely.

3.5 Included in the waste arisings for 2014/15 is material processed as refuse derived fuel (RDF). From August 2014, it is anticipated that 90% of the non-recyclable waste, deposited at Community Recycling Centres (CRC), will now be processed as RDF. It should be noted that, whilst the process does divert waste away from landfill, RDF does not contribute towards recycling tonnages. Further details on CRC waste can be found in section 3.12.

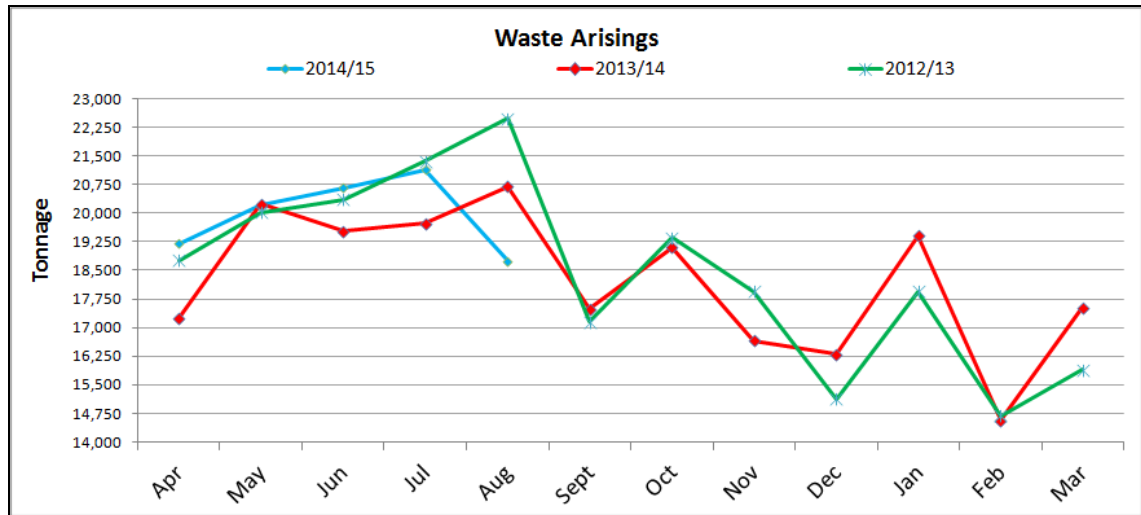


Chart 2: Total Waste Tonnages 2012/13 – 2014/15

## Recycling

3.6 The percentage of waste recycled (including street sweepings) between April and August 2014 was 42.5% compared to 41.1% for the same period in 2013/14 (Table 3 and Chart 3). Based on these figures, and taking into account seasonality factors, it is currently anticipated that the end of year recycling rate for 2014/15 will be 40.4%, a 1.1% increase over the 39.3% achieved in 2013/14.

	YTD 2014 (Apr-Aug)		YTD 2013 (Apr-Aug)		Difference	
	Tonnes	% Rate	Tonnes	% Rate	Tonnes	% Rate
Recycling	42,502	42.5%	40,142	41.1%	2,360	1.4%

