

REPORT FROM: ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES MANAGER

TO: POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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BATTERY RECYCLING SCHEME AND FOIL RECYCLING CAMPAIGN

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To request that the Committee approve the proposals for a household battery collection scheme and foil recycling promotion.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Committee approves the introduction of a household battery recycling collection scheme with startup funding granted from Lancashire County Council.
2. That the Committee approves a promotional campaign for foil recycling in association with Alupro (Aluminum Packaging Recycling Organisation).

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

1. To encourage household battery recycling which will also help improve the problem of battery fires in household bins, refuse collection vehicles and waste transfer stations.
2. To increase the amount of foil that is recycled by increasing citizen awareness of how to recycle foil in Pendle's existing collection scheme.

Battery Recycling Collection Scheme

1. Small household batteries are classed as hazardous waste and since 2010 there has been legislation in force to arrange for collection and recycling of such batteries. Collection has mainly been through supermarket and Household Waste Recycling Centre collection points where residents need to take their batteries for disposal.
2. Batteries can be a significant fire risk when placed in normal household refuse or mixed recycling bins and we have experienced refuse vehicle collection fires in the past ([news article Jan 2021](#)).

3. Lancashire County Council (LCC) has also experienced fires caused by batteries at their waste transfer facilities and therefore LCC is offering funding of up to £20,000 for each borough councils to introduce separate battery recycling collection schemes. The funding will help to cover the cost of separate collection containers and promotional material for the scheme.
4. Pendle Council's estimated costs will be as follows:

Battery collection costings – Feb 2022				
	Number	Amount	Total	Notes
Battery Pods	5	£618.82	£3,094.10	Will only fit on 18T vehicles
Labour/fitting	20	£36.00	£720.00	4 hours fitting per vehicle
Battery bags	45000	£37.00	£1,790.00	Inc £125 set up, 6 week lead
Leaflets (A5 double sided)	45000		£1,212.00	
Stuffing leaflets into bags	45000	£0.10	£4,545.00	
Delivery of bags/leaflets	40000	£0.20	£8,000.00	40k delivery to households in Pendle*
Site Licence permit variation			£2400	Fleet Street licence variation
			£21,761.10	

*approx 5,000 spare bags and leaflets to go to public areas such as public receptions, town halls, libraries etc.

5. As described in the table above the £19,361.10p would cover the initial provision of plastic bags to each household in the borough, along with an instructional leaflet which would be covered by the Counties funding.
6. It is believed after viewing the Environment Agency list of charges that a further £2400.00 would be required to vary the site licence for Fleet Street Depot in order for collected batteries to be stored prior to collection for disposal or reuse.
7. If introduced the batteries would need to be presented on top of either of the blue or brown recycling bins for collection, i.e. a fortnightly collection. Crews would put the filled bags into a separate pod on the recycling vehicle and then unload at the depot into a larger plastic wheeled bin for later collection and disposal.
8. Householders would not get a replacement plastic bag, and would be advised to use any clear type of plastic bag such as sandwich bags, old bread bags for future fortnightly collections. This is to minimise the use of plastic in the scheme and encourage reuse of existing plastic bags residents may have collected.
9. LCC has agreed to fund the above set up and promotional costs however the ongoing collection of filled battery bags would need to be met from within Pendle Council existing collection costs, i.e. recycling crews would continue to collect fortnightly.

Foil Recycling Campaign

10. Pendle Council's recycling collection scheme currently allows clean aluminium foil to be recycled in the brown bin however awareness of this is low amongst many households as is the way to present foil for recycling in the brown bin so as to avoid contamination and maximise the chance of it being recycled.

11. AluPro (Aluminum Packaging Recycling Organisation) are currently offering councils a fully funded communications campaign to help engage with residents to promote foil recycling via a variety of channels including vehicle livery, leaflets, posters, social media and radio advertising.
12. In return, Pendle Council would be expected to respond to residents queries and provide feedback to AluPro on the success of the campaign via quotes or anecdotal information from crews. There would be no capital or revenue funding required for this campaign.

Timescales/Next Steps

13. Battery recycling collections will take approximately 3 months to implement due to print lead times. The foil campaign can be done any time before the end of 2022.
14. It is proposed that the battery recycling collection scheme is approved and introduced as soon as possible as LCC funds need to be committed by 31st March 2022, and then the foil campaign to follow later in the year.

IMPLICATIONS

Policy: Providing a separate collection scheme for household batteries will be a change of policy.

Financial: Ongoing collection of batteries to be absorbed within existing Pendle Council collection costs. Site licence fees to be covered by existing budgets.

Legal: None arising directly from this report.

Risk Management: None arising directly from the report.

Health and Safety: Providing a separate collection scheme for household batteries will help mitigate the risk of vehicle fires.

Sustainability: None arising directly from the report

Community Safety: None arising directly from the report

Equality and Diversity: None arising directly from the report

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS – None