

Mersey Recycling Figures On The Up

Householders across Merseyside recycled over 29% of their waste last year, as new figures released by MWDA show the latest efforts to tackle the region's waste mountain.

The region has improved the amount of waste it recycles - up 7% from last year (from 22.5% to 29.3%), according to the Annual Review published by the Authority.

Other findings show the region is sending less of its rubbish to landfill and that waste generated per person has fallen.

Director of MWDA, Carl Beer said: "Not long ago we were struggling to reach double figures in terms of the percentage of waste we recycle. This big year-on-year increase just shows the progress we're making, and the real potential for much more to come."

"The fact remains however that we are still creating too much waste, reusing or recycling too little and not getting enough value from what we're throwing away."

The 2007/08 review shows:

- 29.3% of the total waste Merseyside householders produce is recycled or composted
- The region currently sends around 530,000 tonnes of waste to landfill – 12% less than last year (650,000 tonnes in 2006/07)
- Around 550 kg of household waste per head of population is generated each year (down 2% from last year)

Merseyside's recycling rate is on the rise



Baled cans at the Bidston MRF

- All 14 Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) on Merseyside recycle over 40% of material that they receive
- MWDA has led a range of educational site visits for nearly 1,000 school children and over 300 members of community groups during the year.

MWDA spearheads a number of recycling initiatives across the region, including 'Swap Days' (where residents bring and exchange unwanted items for free), educational workshops and compost giveaways.

Councillor Kevin Cluskey, Chairperson of the Waste Disposal Authority said, "This level of improvement wouldn't be possible without enthusiastic support from the public - Merseyside householders have shown a real commitment to cutting back on waste."

Recycling Park Plan for Gillmoss

MWDA is to submit plans to create a Recycling Park in Gillmoss, Liverpool.

The Recycling Park is designed to play a key role in the region's recycling effort and would complement an existing waste transfer station on a 22-acre site which the Authority owns in Stonebridge Lane, Gillmoss.

The development, likely to cost around £20 million, will include an integrated Visitor Centre and a new Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) able to manually and mechanically

sort the contents of recycling collections from Merseyside homes into separate glass, cardboard, plastic bottles, cans and paper streams.

The MRF, likely to be similar to the Authority's existing facility already operating in Bidston, Wirral, would sort around 100,000 tonnes of recyclable materials each year and would be entirely enclosed in a sealed building. Once sorted, materials would be transported away from the site to third party processors for recycling into new products and raw materials.

MWDA has held a range of public information events as well as sending newsletters to more than 19,000 homes and businesses in the local area to explain the proposal before submitting a formal planning application for the Recycling Park to Liverpool City Council later this year.

The Gillmoss proposal will focus on recycling. However, it is possible a future proposal for the site will be developed to allow organic rubbish such as kitchen waste to be composted in enclosed and carefully controlled facilities.

Developing the Gillmoss facilities is just part of a much broader MWDA programme designed to make sure the region can meet future waste disposal needs and comply with landfill legislation. Plans for other waste and recycling facilities will be developed and submitted over the next 18 months.

MWDA Director Carl Beer said: "We are currently looking at options for other waste disposal facilities elsewhere to complete the jigsaw."

The Recycling Park would be operational by 2010 if the plan is approved.

An artist's impression of the proposed Recycling Park



MWDA Enters Final Stages For £3bn Waste Contracts

Elected Members of MWDA have moved the choice of new contractors for its £3 billion waste contracts into the final stages at the Authority's Annual General Meeting (27th June 2008).

The two new contracts consist of:

- A Waste Management and Recycling Contract to manage all of Merseyside and Halton's existing Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs), Transfer Stations, Material Recycling Facilities, and provide new facilities to increase the level of recycling.
- A Resource and Recovery (PFI) Contract to manage energy from residual waste (i.e. waste which hasn't been recycled).

The Authority is procuring both the new contracts using the European Procurement rules, Competitive Dialogue process.

