

Issue 11 2012

junkmail

Devon Community Recycling & Community Composting Network News



LOVE IT-DON'T LEAVE IT!

Contents

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Editorial

Re-usable Packaging

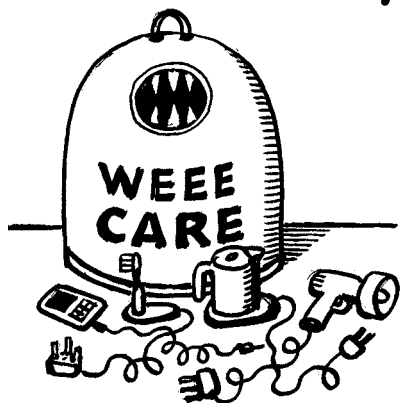
This issue includes articles on research into the huge potential of reuse – from bulky household items to textiles and clothing, not to mention any resource be it a piece of reusable timber, metal, brick, door, window, plastic, paint or whatever.

We know it takes 10 tonnes of resources and waste to create each tonne of end product, and a huge amount of embodied energy and co2 emissions is contained in any produced item, yet 99% of what we buy is disposed of within 6 months of purchase (source: 'The Story of Stuff').

Then there is the question of reusable and refillable packaging, and why consumers are not being offered this option as mainstream?

Reuse is high up the waste hierarchy –reduce, reuse, recycle –yet it is still in its infancy. Somehow, the demand for comprehensive reuse facilities and systems needs to be clearly articulated by communities and enabled by policy makers and business in order to make comprehensive reuse a real priority.

By 2050, the amount of resources available per head of population will drop by at least half of what it is today, and there will be an estimated 3 billion more population (source: 'Blessed Unrest'). We are living in a historical blip of cheap energy, resources, and over consumption; can you imagine consuming half of what you currently do?



Recycling Banks in Exeter for small waste electrical items

Collection banks for small electrical items are now in place in Exeter at:

- Tesco Exe Vale superstore
- Morrison's superstore
- The recycling collection point on Cowley Bridge Road, Exeter
- Waitrose (awaiting approval)

The size of acceptable items is limited by what will fit in the hatch opening, items too large to fit into the bank should be taken to the local recycling centre. Banks are provided by WEEE Care under the producer take-back scheme, and it is anticipated that collection banks will be provided to all Devon districts if the trial is cost effective.

Quality standards for reuse

A new Scottish national quality standard for re-use organisations has been launched by Zero Waste Scotland, which aims to popularise re-use shopping as mainstream. It hopes to increase the numbers of people choosing to buy reused items and highlight that top quality goods can be had at affordable prices.



Olympics reuse

More than 7,000 items of bedding, crockery and kitchen utensils are to be reused by people in need and the homeless following the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Eighty tonnes of nearly-new goods are being collected from student halls used to house officials and journalists for the Olympic Games in an operation coordinated by the London Re-Use Network (LRN).

Old Welsh bags go round and round...

One year on from the introduction of Wales' 5p bag charge in October 2011, carrier bag use in Wales has reduced by as much as 96% in some retail sectors, and a recent survey of attitudes indicated that the charge is now supported by around 70% of people.

Speaking about the charge, Welsh environment minister, John Griffiths said: "I think the Welsh experience proves that if you want to effectively reduce carrier bag use, a charge really is the best way to go." ... "I have been really impressed by the ease with which Welsh retailers and shoppers have adjusted to the charge" ... and he said he can see no reason why the charge wouldn't work just as well in other parts of the UK.

The charge has also resulted in more money for charities and not for profit organisations as the Welsh Government has called on retailers to pass proceeds from the 5p charge onto good causes. Latest figures from RSPB and Keep Wales Tidy show that collectively they have already received more than £800,000 in donations as a direct result of the charge. This money has come

from bag sales at retailers including Tesco, McDonalds, Argos, and Asda. Other charities have also benefited.

The Co-operative has reported an 84% reduction in the use of single-use carrier bags at its stores in Wales, and is also charging for bags at some stores in England where the national trend is seeing single use bags increasing.

