

Waste Management Services

March 2021

Textile Service Review

Waste Management Services recently undertook a review of the textile recycling service currently provided. The purpose of the review was twofold:

- 1. Identify problematic locations and suggest how the problem might be addressed.**
- 2. Develop a more effective and efficient collection service.**

Illegal dumping continues to be problematic at on-street recycling facilities citywide. Where textile banks are present - particularly in and around parks, green spaces and residential areas - items are regularly removed from the banks, illegally dumped bags ripped open and clothes littered around the vicinity.



Textile Service Review

Solutions

- ▶ Textile banks are an integral part of the City Council's recycling infrastructure.
- ▶ Removal of textile banks can only be considered when the level of illegal dumping at that location is very significant.
- ▶ The removal of a textile bank can only be considered when sufficient capacity for textile recycling can be ensured within a reasonably close proximity enabling continued opportunity for citizens to recycle responsibly.
- ▶ Textile banks should be located within or close to Council premises (Bring Centres, depots, offices) and monitored by CCTV wherever possible.
- ▶ Multi bank combo units should be introduced to larger Bring Centres where feasible.
- ▶ Additional capacity should be introduced at locations where demand exists and no alternative site is available.
- ▶ Consideration should be given to consolidation of textile banks in close proximity.
- ▶ Removal of banks from the most problematic locations should be considered as a last resort.

Textile Service Review

- ▶ In order to deal with the issues identified a phased approach has been adopted.
- ▶ Phase 1 – Introduction of additional capacity to Bring Centres
- ▶ Service provider Textile Recycling Ltd (TRL) have recently taken a number of steps to address their service levels. The first improvement was introducing twelve-bank combo units to their fleet, capable of holding up to one tonne of textiles. Each bank hosts an individual wheeled storage bin enabling vastly reduced service times while also reducing the frequency of collections needed.



Textile Service Review

- ▶ To date, combo units have been installed at Oscar Traynor Road, Windmill Road and Collins Avenue Bring Centres. Another will soon be installed at Gullistan Terrace Bring Centre.
- ▶ Grangegorman does not have sufficient space for a combo unit, however two additional clothing banks have recently been installed here.
- ▶ TRL have begun to replace single unit on-street textile banks with new receptacles capable of hosting wheeled storage bins, subject to finances and availability. This will enable them to deliver a more effective service as wheeled clothes bins can be removed and replaced in a matter of minutes and sorting of items will no longer take place while emptying the banks.



Textile Service Review

- ▶ Phase 2 will begin this month and will see the removal of a number of clothing banks from around the city, coupled with the introduction of additional capacity at alternative sites where feasible and required.
- ▶ Textile banks identified for removal:
- ▶ Ballymun Library, Whitehall Car Park, Sundrive Road, St. Vincent Street, Milltown Car Park, Newmarket Square.
- ▶ Phase 3 - A further removal phase will take place once alternative locations have been identified and agreed with the relevant Area Office.
- ▶ High volumes of illegal dumping occur at all on-street recycling facilities throughout Finglas. This will be addressed in Phase 3, subject to agreement with the North West Area Office.
- ▶ The textile bank at Grattan Crescent overflows on a regular basis. However, we are obliged to remove the recycling facilities at nearby St. Michael's Parish Centre to facilitate the development of Emmet Road. Despite several attempts to source a suitable alternative location, none has become apparent as yet. This will be addressed in Phase 3, subject to agreement with the Area Office.

Housing Waste Recycling Project

- In 2019, a Waste Management Services/Housing Maintenance project team was put in place to introduce segregated waste collection at all council housing complexes.
- South East Area was selected for the pilot scheme.
- Unique signage was created which makes it easier for residents to identify which items go in which bin. While the designs are mainly visual, text on wall signs is in English and text on stickers is in Irish.
- Best practice recycling workshops are delivered by a recycling ambassador from the environmental charity *Voice Ireland*. Residents have an opportunity to ask questions.
- 47 (1,100 Ltr) green bins and 59 (240 Ltr) brown bins have been introduced to housing complexes to date.



Housing Waste Recycling Project

Challenges

- ▶ **Progress:** While significant cost savings were made by removing general waste bins and re-introducing them as green recycle bins, the process was very time consuming.
- ▶ **Unsuitable bin storage areas:** In many complexes, bins are packed into the bin area which can leave very little room for a resident to walk safely in the bin area. Unfortunately there is a lack of acknowledgement that appropriate space needs to be allocated to ensure adequate room for residents to access all bins.
- ▶ **Turnout:** While workshop attendance was poor in the pilot area, workshops are the most efficient and cost effective way of reaching out to a lot of people at one venue. Poor turnout at workshops was not reflected in the uptake in segregated recycling in the pilot area.
- ▶ **Illegal dumping:** Many bin areas are easily accessible to members of the public, which results in large scale illegal dumping and contamination of recycle bins, undoing the good work by residents. Secure bin sheds were introduced to address the issue of illegal dumping at Whitefriar Gardens, which also led to a 50% reduction in general waste.

