



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CLIMATE CHANGE CABINET STEERING GROUP

18th DECEMBER 2019

RECYCLING WITHIN RHONDDA CYNON TAF

REPORT OF THE GROUP DIRECTOR OF PROSPERITY, DEVELOPMENT AND FRONTLINE SERVICES IN DISCUSSION WITH THE CABINET'S CLIMATE CHANGE CHAMPION (COUNCILLOR RHYS LEWIS)

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1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to update Members of the Climate Change Committee on the recycling performance for the first 6 months of 2019/20, the new Materials Recovery Facility, future developments at Bryn Pica and potential legislative changes.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:

- 2.1 Note the content of the report:
- 2.2 Recommend to Cabinet to change the recycling target to 80% by 2024/25

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 This Council as do all councils in Wales has statutory targets set by Welsh Government. This year the target is 64%, failure to meet these targets will result in the Council receiving a substantial fine. The fine is based on performance so every ton we miss the target by, will result in a minimum fine of £200 per ton.
- 3.2 In order to achieve these targets, councils have to develop working systems to deliver these targets through new Materials Recycling Facilities, and true circular economy whilst ensuring they are able to change when there are legislative changes.

4. UPDATE / CURRENT POSITION

4.1 RCT Council incrementally year on year has improved its recycling figure, but last year saw a slight drop in the performance, this was mainly due to the change in way we were able to measure the wood we collected at our Community Recycling Centres and the tonnage in green waste collected at the kerbside due to the weather.

4.2 These changes affected all Councils and not only our Council, whilst other Councils also indicated that they had seen recycling plateau, something we had been concerned about for some time.

4.3 2019/2020 is a target year in regard to the legislation, and the target is that we must achieve a recycling figure of at least 64%, failure to do so would result in the Council receiving a fine. The fine is a minimum of £200 on every ton we fail to miss the target by, so it could be a substantial amount.

4.4 The table below shows our performance during the first 6 months of this financial year. These figures are subject to ratification by Waste data flow and any change will be minimal.

4.5

	Q1	Q2	Total For
	2019/20	2019/20	2019/20
Dry Reuse	379.35	461.61	840.96
Dry Recycling	15710.31	18,161.45	33,871.76
Composting	5,479.19	5,950.82	11,430.01
Total municipal waste	32,105.14	34,841.50	66,946.64
WMT 10(iv) - Dry reuse rate	1.18%	1.32%	1.26%
WMT 10(v) - Dry recycling rate	48.93%	52.13%	50.60%
WMT 10(vi) - Composting rate	17.07%	17.08%	17.07%
WMT 09b reuse, recycling and composting rate	67.18%	70.53%	68.92%

4.6 For the record the performance highlighted in the table, shows that we have achieved the target set out by Welsh Government and puts in a good position to be able to maintain this for the remainder of the year, thus avoiding any fines.

4.7 It should also be noted that these figures are the highest ever achieved by this Council.

4.8 The next target for this Council is the 2024/2025 target of 70% so if we can maintain this performance and improve slightly we are well on course to achieve this considerably earlier than we need to. It is hoped that provision of the new MRF at Bryn Pica will go a long way in taking us over the target and towards 80%. Therefore I feel it would be appropriate to recommend to Cabinet to change the target for 2024/25 to 80% and putting together a marketing campaign informing resident enforcement action will be taken if they do not recycle.

- 4.9 The council has recently invested in a new Materials Recycling Facility at Bryn Pica, it is too early to say the impact this will have on our recycling percentage but based on the early commissioning there will be an increase in the percentage.
- 4.10 It has also been very noticeable that the purity of the material coming out of the MRF is extremely good and in particular the steel and aluminium is of a really high purity and some buyers who have been to see the material stated that it is the cleanest material they have ever seen.
- 4.11 Despite this investment, the MRF is only as good as the residents who recycle and if the material is contaminated there is not a lot we can do, also to achieve 70/80% we need buy-in from all our residents, we still undertake awareness but this is labour intensive, we also use enforcement.
- 4.12 Our recycling collection method is simple, so there is no excuse not to recycle but still we have residents who do not recycle.
- 4.13 The site at Bryn Pica is home to a number of activities:-
- Material Recycling Facility (MRF)
 - Anaerobic Digestion Facility (AD)
 - Mattress Recycling Facility
 - Leachate Treatment Plant
 - Landfill
 - Landfill Gas
 - Education Centre
- 4.14 The challenge in waste is to provide a true circular economy whilst utilising the energy produced.
- 4.15 At Bryn Pica we have land, we have green energy produced through the AD Plant and from the methane produced in the landfill, it is our ambition to develop an Eco Park on site, utilising the energy produced and providing units where businesses can set up and make a product from the materials we collect, basically materials collected in Wales, recycled in Wales utilising green energy, a true circular economy
- 4.16 At present our business case for the Park is under consideration with WG for funding, whilst we have a number of businesses interested in locating to the site, in addition to the private companies, Amgen is looking to develop a recycling process for hard plastics whereby we grind down and wash the plastics and then either sell the material or turn it into a product on site.
- 4.17 The concept of the project has already won a WG award for innovation and the council has already invested its own monies into the project and we are extremely hopeful further WG funding will follow.

- 4.18 Added to this, there is currently a consultation exercise out from WG on Trade Waste Collections with a Waste Strategy Consultation due to come out early in the new year, both could have significant implications on what we as a council do, but I feel we are in a good position to change our service with whatever comes out of the consultation.

5. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no Equality or Diversity implications aligned to this report.

6. CONSULTATION

- 6.1 There are no Consultation implications aligned to this report.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

- 7.1 There are Financial implications in failing to achieve the statutory targets.

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

- 8.1 There are no Legal Implications aligned to this report.

9. LINKS TO THE COUNCIL'S CORPORATE PLAN / OTHER CORPORATE PRIORITIES/SIP

- 9.1 The recycling processes and future plans we adopt align itself to the Corporate Plan and Corporate Priorities.
- 9.2 This clearly is linked with the Well Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act, helping to create a resilient Wales and a Wales of cohesive communities.

10. CONCLUSION

- 10.1 RCT Council are proud of its recycling services and prides itself being at the forefront of continuous improvement in this area.
- 10.2 This is highlighted with the Eco Park plans and the development of the new Material Recycling Facility currently being commissioned.