

Green light for pioneering £13m waste facility

An innovative multi-million-pound waste processing facility on Huyton Business Park will start work later this year following successful planning approval by Knowsley Council.

The £13m waste recycling and treatment facility will treat up to 50,000 tonnes of waste from Merseyside homes every year and stop over 80% of it going to landfill.

The facility will operate until April 2009 as part of the New Technology Demonstrator Programme funded under Defra's Waste Implementation Programme. It will save around £1.5 million a year in waste disposal costs on Merseyside and will create up to 23 jobs locally.



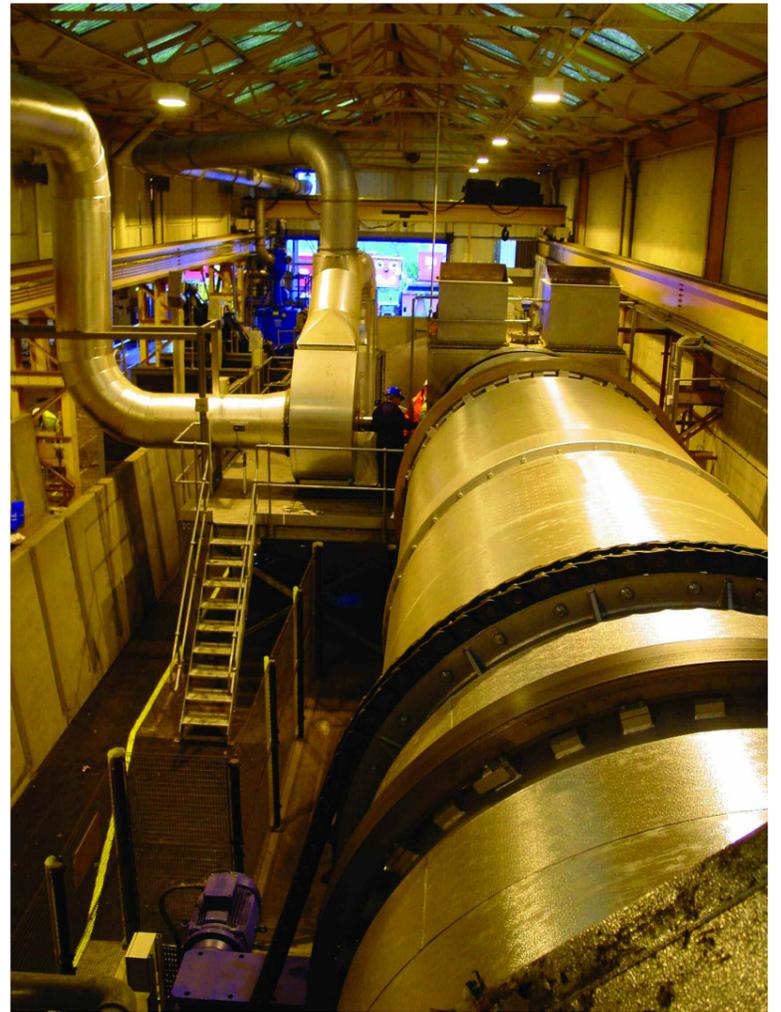
"This is a great boost for the region's waste management," said Carl Beer, Director of Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority (MWDA).

"Government is supporting this scheme with a lot of money because it believes the technology has potential to help councils across the country cut the amount of

waste they send to landfill."

The pioneering project is a partnership involving Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority (MWDA), Fairport Engineering Ltd., Defra and the Northwest Regional Development Agency (NWDA).

The technology, developed by Fairport Engineering, will use an environmentally friendly, low-temperature heat treatment process to convert non-hazardous household waste into valuable renewable fuel products. It will also recover recyclable materials such as metals, glass, stone and mixed plastics.



Director of Fairport and its sister company Orchid Environmental, Steve Whatmore, said: "This award of planning consent reflects the confidence and enthusiasm in the region to see this new UK technology deliver urgently needed economic and environmental benefits made possible by addressing waste processing problems in a different and innovative way."

Waste processing will start towards the end of 2007 – when the existing building has been fully modified, and the facility has been fully built.