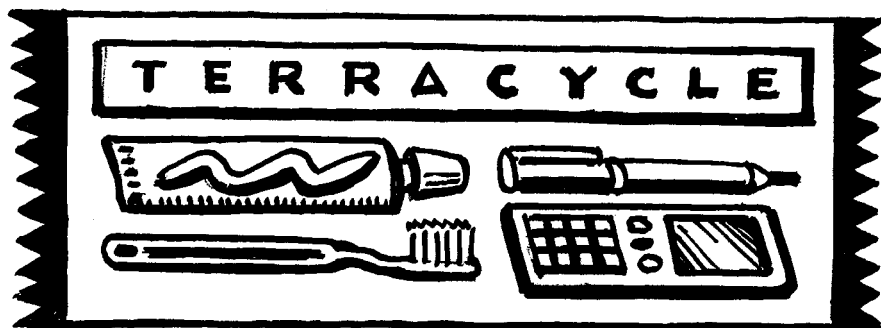
Around 150 million plastic carrier bags are used in the UK each week.

Running Waste Not Want Not events in your community?

Hats off to Karen Berger and Diana Hekt who organised 3 Waste Not Want Not events around the Honiton area this year, where over 2 tonnes of unwanted but reusable "stuff" was brought by the public and reused or recycled. According to Karen the events were 'a great success'. Karen was inspired to hold waste events after taking part in an 'Active Citizens' course at Exeter CVS (Community & Volunteer Services).

Old fashioned jumble sales seem to be held much less than they used to be, so it's great to see a revival of this type of event but where the reuse is measured and quantified.

Terracycle schemes for hard to recycle packaging – from toothbrushes to pens



People can now collect 13 different lines of hard to recycle packaging and products and send them free for recycling under recycling schemes run by recycling firm Terracycle. Items accepted range from toothbrushes and toothpaste tubes to coffee refill pouches, pens and biscuit wrappers!

Would-be collectors can register via the Terracycle website www.terracycle.co.uk.

where there is full details of the schemes, how they work, with various resources to help such as poster templates, kits, and letters. Postage is free to the collectors.

The schemes now include: packaging multi-stream unsorted, Oral products such as toothbrushes and toothpaste tubes, pens and writing instruments including felt tip pens, baby wipe

packaging, coffee packaging, biscuit wrappers, mobile phones and laptops, babyfood pouches and Danone yoghurt pots. The schemes are funded by specific manufacturers eg McVities, Kenco and Danone.



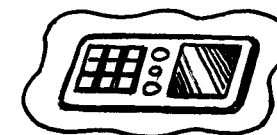
A nationwide network of collectors now number over 480,000 people who have collected over 10 million units for recycling, and have generated over £133,000 for charity. We could not find collection points in Devon, and would like to hear from anyone collecting in Devon, or who would like to set up a collection point.

From their website, TerraCycle says it is on a mission to eliminate the idea of waste. 'We do this by creating waste collection programs (each one is called a "Brigade") for previously non-recyclable waste. The collected material is then converted into new products, ranging from recycled park benches to upcycled lunchboxes.

Collect and Send

Once you have joined a TerraCycle Brigade, download the "**Collection Guide**" for helpful suggestions on how to become a successful waste collection station. When your waste is ready to be sent in, you can download

a shipping label from your TerraCycle account. Once your waste is received by TerraCycle, your collection location will be credited with any TerraCycle points. **TerraCycle points** can be redeemed for a variety of charitable gifts, or for a payment of £0.01 per point to the non-profit organization or school of your choice.



Carbon impact

Terracycle do give some info about the carbon impact of the schemes and claim that their recycling schemes saves carbon emissions – "All carbon cost/savings numbers were independently determined via numerous LCAs (Life Cycle Analysis) funded by TerraCycle.' They don't provide info on the actual weight recycled, or the postage costs incurred to enable better evaluation. What is positive is that manufacturers are starting to pay to recycle their products, and one would hope that this is a first step in getting proper universal collection points for all plastic products and packaging recycling which will lead to the re-design of products and packaging for ease of reuse or recycling. Like Germany, which has had packaging return points at all supermarkets for many years, and deposit return schemes for bottles for reuse.

Join the coffee packaging recycling 'brigade'

TerraCycle are following its biscuit wrapper recycling scheme with coffee packaging recycling in partnership with Kenco Coffee. Recycling collection points for coffee packaging waste such as coffee refill bags, jar lids, bean bags and coffee sticks, will be set up around the UK. TerraCycle will recycle the coffee packaging into generic plastic products such as park benches, watering cans and waste bins.

Terracycle are considering new locations for recycling points such as municipal community locations (community centres, recycling centres, libraries, town halls, churches etc) and retailers (supermarkets, coffee shops, newsagents etc). There are none in the south west so far, so any applications from Devon centres would be welcome – hello supermarket managers?

