



## WIN case study:

### National Home Composting Framework Contract 2010

IESE and WIN launched the National Home Composting Framework in February 2010 and this case study evaluates the progress and successes of the scheme in its first six months. Since August 2010, the framework has only increased in popularity, helping to deliver even more efficiency savings to local authorities.

#### Key benefits and savings to August 2010

- £316,000 has been saved by councils through avoided procurement process costs\*
- £125,000 has been saved by councils through saved subsidy costs\*\*
- Economies of scale achieved prices up to 30% lower than previous WRAP scheme
- 221 councils have signed up to the framework (56% of English councils)
- 39,937 home composting units have been sold
- Over 900 tonnes of compostable waste have been diverted from residual waste collections and over 1,800 tonnes from green waste collections\*\*\*
- Councils can choose from a range of commodities and have communications materials tailored to their requirements



#### Background

In 2009, WRAP (the Waste and Resources Action Programme) took the decision to discontinue its national home composting scheme. All targets for the project had been met and the organisation decided to refocus its efforts.

The majority of councils in England were using and reliant on the scheme to encourage home composting as part of their waste prevention campaigns. Without a central procurement contract in place, councils would be forced to make separate arrangements locally at their own cost.



The need to replace the contract with a simple and efficient solution that would not require individual procurement by every council became clear. Improvement Efficiency South East (IESE) decided to set up a framework contract which would offer a quick and easy option for continuing to provide home composting units, whilst securing value for money through economies of scale.

#### Procuring the solution – a joint effort

Following an assessment of the options, it was deemed appropriate to set up a 'Totally managed solution' to include supply, delivery and communications as well as a wider contract to provide a comprehensive range of refuse and recycling commodities such as caddies and wheeled bins.

IESE worked with ESPO - the Eastern Shires Purchasing Organisation, the Better Tomorrows community interest organisation and a project/consultation group made up of local authority representatives. WRAP officers were also consulted during the process to ensure a smooth transition and to maintain the connection with councils for waste prevention support and guidance.

**Marten Gregory, Waste Reduction Officer at Dorset County Council** was a member of WIN's local authority consultation group and commented:

*"Through the consultation group, local authorities were involved in the development of the specification at a number of key stages, this meant we were able to fully engage with the process and really understand how the Composting Framework would work for councils."*

#### Contract award

In February 2010, Straight Plc was awarded the contract for the 'Totally Managed Solution' to include supply, delivery and communications. A number of other firms were included within the wider refuse and recycling products contract.

The framework agreement has national coverage and can be used by all public bodies in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

#### Benefits to local authorities

The principle benefit is that through using the framework, councils do not have to go through a costly and time consuming



process to tender for the supply of goods. Prices are held until March 2011 after which the supplier can apply for a price variant.

A key part of the framework is that it allows residents to deal directly with the supplier, Straight Plc for all products within the 'Totally managed solution', thereby freeing up officer time from running such an initiative in-house. Straight also provide a dedicated area of their [getcomposting.com](http://getcomposting.com) website for each council giving full details of the scheme and providing the opportunity for residents to purchase units online.

Close links are maintained with WRAP to point councils in the right direction for campaign/communications support and to provide residents with any information they may need to assist them with composting at home.

### Efficiency savings

Whether purchasing as a single authority or partnership grouping, both time and money can be saved.

The process for buying commodities through the framework is significantly reduced compared to a 'normal' procurement route, bringing with it savings of around £4,000 per authority or authority grouping\*. To August 2010 this has achieved an estimated £316,000

for the 221 councils signed up to the framework through avoided procurement costs.

Through economies of scale, the framework has attained prices for composting units that are up to 30% lower than those through the previous WRAP scheme. As the units are cheaper, councils do not need to provide as great a subsidy to reduce the unit price to that recommended by WRAP - £14/£15 (over which price WRAP calculates residents are less likely to purchase units). The savings made to bring the price down to £15 for the two main types of unit (220l and 330l converters) are £8 and £6 per bin respectively when compared to the previous WRAP prices. Up to August 2010, this alone produced savings for councils in the region of £125,000.

In terms of waste diversion, over 900 tonnes of compostable waste have been diverted from residual waste collections and over 1,800 tonnes from green waste collections\*\*\*, saving authorities disposal and treatment costs.



## Links and Contacts

### Waste Improvement Network

[www.win.org.uk](http://www.win.org.uk)

[win@southeastiep.gov.uk](mailto:win@southeastiep.gov.uk)

### Further information about the framework contract

[www.win.org.uk/site/cms/contentviewarticle.asp?article=676](http://www.win.org.uk/site/cms/contentviewarticle.asp?article=676)

### Straight Plc home composting framework website

[www.getcomposting.com](http://www.getcomposting.com)

### The Eastern Shires Purchasing Organisation

[www.espo.org](http://www.espo.org)

\* Calculations based on average of £4k per authority procurement costs from business case prepared by J Lucraft, Better Tomorrows, for IESE 2009

\*\* Calculations based on WRAP recommendation to subsidise units to a calculated price, above which residents are less likely to purchase units

\*\*\* Calculations using WRAP's Diversion attributable to home composting, District Level Analysis, 2010