

GMWDA Update

Last Authority meeting

At the Authority meeting on 18th September 2015 the main discussions surrounded the Budget and Levy 2016/17, Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) to 2018/19, and Longer Term Plan to 2020/21. Members were reassured that the zero percent Levy increase in 2016/17 would be delivered, and early consideration was being given to the options that were available to reduce the burden of the Levy on Districts for future years.

Contract Update

Contract performance in 2014/15 was affected by delays at the Runcorn Thermal Power Station (TPS) and defects at the Mechanical and Biological Treatment (MBT) facilities. The landfill diversion achieved in 2014/15 was 71.74% against a target of 74.83%. Whilst below target, this represents a significant improvement in performance from the beginning of the year.

All sites are now through the initial construction phase and work is now on-going to ensure any snagging issues and repairs are completed and hitting the target for 2015/16 of 81.3% diversion from landfill.

The Solar Farm at Salford Road is now complete and will produce 2,220 MWh energy yield per annum (pa). It consists of 8,400 solar panels on a 2.8 ha site saving over 600 tonnes of carbon and producing enough power to provide energy for c. 600 homes.

Communications Update

The LIFE+ Up and Forward Project submitted its final report to the European Commission in October 2015. Overall results support our initial premise that innovative community led activity is critical to improving recycling within urban areas of Greater Manchester. Of the campaigns the most successful were those under the Household theme; in particular, the Recycling Rewards 'Golden Ticket' campaign. Case studies and reports are now available on the Up & Forward Project website. <http://upandforward.recycleforgreatermanchester.com/>

The key learnings, methodology and positive outcomes from the LIFE+ Up & Forward Project have been taken forward and used as good practice in the GMWDA communications plan for 2015/16. Campaign work to improve recycling through engaging and working with the community is now continuing with Recycle for Greater Manchester (R4GM). The 1-year plan aims to improve recycling in mid-performing areas through targeted community campaigns, as opposed to big-picture messages (as in previous years).

In Bury, the Right Stuff Right Bin campaign started in June 2015 to 10,250 households. Initial results show a reduction in residual waste, an increase in commingled tonnages and a decline in pulpables (mixed paper and card). The pulpables decline is consistent with an overall decline seen across Greater Manchester over the same period which may be due to changing consumer habits and increased use of electronic media. Further work has also been undertaken in high rise and multi-occupancy properties in the Borough to improve recycling.

R4GM are continuing to promote recycling through educational assemblies at schools, community events and by holding open days at Greater Manchester waste and recycling sites for the public.

The BBC1 programme Hugh's War on Waste aired in November 2015 and featured a visit to a community in Prestwich, who had their rubbish monitored as part of the show. Local residents were also shown visiting the Longley Lane Materials Recycling Facility.

Targets

Greater Manchester's recycling & composting rate for Contract Waste was 41.04% in 2014/15. The target for 2015/16 is 43%. The partnership is making significant progress and with everyone's help the target of 50% by 2016/17 is achievable.

Initial reports suggest Bury's percentage of household waste sent for Re-use, Recycling or Composting for 2014/15 was 46.6% although this is yet to be confirmed. Work is still needed to get Bury's residents to become accurate recyclers.