



UNITED KINGDOM WITHOUT INCINERATION NETWORK

UKWIN's submission to DCLG's
informal consultation on the
Weekly Collections Support Scheme

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Introduction

1. The United Kingdom Without Incineration Network (UKWIN) welcomes this opportunity to make a submission to the Department for Communities and Local Government's informal consultation on the Weekly Collections Support Scheme.
2. UKWIN was founded in March 2007 to promote sustainable waste management and inform environmental decision making. UKWIN currently has more than 85 member groups and regularly takes part in consultations run by various Government bodies.

Comments

3. When Lord Taylor was asked what might count as a weekly service he responded that: "I imagine that food waste probably would" ¹.
4. UKWIN certainly hopes that the Scheme will indeed help fund the weekly separate collection of food waste. This would help support schemes for the anaerobic digestion of food waste in line with Government policy as outlined within the 2011 Waste Review, and would be good for both the environment and the householder.
5. So long as food waste is collected separately there is no real benefit to collecting the residual waste bin on a weekly basis. Weekly collection of residual waste hampers efforts to reduce, re-use and recycle, and is thus a costly measure that would harm the environment and run contrary to the Government's move towards Zero Waste.
6. As such, we hope that the Scheme supports weekly separate collection of food waste but not weekly collection of mixed residual waste. Indeed, it would be quite a disgrace if the Government were to financially encourage bad practice.
7. If the Scheme were to fund weekly collections of mixed waste then such funding should require the separate collection of food waste and the delivery of high levels of reduction, re-use, recycling, composting and anaerobic digestion.
8. The Scheme should be used to encourage the following: kerbside sorting; educating householders and businesses about waste minimisation; increasing the types of LACW materials accepted for recycling; educating householders about what is and isn't recyclable to increase recycling rates and reduce contamination, thus improving recycle quality; promoting re-use, including implementing re-use schemes at HWRCs (as per the Waste Review); and further improving recycle quality through increased waste segregation.
9. No funding from the Scheme should be used to encourage increased "recovery", "energy from waste" or "incineration", as this would perversely incentivise the burning of genuinely residual material whilst discouraging waste minimisation.
10. We note that UKWIN provides detailed information regarding the reasons incineration should not be encouraged, and these can be found in our submission to Defra's Waste Review².

¹ Local Authority Recycling Advisory Committee conference, 19th of October 2011

² Available from <http://ukwin.org.uk/resources/consultation-submissions/>