

waste watch

 North West Region
Waste Management Group



Welcome

On behalf of the North West Region Waste Management Group (NWRWMG), I would like to welcome you to the third edition of Waste Watch. As ever, it has been an extremely busy time on the waste management front, with the amount of dry recyclable material from households recycled last year in our area in excess of 41,000 tonnes.

Over one third of the waste collected by the councils in the NWRWMG is recycled and the figures are independently validated by the Northern Ireland Environment Agency. Materials such as paper, cardboard, plastic bottles, cans, cartons and tins are collected together in recycling wheelie bins and sorted by our contractor, Glassdon, and subsequently sold to a number of reprocessors.

We work in a close partnership with our contractors to maintain high standards and constantly seek improvements where practically possible. NWRWMG councils are committed to minimising landfill and have a number of recycling schemes in operation which are working effectively to produce high quality materials for reuse.

Our Joint Committee is urging householders to continue using their recycling bins and show as much support for their council's recycling schemes as they possibly can. Remember, we must aim for over 50% recycling; we emphatically reassure householders that ALL material properly placed in recycling bins is recycled.

The following pages will help illustrate the efforts and strides being made by the NWRWMG and its constituent councils. We continue to stress the importance of the 3Rs – **Reduce, Reuse and Recycle**. We are also able to give you a significant update on our £500m public procurement exercise to deliver new waste management facilities for the region, the shortlist for which is now down to its final two bidders.

On behalf of the NWRWMG I would like to thank all of our residents for their efforts in helping us meet our targets. Council recycling figures will only improve if we all make a concerted effort to recycle all of the materials we can. Page 13 will remind us how to make the most of our Blue Bins. Thank You!

Chairman,
Cllr Evelynne Robinson



waste watch

North West Region
Waste Management Group

AT A
GLANCE



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IN THE LOOP: We take a close look at the six stages an aluminium drink can goes through from when it is sent for recycling until it is resold in shops.



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COUNCILS' CALL: A round-up of the various work being carried out by the NWRWMG's member councils and residents, from getting on their bikes in Limavady Borough Council to gardens coming to life in Derry City Council.



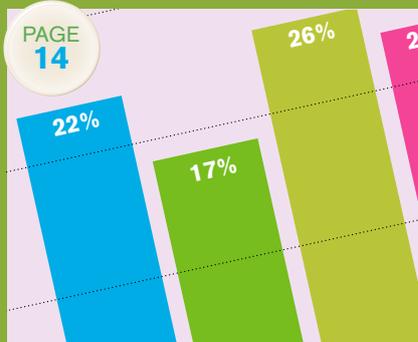
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COOKING UP A STORM: We report on the launch of the Department of the Environment's new interactive website, Love Food Hate Waste, designed to reduce food waste and help the environment.



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MONSTER CREATION: We look at how councils and young people throughout the North West got involved in the 'Waste... we have created a Monster' campaign which encouraged people to use old clothes to make Halloween costumes.



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STAT ATTACK: We look at how the combined efforts of the NWRWMG and you, the public, are helping to ensure that recycling rates across the region are on the up.



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PROCUREMENT PROJECT: The £500m public procurement exercise to deliver new waste management facilities for the North West region is now down to the final two bidders – we bring an update on this.

Who we are

The North West Region Waste Management Group is a team of seven councils responsible for ensuring that waste management in the North West region of Northern Ireland is carried out effectively.

The overall aim of the group is to develop a waste management system that meets the region's needs, turns waste into a vital resource from which valuable energy can be released and that contributes to economic and social development.

The NWRWMG has a land area of 3,830 sq km, which represents 27% of the area of Northern Ireland.