The final bidders for the Waste Management and Recycling Contracts are: SITA UK Ltd and Veolia. These bidders will now be asked to present the Authority with Final Tenders. The Authority

expects Final Tenders to be submitted and the contract awarded in April 2009.

The final bidders for the Resource and Recovery Contract are: SITA UK Ltd, Covanta, Shanks Group plc and Resource From Waste Alliance (United Utilities Contract Solutions, Land Securities, Trillium). These companies will now be asked to submit Detailed Solutions to the Authority as part of the Competitive Dialogue stage of the Procurement, for evaluation. These will be submitted to the Authority and further evaluation will take place. It is expected that this contract will reach Call for Final Tenders in August 2009 and the contract award is expected in January 2010.

District Council News

Fashion Students Say Green Is The New Black

Recycle For Halton

Halton Council's kerbside multi-material recycling scheme has been expanded to another 20,000 households.

The scheme was rolled out across the region during August. This service will be in addition to the existing weekly collections of general waste.

Paper, glass bottles and jars, plastic bottles, cardboard and food and drink cans can now be recycled in the blue bins in those areas receiving the new service.

In accordance with Halton's Waste Action Plan the Council will roll out the new service to as many households in Halton as it is operationally feasible by 2010/11. Halton currently recycles 25 per cent of its municipal waste.

Recycling Gets Dirty

In the first scheme of its kind in Merseyside, Liverpool Council is preventing thousands of tonnes worth of waste going to landfill by recycling the grit, dirt, drinks cans and bottles collected when the streets are swept.

Once the street waste is collected, it's separated from all the non-recyclable litter. Any cans or bottles are recycled. Biodegradable waste such as grit and dirt is processed and re-used for a variety of purposes including compost and local landscaping.

Liverpool City Council executive member for the environment, Councillor Berni Turner, said: "It's fantastic that this new scheme will allow us to not only divert so much waste from landfill but to also have a solution which benefits the environment."

TREEmendous Recycling

Recyclers in Sefton can see the fruits of their hard work as far away as Malawi.

For every tonne of aluminium cans and foil collected in Sefton Council's Green Bee recycling scheme, not-for-profit recycling organisation Alupro donates a tree to help people in the African country.

Last year more than 216 grafted orange trees were planted for families in rural Malawi to grow and cultivate thanks to recyclers in the borough. Plaques have now been planted in the orchards saying where the trees have come from.



Knowsley Helps The Environment

Knowsley Council is helping the environment with biodegradable carrier bags.

The new bags are made from biodegradable plastic which disintegrates within approximately 12 months in landfill, and naturally starts to degrade within two years 'on the shelf'.

Councillor Morgan, Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Economic Development said: "We want to encourage people to make a difference and ensure that Knowsley is a clean and green place for people to live."

The carrier bags are far stronger than other bags and can be re-used by market customers.

Local Recycling For Local People

St.Helens Council is leading the way in trying to reduce its carbon footprint by using local companies to deal with its recycling.

When residents recycle plastic bottles, cans and paper they have a short journey to go before they turn up as garden furniture, clothing accessories, shoes and magazines. Two local farms, Mossborough Hall in Rainford and White Moss near Kirkby take the waste from green bins which is returned to environmentally friendly garden compost.

The average household uses 400 plastic bottles each year and if everyone in St.Helens recycled their bottles it would equate to 31 million bottles a year - enough to cover St.Helens RLFC's ground 10 times over! The new kerbside plastic bottle collection goes to Yield in Widnes. In Ellesmere Port, the paper mill deals with 400,000 tonnes of newsprint every year collected from local councils and paper banks.



Teenage fashion students know they're heading in the right direction after transforming a pile of old maps in to a unique piece of haute couture.

The novel costume is just one of 15 garments crafted out of recycled objects - everything from CDs and old rags to scrap metal - by talented students at Liverpool Community College.

The recycled garment collection, sponsored by Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority, went on show recently at Sefton Park Palm House as part of Liverpool Community College's end-of-year fashion show.

