



Department for
Communities and
Local Government

DCLG Recycling Reward Scheme: announcement of successful bids

Frequently Asked Questions



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General

1. How much has been made available for the Recycling Reward Scheme?

Thanks to the department reprofiling some of its finances the initial funding of £5 million has been increased by an additional £6.1 million bringing the total to £11.1 million for this scheme. This will enable the department to support many more projects, helping residents do the right thing and reduce, reuse and recycle their waste.

2. How many bids secured funding from the Recycling Reward Scheme?

The Recycling Reward Scheme will fund 46 bids submitted by 45 different local authorities. As some of the successful bids were submitted by one local authority on behalf of a partnership the scheme is supporting projects in 60 individual local authorities.

3. How many households will benefit from being included in recycling reward schemes as a result of this challenge fund?

Nearly four million households will be able to participate in some form of recycling reward scheme as a result of this challenge fund. The schemes supported by the fund will also divert an estimated 250 thousand tonnes of waste from landfill.

Successful bids

4. What did a bid have to look like in order to be successful?

Successful bids scored best against the scheme's five main criteria demonstrating:

- an improvement in either increased recyclate collected, reduced contamination or waste diverted from landfill;
- cost effectiveness;
- the feasibility of the bid against a range of criteria such as monitoring and evaluation and targets;
- deliverability; and
- a commitment to provide some form of weekly waste collection;

Unsuccessful bids

5. How many bids were unsuccessful in securing funding from the Recycling Reward Scheme?

27 bids were unsuccessful in securing funding from the scheme. We received 73 bids for funding totalling £17.6m. Since the scheme has ultimately committed to spending up to £11.1m on recycling reward schemes, this led to a competitive process and not all bids could be successful. Those that were unsuccessful either did not meet one or more of the 'minimum criteria' or simply did not score as highly as the successful bids against all of the scheme's criteria.

6. What was the test of additionality?

All bids had to demonstrate reasonable evidence that funding would support additional activity, rather than activity that would have taken place anyway. Successful authorities provided evidence that their bids would fund some form of additional recycling collection.

Bid assessment and scoring

7. Who assessed and scored the bids?

Bid assessment and scoring was undertaken by the department's analysts and researchers, and officials from its Local Government Policy directorate. There was a first and second assessor for each bid to help ensure that all bids were assessed and scored consistently.

8. How did the assessment and scoring process work?

Each bid was assessed individually against the scheme's five main criteria:

- Residual waste and organic/food waste collections frequency;
- 'Reduce, reuse, recycle';
- Cost effectiveness;
- Feasibility; and
- 'Deliverability of results'.

The bids were then ranked according to their aggregate overall scores. The final package of successful bids was those with the highest rankings that fell within the £11.1million available to fund this scheme.

Scheme statistics

Statistics – households

9. What is the total number of households that will directly benefit from this Scheme?

It is estimated 3,780,718 households will be able to participate in some form of recycling reward scheme as a result of the scheme.

Statistics – environmental benefits

10. How much waste will be diverted from landfill as a result of this Scheme?

It is estimated that 247,377 tonnes of waste will be diverted from landfill as a result of the Scheme.

Administration of funding

11. How will funding be administered?

Payments will be in the form of a Section 31 grant payment which is not ring-fenced. However, before making payment we will ask for a commitment from successful bidders that they still intend to allocate the funding on the proposals as set out in their successful bid.

Successful authorities will receive 55% of their total bid in 2014/15 (£6.1m) and 45% in 2015/16 (£5m).

12. Does a local authority have to spend their funding allocation in 2014/15 and then 2015/16?

No but all 2014/15 funding has to be allocated to local authorities by the end of 2014/15 and all 2015/16 funding has to be allocated by the end of 2015/16. We expect successful bidders will want to start getting on with delivering their proposals as soon as possible. If a staged payment process is in place it will be for the local authority to ensure any milestones are met to enable payment within the above timeframes.

13. Do successful local authorities have to monitor the delivery and outcomes of waste services provided by funding from the Recycling Reward Scheme?

The department does not propose to monitor the delivery of projects or track progress against projections in terms of recycling rates or delivering value for money. As is consistent with the government's commitment to transparency, we expect local authorities that successfully bid for funding to monitor and evaluate the performance of their project and to volunteer to make that data publicly available.

We think it will improve the feasibility of a project if there is evidence that on-going monitoring and evaluation will be used to enhance the effectiveness of a project as it develops. Therefore, the assessment process checked that local monitoring and evaluation had been considered by all successful bids and can be built into projects so that effective implementation can be identified.

We may ask at the end of 2015/16 for information about progress on the scheme and information regarding the levels of recycling and volume of waste arisings beyond what authorities already produce. This is so that emerging successes of the scheme can be identified and good practice disseminated. The Department for Communities and Local Government reserves the right to ask for information year on year.

14. What types of projects are being funded by the Recycling Reward Scheme?

As we had hoped, the scheme is funding a wide range of initiatives involving rewards for both individuals and communities. The 46 bids present a wide range of methods for increasing recycling and/or reducing residual waste. There are examples such as:

- the involvement of community groups and faith organisations;
- encouragement to bring materials not recycled at the kerbside to recycling banks;
- focus on flats or areas with poor recycling rates;
- involvement of schools; partnership work across neighbouring local authorities or with parish councils and
- opportunities, including the use of “reverse vending machines”, for recycling ‘on the go’.