THE MEMBER COUNCILS ARE:

- Ballymoney Borough Council**
- Coleraine Borough Council**
- Derry City Council**
- Limavady Borough Council**
- Magherafelt District Council**
- Moyle District Council**
- Strabane District Council**

Contact Us:
 NWRWMG,
 Derry City Council,
 98 Strand Road,
 Derry BT48 7NN
 Tel: 028 7137 0808,
 Fax: 028 7137 0684
 info@northwestwaste.org.uk
 www.northwestwaste.org.uk



NWRWMG Joint Committee



Councillor Evelyne Robinson (Chair)
 Ballymoney Borough Council



Councillor Oliver McMullan (Vice-chair)
 Moyle District Council



Councillor Robert McPherson
 Coleraine Borough Council



Councillor Shaun Gallagher
 Derry City Council



Alderman Jack Rankin
 Limavady Borough Council



Councillor Sandy Gilkinson
 Coleraine Borough Council



Councillor Gerry MacLochlainn
 Derry City Council



Councillor Michael Carten
 Limavady Borough Council



Councillor Patrick Grogan
 Magherafelt District Council



Alderman Cecil Cousley
 Ballymoney Borough Council



Councillor Derek Hussey
 Strabane District Council



Councillor Sean McPeake
 Magherafelt District Council



Councillor Robert McLroy
 Moyle District Council



Councillor Kieran McGuire
 Strabane District Council

Management plan

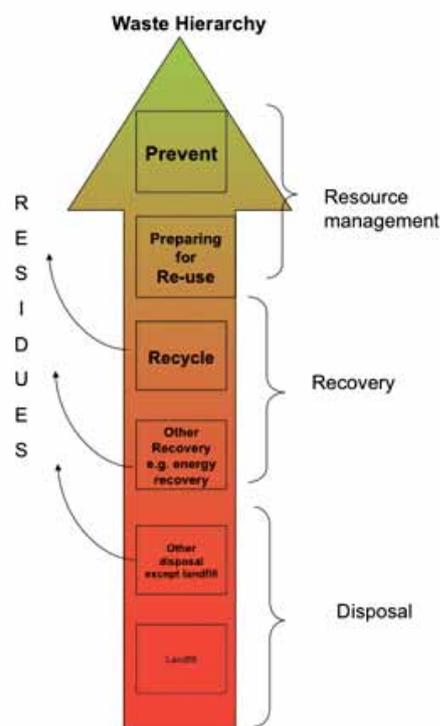
The NWRWMG was formed in 1999, when it was decided by the seven councils involved that a joint approach would be the most effective method of deciding how best to deal with waste in the area.

The group formed a Joint Committee of Councils under the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 1972 in order to carry out this work, with two elected members from each council sitting on the NWRWMG Joint Committee.

A Waste Management Plan was prepared which has evolved over time and offers the potential not only to reduce the environmental impact of current waste management practices, but also to contribute to sustainable economic development.

Since 2000 the NWRWMG has made significant investments in facilities and operations to achieve the targets set out in its Waste Management Plan. In 2000 there were 37 Household Waste Recycling Centres and Bring Sites in the region and today the Group has 109 such centres. In addition 129,000 households have blue bins and more than 32,000 home composters have been distributed. A comprehensive Waste Education Programme has been organised by the councils to support the infrastructure investments to date. Three of the councils have brown bins for the collection of organic materials.

The objectives and targets of the NI Waste Management Strategy can be represented in the Waste Management Hierarchy, as illustrated in the diagram. The hierarchy highlights the need to move practices away from landfill disposal and to promote reduction, reuse, recycling and recovery.



Keeping cans

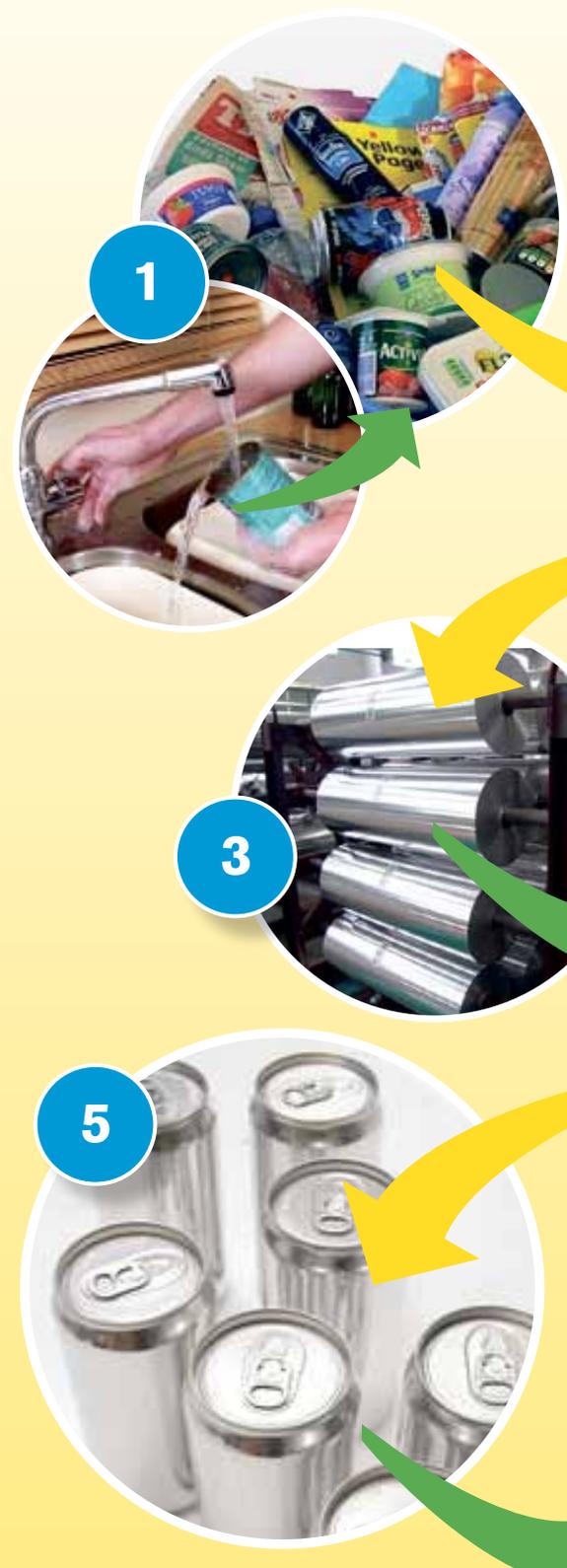
Five billion aluminium drink cans are sold throughout the UK every year. And the good news is that it is possible for every single one of these cans to be recycled to make another drink can - over and over again.

This is a process called 'closed loop' recycling and it helps save energy and natural resources as well as reducing pressure on landfill sites for waste disposal.

So, when you put your aluminium drink cans in your blue recycling bins, you can do so safe in the knowledge that in roughly 60 days' time they will have been recycled, remade, refilled and returned to the shops for sale again.

But have you ever wondered what actually happens to the aluminium in the 60 days between your blue bin being collected and the aluminium being sold again as another drink can?

The flow diagram to the right illustrates the trail these cans follow. Your blue bin is taken to Glassdon's Materials Recycling Facility in Toomebridge, where it is sorted, baled and sent to the Novelis recycling plant in Cheshire, England – Europe's only dedicated aluminium can recycling plant.



1 RECYCLING

Remember to rinse your cans before sending them for recycling. If the recycling bins are inside, this cuts down on any smell. And if your bins are outside, rinsing reduces the likelihood of pets or wandering animals digging through them.

Recycling is now easier than ever. You can recycle your cans in a number of ways:

Can banks – find them at supermarkets and council-run recycling sites. Look out for recycling banks in offices, shopping centres and leisure facilities too.

Kerbside recycling – use the doorstep collections offered by your council.

Cash for cans centres – exchange your cans for cash to raise funds for a good cause.

Once collected the cans are sorted, checked for contaminants and baled. They are then delivered to the Novelis plant in Warrington.

2 REPROCESSING

The bales of cans are broken up and shredded into small pieces, about the size of a 50p coin. Hot air (approx. 500°C) is blown through the shreds to remove the printed decoration. The clean shreds are then melted in a furnace heated to 750°C. The molten metal flows into moulds and is cooled by a curtain of water. As it cools the metal hardens and an ingot is formed. Each ingot is nine metres long, weighs 27 tonnes and contains 1.5 million recycled drink cans.

3 ROLLING

The ingots are transported to the rolling mill where they are pre-heated to 600°C and undergo their first 'hot rolling'. They are then 'cold rolled' to the exact thickness required by the can maker.

4 CAN MAKING

The recycled aluminium sheet is fed through a 'cupping press' which stamps out thousands of hollow cups. The can shape is created by ramming the cups through a series of smaller and smaller rings at high pressure. They are then trimmed and washed ready to be printed. After the decoration has been applied the cans are dried and passed through a necker/flanger to prepare them to take the can end.