Table 3: Percentage of waste recycled 2013/14 & 2014/15

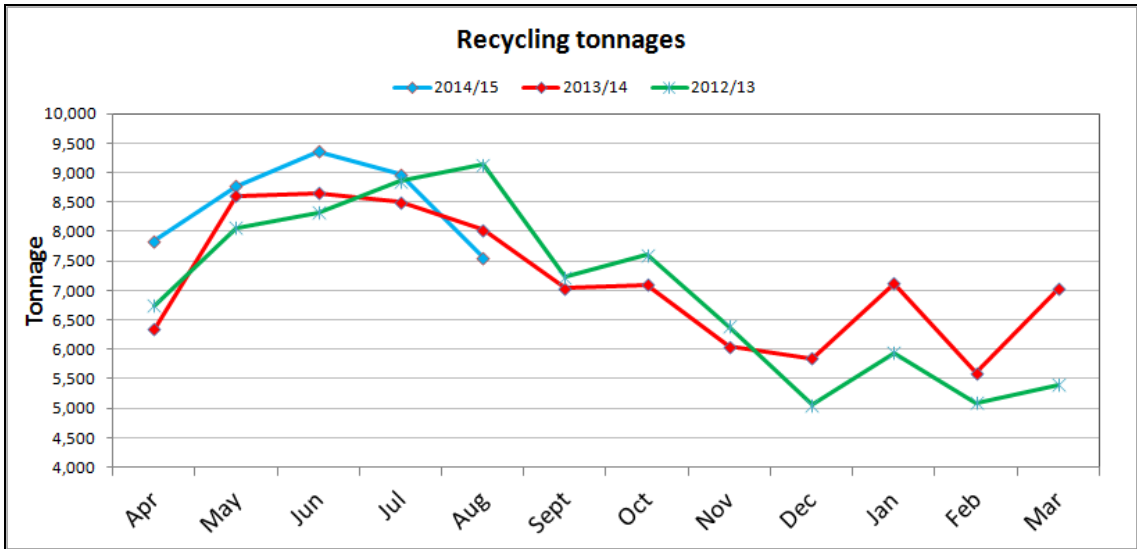


Chart 3: Recycling Tonnages 12/13, 13/14 & 14/15

3.7 A comparison of monthly recycling percentages for the last 3 financial years (Chart 4) illustrates that recycling percentages have shown significant improvement in recent years.

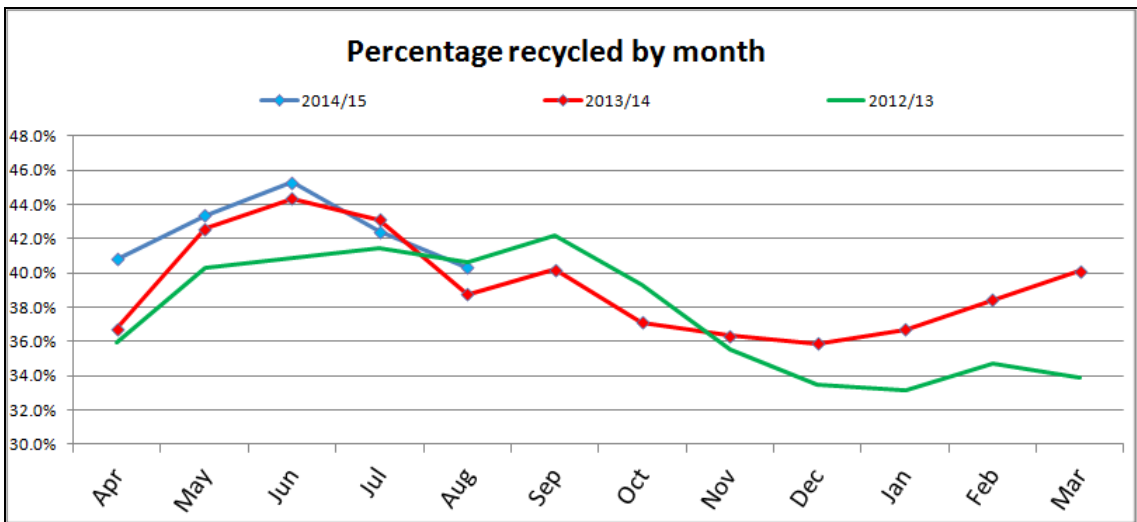


Chart 4: Percentage Recycled by month 12/13, 13/14 & 14/15

3.8 Table 4 provides further details on the recycling tonnage collected for the period April- August, broken down by recycling collection scheme.