Mark Atherton, NWDA Head of Sustainable Development, said: "It is estimated that the waste management and recycling industry contributes 23,500 jobs and £700 million of GVA to the region's economy, so disposing of it to landfill is a missed economic opportunity. We need to minimise the waste produced in the region and find ways of utilising the remainder as an economically valuable commodity. This initiative demonstrates new technology conceived and built in the Northwest, and the NWDA is pleased to support this project, which will demonstrate a much more sustainable approach to waste management on Merseyside, supporting innovation in the environmental technologies sector."

Waste chiefs step up recycling campaign



Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority (MWDA) is to appoint a new team of contractors to manage the region's 14 Household Waste Recycling Centres.

Contractors competing for the job of handling Merseyside's escalating waste disposal needs have been whittled down to a shortlist of six, MWDA announced recently.

The shortlisted contractors are: BIFFA, CORY, SHANKS, SITA, VEOLIA and WRG.

The region currently sends over 80% of its waste to landfill and still recycles only 18.5% despite recent improvements.

Director of Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority (MWDA) Carl Beer said:

"The appointed company will help us spearhead a real step change in recycling levels while making sure that we deliver best possible value-for-money for council tax payers."

The final six companies are vying to deliver waste recycling and disposal services for all district councils on Merseyside – including management of the region's 14 Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC's). The final chosen company will sign a Waste Management and Recycling Contract agreement effective from 2008.

Merseyside's individual District Councils will continue to organise kerbside collections.

Cllr Kevin Cluskey, Chairman of MWDA, said: "This contract is part of our major £3 billion procurement drive to boost the region's facilities for handling waste and increasing levels of recycling. If Merseyside doesn't decrease what it is sending to landfill then we could face fines from government."

Final selection of MWDA's future contractor is likely to be made by May 2008 in advance of the new contract start date of September 2008.

Home composting scheme

A national composting scheme launched recently is bidding to lift recycling levels and boost the growth of local gardens.

All five of Merseyside's Councils (Knowsley, Liverpool, Sefton, St Helens and Wirral) and Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority (MWDA) have teamed up with the national recycling body WRAP (Waste & Resources Action Programme) to offer local people the chance to buy discounted home composting bins.

Recent research by MWDA showed that a significant percentage of a typical household bin on Merseyside was made up of compostable material.

Carl Beer, Director of Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority (MWDA), said: "People throw away far more compostable waste than they realise. Composting is such a natural form of recycling but it is currently under-employed.

"Compost bins are a cheap and easy way for us to cut down organic waste – by working together Merseyside's local authorities can really help reduce the amount we're sending to landfill."

This is the first time that all districts in Merseyside have participated together in the home composting scheme, which WRAP has rolled out throughout the country. Awareness will be raised through advertising in local press, leaflets issued through weekly newspapers and events which will take place throughout the year, all of which will

National Green Award for Merseyside

Merseyside has picked up a prestigious "green" accolade at a gala awards ceremony.

The Green Apple Environment Award, part of the National Green Apple Awards, was handed over to Cllr Kevin Cluskey, Chairman of Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority (MWDA), at the Tower of London in November.

The annual event, held in front of the UK's environmental management sector, is organised by The Green Organisation and rewards environmental best practice around the country. The presentation was made by Professor David Bellamy.

The winning campaign was the result of joint work between MWDA, Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council and Liverpool City Council and encouraged local people to prevent junk mail by signing up with the Mail Preference Service (MPS). The Award was in the category of Environmental Best Practice by Local Authorities.

From selected postcodes in Liverpool and Sefton, local residents were encouraged to sign up to the MPS – the result being that 20 tonnes of waste was avoided, 337 trees were saved and the production of 7405Kg of CO₂ prevented.

Cllr Kevin Cluskey, Chairman of MWDA, said: "We were honoured to pick up this award; it makes all the hard work of the recycling teams involved worthwhile. Hopefully we'll be back for another next year!"

Sefton Council's Cabinet Member Environmental, Cllr



Pictured left: Cllr. Kevin Cluskey and Tony Scott (MWDA Waste Minimisation Officer) picking up the award with Professor David Bellamy.

David Tattersall, said: "The Mail Preference Service scheme proved to be a big hit in Sefton and we are delighted it was recognised with a Green Apple award.