Baby food pouch recycling scheme hits 250,000 mark

Many baby food products now come in re-sealable pouches. A baby food pouch recycling partnership between food manufacturer Ella's Kitchen and Terracycle recycling has seen more than 250,000 pouches diverted from landfill since the scheme began.

The initiative began in 2010 after Ella's Kitchen decided to find a solution for its packaging waste, as, although it is recyclable, many councils in the UK do not accept mixed plastic in recycling collections.

Ella's Kitchen, said: "We love to give stuff back ... as well as saving 250,000 used baby food pouches from landfill participants have also raised over £7,500 for some really worthy causes which is fantastic!"

See www.terracycle.co.uk



Love it, Don't leave it campaign take your restaurant leftovers home with you

Torbay Council is working with pubs, restaurants and cafes to encourage customers to reduce food waste and take home their edible meal leftovers to eat later, in a new campaign called 'Love It, Don't Leave It'. The campaign urges restaurants to replace "doggy bags" in favour of more appropriate containers to help cut down on food waste. Bio-degradable waxed cardboard food containers will be distributed, alongside promotional material.

The council's recycling officer, Carol Arthur, said: "Research suggests that 83 per cent of us would like to take leftovers home when we eat out, but don't think we can or are too embarrassed to ask a waiter or waitress for a suitable container."

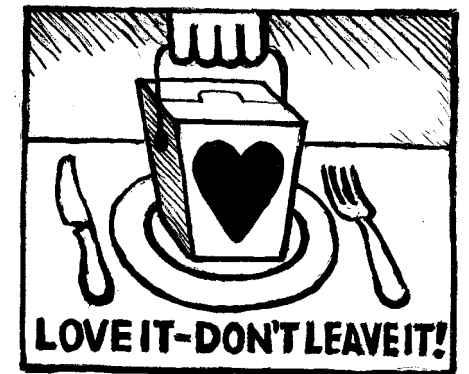
"Sometimes people will ask for a 'doggy bag' but the food is really for human consumption and not appropriate for family pets. Unless the food is put in a

suitable container, it usually ends up in a waste bin at home." The first 100 businesses that sign up will get all the containers and marketing materials free of charge.

Ms Arthur said: "A similar scheme is already running with great success in London, but we will be the first council in this area to launch such an initiative. We believe it is good for businesses as it cuts down on the amount of food waste, thereby reducing the businesses' disposal costs... and also good for customers, who can take home to enjoy the food they have paid for but have been unable to finish."

Deputy Mayor, Councillor David Thomas, said: "Torbay will be leading the way with this important initiative. It fits in well with the national 'Love Food Hate Waste' campaign.

Contact Carol Arthur on 01803 207744 for further details, or by email at carol.arthur@torbay.gov.uk.





Shopping centres achieve zero waste to landfill

Have you ever wondered what happens to all that shop waste?

A mixed picture with too much landfill waste? Recently, however, The Orchards Shopping Centre, in Dartford, Kent, is now diverting 100% of waste from landfill, with a recycling rate of 80% via source separation. This has been achieved with just two months planning prior to the roll out of new services in September 2012. So why aren't all shopping centres doing it? Why aren't all large businesses obliged to state what their recycling rates are?

Why aren't more consumers demanding that businesses green up their act?

Significant cost savings have also been realised with the removal of unnecessary capital equipment and the installation of separation systems at the site. Any residual waste will be sorted further and the non-recyclable waste used as a fuel for waste to energy at a plant close by.

Robert Twiselton, managing director of Green House, added: "When we first visited this site, it was obvious that the waste compactor was pretty much redundant, costing money and hindering source separation. Replacing this with a less expensive separation system was obvious and we created a simpler infrastructure with signage and education to make it easy for people to recycle. We always celebrate when a site achieves Zero Waste to Landfill, but the speed of this one made it stand out from the many we have taken through this journey."

The collaboration of property group MJMapp and the Green House has already diverted 92% of waste from landfill across their entire managed portfolio in all sectors and is well on target to reach 100% diversion within the next 12 months.

Zero waste to landfill for business waste recycling?

Simon Almond, managing director of Devon Contract Waste in Exeter has written an excellent article on the future of waste and the new Envirohub trade waste sorting plant they have opened in Exeter which can sort 75,000 tonnes per year of commercial waste for recycling, with a commitment of zero waste to landfill. See www.dcw.co.uk/zero-to-landfill/

There is growing pressure for more businesses to recycle their waste, and although there are many commercial companies offering kerbside recycling collection services, more could be done to help small businesses to recycle. Torbay has allowed businesses to use its Household Recycling Centre with great success for many years, and other LA's around the country are opening their sites for trade use and raising income from it. However, as household waste must be measured separately from trade waste this presents difficulties.

Another solution to emerge elsewhere is dedicated trade only recycling centres, run on the same lines as

household recycling centres. Trade Recycling Centres (TRC) aim to provide flexible trade waste recycling bring facilities for all types of businesses and tradesmen who may have varying amounts of waste or no premises from which collections can be made, or who need complete flexibility in how they recycle or dispose of their waste so that a regular contract doesn't work for them. TRC works on a subscription basis, once a business is a member unlimited amounts of recycling can be disposed of free via source separation on any number of visits.

www.traderecyclingcentre.com. Will one be opened in Devon?

Small businesses may register with Devon County Council to bring green waste and cardboard for recycling to certain Devon County Council Recycling Centres. The scheme is run at a cost to the Council which has to be passed on to trade depositors. For more information, visit **www.devon.gov.uk/index/environmentplanning/recycling/trade_recycling.htm**





Sainsbury's new recycling facilities

Sainsbury's is taking control of recycling bring banks at its superstores, which will see new recycling facilities provided for mixed plastics and small WEEE (waste electrical items) alongside usual recycling.

The retailer is replacing existing recycling facilities at stores, which are provided by local authorities and charities, with a standardised bring bank service. This will include banks for mixed cans, glass, plastics and paper and card. In addition, banks for textiles, books and CDs will be provided by charity Oxfam.

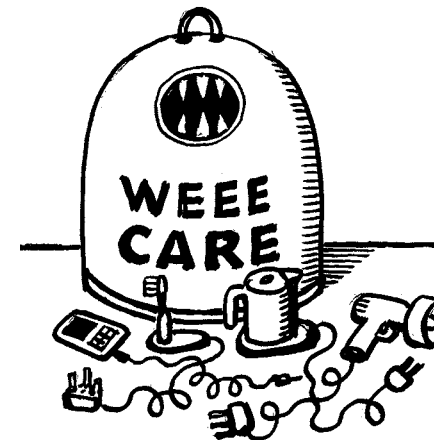
The system has already been trialled at 30 stores in London and will be gradually rolled out to up to 350 of the company's stores.

Devon - However, Devon LA's have requested the existing LA recycling banks remain on site as the income received from the materials collected offsets the costs of other local recycling schemes so LAs are keen not to lose it. But they are keen to see WEEE recycling banks and mixed plastic recycling provided at stores. There are 5 Sainsbury's superstores in Devon, which would not give comprehensive coverage. An alternative collection scheme for small waste electrical items is being trialled in Exeter by WEEE Care (see other article), which if successful will be rolled out across Devon with up to 5 WEEE recycling banks per district.

Costs - While local authorities will lose any revenue gained from existing banks, Sainsbury's said the new service would reduce local authority costs involved with servicing and collecting material from the bring banks, help to boost recycling rates and offer a more aesthetically pleasing recycling facility. Sainsbury's will provide recycling data from the banks to local authorities free of charge.

Last year Tesco announced a similar scheme, and run up against opposition from some Local Authorities who were concerned at the loss of revenues from recycle and impacts the change would have on their overall recycling services.

Sainsbury's said: "... feedback we've received from the trial indicates that customers are in favour of a more comprehensive service. This is particularly the case if their current kerbside service doesn't collect materials which these new facilities accommodate such as mixed plastics, small electrical items and clothing."



Where to recycle plastic wrap in Devon

More consumers should use existing front of store plastic bag and plastic film/wrap recycling collection points in supermarkets as a way of encouraging supermarkets to offer expanded recycling collection facilities. The supermarkets where you can return your plastic film packaging and bags for recycling are Asda, The Co-operative, Morrison's, Sainsbury's, Tesco and Waitrose.

One way of identifying the right types of plastic film and bags, is to look out for the following label on packaging:

As a general guide this includes cereal packet liners, frozen food packets such as peas & vegetables, thick plastic wrap packaging and bags used on a wide range of products. Remember it should be clean and not contaminated with food residues.



Carbon impacts of waste materials, treatment and recycling

A new system has been developed which shows which waste materials are most significant in carbon emissions terms. If carbon emission measures were used to determine recycling policy, we could see a different emphasis on recycling services being provided.