<b>Scheme</b>	<b>Apr- Aug 2014/15</b>	<b>Apr - Aug 2013/14</b>	<b>YTD Difference</b>	<b>% difference</b>
Kerbside Blue/Red Boxes	5957	6032	-75	-1.2%
Garden Waste	14613	12239	2374	19.4%
Food Waste	2274	2080	194	9.3%
Recycling Banks (textiles, books, glass & paper banks)	2777	2972	-194	-6.5%
Packaging Banks	1527	1357	171	12.6%
Communal Paper bins	745	786	-41	-5.2%
Trade	1633	1913	-280	-14.6%
CRC	9520	9105	415	4.6%
Special Uplifts	1792	1454	337	23.2%
Other	203	240	-36	-15.2%
Street Sweepings	1460	1965	-505	-25.7%
<b>Total Recycling</b>	<b>42502</b>	<b>40143</b>	<b>2359</b>	<b>5.9%</b>

Table 4: Year to date (April - August) recycling by collection scheme 2014/15 & 2013/14

- 3.9 Year to date, food waste has shown a 9.3% increase in tonnage collected. Food waste has been the subject of a specific campaign in early 2014 focused on increasing the use of the service, with particular emphasis placed on overcoming perceptions relating to cleanliness, convenience and the need to divert even small amounts of food waste.
- 3.10 A large increase has been recorded against kerbside collected garden waste compared to 2013. The tonnage of garden waste collected is 19.4% greater than for the same period last year (April to August).
- 3.11 On street packaging recycling has also shown an increase in use, with tonnage increasing by 12.6%.
- 3.12 Community recycling centres (CRC) have experienced a 4.6% increase in recycled tonnage to date. A new contract to extract recyclable materials deposited in residual waste skips at CRC sites was expected to increase the recycling tonnage by some 2750 tonnes this financial year. However, the amount of recyclate in this waste stream is not as high as anticipated. It is currently forecast that 1200 tonnes will be recycled via this contract that would, in previous years, have been sent to landfill. Whilst this material cannot be recycled, the contractor is, from August 2014, able to process 90% of the resulting residual waste as refuse derived fuel (RDF).

- 3.13 Following approval of the outline business case by this Committee on 27 August 2013, roll-out of a new kerbside bin and box recycling service, a replacement to the red and blue box scheme for kerbside individual bin domestic customers, commenced in September 2014. The project, being undertaken in five phases, is programmed to be completed by September 2015. The new kerbside recycling bin and box service collects a wider range of materials and provides increased recycling capacity. It is anticipated that, once fully rolled out, the new service will increase the overall citywide recycling rate to in excess of 46%. This figure, which is based on anticipated yields prior to the service commencing, will be subject to continuous review now the service has commenced.
- 3.14 This Committee also requested that further work be undertaken to identify the most effective and affordable option for enhancing and expanding communal recycling provision in the high density and tenemental housing areas of the city. Waste Services will be piloting different approaches to communal recycling commencing towards the end of the financial year 2014/15. A report to Committee on 18 March 2014, [Enhancing Communal Recycling Services](#), identified two pilots to be taken forward;
- a. Pilot 1 – change and simplify the materials which can be placed in a communal recycling bin (combining paper and ‘packaging’ [plastic bottles, cardboard, cans]) and provide glass recycling bins.
  - b. Pilot 2 – in areas where side loading 3200 litre residual/landfill bins are used, change the mix of materials as in Pilot 1 above and also increase recycling capacity and reduce landfill capacity.

## **Complaints**

- 3.15 Weekly complaint numbers since 2012 are shown in Chart 5. The peak in complaints in September 2012 was associated with the implementation of new refuse collection routes. Overall, there has been a downward trend in complaint numbers since that time, though the Service has experienced an increase in complaints in August 2014, mainly due to missed kerbside collections of residual and food waste. To improve route efficiencies in refuse collection, new larger routes were rolled out across both these services in the week commencing 11th August. The food waste service is suffering from disruption due to a number of factors which include shift changes for the crews and route familiarity issues. The Service is assessing each route on a daily basis to ensure that critical, route specific issues which are causing disruption, are identified and addressed.