"Receiving constant streams of junk mail is not only annoying but it creates unnecessary waste which costs money to remove. Any initiative like this which reduces waste is always welcomed."

Liverpool City Council's executive member for the environment, Cllr Berni Turner, said: "The city council is committed to making Liverpool a cleaner, greener city to live, work and play in.

"This initiative was a great opportunity for us to work together with MWDA and Sefton Council and try to get as many people as possible in Merseyside into the recycling habit."

As well as collecting the Green Apple Award, a broad-leaved tree has also been planted on behalf of Merseyside.

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offer details about the scheme.

There are three different sized bins available and residents can log onto www.recyclenow.com/home_composting or call 0845 077 0757 to find out more and order their bins.

Naomi Chatterley, WRAP's Home Compost Campaign Manager, says: "We are delighted that Merseyside are joining us on the home composting scheme for 2007. It's a really great opportunity to reach people in Merseyside that might not otherwise consider composting at home; a lot of people think that you have to be a devoted gardener to make it a part of your daily routine, but actually everyone can get involved. I'm looking forward to seeing a real increase in waste reduction across the whole area for 2007."



New look for Recycling Centre

Sefton Meadows Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) will see improvement works take place on site this summer.



Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority (MWDA) has applied for planning permission to restructure the HWRC (on Sefton Lane, Maghull), allowing improvements to the layout and traffic flow with the knock-on effect of helping to increase recycling rates with people finding it easier to get to the containers.

The work will take up to approximately 16 weeks and following planning permission being granted will:

- alter the traffic flow within the site
- widen the circulation of the road in the HWRC by two metres to enable three lanes to be created
- provide a new dedicated exit road to serve traffic flow
- construct a new area adjacent to the new exit road for additional recycling facilities. This location will allow easy access for the public without making an unnecessary detour.

Carl Beer, Director of MWDA, said: "Sefton Meadows Household Waste Recycling Centre is one of our busiest sites and we recognise that in the past it has had some issues with traffic queuing and public access.

"The proposed changes will mean that we will alleviate traffic queuing to the site and we will be able to provide more opportunities for the public to recycle via new containers and an improved layout."

The HWRC will continue to operate at its current opening hours during the refurbishment. A traffic marshal will be on hand at all times to direct traffic and to guide the public towards the appropriate recycling areas.

Sefton Meadows is one of Merseyside's busiest HWRCs. MWDA are hoping that a restructured traffic plan will encourage users to recycle their waste rather than use the general waste skips, which are not recycled.

Merseyside currently recycles 18.5% of the waste it produces, with the rest going to landfill. Landfill tax is due to rise by £3 per tonne, which means the cost of continuing to use landfill will be that much greater in the future than the costs of recycling the waste. These additional costs could ultimately be passed onto the taxpayer.

Cllr Kevin Cluskey, Chairman of MWDA, said: "The redevelopment of the site forms part of a larger plan for MWDA. We are looking at both improving existing recycling and waste facilities as well as developing new ones in line with the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Merseyside. These will help to improve recycling rates as well as reducing the amount of waste going to landfill."

A planning application has been submitted to Sefton Council and, if permission is granted, it is thought HWRC redevelopment would begin in late spring 2007 and would be complete by early autumn 2007.

The MRF is the star!

The new Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) at Bidston is fast becoming the star of the show in terms of recycling. Opened in 2006, the Facility has been funded by Department of Environment Food and Rural Affairs and Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority, and is starting to contribute to improving recycling rates across the region.

The new Facility is now accepting recyclable materials collections from both Wirral Council and Liverpool City Council. News is also spreading far and wide about its success – the most recent visitors to the site being a delegation from Dublin City Council. Demand for its processing capacity means that it will extend its hours of operation allowing it to sort in excess of 70,000 tonnes per year.

What is a MRF?

The Materials Recovery Facility at Bidston is a facility at which mixed dry recyclable waste is extracted and sorted by the use of mechanical separation techniques. The Facility employs a system of conveyors that carry the recyclables over sorting screens and other sorting mechanisms. These divide the components of the dry recyclables which pass over magnetic and eddy current separators. Advanced optical materials recognition equipment then separates out different types of materials.