	Weight based order (from residual waste analysis)	Co2 emissions impact of materials
1	Food	Plastics
2	Plastics	Textiles
3	Paper	Food
4	Garden	Metal
5	Textiles	Paper
6	Metals	WEEE
7	Glass	Glass
8	Wood	Garden
9	WEEE	Wood

A preliminary analysis of the Devon dustbin and materials recycling by weight vs carbon emission impact has been done. The table above shows a comparison of nine materials and their order of significance in terms of weight vs carbon impact: -Carbon measures generally acts as a good indicator of the overall impacts of waste and the higher up the waste hierarchy it is treated (reduce, reuse, recycle), the smaller the greenhouse gas impacts. A Carbon Metric Reporting System has been developed which shows which materials are most significant in terms of carbon

emissions. It is hoped it will encourage the prevention, reuse and recycling of waste with the highest environmental benefit, such as plastics and textiles, which have a low recycling rate, and away from the weight based emphasis to capture the most tonnage of material.

Each local authority will have a 'carbon factor' based on the data submitted by councils on tonnages of recycling, reuse, composting and residual waste treatment, measured against carbon factor data taken from the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP). The system is based on lifecycle thinking using CO2 equivalent emissions savings made from the recovery of secondary resources from the waste stream and the displacement of the primary resource alternative. The impact of vehicle movements of waste are not included in developing the carbon factor, as the data is not available, but according to WasteDataFlow, research has shown that the carbon impacts of transportation are minimal when compared to the impacts of waste treatment technologies, and the production of the stuff in the first place.

Scotland

The Scottish Government has already committed to the adoption of a carbon metric system to measure the performance of its local authorities, in force from 2013.

'Huge reuse potential' in bulky waste

More than half of all bulky waste items taken to household waste and recycling centres (HWRCs) could be re-used, according to a new report published by WRAP.

Of bulky items taken to Recycling Centres, 32% were estimated to be re-usable in their current condition, increasing to 51% if items requiring slight repair (but in otherwise good condition) were taken into account.

Resource Futures, who undertook the study, also claim that 40% of bulky items collected at the kerbside, such as sofas and televisions, could be re-used. 24% of items were estimated to be re-usable in their current condition, rising to 40% if items requiring slight repair were taken into account.

'Composition and re-usability of bulky waste in the UK' - is the first UK-wide piece of research to look at the composition of bulky waste in the UK, in order to assess the potential for re-use.

Findings

The research found that the most common bulky items taken to HWRCs are televisions, wardrobes and carpets, while the most common for kerbside collection are sofas, mattresses & beds.

National estimates suggest that across the UK during 2010/11, some 1.6 million tonnes of bulky waste was collected at the kerbside or taken to Recycling Centres. Approximately twice as much is taken to HWRCs (1 million tonnes) than is collected at the kerbside (540,000 tonnes).

Using the data and extrapolating the sample findings across all UK kerbside and HWRC bulky waste collections, the report suggests that of all bulky waste in the UK, around 42% consists of furniture, 19% textiles and 19% WEEE (electrical items). These estimates equate to 670,000 tonnes of furniture and 310,000 tonnes each of textiles and WEEE disposed of by householders in the UK annually.

Perception

Mervyn Jones at WRAP, said: "There is a perception that many bulky items taken to household waste and recycling centres (HWRCs) or collected at kerbside are not re-usable. However, this research shows that there is significant re-use potential to be realised from these items. This research will help local authorities and HWRC operators to remove these items from the waste stream, either for re-sale or for passing on to the third sector."

'UK's first' product sustainability forum launched

A 'groundbreaking' forum which will tackle the environmental footprint of everyday products has been launched. According to WRAP (Waste & Resource Action Programme), 10 tonnes of fuel and materials are used on average for every tonne of products consumed, rising to 100 tonnes if water is included. And, the amount of basic resources (fossil fuels, metals, minerals, timber and other crops) that are extracted from the environment is projected to rise by a further 40% in the next 20 years. The majority of these resources are not recaptured.

Furthermore, on average, 16% of the money people spend on a product pays for the packaging, which ultimately ends up as rubbish.

The Product Sustainability Forum (PSF) will bring together more than 80 organisations including retailers, suppliers, environmental charities, academics and UK government in the first collaboration of its kind. It will take the lead on addressing environmental

and sustainability issues that arise from making and selling products.

The whole of a products life will be looked at, including greenhouse gas emissions, energy consumption, water use, reliance on raw materials, product-related waste and packaging. A joined-up approach to researching, measuring, communicating and reducing the environmental impact of a range of consumer goods will be taken - from dairy products and DIY materials to soft drinks and tinned groceries.

