



cromwell
polythene

NEW FOOD WASTE STRATEGY A SUCCESS



PETERBOROUGH



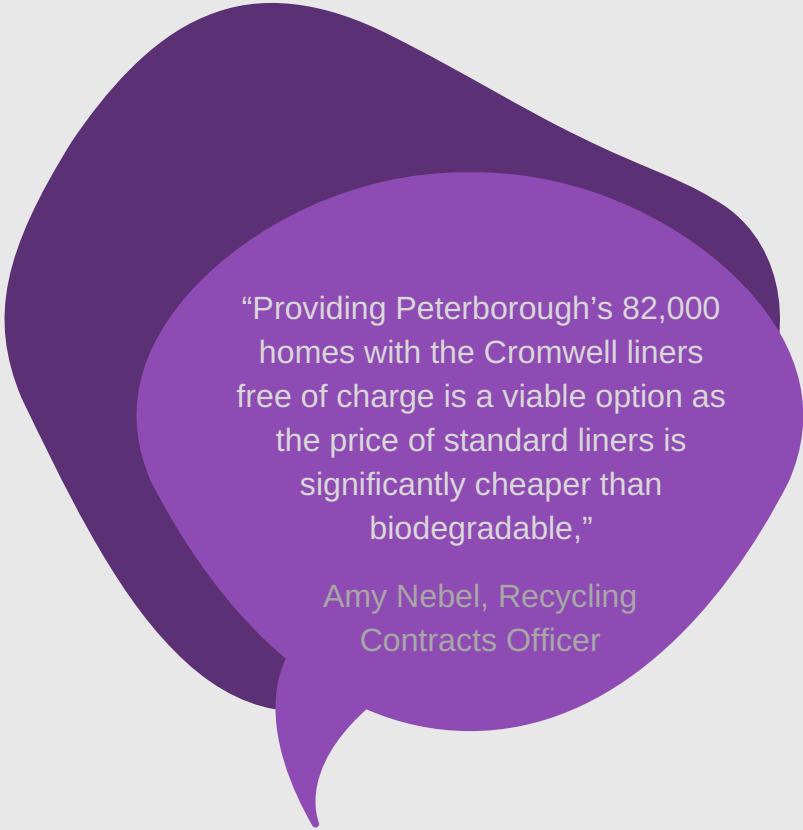
CITY COUNCIL

Summary

A switch from biodegradable caddy liners to a “significantly cheaper” alternative material is at the heart of a revised recycling strategy raised Peterborough City Council’s year-on-year food waste collections by a massive 24% and reduce costs by £50,000.

Background

Food waste collections were introduced by Peterborough City Council in 2012, using biodegradable caddy liners, for which a charge was made to local residents. Over a period of time, however, tonnages declined, leading to a re-examination of the original collection strategy. Meanwhile, research from WRAP showed that “providing householders ... with the tools and materials they need to recycle results in an increase in the amount of food waste captured for recycling”.



“Providing Peterborough’s 82,000 homes with the Cromwell liners free of charge is a viable option as the price of standard liners is significantly cheaper than biodegradable,”

Amy Nebel, Recycling
Contracts Officer

Action plan

Advanced separation equipment at Biogen's local AD plant enabled an alternative caddy liner, manufactured from high-density polyethylene (HDPE) and supplied by Cromwell Polythene, to be removed before the food waste is treated. The significantly cheaper HDPE bags could be provided to local residents free of charge, thus removing one of the potential barriers to participation.

The viability of the scheme was further underlined with the avoidance of landfill and energy from waste disposal costs, as well as the lower gate fees Biogen was able to offer at its AD plant as a result of the increased tonnages.

Simultaneous to these changes Peterborough City Council upped its communication with householders, delivering new promotional materials, including a sticker for the residual waste bin reminding them to separate their food waste, a revised leaflet highlighting the merits of the new scheme and the incorporation of a 'more bags please' tag in each roll of liners to enable re-ordering.

In the bag!

The initiative paid off in more ways than one:

- An increase of 870 tonnes of food waste in just over a year since the initiative started.
- Tonnages up by an impressive 24% since the project began.
- Peterborough City Council no longer now send this waste to landfill, it all goes through an Energy from waste facility.

