

# MRWA UPDATE

Winter 2011 / Issue 13

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## Mersey residents shedding the pounds as recycling rises

**Merseyside householders are on a low carbon diet – and successfully cutting the weight of material that’s being sent to landfill.**

Last year, the amount of waste landfilled fell by almost 50 kilogrammes for each Mersey household. In the previous year, each local household sent on average 742kg of material to landfill annually – this has now fallen to 693kg, meaning Merseysiders are creating less waste.

Meanwhile, Merseyside’s level of recycling is also on the up – hitting 36.5% over the past year – which means the region is sending less material to landfill than ever before.

The new figures have been published in the latest Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority (MRWA) Annual Plan.

Chairperson of MRWA, Councillor Joe DeAsha, said: “We knew already that the people of Merseyside had taken to recycling, but more importantly

we’re seeing a reduction in overall waste created in the first place which is at the very top of our agenda.”

Merseyside has seen an almost eight percent decrease in the overall amount of household waste going to landfill, with a 37,659 tonne fall between this year and last.

The new Annual Plan also highlights a seven percent increase in the amount of material recycled at the region’s Household Waste Recycling Centres, showing further efforts by residents to reuse and recycle as much they can.

Carl Beer, Chief Executive of MRWA, said: “There’s still a way to go, and hopefully when we have identified the best solution for delivering our Resource and Recovery Contract we will have seen a complete turnaround



Householders are recycling more than ever before.

in the amount of material Merseyside puts in the ground from just a few years ago.

“Our ultimate aim is to make Merseyside a place where nothing is wasted.”

# Merseyside gets cooking



(l to r) Rob Murphy (Living Fuels) and Councillor Joe DeAsha (MRWA)

**An innovative scheme that will see cooking oil recycled and then used as an energy fuel has been introduced across Merseyside.**

Collection tanks have been fitted at the region's 14 Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) where local residents can bring their used and leftover cooking oil, rather than pouring it down the sink.

MRWA and Veolia Environmental Services have teamed up with green energy firm Living Fuels to run the scheme. Living Fuels will collect the waste oil and refine it through a totally natural process to produce a patented bioliquid. This in turn will power specially-designed engines to supply safe, clean, renewable electricity to the National Grid.

Councillor Joe DeAsha, Chairperson of MRWA, said: "Millions of pounds are being tipped down the drain every year as a direct result of pouring cooking oil into the sink. As well as removing this waste product from the environment we're also helping to create energy so residents can be doubly pleased they're helping clean up Merseyside."

Holding 1250 litres, each tank that has been installed at the HWRCs will produce enough electricity to power one average household for an entire year. Just one litre of used cooking oil (about one-third of what you'd find in an average chip pan) can power a dishwasher for three hours, make 240 cups of tea or power an energy-saving light bulb for 225 hours.

Rob Murphy, Operations Director for Living Fuels, said: "I'm delighted that environmentally-conscious Merseyside residents can now recycle their used cooking oil and help affect climate change."



Schoolchildren using the Geotech landfill equipment

**Visitors to MRWA's new Recycling Discovery Centre at Bidston can now experience what it's like out on a landfill site - without ever leaving the room!**

Thanks to support from Leamington Spa-based company

## Learning landfill the easy way

Geotech, visitors can now safely 'test' landfill via a new educational exhibit that's part of the revamped Recycling Discovery Centre.

The new exhibit features a model sized, realistic borehole casing - similar to those found on a real landfill site - which replicates how landfill gas is monitored. It means that visitors can use the gas analysing equipment to simulate measuring landfill gas.

MRWA education officers are hoping that visitors to the Centre will be able to gain a real understanding of the importance of monitoring landfill, which still plays a huge part in waste disposal.

Bidston incorporates a whole range of free educational and awareness activities and is one of two Recycling Discovery Centres in Merseyside - the other being at the new Gillmoss Materials Recovery Facility in Liverpool. Both Centres are part of MRWA's Education and Awareness Programme and services are delivered by the Authority's contractors Veolia Environmental Services.

For more information about visits:

**Tel:**  
0151 651 3200

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#### NEWS IN HALTON

### Got a van? Get a permit!

A permit scheme allowing residents who use commercial type vehicles, such as vans and large trailers, to access Halton Council's Household Waste Recycling Centres has been introduced in Halton.

The scheme will help stop abuse of the Centres by traders and will be implemented at the Picow Farm Road and Johnsons Lane sites. The permits are free and can be obtained through a simple application process.

Preventing traders from entering the sites cuts the cost of disposal paid for by council tax payers, reduces on-site congestion and helps make the sites quicker and easier to use.

#### NEWS IN SEFTON

### Sefton says thanks

Sefton Council have sent a big 'thank you' to all its residents.