WRAP's Dr Goodwin said: "The scale of the challenge is enormous. For example, the British Retail Consortium estimates that the retail sector alone accounts for around 3.5% of the UK's carbon emissions, and the retail supply chain, for more than 30%. The PSF vision is that everyday products should be designed with resource efficiency in mind, minimising environmental impact and encouraging sustainable consumption and production."

"Many companies already measure the environmental impact of their products but until now, this has always been done in isolation, and the methodology and results have not been shared. By working together, we have a real opportunity to minimise the effect our activities have on the planet. The group will play a critical role in both driving down CO2 emissions and reducing other environmental impacts of the way we resource, manufacture and sell goods," said Dr Goodwin.

Councils 'may stop running Recycling Centres in 5-10 years'

Councils may stop running household waste and recycling centres (HWRC) in five to ten years as local communities rise to the challenge of managing the sites themselves, according to a local authority officer.

Mark Deer, from Suffolk County Council, said that his experience of closing seven of Suffolk's 18 recycling centres due to budget cuts had shown that local businesses and the third sector were capable of stepping in. Since the sites were closed, five have been successfully re-opened by partnerships between local parish and town councils and private companies or charities.

Mr Deer said: "Out of seven sites which have been closed, five are still operating in some form. We believe this is an interesting example of localism, when communities are faced with a challenge. It puts the ball back in the communities' court to come up with a solution."

Commenting on the Newmarket HWRC run by local charity 'Newmarket Open Door', which won the award for 'Best Community Recycling Initiative' in May 2012, he said: "The site has gone from strength to strength. It also accepts business waste and recycling, offers a waste paper collection scheme for local businesses and also works with local churches, which act as drop-off points for waste paper.

Mr Deer questioned whether, by running household waste recycling centres, local authorities were hampering communities and the third sector from running them themselves and suggested that council-run sites may become "unnecessary".

He said: "I think the time will come when local authorities step away from HWRCs. Not now but maybe in five or ten years. It is something that we need to look at when we look at retendering the contract".

By no longer running the seven HWRCs, Mr Deer said that Suffolk had saved £1.45 million, a significant proportion of the £2.3 million the council needed to shave off its waste budget in 2011/12.

Mr Deer explained that the council continued to give technical and legal support to the sites and advice on communications and had provided land at 'peppercorn rent' to interested groups through the local town or parish councils.

Reduce your lightbulb waste and save money

Halogen GU10 and LED lightbulbs

Most GU10 halogen lightbulbs seem to have a short life and need replacing frequently (downlighters and light clusters commonly used in households).

As there are no recycling facilities for GU10 lightbulbs, it is worth looking at GU10 LED replacement bulbs. Quality GU10 LED bulbs are rated to last for 25,000 hours so will last 10 times longer than a halogen bulb at 2500 hours, and thus create 10 times fewer waste bulbs, 10 times less packaging, transport emissions etc. They also consume 80% less electricity than halogen GU10's, so over time LED bulbs work out significantly cheaper. They are an investment at around £9 each for non-dimmable and £14 for dimmable versions, but seem to be one of the best green low cost money and waste saving choices.

I have fitted Phillips LED lightbulbs in my house and the instant on warm white light quality now compares very well with halogen light and are so much better than the dull light emitted by CFL bulbs. Fiddly bulb changing is also much reduced as they last so long.

You can fit direct LED replacements for GU10s running on mains power

240volts, however if you've got 12volt versions you'll also need to replace 12v halogen transformers (electronic or wire wound) with LED drivers, constant current or constant voltage.

LED replacements for classic incandescent pendant-style single 60W bulbs in the middle of the ceiling are beginning to appear – such as Zeta LED's LifeBulb, which won a £450,000 government competition and is on sale for around £20 each.

While early generations of LEDs were criticised for being too cold in colour temperature — new models are able to match halogens for colour. Look for LEDs with a colour temperature of about 2700k for halogen replacements.

LEDs (light-emitting diodes), are semiconductors that make old-fashioned lightbulbs (incandescents) and even "energy savers" (CFL compact fluorescents) look incredibly inefficient. A typical 35W halogen replacement LED will use as little as 4W, considerably less than the 10W or so a CFL would use to produce the same level of light. They also have the advantage of being "instant-on" and do not suffer from warming up slowly like some CFL replacements for halogens.

Nappy recycling

Disposable nappies make up between 4 and 7% of residual waste collected at the kerbside, generating about 750,000 tonnes of nappy waste to landfill each year.

