

OXFORDSHIRE WASTE PARTNERSHIP JOINT COMMITTEE

23rd October 2009

Zero Waste Place Initiative

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To update the committee on the development of a Zero Waste Place project in Oxfordshire.

2 Background

2.1 The Zero Waste Places initiative and was launched by government in October 2008. During 2008/9 six places were selected as zero waste place projects to go as far as possible to reduce waste in their area. A call for further bids to become a Zero Waste Place was made in September 2009 and it was announced on Tuesday 13th October that a project based in Dorchester-on-Thames, near Wallingford, Oxfordshire is one of six bids to be awarded funding.

2.2 The funding application was developed by a Community Action Group (CAG) based in Dorchester-on-Thames called the Dorchester Carbon Project (DCP). The bid was supported by the CAG Project Manager and OWP coordinator. Oxfordshire C.C and South Oxfordshire D.C have provided some match funding. The CAG project is delivered by Resource Futures and funded by Oxfordshire County Council. DCP is a very active group within a CAG network of 28 groups, which each focus on waste reduction and environmental sustainability in their local areas.

2.3 Since its formation in 2007, DCP has carried out the following activities:

- Swap shops which have diverted a total of 1230kg from landfill;
- Worked with local businesses to become a Plastic Bag Free Village;
- Carried out a carbon reduction pledge in return for a free bespoke jute shopping bag with 70% of the village participating;
- Run a weekly Refill and Recycling Station for environmentally friendly detergents, which have to date, refilled over 750 bottles. The station also provides a collection service for non-kerbside recyclables and has collected over 800 batteries, 300 light-bulbs, 80 water filters and 35 printer cartridges. Before new district council collections started in June 09 over 5,000 tetra paks and 18kg of aluminium foil were also collected and recycled;
- Held a 'Buy Local' and 'Fairtrade for Lent' promotion and market;
- Held screenings and debates of climate change films;
- Surveyed houses with Thermal Imaging Cameras;
- Worked with the local school on achieving Eco School status;
- Established a web site - www.dorchestercarbonproject.org.uk;
- Provided information to residents on how to lower their impact on the environment.

2.4 The successful bid will build on many of these activities. The following outcomes will be delivered:

- A recycling system for the village school comprising dry recyclable collections, wormeries and a food waste composter, which together with educational support will deliver a 100% recycling rate for the school;

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- Real nappy information and trial packs so that at least ten parents trial real nappies during the project;
- Completion of waste audits at each of the village's three hotels and at two local businesses, which on average can lead to a 50% waste diversion from landfill;
- Expansion of reuse swap shops so that at least 300 kg of materials are exchanged during the project and kept out of landfill. A "swap" notice board will be maintained on a monthly basis by DCP volunteers;
- Promotion of the Mailing Preference Service, so that 40% of villagers sign up to reduce junk mail;
- 3 "Back to Basics" workshops teaching skills such as sewing and cookery (promoting reuse and food waste reduction), so that at least 75 residents attend;
- Refill and recycling stations, so that at least 60 extra containers are refilled over the duration of the funding;
- An information point promoting the projects delivered by the DCP and also local council waste management services. By using the statistics gathered by South Oxfordshire D.C, regular updates on the village recycling rates can be displayed both at the information point and in the parish magazine;
- Monitoring and evaluation of all activities, which will be published in interim and final project reports.

The results of the project will be used by the CAG Project and other community groups nationally for future waste reduction initiatives. Findings will be also be publicised through CAG and OWP newsletters and websites.

3 Financial, Risk and Staff Implications

- 3.1 £6,040 has been awarded by DEFRA for the project. Oxfordshire County Council has provided £160 match funding (for a real nappies trial pack) and South Oxfordshire D.C £60 (kitchen caddies for the primary school).

4 Areas Affected

- 4.1 Dorchester–on–Thames within South Oxfordshire. The results of the project will be applicable to, and replicable in, many other communities within Oxfordshire and nationwide.

5 Effect on Strategic Policies

- 5.1 The Zero Waste Place project supports the following strategic objectives within the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy:
- Policy 3 - The Oxfordshire Waste Partnership will help householders and individuals to reduce and manage their wastes through the provision of advice and appropriate services.
- Policy 4 - The Oxfordshire Waste Partnership will encourage the controlled reuse and reclamation of items through the provision of advice and appropriate services.
- Policy 5 - In accordance with regional policy, OWP will seek to reduce the growth of municipal waste across the county to 0% per person per annum by 2012.
- Policy 8 - The Oxfordshire Waste Partnership will encourage householders and businesses to separate waste for recycling collections by providing targeted information and awareness raising campaigns.

There is a specific action within the 2009/10 OWP action plan to explore the development of a Zero Waste Place in Oxfordshire.

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6 Options or Alternatives

6.1 N/A

7 Recommendations

7.1 That the report is noted and that OWP offers its continued support to the Zero Waste Place project in Dorchester-on-Thames.

8 Reasons for Recommendations

8.1 To promote waste reduction, reuse and recycling initiatives to Oxfordshire communities to help everyone manage their own wastes

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Background Papers: