

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Zero Waste Management Sub-Committee
DATE	2 December 2014
DIRECTOR	Peter Leonard
TITLE OF REPORT	Grove Household Waste Recycling Centre update
REPORT NUMBER	ZWM/14/7564
CHECKLIST COMPLETED	Yes

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report is to provide the Committee with an update on Grove Household Waste Recycling Centre since it's opening in February 2014

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Committee note this report as an update on progress at Grove Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC)

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications from this report

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

There are no other implications from this report

5. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

Prior to January 2014, there were four existing Household Waste and Recycling Centres (HWRCs) in Aberdeen, three to the north of the City (Perwinnes Moss, Pitmedden Road and Sclattie) and one to the south (East Tullos).

There are no HWRCs between the River Dee and the Haudagain roundabout and there was an identified and long standing need to provide suitable facilities in the west of the city.

Scotland's Zero Waste Plan was published in June 2010 and set out several ambitious and challenging targets for the management of waste arising in Scotland.

The Zero Waste Plan outlined that recycling rates of waste arising from households should reach 50% by 2013 and 60% by 2020. In addition the document states that 70% of all waste should be recycled by 2025, and no more than 5% of all waste should be directed to landfill by 2025.

In addition to the above targets the current rate of landfill tax is set at £80 per tonne for every tonne of waste sent to landfill and is currently set to increase by £2.50 per tonne in April 2015.

In 2013, Aberdeen City Council sent 76,570 tonnes of household waste to landfill at a cost of over £5,182,050 in tax alone to ratepayers.

The existing HWRCs in Aberdeen handled around 19,500 tonnes of household material per year. The proposed site at Grove would provide the capacity to manage 5,000 - 8,000 tonnes of material per year, improving access for residents in the west of the City and allowing the existing sites to operate more efficiently.

5.2 The Build

Following a successful tender process by SITA North East Limited (SITA), the project build was won by Bancon Construction and building started in June 2013. The site was finally accepted and handed over in January 2014.

The site opened in February 2014, on budget and 2 weeks late due to weather conditions.

5.3 The Site

Our newest site was designed to target a 70% recycling rate and the graph below shows its recycling rate since opening (Fig. 1). The fact that it has been able to sustain a rate above 60% shows that the site can achieve the goals set out in the Zero Waste plan and with future developments at the site, 70% on a sustained basis should be readily achievable. These figures will be incorporated with our recycling data and analysed once we have sufficient information to make adjustments to the waste types collected.

5.4 Events and Projects

Since its opening on a wet Monday in February, Grove has been slowly increasing its recycling rates and is an ideal site for new projects and trials of additions to waste types which can be accepted. Future wastes that can be recycled will include mattresses and plasterboard.

A Re-Use program is currently being created by the Waste & Recycling team and we are in negotiations with SITA for them to tender and run this scheme at Grove as part of their service under the Waste Management Services Contract. It will be a first for our Household Waste Recycling sites to include a reuse opportunity.

