

Reference: FOI1027

Request:

Could you please give me the following information:

Is all Garden waste collected within the borough recycled into compost?

If so, is this compost then used for landscaping within the Borough?

How much did the council spend on compost in 2018?

Response:

Information on the amount of expenditure incurred on compost in 2018 is not available. There are several suppliers used by the Council across Local Environmental Services who supply composting related services. The details of costs cannot be clearly identified.

At present North Tyneside Council's 'green waste' (grass cuttings and similar) are transferred from our contractors transfer facility to their composting pad at Ellington. The garden waste is used as a soil improver on farm land and not returned to the Council as compost.

When 'green waste' is delivered to their facility it goes through the following process:

- 1.The 'green waste' is weighed (so records can be kept of material coming into the facility and from who)
- 2.The load is tipped into a bay for visual inspection and where physical contaminants are removed (if the load has too many contaminants it is rejected and does not go through the composting process)
- 3.The 'green waste' is then shredded to a size less than 100mm
- 4.The shredded material is then built into windrows
- 5.Temperature readings are taken daily; the material must hit a sanitisation temperature of 65 degrees centigrade seven times
- 6.The windrows are physically turned weekly until stabilisation is reached – a stable temperature range is between 40 -80 degrees centigrade (generally achieved after eight weeks)
- 7.The material is then screened to less than 40mm – this is then a compost product
- 8.The product is then weighed out of site (to ensure we have total records)

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The above process is then tested in lines with PAS100 (Publicly Available Specification), if the product does not meet the expectations of PAS100 then the material cannot be positively released as PAS100 complaint material.

As described above PAS100 accreditation is extremely important to ensure the compost being made at site can be spread safely to land**