

'It is vital, when encountering a serious problem, not merely to try to solve the problem in itself but to confront and transform the processes that gave rise to the problem in the first place.'

David Harvey. Justice, Nature and the Geography of Difference



Optimising Kerbside Organics Collections

Presentation to Cre Conference, May 5th 2005

Presented by
Dr Dominic Hogg

Outline

Why are we doing what we are doing?

- Drivers
- Options
- Performance in 'Typical' UK Systems
- Managing Biowaste – Alternative Solutions?
- Costs Considered
- Conclusions

Drivers

SUSTAINABLE WASTE MANAGEMENT

Drivers

LANDFILL COSTS

Drivers

LANDFILL DIRECTIVE

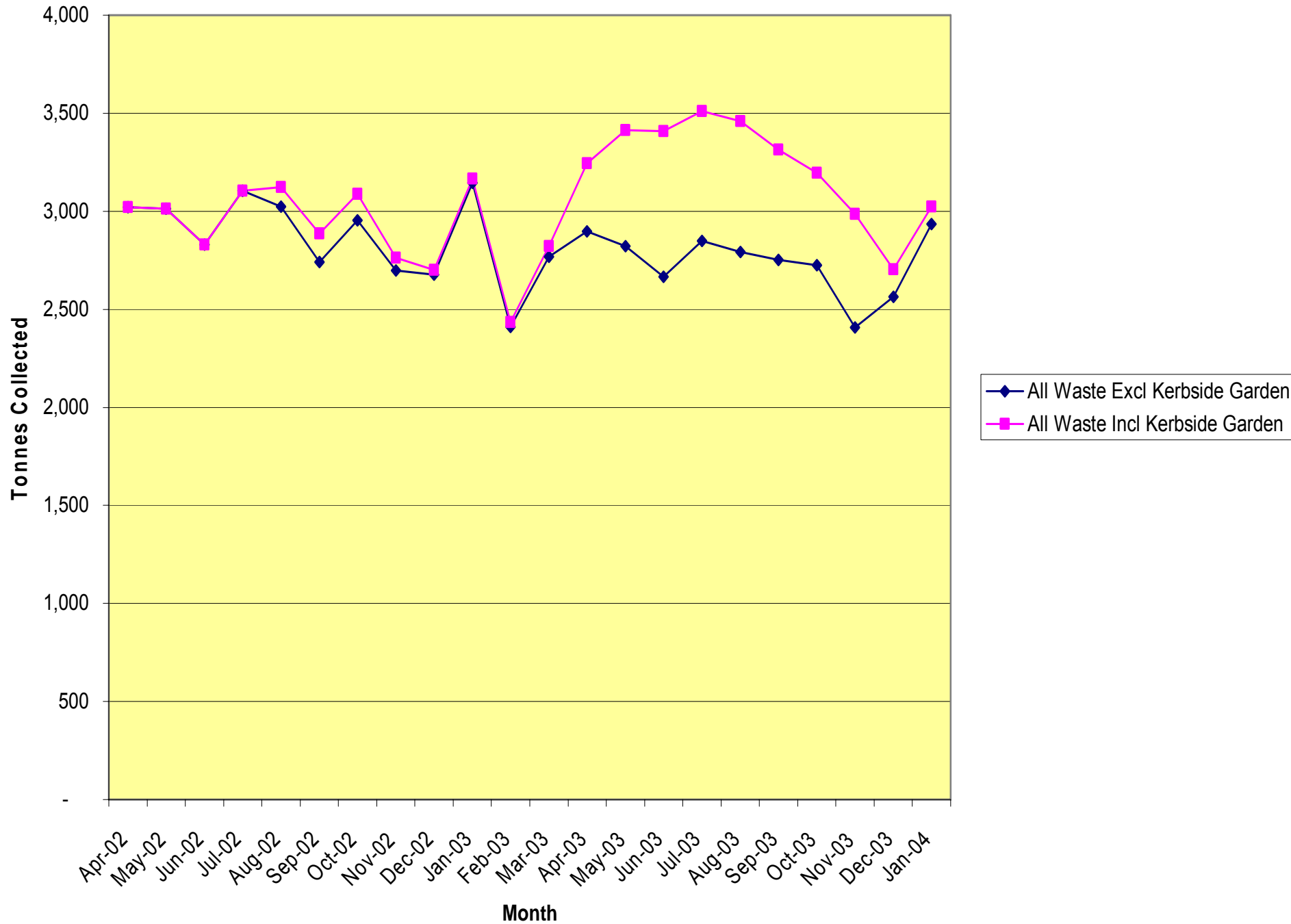
Options

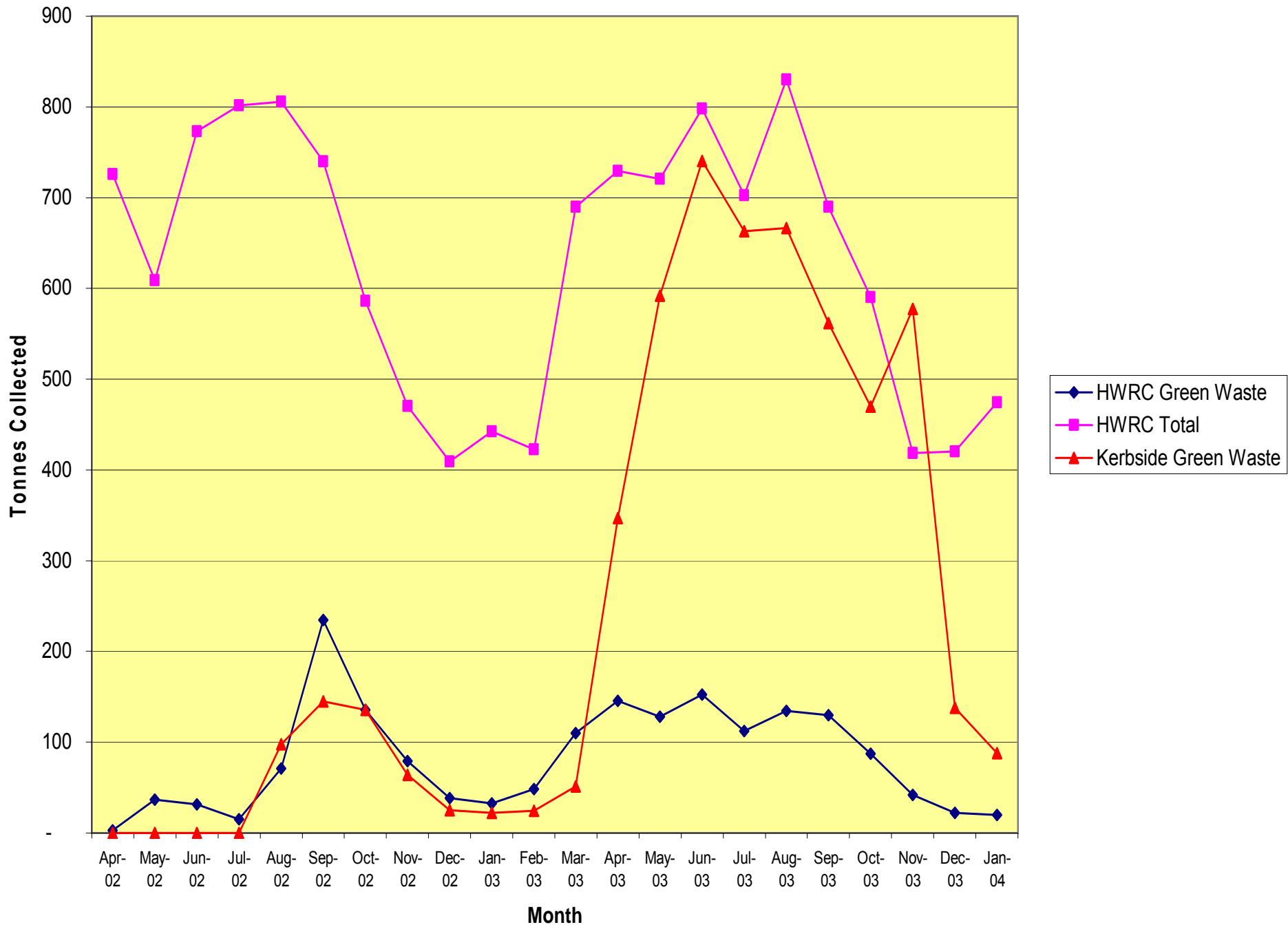
Central Europe – garden with or without food

- Garden waste only
 - Tends to be alternating / charged (costs constrained)
 - High captures of garden waste
 - No food waste
- Garden waste with kitchen waste
 - Tends to be alternating / charged
 - High captures of garden waste
 - Low captures of food waste
- **Both give considerable growth in arisings**
- **Landfill Diversion?**

Performance

‘LANDFILL DIVERSION’?





On the Continent

High recycling and composting rates, but

“THE BIGGEST REGRET I
HAVE IS GIVING A 240 LITRE
WHEELED BIN TO OUR
RESIDENTS FOR BIOWASTE”

Performance

Fortnightly residual, but ...



An Alternative View?

Make it comfortable



An Alternative View?

Make it small, target what's already there – keep people home composting



An Alternative View?

Kitchen waste compacts itself ...



An Alternative View?

