Freedom of Information Act (2000) & Environmental Information Regulation (2004)

Information Request Reference Number: 337

R E S P O N S E

You have asked South Somerset District Council for the following information:-

1. a) Does your local authority use peat in its horticultural practices? E.g. planting.
    Not for planting purposes

    b) If so, and if you are able to quantify, how much peat do you use a month (m^3)?
    N/A

    c) Do you use peat raw, as part of a mixed compost, or in another way?
    We use Peat products within our nursery to a total of approximately 91m3 annually.

2. a) Are any peat-free alternatives used instead?
    We have trialled various peat free and alternative products over the years but none have so far matched the result we get from our existing products without having to significantly change our growing and nurturing techniques, they are also generally considerably more expensive.

    b) If so, which ones, and in what quantities?
    Coco, Coir & Melcourt to name a few.

3. a) Have any efforts been made to reduce the amount of peat used?
    Please see Q2 a) response.

    b) If so, has this been a result of governmental policy/pressure, or other reasons? If other, please specify.
    Not governmental but from a good environmental choice position.

4. If possible, please provide any figures on your historic peat use, for comparison. If this is outsourced, any available details would be appreciated.
    Typically we use a similar quantity year on year approx 91m3

5. Are there any plans to reduce future peat usage? -
    We will continue to trail and review peat free and reduced peat products on a regular basis.

6. What could be done to support you in a transition to peat-free growing media?
    Help suppliers provide an equivalent cost and similar nursery practice peat free alternative

Please review the information on our website regarding the re-use of Public Sector Information.