5 FILLING

The cans are cleaned using high pressure air and water. The air is extracted and at the same time the can is filled with carbon dioxide (CO₂) and the liquid contents. The can ends are mechanically attached and sealed. Around 2,000 cans are produced and filled by this process every minute.

6 SELLING

The final stage of the loop – or is it the beginning? The cans are delivered to the retailer ready for you to buy, drink and recycle all over again. This could be your local supermarket, corner shop or a vending machine in your office or leisure centre.

in the loop

remember!!
3Rs



Around 3.5 billion aluminium drinks cans were recycled last year in the UK

Race is on for Limavady



The bikes that were recovered from waste streams by Limavady Borough Council

Staff at Limavady Borough Council have been getting on their bikes to prove the old adage of 'one person's trash is another person's treasure' to be true.

A new dimension to the recycling of waste in the area has seen unwanted bicycles diverted away from the waste stream and instead going to benefit needy charities in Africa.

Council staff recently organised a charity cycle in aid of the Northern Ireland Childrens Hospice which raised a staggering £9,243.70. With the concepts of Reduce, Reuse and Recycle in mind, some of the cyclists made the journey from Limavady to Benone on bikes which had been removed from 'waste' skips.

These bikes were repaired and upgraded with very minor works, rendered fit for the road and reused to benefit NI Children's Hospice. In fact, some of the recovered bikes were in such good condition all that was needed was some oil and a seat adjustment.

John McCarron, Recycling Officer, Limavady Borough Council, said:

"Waste Management staff set out to prove that just because we have no further use for items of 'waste', does not mean these need to be dumped. Virtually all our 'waste' has some value, the worth of these resources can be realised by ourselves and others through reuse and recycling.

"The council salvaged all bikes and parts of bikes at both Limavady and Dungiven recycling centres and were able to present 15 bikes for the event. These bikes and others collected since are now being stored

by the Council to be passed on to the Bike Aid for Africa charity, a group based in Co Down.

"Bike Aid for Africa will carry out any necessary repairs then send the bikes on to charity workers, doctors and the public in Africa. Our 'waste' bikes will be put to good use once more for the benefit of others less fortunate than ourselves.

"This initiative has been well supported with council collecting bikes from all over the borough. So far in the region of 30 bikes have been set aside for reuse and recycling."

To support this worthwhile cause and to reduce waste in the borough, the council continued to collect bikes and parts of bikes until the end of September. Bikes could be brought to sites at Ballyquin Road, Limavady, and Chapel Road, Dungiven.

Council staff called to homes in the borough and collected unwanted bikes for free. For any queries regarding waste reduction, reuse and recycling in general contact the Technical Services Department on 028 7776 0305 or technicalservices@limavady.gov.uk



Gardens come to life

In a bid to highlight the importance of safeguarding our local biodiversity, Derry City Council recently began a search to find the city's best wildlife garden.

The first of its kind in the area, the pilot competition saw the gardens judged on the variety of garden features that support wildlife (nest boxes, bird tables, ponds or log piles) and a variety of plants that provide food and refuge for wildlife all year round.

Derry City Council was also keen to see the creative use of natural resources, such as making compost and the collection and use of rain water, and how general household items were recycled to create wildlife features.

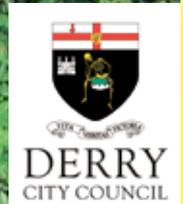


The competition is part of the 'Do One Thing' for nature campaign, funded by the Northern Ireland Environment Agency and Derry City Council. It has proved such a big success that there are now plans to expand it in May 2011, with three categories – schools, community groups and residential.

This initiative is one of a range of events being held across Derry City Council to

highlight the importance of safeguarding our local biodiversity - the variety of life on earth - and the small things that you can do to protect it.

For further information on wildlife and biodiversity issues contact Christine Doherty, Biodiversity Officer, Derry City Council, on 02871 365151 or email christine.doherty@derrycity.gov.uk For further information on recycling issues contact Julie Hannaway, Waste Minimisation and Recycling Officer, Derry City Council, on 02871 365151 or email julie.hannaway@derrycity.gov.uk





Mrs Gwen Donnell, Acting Principal of Strabane Primary School, Mrs Yvonne Lecky of Strabane District Council, Mrs Anne Smith, Eco Schools Co-ordinator, Strabane Primary School and the Eco Committee with their first Green Flag

Schools fly the flag for Strabane

Two primary schools in the Strabane District Council area have received the top prize in an international environmental awareness programme through Eco-Schools.