Figures released reveal that the amount of household waste sent for re-use, recycling or composting in Sefton now stands at just over 42% - the highest on Merseyside.

Sefton operates a number of weekly recycling services which include the collection of glass, bottles, cans, tins, paper and textiles in the Green boxes and an opt-in food waste service. There is also the fortnightly green wheelie bin collection for garden waste.

Information about the range of facilities in Sefton and general help and advice about recycling is available from Sefton Plus on 0845 140 0845 or by visiting [www.sefton.gov.uk](http://www.sefton.gov.uk).

#### NEWS IN KNOWSLEY

### Are you a cracking composter?

Knowsley Council's Environment Team has been encouraging residents to get in the garden and go green.

During the summer, the Environment Team launched the "Are you a Cracking Composter?" scheme where residents who purchased a compost bin from the Council have been asked to submit a compost diary and a sample of their compost next April in time for National Compost Awareness week. Participants will then be entered into a prize draw for Gardening vouchers.

From the number of participants it is estimated that over 12 tonnes of garden waste will be recycled into free compost.

#### NEWS IN ST. HELENS

### Annual event helps make energy savings

St Helens Council recently gave its full backing to Energy Saving Week.

The annual event - organised by the Energy Saving Trust - encouraged everyone to 'take back control of your energy bills'. The theme was seen as a way of helping to combat the economic slowdown. With money tight, organisers believe people are open to the idea of making big savings on spiralling utility bills.

Cabinet Member for Urban Regeneration and Housing Councillor Andy Bowden said: "The average UK home could make savings of around £280 a year by being energy efficient - so it makes real sense to listen to what the Trust is saying."

For details of free insulation schemes or further advice call the Affordable Warmth Unit on 01744 671611 or 01744 676555.

#### NEWS IN LIVERPOOL

### Bags wheeled away

Bin bags are being replaced by wheeled bins in areas of North Liverpool.

Councillors and residents in the County ward asked for improvements to the environment of houses which back onto four-foot wide alleyways. Bin bags had traditionally been used in terraced streets because of the width of many rear passageways, but they present a number of problems, such as rats and other vermin attracted to uncontained waste, a greater risk of fire and a limited capacity for waste storage.

The response was favourable and a new collection system was implemented in some areas.

#### NEWS IN WIRRAL

### Homes healthier outlook

Following two successful events held in the summer, Wirral's Waste & Recycling Team are on the lookout for partners as they begin to plan for extending their activities for 2012.

In an effort to engage with groups the Team held an exhibition of Recycled Art at the Visitors Centre in Birkenhead Park and a Rubbish Fun Day in the grounds of the Oval Sport Centre. Both attracted large numbers with the themed Fun Day attended by more than 1,000 children and their families. The hope is to promote reductions in waste and improved recycling through the informal education process that such events provide.

For further information contact the Waste and Recycling team on 0151 606 2004.



# New Kirkby Recycling Centre on track

## Construction work has begun on the brand new Kirkby Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) in Knowsley.

MRWA recently broke ground at the £1.1m Kirkby HWRC, which is scheduled to open in spring 2012. The new 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 HWRC will have the capacity to receive up to 15,000 tonnes of householders' waste and recyclable materials each year. An increased number of larger containers, plus more queuing space on site for cars and the provision of an overhead weather-protection canopy, should make it more convenient for members of the public to dispose of recyclable and waste items.

The site will also include new expanded spaces for the collection of waste electrical items.

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

The construction of the new facility is being undertaken by Cheetham Hill Construction Ltd on behalf of MRWA, with the project being managed and constructed towards achieving an industry standard CEEQUAL award (Civil Engineering Environmental Quality Assessment). This recognises and prioritises environmental considerations such as the protection of the local ecology and landscape, minimising the use of raw materials water and energy, pollution prevention and control, and waste minimisation and management.

Phil Ross, Director for Cheetham Hill Construction Ltd, said: "Cheetham Hill Construction Ltd is delighted to be constructing this new household waste

recycling facility for the residents of Merseyside. The project team has now commenced with construction on site and work is currently on schedule for completion in early 2012." When open the new Centre will be operated and managed by Veolia Environmental Services.



(left to right) Cheetham Hill Construction Director Phil Ross, MRWA Chairperson Councillor Joe DeAsha, MRWA Chief Executive Carl Beer

## 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.

## Contact us

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MERSEYSIDE RECYCLING & WASTE AUTHORITY

**MERSEYSIDE... A PLACE  
WHERE NOTHING IS WASTED**

 **recycle**  
for Merseyside and Halton

If you would like this information in another format or another language please Tel: 0151 255 1444 or email: [enquiries@merseysidewda.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@merseysidewda.gov.uk)

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