



Spotlight

Crown Hill food waste recycling project

April - October 2023



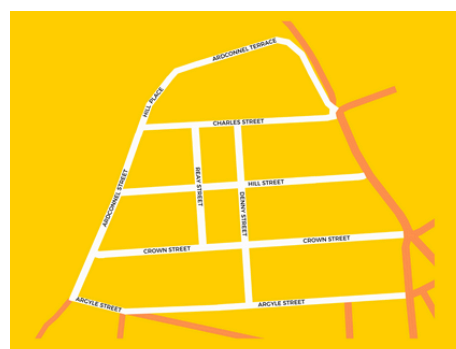
As part of the Highland Community Waste Partnership, Velocity Café and Bicycle workshop worked with Highland Council to raise awareness of the importance of disposing of food waste responsibly and encourage households to use the council's free food waste recycling service or otherwise do home composting if they wish to.

Background

At the start of the project, around one third of waste found in Highland refuse bins in the Highlands was food waste that could have been eaten or composted. Food waste going to landfill will rot and produce methane, which is a powerful greenhouse gas and contributes significantly to climate change -as well as being a waste of money and resources. Conversely, when food waste is recycled into compost, these emissions can be avoided whilst also providing a valuable resource that can be used to help grow more food.



Highland Council offers a food waste collection service, to enable food waste in Inverness to be composted. Velocity, making use of its community links and community engagement activities, worked with Highland Council to find ways of increasing uptake of this service, with a focus on the Crown Hill neighbourhood of Inverness.



The streets we targeted for our monitoring and engagement: Ardconnel Terrace, Hill Place, Ardconnel St, Argyle St, Crown St, Hill St, Denny St, Reay St, Charles St.



Approach

To start, Velocity worked with support from the Council to carry out baseline observational monitoring of which households were putting their food waste caddies out for collection, recorded either late the night before or first thing in the morning, before being collected by the Council.

This was coupled with an online survey, rolled out via the Crown Connects newsletter, to understand what households were currently doing with their food waste, and start raising awareness of the service.

This was followed by further awareness-raising and engagement activity, including door knocking and a series of events.

Results

Follow-up monitoring found an increase in the food waste recycling rates following the engagement activity:

April / May monitoring 2023 - The number of unique caddies presented over the 3 weeks totalled 142, making up **28.9%** in our target area.

Sep / Oct monitoring 2023 - The number of unique caddies presented over 3 weeks totalled 156 which is **31.7%** in our target area.

In addition, the direct engagement activity also helped flag some challenges with the food waste collection sign up form that were fed back to the council to address.



See also:

www.KeepScotlandBeautiful.org/highland-community-waste-partnership/food-waste/

The Highland Community Waste Partnership (2022-2025)

Funded by The National Lottery Climate Action Fund, and coordinated by Keep Scotland Beautiful, the Highland Community Waste Partnership (HCWP) brought together eight community groups in the Highlands to reduce waste and promote more sustainable consumption.

Learn more here: www.KeepScotlandBeautiful.org/highlandcommunitywaste/