St. Columba's Primary School from Clady has made history in the Strabane area by receiving its second Green Flag while Strabane Primary School has received its first Green Flag. Both schools have been working extremely hard over the past year to achieve this success.

St. Columba's received their first Green Flag in June 2008 and since then have been continually monitoring and making improvements to their environment, with litter and transport two of the topics the school focused on.

For part of the litter project, Year 6 and Year 7 pupils took part in the Big Spring Clean Week from April 19-23 which was co-ordinated by Mr Patrick Walsh, Litter Warden, from Strabane District Council. Year 6 pupils carried out a litter pick around the school grounds whilst Year 7s accompanied the Litter Warden on a litter pick in Clady Village.

For the transport project the whole school was involved in the Travelwise NI Walk to School challenge from May 17-21. This involved as many pupils as possible walking to school; anyone who was transported by

a vehicle had the option to walk around the school grounds for 1km. This arrangement proved very successful and the school was awarded first place in the Challenge for two consecutive years.

The school also worked on other Eco-Schools topics such as energy, water, waste, healthy living, school grounds, biodiversity and global perspective. The school principal, Mrs. Colette Maguire, paid tribute to the staff, pupils, parents and Eco team members for their hard work and dedication to the Eco-Schools programme.

Strabane Primary School first became involved in the Eco-Schools programme in March 2009 when it received its Bronze award. This was shortly followed by the Silver award in June 2009, before the top award of the Green Flag was received a year later.

Pupils were encouraged to take responsibility for the school environment by making and implementing decisions as an eco-committee and regular eco assemblies through the year kept the whole school

informed of progress. Topics which the school worked on included waste, energy, water, global perspective, transport, healthy living and biodiversity.

A major project which the school developed was a poly-tunnel and raised beds which were constructed by New Horizons Partnership and in which all the classes grew a variety of flowers and vegetables. The Eco-Schools Coordinator, Mrs. Anne Smith, the Eco-Committee and indeed the whole school worked extremely hard to set up an excellent Eco School and thoroughly deserve the Green Flag Award.

Strabane District now has a total of four Green Flag Eco-Schools. The Green Flag is an internationally-accredited award to recognise environmental awareness and sustainable development in schools. It works by involving the whole school together with members of the local community. The prestigious Green Flag is awarded to schools who meet the top level criteria for each of the seven elements of the Eco-Schools process.



Mrs. Colette Maguire, School Principal with the Eco Team of St. Columba's Primary School in Clady, who have received their second Green Flag

Ballymoney gets engaged

A policy of community engagement is helping Ballymoney Borough Council deliver effective and appropriate waste management options for the area which are accessible to all.

The development of Community Recycling Centres (CRCs), such as the one pictured in Cloughmills at Patton's Bar, is one of the best illustrations of the success the Council has had in working in partnership with local residents.

The CRCs all follow the same design principles with clearly demarcated fencing and signage indicating that sites are developed with local community groups, the aim being to highlight the fact that these sites are for the benefit of all and not just randomly placed. All village sites have banks for glass, mixed paper, cans and textiles.

As well as the actual development of the CRCs, the marketing and management of the CRCs are key factors in the success of these sites.



The Cloughmills Community Recycling Centre at Patton's Bar, Cloughmills

In the initial phase, Ballymoney Borough Council adopted the novel approach of installing and managing its own textile and aluminium can banks. This was as a result of a decision by the Council to engage and collaborate with two social partners, Oxfam Ireland and Can Can Recycling.

The CRCs are promoted widely through the media, the Council's website and opportunities within the community, including talks and presentations to schools and many other special interest groups.

These presentations of sites are a vital communication tool and the Council works hard to ensure sites are maintained to the highest standards. It is pleasing to note that vandalism or abuse of these facilities is minimal and they remain well used.

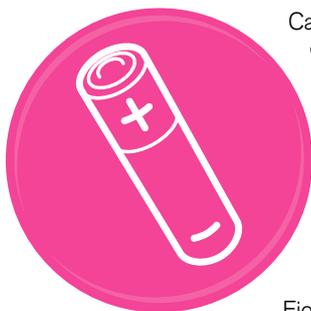
Patrick Frew, Cloughmills Community Action Team, commented:

"We are well aware of the importance of having this recycling facility within our community. It enables local residents to make choices and reduce their carbon footprint. We enjoy working with Ballymoney Borough Council to continue promoting the effective use of this site."

