



Waste Prevention Project Funding

23 February 2010

Introduction

Friends of the Earth Scotland have been running a waste prevention project entitled 'Communities Reducing Excess Waste' funded by INCREASE since August 2008. The focus is very much on waste prevention as opposed to recycling. The project involves a part time waste prevention project coordinator and a full time waste prevention project officer who have conducted a series of training days throughout Scotland, providing training, skills, resources and motivation for community volunteers to run their own events, projects and workshops within their local communities. The 55 community volunteers recruited are currently focusing on the 'Home Waste Challenge 2010!' which involves 'waste audits' of households, literally weighing the waste created over the course of a week. Following this they draw up an action plan to reduce this waste in conjunction with those taking part. After the action plan has been implemented another audit is taken to see how much waste has been reduced. More information about the 'Communities Reducing Excess Waste' project can be found at: <http://www.foe-scotland.org.uk/crew>

We received a letter from WRAP on Monday 22 February, informing us that they have terminated funding for our Communities Reducing Excess Waste project. We didn't receive any prior notice that this was on the cards, so we're slightly shocked.

Restructuring of Waste Aware Scotland

We have heard that Waste Aware Scotland may be phased out and incorporated into WRAP or a new 'Zero Waste Scotland'. We have also heard that Keep Scotland Beautiful funding may be cut. This restructuring has raised concerns that jobs in waste prevention are being lost.

Waste Prevention Project funding

We have heard that funding for other waste prevention projects has also been cut for 2010-2011. In line with the waste hierarchy, we believe that these should be given priority. We would be interested to know what percentage of waste prevention projects, as opposed to recycling projects, have been cut and whether the Scottish Government's approach is to prioritise waste prevention. We would also be interested to know, to what extent the Scottish Government's budget for 2010-2011 has resulted in waste prevention projects being terminated. The 2010-2011 budget for rural affairs and the environment can be found here: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2009/09/17093831/8>

Lessons and evaluation

While we recognise that we were behind in our targets to divert waste going to landfill, we are concerned that the process has been handled badly. Given that two of our staff will be out of a job in a month and our 55 volunteers are extremely disappointed that the project will cease, we would have appreciated some notice that cutting project finance was being considered. We are also concerned that we won't be able to evaluate the project and learn the lessons of why we were behind. From initial evaluation it seems the main barrier our waste champions encountered was in communicating the waste prevention message as opposed to recycling. Not being able to look into the reasons for why this is the case is not good value of taxpayers money.

Possible question

To ask the Scottish Executive what percentage of waste prevention projects funded by INCREASE III will be terminated in 2010?

For further information contact:

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