

Delivering Segregated Recycling and the Cleansing & Enforcement Restructure

Environmental Scrutiny
16th March 2023



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Background



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- National recycling target for 2024/25 is 70%
- Kerbside recycling collections from residents is 2/3 of all the waste we collect - 1/3 is from commercial, recycling centres & cleansing
- Cardiff recycling performance for 2020/21 is less than 60% target at 58.19%
- Sampling shows 50% dry recycling and food still in residual waste / black bags
- Contamination in comingled recycling is high and causes a loss of up to 30% of recycling material collected
- Segregated recycling or ' Sack Sort' reduces this loss to around 6%
- Trade or business recycling is lower than residential recycling



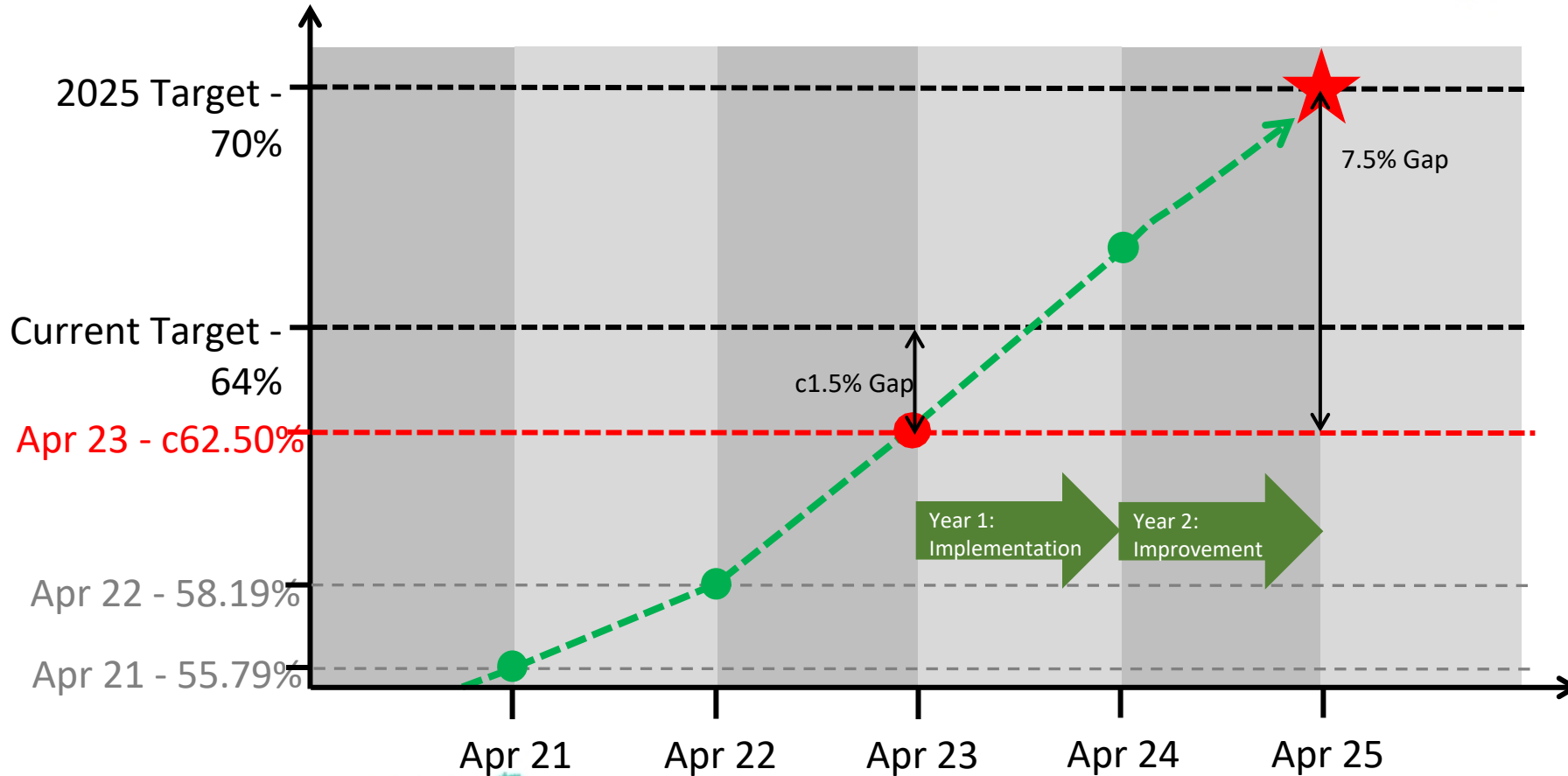
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Current Performance



