



Green Cone Trial

Crewe and Nantwich Borough Council

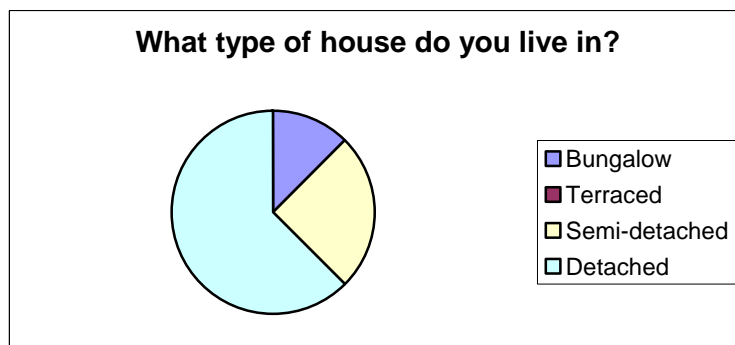
October 2003 – October 2004

Ten participants took part in the Green Cone trial. The Green Cones were given to participants in October. It was anticipated that they would start to use them immediately as the ground would still be soft, enabling easy installation and they would catch the last of the autumn sun. Participants in the trial were visited in May to see if the Green Cone was successful and to identify any problems.

The volunteers were given the cones free of charge on the pretence that they would keep datasheets recording the amount of waste that they put in their Green Cones. However some clearly struggled with keeping a record and it proved quite difficult to obtain full data sets.

Eight volunteers returned questionnaires, the results follow.

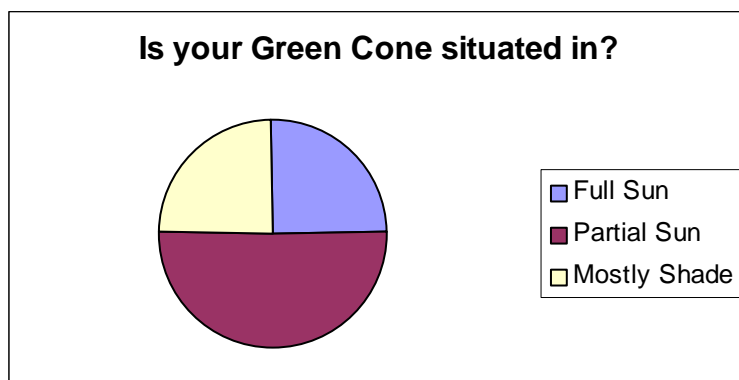
Most of the participants lived in detached houses, with none living in a terraced house. The number of people living in each house varied, from two people up to nine people, this household shared their Green Cone with the children's nursery next door.



No. of people using the Green Cone	No. of households
Two People	1 Household
Three People	2 Households
Four People	2 households
Five People	1 household
Seven People	1 household
Nine People	1 household

Two participants found the Green Cone hard to install. One due to hard ground, the other found digging the wet soil very strenuous. All the other participants installed the cone with ease.

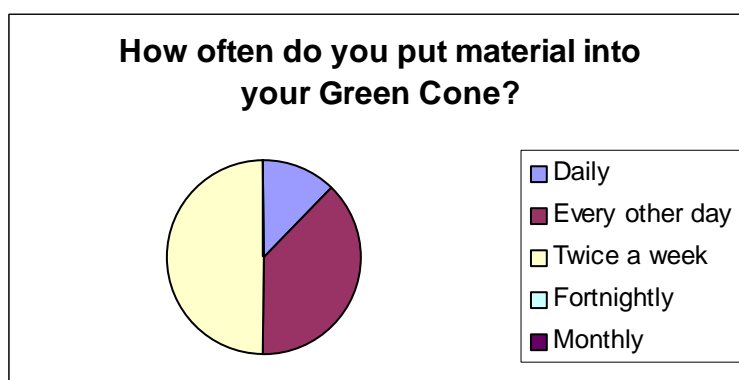
All but one participant felt it was easy to find a suitable location in the garden for the Green Cone. Problems were encountered due to hedge and tree roots in the favoured position for installation. Half of those taking part in the trial found an area in partial sun for the cone.



Most householders put waste into the Green Cone every other day or twice a week.

