

MRWA UPDATE

Summer 2012 / Issue 14



MERSEYSIDE RECYCLING & WASTE AUTHORITY

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£20m to help transform Merseyside recycling

A recycling facility combining high tech sorting with the latest construction techniques was officially opened in Liverpool on June 1st.

The £20m Materials Recovery Facility (MRF), commissioned by MRWA and managed by Veolia Environmental Services, uses state-of-the-art recycling separation technology to sort paper and cardboard, glass bottles and jars, steel cans, aluminium cans and plastic bottles. The facility can process up to 250 tonnes of recyclable materials a day.

Councillor Joe DeAsha, Chairperson of MRWA, said: "The Gillmoss facility provides a great opportunity for members of the public to get a real understanding of the processes involved. The more people understand, the more they'll be able to support us in our drive to increase recycling rates on Merseyside and that can only be a good thing."

The new building, on Bridgehouse Lane, Gillmoss, features a dedicated Recycling Discovery Centre in which

MRWA and Veolia are already delivering a range of education and awareness activities. Thousands of young people and members of the community have already visited to take part in programmes and activities, and to take a tour of the facilities.

Jean Dominique Mallet, Chief Executive Officer, Veolia Environmental Services UK: "We are delighted to be opening this new facility in Gillmoss which will not only improve recycling rates across Merseyside but also provide an education centre to help the next generation understand the benefits of greener living."

The building itself has been designed with an attractive curved roof to allow natural light into the building

and recycled and reclaimed materials have been used in construction of the building and its foundations.



Above: The new Materials Recovery Facility
Left: (l to r) Joe DeAsha (MRWA), Jean Dominique Mallet (Veolia).

£60,000 Community Fund Launched



Artists and volunteers of the De-junk/Re-junk project in Wirral.

MRWA and Veolia have launched a £60,000 fund for local community projects.

The Community Fund will accept applications from community and voluntary groups, partnerships and schools for projects that

will benefit the environment. In the past the Fund contained one single pot of money. This year the total £60,000 has been split into three categories and will be staggered between now and September.

Councillor Joe DeAsha, Chairperson of MRWA, said: "We've been running the Community Fund for a few years now and we've always made tweaks here and there to improve the process. Now, by overhauling the whole project and increasing the money available we should be able to offer more groups more opportunities to access funding.

There are a lot of groups, organisations and schools out there who are doing great work in recycling and waste prevention and I hope we can help as many of them as possible, even if it's just in a small way."

The first funding pot was available in June and has now closed for applications. The second pot of £20,000 has recently been launched for applications from schools and groups in the community and voluntary sector, and the third pot (£10,000, for schools only) will launch later in the year.

In the past the Fund has assisted projects such as testing used electrical equipment, sewing lessons for parents, and artwork creations using recycled materials (such as the Wirral Dejunk project pictured left).

Application forms are available from:
www.merseysidewda.gov.uk/your-waste/community-fund

Residents turn privets into prizes!

Merseyside residents can currently get their hands on free garden waste recycling bags.

Lasting until Sunday September 30th the bags are being given away at the region's 14 Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs). The giveaway is being organised by MRWA and Veolia Environmental Services.

To claim a bag, residents will have to drop off a load of green/garden waste at any one of the Recycling Centres, where they'll receive a stamped voucher. If they drop off another load of green waste at a later date then they can get their voucher stamped a second time and will be entitled to the free bag which can be taken there and then.

Each voucher that has been stamped will also be entered into a monthly prize draw – with the winner receiving £50-worth of DIY/Garden Vouchers.

Carl Beer, Chief Executive of MRWA, said: "Our recycling bag giveaways are always really popular with local residents and they encourage people to bring us waste that maybe they normally wouldn't. Hopefully the extra incentive of the vouchers will mean we get a bumper load of green and garden waste this summer, which will go on to be composted."



Bag giveaways are always popular with residents.

LOVE FOOD hate waste



The Merseyside and Halton Waste Partnership (MHWP - made up of MRWA and the Merseyside and Halton district councils) has been busy raising awareness of the WRAP-backed Love Food Hate Waste (LFHW) campaign in a bid to save people money and stop needless waste going to landfill.