Declan Donnelly, Ballymoney Borough Council, added:

"Without the co-operation and goodwill of Dennis Moore and his staff at Patton's Bar, we would be unable to provide this Community Recycling Centre in Cloughmills. The fact that it is so well used signals the desire of site users to play their role in ensuring a more sustainable community."

Schools charged for battery recycling



Five schools and the Northern Regional College have shown their commitment to helping the environment by becoming the first schools and college in the Coleraine Borough Council area to take on the battery recycling challenge.

Castleroe Primary, Sandelford Special, Ballyhackett Primary (Castlerock), Coleraine Academical Institution and Coleraine High schools and the Northern Regional College in Coleraine, are determined to reduce waste and help the environment.

Castleroe Primary School was first off the mark in requesting a battery box from the Council's Recycling Officer. Provided by ERP - the company contracted to recycle batteries in Northern Ireland - the red and white battery boxes are provided and emptied free of charge to schools in the Coleraine Borough.

Fiona Watters, Recycling Officer, Coleraine Borough Council, explains:

"Only 5% of the UK's batteries are recycled. We want to change this. That's why we are asking schools to take on the battery recycling challenge. By putting battery recycling boxes in schools, we are making recycling easier and more convenient for school staff and parents, and hope to increase the number of batteries recycled."

All schools in the Coleraine Borough have been invited to take part, so it is hoped more will join in soon. Battery boxes are available in Cloonavin (Council HQ), Coleraine Leisure Centre (Railway Road) and in many shops throughout the Coleraine Borough Council area for people to deposit their used batteries for recycling.

Fiona added:

"Battery recycling is easy and free to do. Recycling our batteries means we are saving precious resources to be used again and sending less waste to landfill. Battery recycling is good for us and good for the environment."

To receive a battery box for your school, please contact Fiona Watters, Waste & Recycling Officer, on 028 7034 7272 or email fiona.watters@colerainebc.gov.uk or visit www.colerainebc.gov.uk/recycle

Pictured with their new battery box are pupils from Castleroe Primary School with Principal, Mrs McConaghie, and Rose Watson, School Secretary.



Message in a bottle



Pupils from Dunseverick Primary School celebrate being awarded the Eco-Schools Green Flag outside the greenhouse at their school

The unusual structure at the front of Dunseverick Primary School in the Moyle District Council area often inspires lots of questions, but the school is very proud to confirm that it is, indeed, a greenhouse. What's more, the school believes it is the "greenest greenhouse" you will ever see.

Dunseverick Primary, situated about two miles from the World Heritage Site at the Giant's Causeway, was proud to have been awarded its third Green Flag in the Eco-Schools scheme recently.

Throughout the last decade the school has worked its way through the scheme, constantly looking for "green" learning opportunities for its pupils. Having won

the green flag and a national competition to have a Wind Turbine installed, staff and pupils at the school found themselves looking for the next step in their quest to improve the environment.

The school's Eco Committee expressed an interest in a greenhouse and some research led to a design for a greenhouse made out of empty plastic bottles.

School Principal, Mr Peter Henry, takes up the story:

"Our school is not only blessed with a wonderful location but we are also blessed to be part of a community who see Dunseverick Primary School as their school. Support from parents and local residents is always excellent.

"Once again a parent came to the rescue and, working in a distribution company, arranged sponsorship in the form of 1,500

2-litre bottles of water. This not only enhanced our Healthy Lifestyle focus but these bottles of water were sold to the parents for very little, just enough to fund the other build materials. The arrangement was that the 'empties' would be returned to school.

"So how do you turn a mountain of empty bottles into a greenhouse? You make columns of plastic by threading the bottles onto bamboo canes. Then you create walls of plastic by attaching the columns onto a timber frame.

"You then assemble the greenhouse from the plastic bottle walls. The result is a wonderful eco-friendly greenhouse which allows the children to plant, transplant, thin and then plant out a wide variety of vegetables and flowers.