After the sorting of the materials there is a bulking and storage function whereby balers are used to compress some of the recyclables (cans and bottles) into dense bales for transport to the materials reprocessors. Other materials are bulked for transport.

What's in your bin?

A Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority-commissioned report has revealed that two thirds of what people are throwing away on Merseyside could be recycled.

Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority (MWDA) commissioned the analysis to find out how much local household waste could be diverted away from landfill – the results showing that 68% of a typical refuse bin could potentially be avoided, recycled or composted.

Carl Beer, Director of MWDA, said: "This report reinforces what we already thought - that material which could otherwise be recycled or composted is simply being thrown away."

The study was taken over the course of a year, with four separate phases through autumn, winter, spring and summer. Domestic waste was sampled from over 3600 households across Merseyside, together with waste delivered to Sefton Meadows Household Waste Recycling Centre. In total, a sample of 100 tonnes of waste was examined.

One of the findings revealed that over a quarter of waste in household bins is made up of material that could be recycled using existing services available on Merseyside, in particular paper and glass.

Also, nearly half of the materials currently being disposed of along with general waste at Household Waste Recycling Centres could potentially be diverted from disposal.



Carl Beer continued: "These results tell us that we still need to address certain issues. There are a significant number of ways material can be recycled at our Household Waste Recycling Centres, and our district council partners have made concerted efforts to put on specific recycling collections but some householders just aren't using them. We all need to work hard to educate people, to make them aware of the consequences of their actions. We will continue to work with Districts to develop collections to assist those householders who are actively recycling."

"If we continue to send recyclable waste to landfill then potentially Merseyside could face fines from government."

Other findings from the report include:

- Other recyclable materials in an average bin include card, textiles (such as clothes), metals and wood
- The main material in an average bin which can be composted is kitchen waste (which includes vegetable and fruit peelings, teabags etc). Such waste can be composted at home or via a council collection service where available
- Merseyside has a considerably lower proportion of garden waste than the national average. By contrast, Merseyside has a relatively higher proportion of disposable nappies and plastics

Cllr Kevin Cluskey, Chairman of MWDA, said: "Once again proof, if it were needed, that Merseyside is throwing away too much material. However, with current recycling facilities being improved, new facilities planned and an increasing number of local recycling collections being rolled out, we are confident that our recycling rates will continue to improve."

What materials does it sort?

- Steel cans, aluminium cans, loose steel lids from bottles and jars. These should be rinsed out but not crushed.
- Cardboard boxes, cardboard food packaging, cardboard egg cartons, toilet/kitchen rolls and greeting cards. These should be flattened.
- Glass - All types and colours except Pyrex and window glass. Lids from jars and bottles should be removed and rinsed. Glass should not be smashed or broken.
- Newspapers, magazines, junk mail, office paper, white and brown windowless envelopes, paper bags, wrapping paper (Sellotape and other tape should be removed), catalogues, telephone directories and Yellow Pages.
- Plastic drinks bottles such as juice, water, milk and cordials. Shampoo bottles, and household cleaner bottles such as fabric softener, washing liquid, etc. Bottles should be emptied and rinsed and not flattened.



food & drink cans



cardboard



mixed glass



newspapers & magazines



plastics

The Great Merseyside Compost Giveaway

Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority (MWDA) is giving away a massive 400 tonnes of FREE compost.

The initiative involves giving away twenty-thousand 20-litre bags of peat-free compost over the next eight months at selected Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) throughout Merseyside.

The giveaway is being organised in partnership with MWDA's contractor Mersey Waste Holdings (MWH).

The compost is available to all Merseyside householders – all they have to do is bring a load of their own green and garden waste to a designated HWRC in exchange for a compost voucher. Collect three vouchers from three separate visits and householders can exchange them for a free bag of compost.

Compost and vouchers will only be available for collection between Sunday and Thursday, 9.00 am to 5.00 pm, during the dates shown below.