The first nappy recycling service in England has been launched by Cheshire West and Chester council, and is expected to recycle 25 tonnes of nappies every week. Every year in West Cheshire 5,000 tonnes of nappies are sent to landfill, according to the council.

More than 1,300 households have signed up to the weekly 'Nappy-cycle' service. Families have been given collection sacks and an outdoor storage container that will be emptied each week. Following collection they are sent to the UK's first nappy recycling facility in West Bromwich, which opened in September 2011.

Plastic and fibre recovered from the recycling process is used for making products, in the case of plastics, roof tiles, recycling bins and steel or wood substitute, and in the case of the fibres, cardboard and industrial tubing.

Knowaste said "Our West Bromwich plant is a specialist nappy and

incontinence products recycling facility and is the first of its kind in the UK. We use state-of-the-art technology to turn all absorbent hygiene product into valuable plastics and fibres, which can then be used to make new products."

A Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) by Deloitte comparing the environmental performance of Knowaste's recycling process, found that it emits up to 70 per cent less carbon emissions than disposal to landfill/incineration, and that the West Bromwich site could save 22,536 metric tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions per year. The most significant environmental benefit is derived from re-using materials that would go to waste and which replace virgin sources.



Responses to the Resource and Waste Management Strategy for Devon

The Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Devon describes how municipal waste will be dealt with from 2005 – 2035. The strategy was reviewed and consulted upon over the summer. In all 225 responses were received. A number of respondents thought that there needed to be more focus on Waste Prevention, Reuse and Behavioural Change. In response to this, the County Council is holding a Conference on Friday March 1st 2013 at County Hall, Exeter. More information to follow. Ideas developed from this event will contribute to a Waste Prevention Strategy for Devon.

A range of other subjects were responded to:

- Opinions on target recycling rates of 60% by 2014/15 and 65% by 2025/26 were fairly evenly split with several saying that 75%-90% should be achievable
- Respondees said recycling could be improved if they could recycle plastics and if more materials were collected at the kerbside
- On the subject of organic waste a majority thought food waste should be collected weekly
- People thought customer care needed to be improved at Recycling Centres, as did layouts
- It was mooted that waste reduction might be achieved with fortnightly collections and smaller bins, but charging for garden waste was not so popular
- Waste reduction targets were generally approved of although many thought they were unambitious
- Packaging was the single greatest issue preventing people from reducing their waste. A community reward was a popular potential incentive

- Solutions for dealing with residual waste included incineration, energy from waste and selective and advanced treatment options. It was suggested that more work was required on new technologies, energy and carbon policy and economic monitoring
- One in three people were interested in volunteering to help with community engagement
- The majority of people favoured email and leaflets as a means of communication

A more comprehensive summary of responses can be found at

www.devon.gov.uk/index/councildemocracy/decision_making/cma/cma_report.htm?cmadoc=report_cdw1228.html

Further work is being carried out on the environmental and cost implications of various collection regimes, and a technology day will be held. The potential for closer working amongst Devon Local Authorities and neighbouring counties is also being researched. Contact email: annette.dentith@devon.gov.uk

LARAC calls for Local Authorities to become 'guardians of local resources and jobs'

Joy Blizzard, former East Devon Recycling officer, now the chairwoman of the influential LA Recycling Advisory Committee, has called for councils to become 'guardians of local resources and jobs', in her keynote speech at the 2012 LARAC conference.

She said that councils needed to 'reconsider' their approach to waste management in the face of growing concerns over resource security, and pointed to the more progressive waste strategies adopted by Scotland and Wales who are going for 75% recycling targets.

Ample evidence has been accumulating that higher reuse, recycling and composting could generate huge numbers of green jobs and training, recover finite valuable resources currently lost to landfill or incineration, and help regenerate communities and local economies. Friends of the Earth's 2010 report stated that England sends £650m worth of easy to recycle materials to disposal every year, while leading research consultancy Eunomia has said that the UK is heading for a large over capacity in waste disposal via incineration if all projects that have planning permission or are in the process of getting it go ahead.

Textile shocker rocks recycling world....