"This has been a super learning experience for the children and, although the greenhouse building project is complete, the learning continues and will continue for years to come. We have our third green flag, Mrs McAllister was runner up in Green Teacher of the Year, we have been Best Kept School at a number of levels in the last four years and we look forward to seeing further rewards for our labours."



Residents rubber-stamp reward scheme

An innovative new rewards scheme introduced by Magherafelt District Council in the summer to boost recycling rates has proved a major hit with residents.

The initiative is based on a simple reward card, with locals collecting stamps for recycling or composting at any of the Council's four recycling centres, in Magherafelt, Maghera, Draperstown and Castledawson.

Each day a resident visits one of the sites to recycle or compost they can claim a stamp,

and once they have acquired the required number of stamps they can claim their reward.

With over 2,000 cards having been issued since the scheme's inception, John Murtagh, Environmental Projects Officer for Magherafelt District Council, feels the scheme has been a huge success.

"All the feed back from local residents has been extremely positive. It lets them know that the Council appreciates the efforts that they are making to recycle," he said.

"It's important that they know the Council values their contribution and needs their continued support if we are to meet our recycling targets. Less than 15 years ago Magherafelt District Council recycled less than 5% of its waste - today we are

recycling 50%. That has only been possible with the Council and the residents working together in partnership."

For 15 stamps residents can claim a reusable garden grass bag, for 30 stamps they can have a reusable jute shopping bag and for 45 stamps they get a reusable garden grass bag full of recycled compost.

For more information on the scheme or any of the recycling initiatives operating in the Magherafelt District Council area, contact John Murtagh on john.murtagh@magherafelt.gov.uk or telephone 028 7939 7979.



Minister cooks up a storm for new website

Environment Minister Edwin Poots cooked up a storm recently as he launched a new interactive website designed to reduce food waste, save money and help the environment.

The Love Food Hate Waste Northern Ireland campaign website, www.lovefoodhatewaste.org, includes a range of practical tips and 170 recipes on how to reduce food waste and reduce the £12bn which the UK spends every year buying and then throwing away good food.

Mr Poots said: "I find it staggering that in the UK people throw away 8.3 million tonnes of food and drink every year and less than a fifth of this is truly unavoidable. This costs the average family £680 a year which equates to £50 per month.

"This is not taking in to account the environmental cost. Throwing away food that could have been eaten is responsible for the equivalent of 20 million tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions every year. This is the same greenhouse gas effect as emitted by one in four cars on UK roads.

"Particularly in the current economic climate I think most people would welcome a reduction in their monthly food bill just by rethinking their food waste. This campaign seeks to assist and our new interactive website is packed full of practical hints and tips to help cut back on food waste as well as delicious recipes using leftovers.



Environment Minister Edwin Poots with BBC chef Paula McIntyre cooking up a delicious Sausage Risotto made from typical family leftovers at the EcoShow, held in October 2010

"I encourage everyone to visit www.lovefoodhatewaste.org. You can add your voice to the campaign by sharing your tips and recipes online so as well as picking up some helpful hints yourself, you can help others reduce food waste and save money too."

Resident chef on BBC Radio Ulster's Saturday Magazine Show, Paula McIntyre, has also added her voice to the campaign. She said:

"All kitchen chefs are passionate about waste. There's no excuse for it really. The Love Food Hate Waste Northern Ireland website is brilliant - very user-friendly with great recipes."

Minister Poots put his culinary skills to the test when he and Paula cooked up a delicious sausage risotto made from typical family leftovers at the recent EcoShow, held to help launch the new website.

For more information or to add your voice to the Love Food Hate Waste NI campaign log on to www.lovefoodhatewaste.org.



www.lovefoodhatewaste.org



Success for Jade in talking rubbish

An 11-year-old pupil from Limavady defeated competition from across the country to grasp the Northern Ireland title of Environmental Youth Speaker of the Year in the junior section.

Jade Murray, a Limavady Central P7 pupil, took the title after a spectacular performance and relay of her speech, entitled 'My rubbish - is it a waste or a resource?' The bubbly 11-year-old wowed

judges to claim victory over entrants from every council area in Northern Ireland.

Jade represented Limavady and the North West in the competition finals which were held at Magherafelt District Council offices.

Environmental Youth Speak is an annual public speaking competition open to pupils throughout Northern Ireland. It encourages environmental awareness amongst young people, giving them the opportunity to research and debate current environmental issues.

