

## 7 Grants and Other Funding

### *Expenditure*

Community Composting schemes can be run on varying scales from totally non-profit making self serving ventures to large businesses. They bridge the gap between composting your own clippings in the back yard to large municipal operations. Both expenditure and revenue reflect the scale of the project.

### **Possible costs**

- Site rental
- Licence fees
- Transport
- Labour
- Administration
- Marketing
- Publicity
- Information i.e. leaflets, posters etc
- Hire or purchase of tools and equipment
- Analysis of compost
- Insurance

### *Income*

Income can be generated by obtaining grants in the form of money or kind, by claiming recycling credits, by the sale of finished compost or some combination of these. The Community Composting Network and Waste Watch can provide advice and information.

If the venture is set up as a business the Government's Enterprise Allowance and the Prince's Youth Businesses Trust can be tapped.

### **Possible sources of funding**

***(please note many of these are out of date including Enterprise Allowance)***

- Local Agenda 21 (LA21) Officer (local authority)
- Waste Disposal Department (local authority)
- Recycling Officer (local authority)
- Civic Trust
- Rural Action Fund
- European Rural Development Commission
- Shell Better Britain
- Rural Community Council (RCC)
- BTCV

See *Useful Contacts*

## ***Attracting sponsorship and grant aid***

Local businesses wishing to 'green up' their image may well be persuaded to support a viable and popular scheme. The same applies to local authorities and other funding sources. Although a direct approach can be made to such places, your cause may be helped, and indeed may attract interest from unthought-of sources, by positive publicity in the local press, or on the radio or television. The aim here is to raise the profile of the scheme.

## ***Recycling credits***

One way in which you can gain financial reward for recycling is by claiming recycling credits. Credit payments are made based on the amount of material that you keep out of the waste disposal system. Accurate records have to be kept of how much compost you distribute, as this is the only practical way of measuring, albeit indirectly, what the project has actually achieved.

Contact the Waste Officer at your local authority for details, The value of recycling credits varies from region to region but may be worth up to £40/tonne.

Unfortunately not all local authorities are keen to pay recycling credits – so you may have to fight for them.

## ***Landfill tax***

All material sent to landfill is now taxed and monies collected are available for distribution under certain circumstances. The scheme is still in its infancy and details are likely to change, but at present a Community Composting enterprise would appear to fit the criteria for a project eligible to apply for funds from this source. Details of the scheme are available from ENTRUST, tel: 0171 823 4574.

*(please note: landfill tax is now channelled via local authorities, rather than through ENTRUST when this was written)*

## ***Supplementary credit approval***

This is in effect a loan from the Department of the Environment to the local authority for capital expenditure which would not otherwise be available due to budget restraints. Your venture would need to join with other organisations and your local authority in order to bid for it. The project at Heeley City Farm in Sheffield was able to raise a substantial amount of funding in this way.

## ***Sale of compost***

It is highly unlikely that you will be able to fund your scheme from the sale of compost so do not rely on it. Even Seagull in Skegness, which is a fairly large operation, would not be able to fund themselves from their sales. However, if it is decided to sell the product, attention must be given to packaging, marketing and distribution. A small amount may be sold from the site or larger quantities through garden centres, depending on the scale of operation.

Remember not to undervalue the product but to charge according to its quality. Compost may be sold in bulk, if large enough quantities are produced, or in bags. As a guide, if £3 is charged for a 40L (25kg) bag this is equivalent to £120 per tonne.

### ***Example of funding***

The Seagull group in Skegness has obtained the following funding:

£800 from Civic Trust to buy an 8 hp shredder  
£4,000 from local authority to buy wood chipper  
£15,000 per year from local authority for running costs  
£625 grant from Rural Action Fund for analysis of compost  
£10,000 per year sale of compost and other recyclables  
£11.70 per tonne recycling credits

See *Case Studies 1*

### ***Other relevant sections***

- PR & Marketing
- Getting Started
- Case Studies
- Useful Contacts

### ***Useful contacts***

- Waste Watch
- Community Composting Network
- The Wildlife Trusts
- HDRA and The Composting Association
- ENTRUST