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- **STRAND 1:** Resident Segregated Recycling (1.6%)
- **STRAND 2:** Trade Segregated Recycling (4%)
- **STRAND 3:** Expansion of Services (1%)
- **STRAND 4:** Restriction of residual waste (2%)



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Services for residents



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Recycling Services	Dry Recycling	Food	Garden	Residual	Absorbent Hygiene Products	Bulky collections	Pod Back (from April 2023)
Items collected	Bottle & Jars Containers Card & Paper	Food	Grass & leaves	Non-recyclable	Nappies and other AHP	Furniture	Coffee pod collections (plastic and metal)
Frequency collected	Weekly	Weekly	Fortnight (stopped over winter)	2 weekly/ 2 bags fortnight (to be reviewed)	On demand	On demand	On demand
Collection method	Split back Refuse Collection Vehicle Toploader - glass Kerbside Sort (farm run)	Toploader	Refuse Collection Vehicle	Refuse Collection Vehicle	Sealed hygiene vehicle	Transit box van	Transit box van
Disposal point	Material Handling Facility	Anaerobic Digestion plant	Windrow Lamby Way	Viridor Energy from Waste	Waste Transfer Station – Lamby Way	Waste Transfer Station – Lamby Way	Waste Transfer Station – Lamby Way
Bag / Caddy / Bin							

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Segregated Recycling Pilot areas - outcomes



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- 9,000 Properties now on segregated recycling, including inner City wards
- Recycling quality of segregated recycling continues to be between 6-7% contamination compared to 30% for comingled recycling
- Good acceptance of the changes with high participation in the initial weeks of change
- Social media and resident feedback shows an understanding as to why the changes are taking place and the impact on the environment
- **Informed the change to use of split body RCV for containers (plastics and cans) and fibres (paper and card) and not kerbside sort vehicles**
- **Informed the need for a wider range of bag and container sizes**



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Segregated Recycling 'Sack Sort Service'



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- Split body RCV for containers (plastics and cans) and fibres (paper and card) – Weekly Collection
- Dedicated vehicle for glass bottles and jars – Fortnight Collection
- Dedicated team to manage delivery of information and receptacles
- Dedicated team to monitor transition and provide support



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Timeline for changes



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- Programme for change for standard households (no flats or areas of high density HMO's)
 - Phase 1: Oct/Nov 2023 - 31,000 households
 - Phase 2: Jan/Feb 2024 - 45,000 households
 - Phase 3: Mar/April 2024 - 45,000 households
- Changes implemented to support having full year effect in 2024/25



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Changes to trade



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From October 2023 new legislation will be introduced meaning businesses need to separate their recycling into different containers

This includes **the Council, Schools, 3rd sector and Charities**

Enforcement is by NRW – potential of £300 fine for not segregating recycling



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Cleansing and Enforcement restructure



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The aim of the restructure is to have a cohesive service meeting the needs of our residents by:

- Amending working hours to meet demands – more resource in afternoons and evenings
- Aligning and integration of frontline enforcement into cleansing – searching for evidence
- Increase office based support roles to manage enforcement and concerns
- 7 day week cover for fly-tipping



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Benefits of changes



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1. Moves Cardiff towards meeting its statutory recycling targets (70% by 2024/25) and delivers on policy commitments
2. Promotes correct presentation of recycling within re-useable bags less food = improved Street Scene
3. Removes single use plastic from our operations – currently 23.7million comingled recycling bags used per year
4. Improved quality of recycling gives higher value to materials – invested back into system
5. Drives improvements in relation to use of resources – vital for climate behaviour change



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Future Steps



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1. Review of restriction of residual waste – benchmarking against other Councils and review of recycling performance
2. Additional engagement with volunteer groups and workforce on changes
3. Bring forward new cleansing strategy (additional resources into prevention)
4. Work to deliver a segregated recycling pilot for HMO's and flats
5. Work continues on programme strands of Recycling Strategy 2023-25 – Annual Report to show improvements



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Questions?