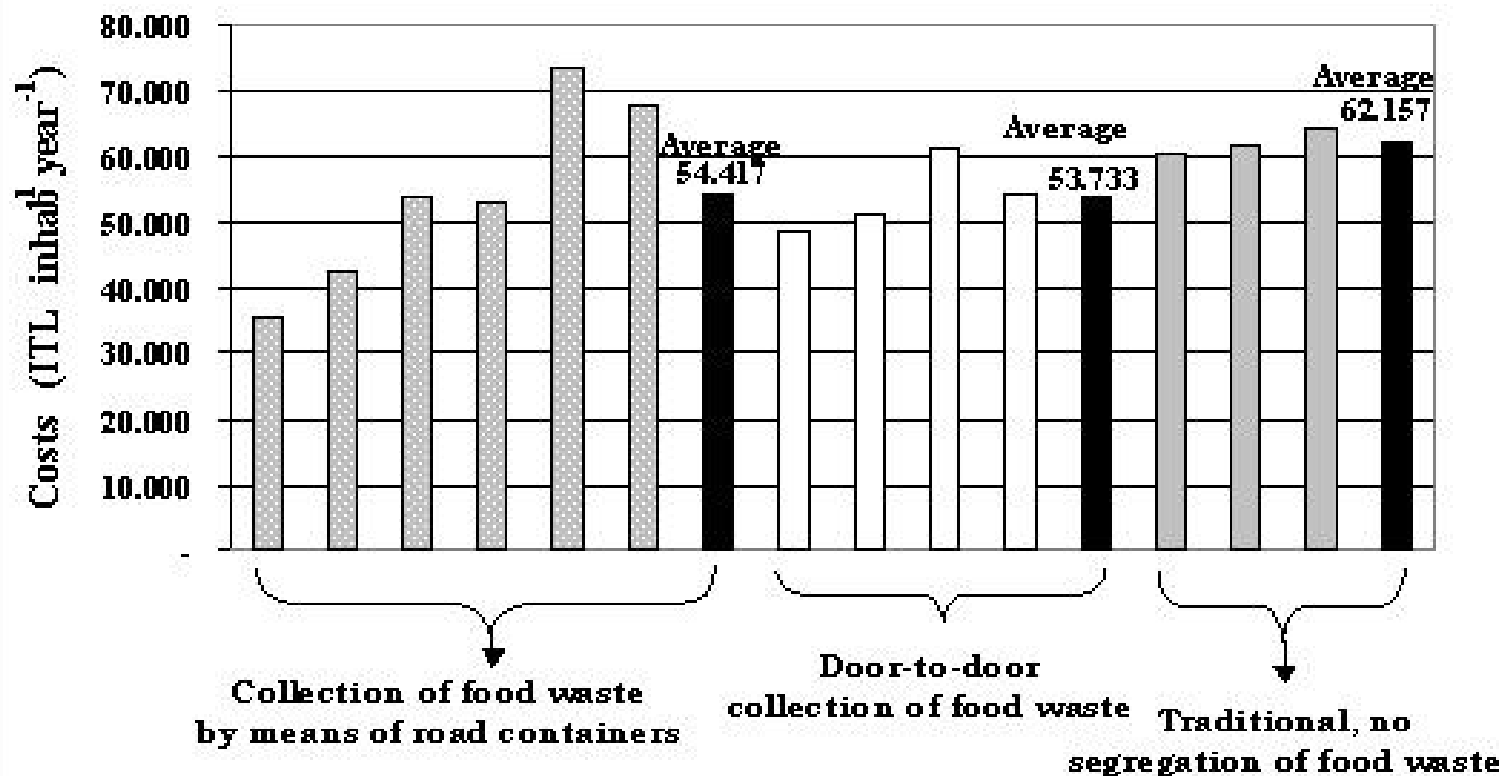
High level comfort + high frequency = high capture and purity



Costs

Not bad!

Collection + transport costs - District VE 4



Costs

Treatment?

- In-vessel or open air?
- Low capture of food (fortnightly garden waste) or high capture of food (small bin with biobags)
- Lots of co-collected garden waste, lots of in-vessel capacity
- Incremental treatment cost is very high in 'kitchen and garden' collections
- Kitchen only makes anaerobic digestion more viable (RE targets)

Concluding Remarks

Which way now for biowaste?

- Growth
- High recycling rate
- Kitchen waste still in residual
- Disincentive to home compost
- Fortnightly collection of smelly fraction
- Greater chance of complaints
- Higher treatment cost
- Home composting advice irrelevant?
- No growth
- High recycling rate
- Less biowaste in residual
- Home composting maintained
- Weekly collection of smelly fraction
- Reduced chance of complaints
- Lower treatment cost
- Home composting spend focuses on advice

 thank you