350,000 tonnes (31%) of used clothing out of a total of 1.13 million tonnes end up in landfill

- If it were donated for reuse or recycling it could generate £238 million in revenue. Extending the life of clothes by just three months of active use per item would lead to a 5-10% reduction in each of the carbon, water and waste footprints
- Textiles have the 2nd highest carbon impact after plastics in the carbon impact table of recyclable materials (see separate article)
- In 2010, an estimated 84,500 tonnes of steel could have been recovered from waste mattresses, with some mattresses containing as much as 50% steel
- Only 10% of no-longer-required work clothing is currently recycled or re-used

In a wake up call to consumers, a recent 'Valuing our clothes' study provides a 'big picture' of the environmental impacts of clothing, incorporating both the financial and environmental aspects of its whole life cycle, from raw material and manufacture to purchase, use and disposal.

Key findings from the report include that around 350,000 tonnes (31%) of used clothing out of a total of 1.13

million tonnes end up in landfill. This is despite it retaining a commercial value, either as re-used garments or when recycled into wiping cloths, felts, yarns, soundproofing, mattresses and other non-clothing uses.

Nearly half of adults surveyed also said they put at least some of their clothing into the waste, usually because they think it couldn't be used again for any purpose and are unaware of its value to charities and recyclers. As a result, WRAP suggests that more could be done by local authorities and other organisations to raise awareness.

The report found that (48%) of used clothing is re-used, with more than two thirds of this being sent overseas. WRAP says this highlights a potential opportunity for more to be reused and recycled in the UK, provided the quality of clothing produced and collected improves. The remaining 80,000 tonnes of used clothing (7%) is currently sent for incineration.

Other significant findings include:

- The average UK household owns around £4,000 worth of clothes – but around 30% of clothing in the average wardrobe has not been worn for over a year, most commonly because it no longer fits. This unused clothing is worth £30 billion
- Recycling textiles – each tonne saves around 2.7 tonnes of CO₂ equivalent, if textiles are reused, each tonne reused saves around 15 tonnes of CO₂ equivalent
- Extending the life of clothes by just three months of active use

per item would lead to a 5-10% reduction in each of the carbon, water and waste footprints

- Two thirds of UK consumers buy or receive pre-owned clothes and there is a willingness amongst consumers to wear more such items, especially if a better range were available

WRAP identifies several opportunities for retailers to enhance the last-ing sales value of clothing, including establishing 'buy-back' schemes to provide an additional income stream, promoting repair and alteration services in store and increasing sales of high-durability garments to consumers.

Other research as part of Defra's Sustainable Clothing Roadmap, looked at recycling items such as corporate workwear, carpets and mattresses, and the business case for washing and drying contaminated textiles.

WRAP said "Carpet recycling is growing fast from a very low starting point, and there are already a number of innovative methods and end markets for the recycled material, but further development of these is needed to ensure recycling is commercially viable."

"Mattress recovery is more difficult, but with the market price of steel steadily rising, it's an area of growing interest and value – some mattresses contain as much as 50% steel. In 2010, an estimated 84,500 tonnes of steel alone could have been recovered." (Mattresses and carpets can now be recycled at most Devon Recycling Centres)

Only 10% of no-longer-required work clothing is currently recycled or re-used

and suggests steps that could be taken to reduce waste and encourage re-use. The results from the WRAP trials will help the textile recycling sector identify which sources generate the highest value returns in existing and new markets.

"What our research demonstrates is that there are real opportunities here for organisations and individuals to reduce our carbon footprint by diverting textiles from landfill and extracting the maximum financial and economic benefits available from smarter re-use and recycling."

On a practical note, Junk Mail advises:

- **buy less, only buy items that you really need and save money,**
- **make your clothes last longer by buying quality items,**
- **participate in local clothes swaps, buy second hand,**
- **look at more sustainable fibres such as hemp,**
- **reuse and repair, reuse your own rags as cleaning cloths,**
- **if you are not sure about the suitability of your unwanted clothing, textiles, belts, bags, shoes, curtains, sheets etc, do put them in recycling collection facilities as more can be reused or recycled than you may think. Worn out clothing can still be reused or recycled commercially, such as to recover fibres and yarn, to make felts, soundproofing, wipes and cloths etc**
- **pair up and secure together socks, gloves, shoes, curtains etc to make sorting easier**

Waste Prevention Conference

County Hall, Exeter

Friday March 1st 2013



Speakers confirmed from the Welsh Government, Oxford Waste Partnership, WRAP and Resource Futures.

The afternoon will be devoted to interactive workshops and ideas developed from this event will contribute to a Waste Prevention Strategy for Devon.

For more information please email

info@recycledevon.org

Don't let Devon go to waste

www.recycledevon.org

ISSUES RELATING DIRECTLY TO THIS PUBLICATION

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