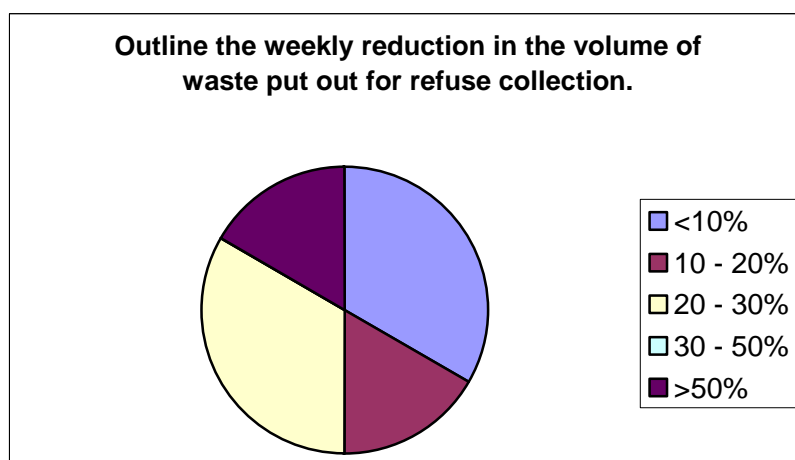
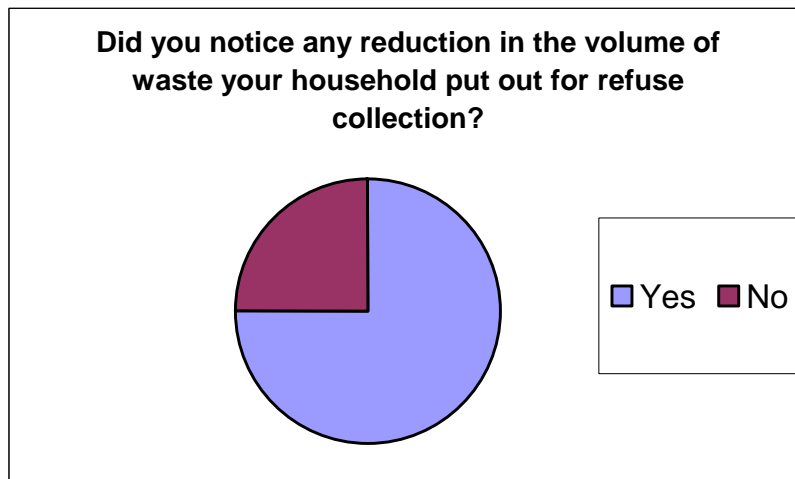
Householders were putting the following in the Green Cone:

- Kitchen waste (peelings and meat)
- Animal faeces
- Cooked food
- Coffee grounds
- Food products that have gone 'out of date'



None of the participants had to empty the Green Cone during the trial. Only two householders reported a problem with the Green Cone. The cone that was being shared with the children's nursery became too full. Another resident had an infestation of bugs (similar to silver fish); this was probably due to bad installation leading to drainage problems. The resident planned to reinstall the cone.

Six out of the eight respondents noticed a reduction in the volume of waste their household put out for collection. The reduction varied from household to household.



Participants had the following thoughts about the advantages and disadvantages of the Green Cone and suggested some improvements:

Advantages of the Green Cone

- Benefit to the Environment
- Chicken carcasses are easy to deal with
- Clean wheeled bin
- Easy to use
- Enables householder to dispose of cooked food without having to put it in the dustbin
- Food waste is not going to landfill
- Smelly / rotten food is not put in the wheeled bin
- Useful when compost bin is full

Disadvantages of the Green Cone

- Emptying the Green Cone
- Insect infestation
- Keeping another bin in the kitchen

- Taking waste down the garden

Seven out of eight respondents would recommend the Green Cone to a friend.

Suggested improvements

- Bigger cones needed for larger families
- Lip on lid to prevent maggots / grubs congregating around the inside of the lid
- More powder to be supplied
- Round caddy for ease of emptying into cone X 3
- Spare baskets should be available for sale, so when the cone has to be emptied the cone basket can be left and buried and the cone reinstalled with new basket so 'emptying cone' is a cleaner job. Basket can be retrieved at a later date.
- Wider hole at top of caddy X 4

The amount householders would be prepared to pay for a Green Cone varied from those not prepared to pay anything to a maximum of £30. The amounts are listed below:

- Free X 2
- £10
- £15
- £10 – 20
- £20
- £25 - 30
- £30

The Green Cone trial was offered to those in The Home and Community Composting Trial area. Therefore it should be assumed that most participants were using the Green Cone in conjunction with their Compost Bin.

The participants in the trial were asked to measure the waste they put in to the cone by counting how many 'Green Cone Caddys' they put in the cone, they did not weigh the waste they put into the cone. Each caddy was 4.5 litres; hence the results are in litres.

Over the year of the Green Cone Trial the 10 volunteers put a staggering 793 caddies worth of household waste into the cone, this equals 3569 litres, which is:

- An average of 357 litres per household per annum.

Or

- An average of 30 litres per household per month.

All householders said they would continue to use their Green Cones, making an obvious contribution to decreasing the amount of waste being sent to landfill.