The HWRCs involved are:

- **Southport** (Foul Lane) **2nd April until 26th April**
- **South Sefton** (Irlam Road, Bootle) **30th April until 24th May**
- **Newton-le-Willows** (Junction Lane) **28th May until 21st June**
- **Ravenhead** (Burtonhead Road) **25th June until 19th July**
- **Huyton** (Ellis Ashton Street) **23rd July until 16th August**
- **Otterspool** (Jericho Lane) **20th August until 13th September**
- **Bidston** (Wallasey Bridge Road) **17th September until 11th October**
- **West Kirby** (Greenbank Road) **15th October until 8th November**

Carl Beer, Director of Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority, said: "Composting is a great way to recycle – instead of going to landfill the waste is used again.

"If people are going to be clearing their gardens then they should take the clippings and cuttings to the designated Recycling Centre where they'll be able to swap it for free compost."

MWDA and MWH are hoping that the initiative will help boost the amount of green waste being taken to Merseyside's HWRCs. Last year, 47% of people quizzed in a survey said that the compost giveaway would encourage them to bring their green waste to a HWRC.



Carl Beer continued: "Merseyside households are currently creating over 700,000 tonnes of waste every year, with only a small amount of this being recycled or composted – if this doesn't change then the region could face tough financial penalties from government, which could in turn be passed onto the taxpayer. Composting our green waste is an effective way to cut this tonnage down."

More information can be obtained at the Household Waste Recycling Centres, by calling Tel: 0151 255 1444 or by emailing compost@merseysidewda.gov.uk.

Spreading the good word!

All sorts of groups and communities have been finding out more about how their waste is disposed of, recycling and the types of waste facilities that exist on Merseyside thanks to a successful education and awareness programme which is a partnership between Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority (MWDA) and Mersey Waste Holdings (MWHL).

The programme provides an opportunity for groups including schools, colleges and community groups to visit waste facilities such as Recycling Centres and MWDA's new Integrated Waste Management Facility at Bidston, see them in action and learn more about how their waste is disposed of and recycled. In addition visits to talk to groups and schools are also offered.

MWHL delivers waste services and runs the 14 Household Waste Recycling Centres across Merseyside on behalf of MWDA - this contract provides them with the ideal opportunity to spread the recycling message further.

Rob Allan, MWHL's Managing Director, said: "As a responsible contractor we obviously want to contribute to raising awareness

about recycling and waste minimisation while at the same time helping people understand the waste disposal process."

Jeff Sears, Assistant Contracts Manager from MWDA, said: "We are very pleased with the results of the programme for the last year and are already planning more activities for the coming year."

Both partners are building on their success and MWDA are working on a wider reaching programme for education and awareness to be delivered in 2007.

What we've achieved in the last year:

- More than 229 children have visited Centres and sites
- Dedicated talks have been given to approximately 509 children
- Attendance at 6 awareness events

What's been said:

"Information was interesting and relevant to the work we have been doing in school, held students attention well during the visit. Excellent morning with a good balance of practical activity and examples of items made from recycled materials. The information that was given was interesting for students and also staff." - **Rowan Park School**

"Our pupils have emotional and behavioural difficulties. Tracey showed us around at a good pace and the visit lasted for a period of time our pupils could manage. It kept the pupils attention and interest. Well organised all health and safety issues covered an enjoyable and informative visit for pupils and staff." - **Kilgarth School**

"Very helpful and appropriate for students assignments I was delighted with the detailed explanations given." - **Wallasey High School**



Plans unveiled for new Recycling Centre



Left: An artist's impression of recycling containers at Holt Lane.

Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority has unveiled new plans for urgently needed recycling facilities in Liverpool.

The proposed new Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) has been earmarked for a site on Holt Lane in Netherley.

Carl Beer, Director at Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority (MWDA), said: "Liverpool currently only has one Recycling Centre - this is something both ourselves and Liverpool City Council are keen to improve."