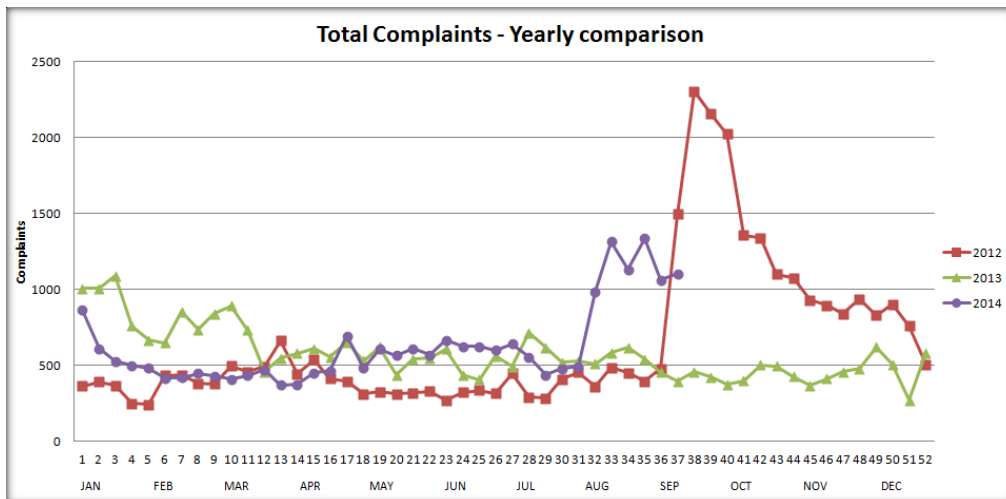


Chart 5: Total complaints per week 2012 – 2014

3.16 On average between April and August 2014, there were 624 complaints a week, 12% more than for the same period last year. With approximately 460,000 collections a week, this translates to 0.14% of collections resulting in a customer complaint.

3.17 It is acknowledged that there is never an acceptable level of complaints and Waste Services continues to work hard to reduce complaint numbers. A breakdown of missed collection complaints for the period April – August 2014 is detailed in Chart 6. As well as dealing with complaints at an individual level, particular focus is now placed on householders who have had cause for a repeat complaint and those customers who receive assisted collections.

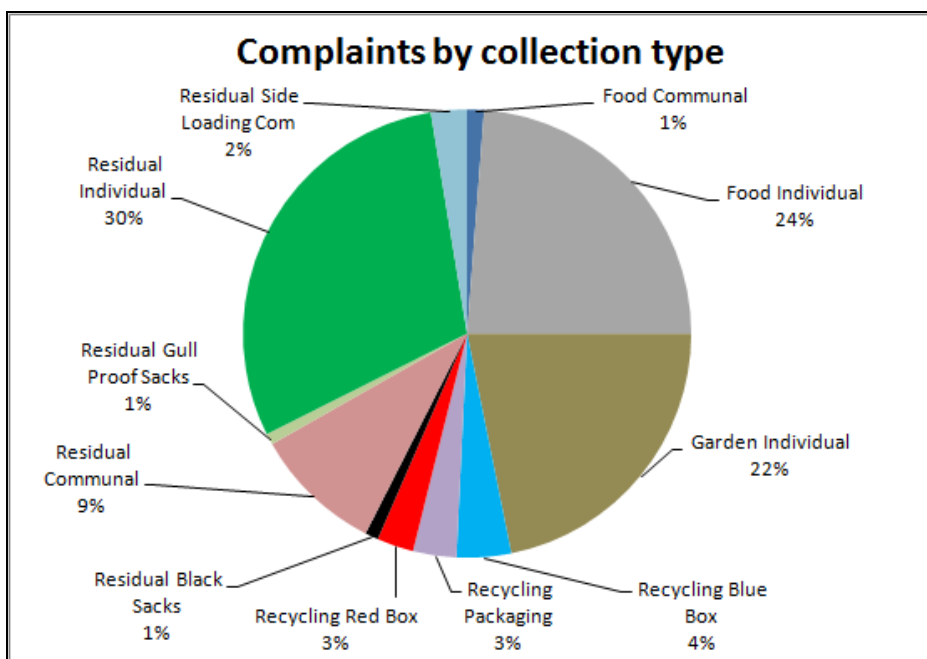


Chart 6: Missed collection complaints – April- August 2014 by collection type

3.18 All enquiries, service requests and information requests are now being logged and progressed through the Confirm On Demand Environmental system, with assets also now being maintained using Confirm. Phase II of Confirm (Confirm connect mobile) is now fully rolled out and crews are using mobile devices to



carry out routine and adhoc work and provide real time information on collection route completion.

