

## **Waste Compositional Analysis Project**

**South Ayrshire Council** is taking part in an important new study to learn more about the kinds of waste being produced by Scottish households. The research is headed up by the Scottish Government and WRAP (Waste & Resources Action Programme) and is being run in partnership with eight local authorities – East Dunbartonshire, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Highland, Orkney, Moray, Renfrewshire and South Ayrshire – and with Waste Aware Scotland, the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) and Scotland ReMaDe.

The aim of the programme is to measure the amounts of different waste materials being produced in each of the eight authorities and for Scotland as a whole. Although some local councils routinely carry out this kind of research, this will be the first time that the information will be collected for the whole of Scotland, and it will help the Government and local authorities plan and provide better services to manage the waste we all generate.

All types of municipal waste will be included in the study from the ordinary rubbish that we all regularly put out for collection to the street sweepings that South Ayrshire picks up. It will include an analysis of the waste put out by up to 100 randomly selected households from the South Ayrshire area.

The analysis work involves physically sorting and weighing waste. A professional waste analysis company – WastesWork – has been engaged for this purpose. They abide by a strict code of conduct in terms of assuring confidentiality, and all waste will be recycled or disposed in the normal way after it has been analysed. A van will be used to collect the waste rather than the normal council vehicle, but apart from that all features of waste collection – including the day – will be the same, although the collection may be a little earlier than normal.

For further information about this important study, please contact any of the following:

### **WRAP Project Manager**

This is the organisation responsible for the research  
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### **Representative from South Ayrshire Council**

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### **Project Manager for WastesWork**

This is the company commissioned to carry out the work  
Sarah Knapp [sarahknapp@wasteswork.co.uk](mailto:sarahknapp@wasteswork.co.uk) 01939 262820

## Q&As for websites/helpline briefings

### Q: Why carry out this research?

A: Scotland produced 3.4 million tonnes of municipal waste in 2007/8. More information on what this waste consists of is needed by the Scottish Government and by local councils to help them meet national policy goals, international obligations to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill and increase the amount recycled, and to satisfy demands of residents for better recycling services. Without knowing what the waste consists of, planning better services is extremely difficult.

### Q: What will we learn from this research?

A: The research will provide, for the first time, a detailed picture of the composition of municipal waste produced in Scotland. It will also provide detailed information to the eight local authorities that have been selected to take part - East Dunbartonshire, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Highland, Orkney, Moray, Renfrewshire and South Ayrshire. We will know quite accurately how much paper, card, glass and plastic is not currently recycled but is available for recycling, for example. This information will help provide better services and meet national and international obligations.

### Q: Where is the research taking place?

A: Eight local council areas have been selected to take part in the study. These have been assessed to be representative of all Scottish local authorities. The eight authorities are East Dunbartonshire, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Highland, Orkney, Moray, Renfrewshire and South Ayrshire. Within these local authorities around 100 households will be randomly selected from three areas to have their waste analysed. These areas, when combined, are representative of Scotland as a whole.

### Q: Is it possible to opt out in advance?

A: Unfortunately not because the houses from which rubbish will be taken for analysis are selected at random on the day of waste collection. But please be assured that if you are selected your confidentiality will be maintained at all time. Nobody but the specially trained team of analysts will see your waste and it will be disposed or recycled in the normal way on the same day as it is collected. No individual household will be identified and every house is given a unique code so that the occupants cannot be identified.

### Q: Can I opt out on the day?

A: Yes. Just speak to the people collecting the waste on the day and they will arrange for the normal waste collection crew to take it away instead. They are used to questions from members of the public so please feel free to ask them anything about the research.

### Q: Who is WastesWork?

WastesWork is a professional waste analysis company based in Shropshire. They have been contracted to carry out this research in part due to their previous experience of working in Scotland. All their staff are fully trained and abide by a code of conduct in terms of respecting privacy.

### Q: Who can I contact about this research?

You can contact any one of the following people:

#### WRAP Project Manager

*This is the organisation responsible for the research*

Barbara Leach [barbara.leach@wrap.org.uk](mailto:barbara.leach@wrap.org.uk) 01295 817888

#### Representative from *[name of council]*

*This is the person within your council who has liaised with the project team and knows about the research and what it involves*

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