

ITEM 14 b)

Draft Scoping Report

Climate Change Commission

Proposed Topic Review: Brown Bin Waste – An investigation into the potential benefits from moving from an aerobic to an anaerobic break down of the waste collected in Brown Bins.

Background

1. At its meeting on 7 June 2010 the Climate Change Commission 'selected Anaerobic Digestion of Brown Bin waste as their topic review for the forthcoming municipal year'. Officers were asked to produce a scoping report for a review into the potential benefits from moving from an aerobic to an anaerobic break down of the waste collected in Brown Bins.
1. The Commission asked that the review investigate the potential benefits and disadvantages of changing to an anaerobic system.
2. The Commission were keen to establish whether the gas produced by changing the method of breaking down brown bin waste would be cost effective and worthwhile.
3. Additionally the Commission requested that the scoping report included provision to expand the review to examine the Renewable Heat Incentive and Black Bin Waste at a later date.

The Review

Aims and Objectives of the Review

Aim of the review

To establish the potential benefits and any disadvantages of moving from an aerobic to an anaerobic break down of the waste collected in Brown Bins.

The objectives of the review

1. To establish the advantages and disadvantages of the current aerobic break down of brown bin waste.

2. To establish the advantages/disadvantages and costs of a move to an anaerobic break down of brown waste
3. To examine the production levels of gas from anaerobic waste and the feasibility of using and potentially selling any gas produced.
4. To establish the costs of making a change to an anaerobic break down of brown bin waste and to produce estimates on the potential to make an income from the production of biogas.
5. To produce a detailed recommendation to Council Cabinet on whether to make a change to how Brown Bin Waste is dealt with.
6. To outline further research into the Renewable Heat Incentive and the potential for using Black Bin Waste to greater effect.

Proposed methodology

The Commission will use evidence gathered from witnesses and site visits as the basis for the evidence gathering for the review, supported by commercial and academic research

Witnesses

A series of witnesses can be called to give evidence to the Commission on this issue.

These include

Malcolm Price

Anthony Greener – Energy and Waste Manager at Nottingham City Council

Biogen – A Shropshire based company that currently uses Anaerobic Digestion

Friends of the Earth

T4 Sustainability (John Beardmore)

What evidence do we need to gather?

Evidence needs to gathered regarding:

- **Policies and Strategies**
What are Derby's current policies?
When will they be reviewed and refreshed?
- **Current aerobic digestion of waste**
How effective is it?
What are the benefits?
What are the disadvantages?
How could it be done better?
What are the costs?

- **Anaerobic Digestion of waste**

How effective is it?
What are the benefits?
What are the disadvantages?
How could it be done better?
What are the costs?

- **Visits**

Ashbourne Waste Site
Biogen Anaerobic Digestion Plant Shropshire

Timing and Timescales for the Review

- 22 July
 - Draft Scoping Review amended and approved by Commission Members
- August
 - Conduct interviews
 - Carry out visits
 - Complete any other evidence gathering as required
 - Receive commercial and academic research
 - Discussion of evidence and agreeing of outline recommendations
- 13 September
 - Draft report brought to Commission meeting for comments and amendments
 - Recommendations to Council Cabinet drafted

Demands on Overview and Scrutiny Members

There are 2 proposed visits which are likely to take 2 full days
Interviewing witnesses is likely to take two half day sessions, plus a concluding meeting to review the evidence and agree outline recommendations, so the total time input from Members will be approximately 3 1/2 days.

EB June 2010