## **Measures of success**

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- 4.1 Achievement of the Council's targets for increasing recycling and reducing landfill.

## **Financial impact**

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- 5.1 None. Landfill and recycling tonnages are in line with budget projections.

## **Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact**

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- 6.1 The information contained in this report is a review of the current performance of landfill and recycling. This report does not impact on any existing policies and no risks have been identified pertaining to health and safety, governance or compliance. Further, there are no regulatory implications that require to be taken into account.

## **Equalities impact**

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- 7.1 The Council is meeting its public sector duty to advance equal opportunity for residents to recycle by using a range of communications methods. Written information is available through leaflets and electronic media. Road shows and door knocking visits provide face to face contact with residents and visits from recycling advisers are available on request. All material can be translated on request. Consultation was carried out via demographically representative focus groups and via on line and written questionnaires to ensure that a full and representative range of views were obtained. Assistance with the presentation of recycling and waste containers is available for those who require it to ensure everyone has access to these services. The above has ensured that information is available for all within the equality and rights framework.

## **Sustainability impact**

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- 8.1 Increased recycling will help to divert waste from landfill and support the achievement of greenhouse gas reduction targets, and reductions in local environmental impact.

## Consultation and engagement

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- 9.1 Engagement and communications work is ongoing for the new kerbside recycling service. As part of the roll-out of the new recycling service, a series of briefings were held with key stakeholders and customer facing staff to help support people through the change. A communications campaign is being progressed that includes leaflets and information packs being sent to residents with instructions on how the service will work and a new calendar for phase two. Events are also being held across the city throughout the Autumn, which join with existing community events wherever possible. This is being supported by additional signage, targeted media work and social media activity.
- 9.2 On routes in the first phase of the roll-out, recycling advisors are currently working along side crews on both the recycling and residual routes. This helps to deal with any immediate issues householders may have and to accurately identify householders who would benefit from further guidance in utilising the new recycling service fully. The recycling advisors are also visiting properties to give further information on how the new service works and how to reduce waste.
- 9.3 For areas of high density, such as flats and tenements with shared bins, a communications and engagement strategy is being developed for the pilot projects that will be running in the last quarter of the financial year. This will include monitoring and evaluation to ensure residents feedback is captured as to any changes that may be implemented in future.

## Background reading/external references

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[Enhancing Communal Recycling Services](#)

### John Bury

Acting Director Services for Communities

Contact: Andy Williams, Service Support Unit Manager

E-mail: [andy.williams@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:andy.williams@edinburgh.gov.uk) | Tel: 0131 469 5660

## Links

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<b>Coalition pledges</b>	<b>P44</b> – Prioritise keeping our streets clean and attractive <b>P49</b> – Continue to increase recycling levels across the city and reducing the proportion of waste going to landfill <b>P50</b> – Meet greenhouse gas targets, including national target of 42% by 2020
<b>Council outcomes</b>	<b>CO17</b> – Clean – Edinburgh’s streets and open spaces are free of litter and graffiti <b>CO18</b> – Green – We reduce the local environmental impact of our consumption and production <b>CO19</b> – Attractive Places and Well maintained – Edinburgh remains an attractive city through the development of high quality buildings and places and the delivery of high standards and maintenance of infrastructure and public realm
<b>Single Outcome Agreement</b>	<b>SO4</b> – Edinburgh’s communities are safer and have improved physical and social fabric
<b>Appendices</b>	N/A