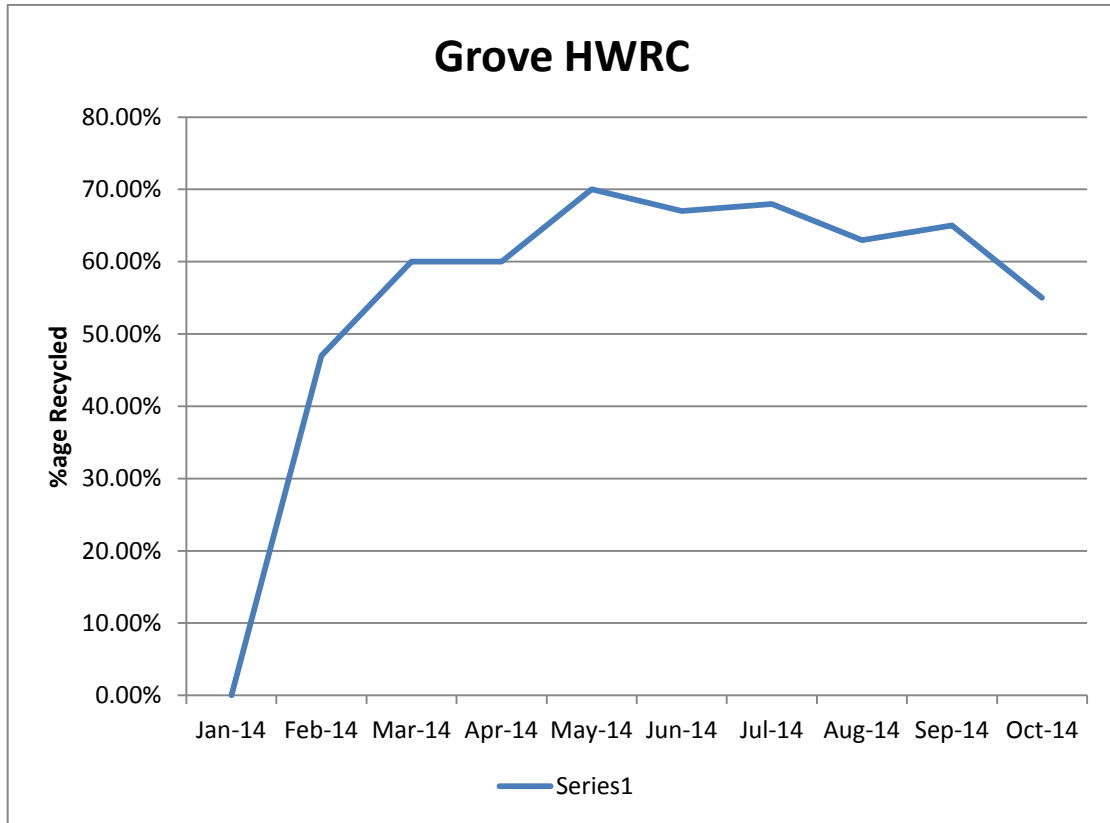


Fig.1 Recycling rate for Grove 2014

5.5 Art Project

The Grove HWRC doubled as an outdoor art gallery when a new sculpture, made from scrap, was unveiled on 10 October 2014. The Re-Thinker was created from around half a tonne of scrap metal gathered from the City’s Household Waste Recycling Centres and is currently on display at the Grove.

The creation was inspired by Rodin’s classic sculpture, The Thinker, an iconic image that has been reproduced many times, but never using waste materials.

The Re-Thinker was created by Lucas Dew a Moray-based artist, who works exclusively with scrap metal and has created sculptures for a range of organisations and clients.

The Re-Thinker will be on display at the Grove HWRC until the middle of January 2015 and is currently for sale priced at £4,500.

With the success of this installation the Recycling Team will be looking to future projects to raise awareness that waste is a resource and Grove is proving an ideal site for this type of project.



Fig 2 – Lucas Dew – the artist



Fig 3 – Group photograph with Councillor Boulton, pupils from Hazlehead Academy, local residents and Council staff.

5.6 Public Response

As well as achieving high recycling rates the public feedback from the site has been overwhelmingly positive. The additional space and range of recycling opportunities have been cited as major improvements over the other HWRCs in the city.

There have been very few complaints received either by SITA or directly to the Council, even during the busy summer period when traffic congestion was feared by those objecting to the site in the planning stage. No noise, smell or vermin complaints have been received since the site opened. The facility was carefully designed to fit into the local environment and to not detract from the beauty of the park. In practice, this goal has been achieved and this situation will only improve as the extensive landscaping matures.

6. IMPACT

Corporate – This site demonstrates that a well designed, user friendly, safe site can easily achieve high recycling rates and is in line with Aberdeen’s Smarter City ethos.

Public – This report would be of value to the public domain as it highlights our continuous program of improving waste and recycling facilities in Aberdeen.

7. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

No risk has been identified from this report.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

No papers were accessed in the production of this report.

9. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

Noel Taylor
Waste Contracts Manager
NoTaylor@aberdeencity.gov.uk
01224 489455