Food waste is a big issue - in the UK alone we throw away over seven million tonnes of food and drink a year, most of which would have been perfectly edible. Wasted food costs families £50 a month - around £680 a year

for families or £480 a year for the average household without children. It's not just a waste of our money as it has serious environmental implications too. If we all stopped wasting this food the CO2 impact would be the equivalent of taking one in five cars off our roads.

LFHW aims to raise awareness of these issues and offers tips and ideas to help us all waste less and save money. The MHWP will be attending festivals and other events in the Merseyside area throughout the year, giving advice to members of the public

on how to waste less food by planning meals, using leftovers and storing correctly. Volunteers are also being trained in the ways of LFHW so they can pass on their skills to local community groups, and MHWP is sponsoring the Radio City 96.7 Weekend Wake Up show on Saturday and Sundays in a bid to get people shopping smarter.

By working together the MHWP is confident that the region can prevent the huge amounts of food going to waste as well as help people to save money.

Here are four easy steps to help you make the most of the food you buy:

Know your dates

Use up foods with the shortest dates first and when shopping check to see if fresh foods can be frozen in case you don't get round to eating them. Best before dates are for quality so you can eat these foods after this date, they just may no longer be at their best - eggs are the exception. Use by dates are for safety, you can eat or freeze foods right up to the end of the use by date. Display until and sell by are just for stock control by the shops - they're not for us to worry about!

Savvy storage

Simple tips on storing our foods can help us make the most of them, and keep them fresher for longer. Ensure your fruit and vegetables are at their best by keeping them in the fridge. Leftovers will keep for up to two days well wrapped in the fridge, or pop them in the freezer to have on a night when you don't feel like cooking.

It pays to plan

Planning your meals in advance will save time and ensure you always have something to feed the hungry hordes! Take a look in your cupboards, fridge and freezer and make a note of what food you already have, this will help you to avoid doubling up when shopping.

Lovely leftovers

The Love Food Hate Waste website has hundreds of recipes and ideas to make the most of yesterday's leftovers or pep up that floppy carrot in the back of the fridge. From shepherd's pie to spicy meatballs there's a wonderful range of tasty delights on offer.

For more information and tips visit
www.lovefoodhatewaste.com

Kirkby Recycling Centre open for business!

Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority (MRWA) and Veolia Environmental Services have officially opened the new Kirkby Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) on Depot Road, Knowsley.

The £1.1million facility is a replacement of the old Kirkby Recycling Centre, and is located at the northern end of Knowsley Industrial Park on Depot Road, 300 metres away from the previous site. The new Kirkby HWRC has the capacity to receive up to 15,000 tonnes of householders' waste and recyclable materials each year.

Councillor Joe DeAsha, Chairperson of MRWA, said: "We're really excited to see this brand new site open. The old facility was a bit cramped, whereas this new Centre is a much more pleasant experience for visitors and will be easier to navigate, which will hopefully encourage more recycling."

An increased number of larger containers, plus more queuing space on site for cars and the provision of an overhead weather-protection canopy,

will make it more convenient for members of the public to dispose of recyclable and waste items. The site also includes new expanded spaces for the collection of waste electrical items.

The construction of the new facility has been undertaken by Cheetham Hill Construction Ltd on behalf of MRWA, with the project having achieved an industry standard CEEQUAL award (the Assessment and Awards Scheme for Improving Sustainability in Civil Engineering).

MRWA Chief Executive, Carl Beer, said: "This new Recycling Centre is just one part of a drive to improve all our facilities as well as build brand new ones. Merseyside needs to reduce its reliance on landfill and our push for new and improved waste management amenities will help us to achieve this."



Mayor of Knowsley Christina O'Hare leads the ribbon cutting at the new Centre.



MERSEYSIDE RECYCLING & WASTE AUTHORITY

MERSEYSIDE... A PLACE WHERE NOTHING IS WASTED



Who are we?

Merseyside Recycling & Waste Authority (MRWA) 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. MRWA takes the lead in advocating waste minimisation, recycling and the safe and effective disposal of waste for Merseyside's residents.

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