

Change to Community Compost Credit Rate

Response to items listed in the 'Impact Assessment' document.



A new rate

The cost to DCC, in purely accountancy terms, is the sum of three strands

- the commercial gate fee, £25/tonne
- the average transport costs per tonne, across the districts, from the point where the material is deposited to the processing site.
- the administrative costs of running the contract per tonne. From this figure, the administrative costs of running the community compost claims, per tonne, can be deducted. The new rate should reflect these elements.

Section 2 & 4b - Environmental impact

The waste will travel further. UCM operate a membership scheme to use the site, membership breakdown by parish:

Uffculme: 50%

Parishes immediately adjacent to Uffculme Parish: 30%

Non adjacent parishes 20%.

The nearest CA site is Tiverton, 10.7 miles by road from the UCM site. The brown bins are a fixed volume, so at peak times there will be additional green garden material that householders will want to dispose of, by home composting, driving to Ashley or perhaps dumping?

It would be helpful for Community Compost users & perhaps the wider council tax paying community if the equivalent impact assessment document for the 17/18 contract was made available.

Section 2 – Economic Impact

UCM operates as a small business, a 'not for profit' limited company. Our original structure was that of a simple community group, but to access MDDC funding (mobile shredder grant on County to District devolvement) we were required, by MDDC, to be a legal entity. Many community based groups pay key workers.

Section 2 – Other Impacts

a) UCM relies on the credits as a valuable source of income (59% of turnover 15/16) to both operate the project & improve the project for the users & staff. Surpluses are reinvested, facilitating the purchase of significant equipment – shredder, jcb loadall, screen, 4WD vehicle & tipping trailer. The shredder is used at other community sites.

b) Community Compost Coordinator.

In our opinion, the decision to scrap the post & issue redundancy notice to the current postholder, does not sit well with the concept of a live 'consultation' encompassing the future of community composting.

c) 'Asking communities to help themselves and be more resilient is a current council policy.' The current council policy will have to be implemented by the community. Withdrawal of core funding & support, which is a trivial sum of money in the DCC waste management budget, immediately provides an additional obstacle for the community to navigate around. Our experience of applying for grants is that the provider generally views recycling as a council duty, part mitigated if public money underpins an application. We will observe with interest, whether the Community Engagement Project model, will indeed encourage community participation.

Section 4c - Impact on employment levels

The project employs 0.3 full time equivalent. Additional labour, self employed, 2 persons, 1 FTE.

Other issues.

There is no reference in the consultation as to how Devon intend to improve reuse rates, develop local projects & increase community involvement, which is a major failing in the consultation.

UCM Management Committee
8 Dec 2016