Housing Waste Recycling Project

- **Monitoring of pilot scheme:** There has been a very limited amount of contaminations in both the recycling and organic bins. The vast majority of tenants are using organic bins as they should, although some tenants are disposing of organic waste in the bins in non-compostable bags.

Phase 2 – South Central Area

- ▶ South Central Area was selected for Phase 2 of the Housing Waste Recycling Project. Unfortunately with the arrival of Covid 19, very little progress was made in 2020 and 2021 to date. Sporadic attempts were made to restart the program during the brief respite in social restrictions with inspections taking place in the South West Inner City in early December 2020. The program is currently paused.

Dog Foul Initiative

- ▶ An anti-dog fouling campaign was launched in March 2020 consisting of radio adverts, a social media video campaign and a poster campaign.
- ▶ Due to the Covid 19 pandemic DCC's assets were used by HSE for signage so the message got somewhat lost.
- ▶ Phase 2 of the campaign was scheduled to begin in Autumn 2020, but the continuing pandemic prevented this from taking place.
- ▶ People have continued to walk dogs within 5k of their homes and ownership of dogs has risen, suggesting that it is now timely to re-run the 2020 campaign and later roll out phase 2.



**DEAL WITH YOUR DOG'S
WASTE SO NO ONE
ELSE HAS TO**

**IT'S EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS
DOG POO: BAG IT & BIN IT**



Comhairle Cathrach
Bhaile Átha Cliath
Dublin City Council

Dog Foul Initiative

April 2021 Reinforcement campaign:

- ▶ Repeat radio campaign on all Dublin stations.
- ▶ Repeat social media video campaign.
- ▶ Install signage on Big Belly Bins and bins in public parks.
- ▶ Install audio deterrent system on lamp posts. There has been an 80% reduction in dog fouling at locations where the audio system has been installed.
- ▶ Use DCC assets to advertise message, targeting blackspots areas, i.e. JC Decaux digital panels.
- ▶ Investigate the possibility of using indoor digital panels in shops such as Spar, Centra etc. to advertise message.

Dog Foul Initiative

Ongoing action:

- A poster competition will be arranged for schools when the current Development Plan poster competition is complete.
- Working with Local Authorities in Dublin, Meath, Wicklow and Laois to produce an animated video.
- When society opens up, engage with citizens at local level with activities in parks and green spaces. These activities can be organised with Tidy Towns/City Neighbourhoods groups through the area offices.



**YOUR DOG'S WASTE
AFFECTS YOUR WHOLE
COMMUNITY**

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DOG POO: BAG IT & BIN IT



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Dublin City Council/Hubbub - Recycling on the Go

- ▶ 25 bins installed since October 2020.
- ▶ Currently planning for phase 2 installation within City Centre.
- ▶ Baseline data and 1st Waste Characterisation study completed by December 2020.
- ▶ Project engagement with Hubbub/Voice Ireland currently paused. This is due to the impact of repeated Covid 19 related restrictions implemented during the project both immediately following launch and then again towards Christmas 2020.
- ▶ Reengagement due once Covid restrictions begin to ease.



Dublin City Council/Hubbub - Recycling on the Go

- ▶ Excellent feedback on quality of recycling material received from Authorised Waste Facility.
- ▶ No loads rejected due to contamination levels.

Waste Audit Summary

- ▶ By volume: 86% of the material captured was plastic bottles and cans, 14% contamination
- ▶ Analysis: Volume collected is very high, demonstrating how well people are understanding the message. Weight values are higher as contamination is made of liquid and other higher density waste streams.

Dublin City Council/Hubbub - Recycling on the Go

- ▶ During auditing, both recycling bins and adjacent general waste bins are being surveyed giving an indication of the proportion of target material in each bin.
- ▶ The audit has revealed that in the bins audited, **2.6 and 2.9 times more plastic bottles and cans were in the recycling bin than the general waste.** Future audits will allow us a more accurate way of reporting on this.
- ▶ This remains early stage analysis. Further audits have been delayed due to Covid restrictions.
- ▶ Future waste audits will provide data to establish any trends in usage, the success of the project and issues with contamination or incorrect usage that may be required to be addressed through the project communications and activations.