MWDA Director Carl Beer said: "There's some incredible imagination and flair gone into creating these costumes and making a very serious point."

A total of 55 first year fashion students on Liverpool College's National Diploma course spent eight weeks working in groups to create the collection.



Liverpool students with their recycled regalia

The Tidy Business Awards

Wirral's tidiest businesses are to be honoured for their recycling commitment with a new series of awards.

Encams - the charity who look after the Keep Britain Tidy Campaign - are introducing the Tidy Business Awards Scheme to the Wirral, in conjunction with Wirral Council. The awards are to encourage best practice in waste management by the business community.

The Gold, Silver and Bronze awards will reward businesses who fulfill their legal obligations, are committed to recycling, and who promote a cleaner environment in their local community.

Pioneering £13m Waste Plant Launched

A unique New Technology waste treatment and recycling plant recently had its official opening in Knowsley.

The pioneering facility in Huyton, Merseyside, is the first of its kind in the UK. It uses a process which converts household and commercial waste into refined renewable biomass fuel products and recovered mixed recyclable materials.

The £13m facility has been developed by MWDA in partnership with engineering company Orchid Environmental, the Northwest Regional Development Agency (NWDA), Envirolink Northwest and DEFRA (Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs).



MWDA Director, Carl Beer said: "Merseyside produces over 500,000 tonnes of waste a year. We see this as a valuable resource and we want to recover some of that value from waste which hasn't been recycled at the kerbside.

"This is a unique demonstration project and we're confident it will prove to be an invaluable part of the overall solution – and not just for Merseyside. The entire waste management industry is eagerly awaiting results of the technology we're using."

The facility, on Huyton Business Park in Knowsley, is operated by North West-based Orchid Environmental Ltd. It uses a low temperature technology known as mechanical heat treatment to convert waste into a renewable biomass fuel. This fuel can then be used as a sustainable alternative to



expensive and diminishing reserves of fossil fuels in order to generate power and heat in various types of combustion plants elsewhere.

Orchid Managing Director, Steve Whatmore, said: "Orchid is proud to be associated with this showcase of its technologies and celebrates the dawn of a new era in waste recycling and recovery."

The facility includes a visitor centre designed to support MWDA's Education and Awareness programme and was officially opened by Councillor Kevin Cluskey, Chairperson of MWDA, and Hugh Hoather, President of the Chartered Institution of Wastes Management.

Pictured above, left to right: Carl Beer, Joe Dwek CBE, Cllr Kevin Cluskey, Hugh Hoather, Steve Whatmore, John Burns.

Left: CIWM President Hugh Hoather addressing the audience.

Recycling Centre Paves The Way

Pioneering improvement works are taking place at Sefton Meadows Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) - with recycled car tyres used as road foundations.

MWDA and Mersey Waste Holdings are planning to improve the Centre (on Sefton Lane, Maghull) by restructuring the layout and traffic flow which will make it easier for people to get to the recycling containers.

Innovative construction for the road foundations will see baled and compressed car tyres (Urro Blocks) used as a relatively low-cost alternative to natural aggregates. Urro Blocks are also a low carbon product.

Each bale contains between 100 and 110 used tyres, and in total the scheme will incorporate almost a quarter of a million tyres that would otherwise have found their way into the waste stream. Substituting re-used tyres for new construction material reduces the need for virgin aggregates. The bales are permeable, structurally strong and are able to be constructed over soft soil, which is ideal for the ground at Sefton Meadows.



Baled tyres being re-used as road foundations

Who are we?

Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority (MWDA) is a statutory authority established in 1986 following the abolition of Merseyside County Council, to undertake the waste disposal functions for local authorities across Merseyside – Liverpool, Knowsley, Sefton, Wirral and St Helens. MWDA takes the lead in advocating waste minimisation, recycling and the safe and effective disposal of waste for Merseyside's residents.

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MERSEYSIDE WASTE DISPOSAL AUTHORITY