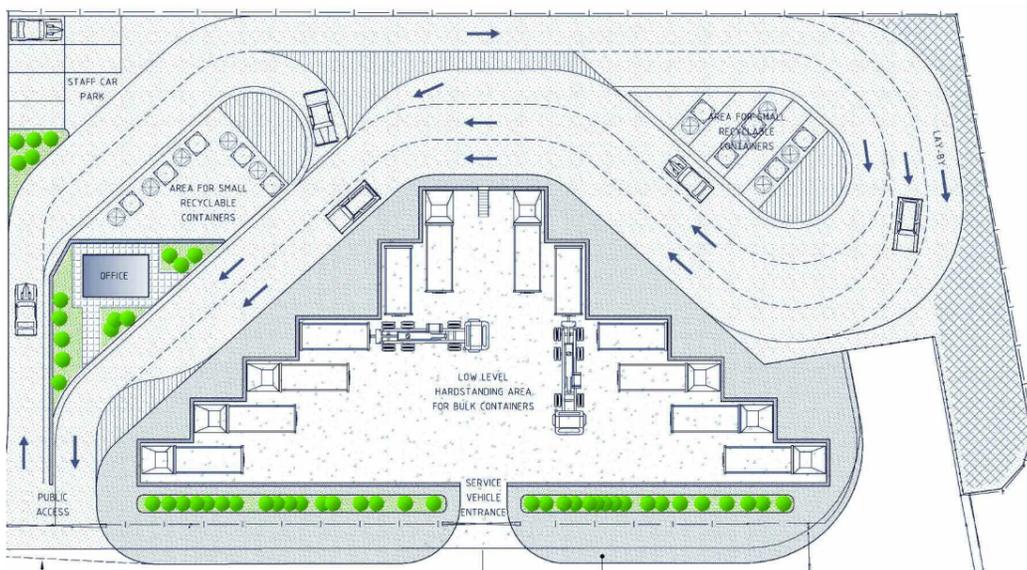
"The new site will provide major – and badly needed – facilities to help people in the city recycle much more easily."

The facility will be able to recycle a wide range of materials, such as: car batteries, cardboard, engine oil, garden waste, paper, furniture, rubble, scrap metal, textiles, drinks cans, timber, glass and soil.

Subject to planning approval it will become only the second facility of its kind in Liverpool, along with Otterspool HWRC. A successful public consultation day was recently held in Lee Valley Millennium Centre in Childwall.

Cllr Kevin Cluskey, Chairman of MWDA, said: "Our site in Otterspool is overworked and overstretched. Liverpool desperately needs more recycling facilities if it is to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill and avoid government fines and higher taxes."

A planning application is to be submitted in April. Subject to an approved planning application, construction on site would start in late 2007.



Left: A site layout of the proposed HWRC.

Spring clean to make Merseyside sparkle

Waste management chiefs are encouraging local residents to take pride in their homes and gardens by doing some thorough spring cleaning.

Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority (MWDA) will be switching to longer opening hours at 12 of Merseyside's Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) for the whole of summer.

From Saturday 1st April the Centres open from 8.00am until 8.00pm* – three hours more than the winter service. The public can bring along everything from cans, car batteries and cardboard to garden

waste, glass, paper, scrap metal, textiles, timber and white goods**.

Carl Beer, Director of MWDA, said: "The start of spring is usually a time of the year that people choose to clean their houses and gardens from top to bottom.

"If people are getting rid of clutter then it's more than likely that those items can be accepted at the local Recycling Centre where it will then go on to be recycled. We would always encourage people to separate the different materials at home – this way it is easier and quicker to deposit them in the correct recycling container at our site."

It is estimated that around 60% of all the rubbish Merseyside householders throw away could be recycled or composted.

* **Rainhill and Rainford:**
Open 9.00am – 6.00pm
on Saturdays;
9.00am – 3.00pm
on Sundays

** **HWRCs vary – please
check site listings for
accepted materials**



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.

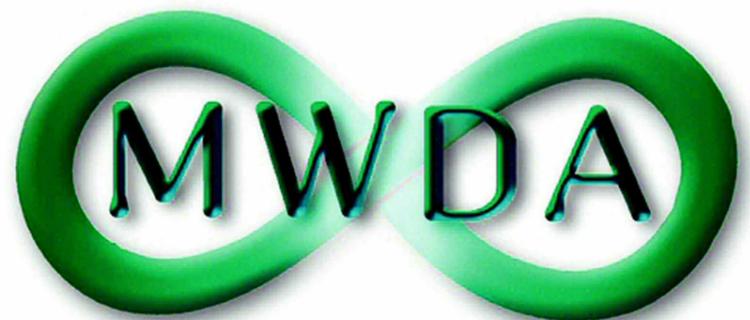
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MERSEYSIDE WASTE DISPOSAL AUTHORITY

