

£3bn Investment In Merseyside's Future

The campaign to boost Merseyside's recycling record and cut its reliance on landfill has stepped up a gear.

Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority (MWDA) has announced the private sector partner shortlists for the region's new waste and recycling contracts – an investment of around £3bn.

Director of MWDA Carl Beer said: "Doing nothing is not an option. We have got to tackle the region's waste problems head on. That is why we are spending £3 billion to create a top class waste disposal service which gives Merseyside Council taxpayers value for money and applies the highest environmental standards in tackling the region's waste issues.

"Appointing the right contractors, with the right level of expertise, is a critical part of this process."

A Resource and Recovery contract will create energy from residual waste (i.e. waste which can't be recycled in any other way), and a Waste Management and Recycling Contract will be for managing the region's 14 Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs). There will also be a contract for the transport of waste to landfill.

The region currently sends over 70 per cent of its waste to landfill, although there have been steady improvements in recent years.

Shortlists for the contracts have now been agreed.

Cllr Kevin Cluskey, Chairperson of MWDA, said: "If Merseyside doesn't decrease what it is sending to landfill then we could face fines from government."



Merseyside needs to increase recycling rates

The Waste Management and Recycling Contract (WMRC):

- ◆ SITA UK Ltd
- ◆ Veolia ES Aurora Ltd
- ◆ Waste Recycling Group Ltd

The Resource Recovery Contract (RRC):

- ◆ Covanta
- ◆ Global Renewables (Bovis Lend Lease Holdings Ltd)
- ◆ Elliniki Technodomiki (Helector SA)
- ◆ Resource from Waste Alliance Consortium (United Utilities Contract Solutions Ltd, Land Securities Trillium)
- ◆ Shanks Group plc
- ◆ SITA UK Ltd (Peel Environmental Holdings, RBS)
- ◆ Veolia ES Aurora Ltd
- ◆ Viridor
- ◆ VT Group Ltd
- ◆ Waste Recycling Group Ltd

New £13m Waste Facility Nears Completion



The Demonstrator's unique waste-processing drums being fitted on site.

Construction work on a unique waste treatment and recycling facility in Huyton is nearing completion with operations due to begin imminently.

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).

The Huyton facility - part of the DEFRA New Technologies Demonstrator Programme - will treat up to 50,000 tonnes of household waste each year.

The technology, developed by north-west based company Orchid Environmental, will use an environmentally friendly, low-temperature heat treatment process to convert non-hazardous household waste into a range of

renewable fuel products suitable for off-site power generation. It will also recover materials such as metals, glass, stone and mixed plastics for recycling and re-use.

Carl Beer, Director of MWDA, said: "This technology will be a great boost to recycling levels and resource recovery in Merseyside.

"It will divert huge volumes of household waste from landfill – potentially 30,000 tonnes per year – reducing landfill taxes and consequently saving taxpayers money. It is only a trial facility but if proved successful it can help to achieve lasting environmental change."

The process treats the waste using a combination of heat, air and moisture which, as well as cleaning and sanitizing mixed recyclables, turns the organic matter - paper, cardboard, garden waste and food waste - into a range of renewable fuels. These fuel products are made to meet precise end user specifications and are designed to replace fossil fuels - such as coal, gas and oil - in various industrial combustion processes.

Steve Whatmore, Orchid Environmental Ltd Project Director, said: "The Huyton facility represents an important milestone in the development of Orchid Environmental. This will be the first of a number of plants we will be commissioning over the next 12 months as we establish a major position for Orchid in the fast growing waste to energy sector."

The trial facility at Huyton will begin operating in Spring and continue until 2009. It will save around £1.5 million a year in waste disposal costs on Merseyside and will create 25 jobs locally.

Mark Atherton, Northwest Regional Development Agency (NWDA) Head of Environmental Sustainability, said: "This initiative demonstrates new technology conceived and built in the Northwest. The NWDA is pleased to support this project, which supports innovation in the environmental technologies sector."

Fund Awarded For Waste Initiatives

Eight Merseyside community groups have been awarded funding for waste awareness projects.

The money has been made available by MWDA in order to encourage waste awareness and affect behavioural change in residents across Merseyside.

The projects range from local composting initiatives and a paint re-use scheme, to purchasing recycled (or sustainable) materials for a major arts display.

Carl Beer, Director of MWDA, said: "There was a great response to the Fund and we received a wide variety of initiatives, ideas and imaginative projects."

The funding is MWDA's Waste Project Fund for Community Organisations 2007/08. Under the guidelines, a project must:

- encourage sustainable waste management e.g.
 - review/reduce carbon footprint;
 - mitigate against climate change, and/or

- aid tonnage diversion or raise awareness on waste prevention.
- benefit the local community and Merseyside
- make a lasting improvement to the local community and neighbourhood and have the support of local people.

