



PRESS RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE USE

February 20, 2008

Council to run kerbside recycling trial in Winton

The three Rs – reduce, recycle and reuse – will be in force in Winton next month when the Southland District Council trials kerbside recycling.

Council's Waste Asset Manager Justin Reid said the aim of the 11-week trial is to give Council a good indication of how well a kerbside pick-up service will work to separate rubbish from recyclables.

“This trial has the potential to dramatically change the way solid waste is dealt with in the Southland District,” Mr Reid said.

Council has been looking at ways to reduce rubbish going into the landfill for several years, as an average of 14,000 tonnes of rubbish is being dumped every year.

“About 70 percent of this could be recycled and if we can separate this and stop it going to landfill, we will make a significant step towards waste reduction,” Mr Reid said.

Two areas in Winton, with 50 households in each area, will take part in the trial.

“One group will use two wheelie bins, one for general rubbish and one for recyclables such as plastic, glass, paper, cardboard and cans. The other group will use three wheelie bins with one for rubbish, one for recyclables and one for organic waste such as greenwaste and food scraps,” he said.

In both trials, there will be weekly collections. However, the recyclables and general rubbish bins will be emptied fortnightly on alternate weeks and the organic waste collected every week.

At the end of the trial, the residents involved will complete a survey about how they found the service and what worked best, Mr Reid said.

The trial is part of a wider community consultation process on the options and costs as part of the Council's Draft Annual Plan, which will be released for public comment in April.

A similar system introduced in Timaru a few years ago has resulted in a 70 percent drop in rubbish going to landfill.

ENDS

For further information please contact:

Justin Reid

Asset Manager Water & Waste Services

Southland District Council

Phone: (0800) 732 732 ext 3166

M: (0274) 548 441