

Source Separation in Waterford City

Craig H. Benton, Chairman
Celtic Composting Systems Ltd.



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Cré, The Composting Association of Ireland
Membership Meeting

Program Design 2003:

- Bin Sizing: Three 240 liter bins for rubbish, recyclables and organics- “Brown Bin”
- Collection Schedule: Every 3 weeks
- Bin Charges: A flat fee of €5 /lift for all bins
- Bin Distribution: 4-6 weeks in late June and July before collection started first week of August
- Public Outreach: Flyers, media coverage and hotline

Unintended Consequences:

- People started using the bins right away:
Materials sat in bin for 4-6 weeks
With summer weather- odour and flies
- With flat rate and no differential, people waited until bins were full:
Materials sat in bins 6-9 weeks
With warm weather- odour and flies
Discouraged participation so volumes dropped off in autumn
- In winter when bins are filled with mostly food:
Materials arrived at the compost site in an anaerobic condition with little energy for composting

Program Adjustments:

- New charges: €1.50/lift for organics and reyclables and €4.50/lift for rubbish , effective February 2004
- Increased effort on public outreach:
 - Newsletter to all households to explain rules, answer frequently asked questions and list of yes and no materials
- Bin stickers

- Requirement to set brown bin out every 3 weeks

- Enforcement Officers

Ride with collection vehicles

Warning with check off form

Tracking system of violators

Refusal of bins, collected as rubbish- personal contact

Take bin away

Lessons Learned:

- Financial Incentive Key to Motivate Participation
- Privilege to Recycle = Opportunity to Save Money
- Collection Frequency Important
- Bin Sizing Should Be Flexible
- Consistent and Varied Public Outreach is Vital to Success
- Enforcement is Necessary

Waterford City Council Composting Facility: Partially Funded by NDP Grant Designed and Built by CCS Operated by IPODEC Ireland & CCS