Cllr Kevin Cluskey, Chairperson of MWDA, said: "MWDA will now work with the successful applicants and hopefully we will see not only a reduction in the amount of waste being produced in the region, but also a change in attitude towards waste and sustainability."

The Projects:

Bootle Allotment Ltd – the Bootle Garden Allotments on Dunning's Bridge Road has received funding to construct a compost and recycling green-waste bay. Leaves, grass and other cuttings will be put in the bay to be composted, and then will be used on the allotment as green manure.

District Council News

Cheque Out Sefton's Recycling

Recycling residents in Sefton have helped raise £10,000 for a children's charity just by recycling their waste.

Members of Sefton's recycling team along with Abitibowater presented a cheque to Save The Children following the success of its kerbside Green Bee recycling scheme.

For every tonne of materials collected in Sefton through the scheme, £1 is donated to Save the Children by Abitibowater. During the last ten months 10,000 tonnes of materials were collected which equates to £10,000. To date more than £65,000 has been donated.

Cabinet Member Environmental, Cllr David Tattersall, said: "Not only is recycling good for the environment but through schemes like this, Save The Children will gain as well. I would like to thank everyone who uses the many recycling services on offer in Sefton."



Representatives from Save the Children Crosby, Sefton Council and Abitibowater.

Liverpool Turns Blue To Go Green

Around 30,000 terraced properties in Liverpool have received a 55 litre light blue recycling box, a customised version of the wheelie bin, made specifically for smaller properties.

At the same time, 30,000 wheeled bins were recently rolled out to households and some flats across the city which weren't included in the first phase. It means that now all 195,000 houses in Liverpool have access to the city council's kerbside recycling service.

Liverpool City Council's Executive Member for the Environment, Councillor Berni Turner, said: "Since the first roll out demand for the service from residents has rocketed, particularly from those living in smaller terraced properties, but the original 240 litre bin was just too big. So, we've listened to what everyone has had to say and created a specific box which will be perfect for these houses."

Plastic Bottle Recycling

A plastic bottle recycling trial in St. Helens is proving a big success with 95 per cent participation in some parts of the Borough.

St. Helens Council extended the pilot scheme to 4,500 homes in parts of Eccleston, Rainhill and Windle at the end of November. The containers are emptied every two weeks as part of the kerbside recycling scheme.

Cllr Carole Kavanagh, Executive Member for Environment Protection, said: "We introduced the plastic bottle recycling trial after listening to what our residents told us they wanted to recycle."

All other residents can take their plastic bottles to be recycled at:

- Asda, Kirkland Street, Town Centre
- Tesco, Chalon Way West, Town Centre
- Tesco, Earle Street, Newton
- Tesco, Church Road, Haydock
- Netto, Haydock Street, Newton



Kerbside Enthusiasm

The first phase of Halton's kerbside multi-material collection scheme has been given a big thumbs-up by residents.

About 6,000 households now receive a recycling collection through the existing blue wheelie bins, which now includes cardboard, paper, food and drink cans, glass bottles and jars and plastic bottles.

Over the next two to three years the new service will be rolled out to cover all of Halton. It is also hoped to add other materials like household batteries and textiles.

Questionnaires returned from the pilot areas showed 90.6% of respondents welcoming the scheme and only 5.1% saying they didn't. After three collections, over 254 tonnes of materials had been collected for recycling, instead of going to landfill.

Recycling Gets Competitive

Children from Northern Primary Support Centre have won Knowsley Council's paper weight competition by recycling 23 kilograms of paper per pupil throughout January.

Knowsley Council challenged schools in the area to enter their 'Paper Weight' competition to see how much paper could be recycled in the first three months of 2008.

The council provides all participating schools with new 240 litre bins to store their recycled paper. Performance is monitored on a weekly basis by providing a dedicated weekly collection service.

Cllr David Lonergan, Knowsley's Cabinet member for Neighbourhood Delivery said: "Recycling is a top priority in Knowsley and these competitions will get the message across to our younger residents just what a difference we can all make."

Presenting the school with the cash prize of £500 was Councillor David Lonergan.



Top Marks For Wirral

Wirral Council's implementation of the grey and green wheelie bin collection service has been given the green light by Government Officials. A comprehensive stage by stage '4ps Gateway Review' has identified Wirral's move to a new contractor and the alternate week collection system as 'successful and robust'.

The review team said that Wirral's project has "successfully delivered the benefits" with numerous areas of good practice highlighted, commenting that the Council has a "real passion for the development of the service", "represents good value for money", and it has a "commitment to continuous improvement and partnership with Biffa".

Wirral Council was also praised for its dedication to develop from lessons learned and for its constructive working relationship with Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority.

Halewood Arts Association – working with the local Junior Artists Club, the Halewood Arts Association will create a mosaic from sustainable materials and items. The design will be based on issues of recycling and climate and then displayed in a public park.

