



The silent revolution

Due to strict noise restrictions (max. 45 dB) in Iceland before 7 a.m. it has been necessary to develop waste collection vehicles that make very little noise. The primary source of noise is the emptying of containers into the collection vehicle – i.e. the binlift unit. This is traditionally a hydraulic system, which is both noisy and very diesel consuming. The comparatively noiseless system is based on an electrically powered binlifter. This unit is significantly less noisy, and at the same time surveys in the UK have demonstrated that it consumes up to 18 % less diesel as compared with similar hydraulic systems.

In addition to reducing the noise level, the electric binlifter weighs much less than the hydraulic binlifter, which makes it possible to increase the weight of the payload. Studies show a saving of 400 kg, and a potential of up to one tonne is expected.

In the event that waste gets jammed up inside the container, the electric binlifter may 'shake' the container without banging it against the waste collection vehicle and empty it without making noise.

One of the positive side effects of the relatively noiseless binlifter is that it has become much easier for the waste collection crew to communicate while working, which particularly in the dark winter months is a great advantage.

Source: Waste management world, January – February 2006, pp. 50-53. 'Silent revolution'.

*Further information: The electric binlift, Ecoprocess:
<http://www.ecoprocess.com/>*

(SIMA)

Austrian citizens dump waste in Czech Republic

Since the accession of the Czech Republic into the EU the amounts of waste crossing the border from Austria has been steadily increasing. Previously, illegal dumping of commercial and industrial waste was a problem, but today such activity is heavily fined. This has put a damper on lorries bringing illegal commercial and industrial waste into the Czech Republic. Today, waste from Austrian households packing the car with small amounts of waste before crossing the border is just as big a problem as commercial and industrial waste. In the best-case scenario, the waste is dumped into a container in the border regions on the Czech side and in the worst-case scenario it is dumped in the forest.