Harthill Allotment Association – the funding will be used to purchase a rotating composter which will reuse vegetable matter and sawdust. By recycling nutrients back into the soil it will reduce the demand by allotment holders for commercial compost, mulch, soil conditioners and fertilisers.

The Moss Lodge Community Restorative Justice Environmental Centre – this former haulage yard in St. Helens has been transformed into a community environmental centre. The funding received is for purchasing compost bins which will help to compost flowers and tributes from local cemeteries and crematoriums. The compost will be used to improve the soil at the site, to allow plant and shrub growth.

Meadow/The National Wildflower Centre – Meadow is an award-winning project which has been working with schools and communities to raise awareness of plastic recycling since 2005. The MWDA funding will be used

for part of a larger project, namely a series of workshops and events to promote a film about recycling.

Rotters Community Composters – a locally run not-for-profit community based organisation. The grant will go towards an education project which aims to raise young people's awareness and involvement in waste and recycling issues. Rotters will help schools to introduce composting schemes by providing teaching resources, workshops, support and guidance, free or subsidised composting equipment and an organic waste collection service.

Urban Strawberry Lunch: Lunch at St Luke's – this ongoing project aims to rescue the disused space of St Luke's church in Liverpool city centre to provide an original, practical and welcoming community meeting place. Cleaned up and opened in May 2007, the funding will be used to carry out further renovation work at the former church.

Wirral LA21 Community Repair – a non-profit group who are involved in collecting leftover paint and distributing it onto local charities, voluntary organisations and community groups for redecoration projects. It is estimated that over 80 million litres of paint is left unused in the UK every year. The funding will be used to further promote and expand the service.

Proposed Works For Bidston

MWDA is planning to carry out improvement works to the site entrance at Bidston Waste Management Facility

MWDA, in partnership with its contractor Mersey Waste Holdings (MWH), wants to provide new separate entry and exit roads from Wallasey Bridge Road for those using the Household Waste Recycling Centre. A new shared pedestrian and cyclist access point to Bidston Moss community woodland will also be created.

Currently there is only one access point which acts as both entrance and exit for the Recycling Park and the nearby woodland.

Carl Beer, Director of MWDA, said: "These improvements will make it a more efficient site, allowing users to access facilities more quickly and with greater ease. It will also provide a safer route because it will separate public traffic from the larger vehicles serving our operational facility."

Bidston Waste Management Facility is one of Merseyside's busiest waste management sites. The site encompasses both public and operational facilities and includes:

- A Household Waste Recycling Centre
- A Materials Recovery Facility
- A Waste Transfer Facility
- An In-vessel Composting Facility
- A Visitor/Administrative Facility

The site also gives access to the Bidston Moss community woodland site, a former landfill which has been transformed into green space. The new independent pedestrian and cycle route will provide safer public access to the woodland site and an extension to the Millennium cycleway and cycle-route 56, which is regularly used by walkers and cyclists.

The separate entrance will allow access to Bidston Moss community woodland which will not impact on the operational waste site.

It is anticipated that the Waste Facility will remain open throughout works, though some

sections will be temporarily restricted or closed as and when necessary. The total period of construction is estimated at around eight weeks.

Councillor Kevin Cluskey, Chairperson of MWDA, said: "A more efficient site entrance will bring greater ease and speed of movement for all vehicles. Hopefully this will result in more processing of waste and recyclable materials, which could result in higher recycling figures for Merseyside."

How the entrance at Bidston currently looks



First Year Of Home Composting A Success

Last year Merseyside residents helped reduce the region's waste by choosing to compost at home.

Environmentally-conscious locals have shown their commitment to reducing the region's over reliance on landfill by snapping up thousands of home composting bins.

There were 8,459 bins delivered to homes around Merseyside throughout 2007 – diverting over 1500 tonnes of material from landfill. The bins are available at a discounted price as part of the national Recycle Now campaign.

Carl Beer, Director of MWDA, said: "This is the first time we've ever proactively marketed

home composting bins. We are happy with the first year sales figures. Hopefully we can build on this throughout 2008."

Merseyside joined the Recycle Now Compost at Home scheme at the beginning of 2007. It is made up of Merseyside's five Councils (Knowsley, Liverpool, Sefton, St Helens, Wirral) and MWDA who have teamed up with the national recycling body WRAP (Waste & Resources Action Programme) to offer cut-price compost bins to local residents.

A typical household bin on Merseyside

contains one third of compostable material, such as garden waste and non-cooked fruit and vegetable waste.

Councillor Kevin Cluskey, Chairperson of MWDA, said: "Compost bin purchasers in Merseyside save on average approximately 180kg a year, which equates to over 1500 tonnes per year saved from needlessly going to landfill."

Check out the website www.recyclenow.com/compost or phone 0845 077 0757 for more details.

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.

How can you contact us?

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MERSEYSIDE WASTE DISPOSAL AUTHORITY