In line with the National Curriculum, councils are committed to encouraging the development of young citizens and building awareness of environmental sustainability.

District councils are divided into three regional Waste Management Groups, North West (North West Region Waste

Management), arc21 (Eastern Region) and SWaMP2008 (Southern Waste Management Partnership).

The well-spoken 11-year-old gave her speech in front of Minister for the Environment Edwin Poots, UTV's Frank Mitchell, who presented the event, and an audience of over 200 guests.



KIDS CREATE A MONSTER



Mayor of Coleraine, Councillor Norman Hillis, craft tutor Sue Taylor, Fiona Watters, Coleraine Borough Council's Waste & Recycling Officer, and the young people who took part in Coleraine Borough Council's "Waste... we have created a monster" workshop

Young people throughout the North West region 'created a monster' in the run-up to this year's Banks of the Foyle Halloween Carnival.

As part of the Department of the Environment's Rethink Waste campaign, the 'Waste ...we have created a monster' project encouraged people to consider using what they already had at home, or to use waste materials, to create unique Halloween costumes.

The project saw Coleraine Borough Council, Derry City Council and Moyle District Council host workshops, in conjunction with the DOE, to which people were encouraged to bring their old clothes and get advice on how to revamp them into Halloween costumes. The workshops took place in Cloonavin, Cathedral Youth Club and The Ferry Terminal, Ballycastle, respectively.

Speaking before Halloween, Fiona Watters, Waste and Recycling Officer, Coleraine Borough Council, said:

"The aim of the workshop is for children to have fun, be creative and make a Halloween costume from unwanted clothes. I want people to think differently about waste and hope this is one way to encourage children and their families to think about buying clothes from our local charity shops.

"Charity shops can be a haven of guilt-free shopping with the added bonus of knowing you are helping a worthy local cause - good reasons to visit your local shop to see what's on offer!"

Sharon Meenan, from Derry City Council's North West Carnival Initiative, also speaking before Halloween, said:

"Halloween is a great opportunity to get creative with scrap fabrics, accessories, cardboard and just about anything else you have lying around the house – and that's what the 'Waste ... we have created a monster' campaign is all about.

"This project is not only great fun for the kids involved but also has a really important and positive message about recycling. We live in an increasingly disposable society, and you have to ask, where's the fun in buying a costume that everyone else has and that you'll throw away after one night, when you can make your own unique creation?"

Janice Dunlop, from Moyle District Council's Recycling Team, stated:

"This is the first time a Halloween Costume Workshop has been held in the Moyle District Council area and it provided us all with lots of new ideas on how to recycle

and revamp old clothes into Halloween costumes.

"The event proved to be very successful and was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended, children and adults alike. Thanks to all the funders and those who helped make this an event to remember."

The Department of the Environment's Rethink Waste campaign aims to help raise awareness, encourage best practice and achieve behavioural change at home, at work, at school and in the community in order to reduce the amount of waste we send to landfill.

Owen Lyttle, from DOE's Rethink Waste campaign, said:

"Halloween can typically be a time when a lot of waste is created. The 'Waste... we have created a monster' campaign highlights simple but effective ways to rethink your Halloween waste such as making costumes from old clothes, or choosing treats with less packaging."



The tutor, staff and young people who took part in Moyle District Council's 'Waste... We have created a monster' Halloween workshop



The young people who took part in Derry City Council's 'Waste... we have created a monster' workshop

Investing in implementing Waste Management plan

In 2002 the North West as a region recycled only 4% of its materials – today that figure stands at a combined recycling rate of 35%.

This is a major improvement and a sure sign that the region is becoming more aware of the importance of recycling and responding to the North West Region Waste Management Group's call to think more carefully about the environment and how you can help improve it.

Indeed, Defra's '2009 Survey of public attitudes and behaviours towards the environment' revealed that 91% of people in the UK prefer to recycle items rather than throw them away – up from 70% when the question was asked in 2007.

In this edition of Waste Watch, we thought we would take a look at the factors which have been involved in producing this significant shift in public attitudes towards recycling.

There is no doubt that the education and awareness initiatives funded by the NWRWMG member councils has been a key factor, while the economic recession will also have played its part in changing attitudes and making people think a lot more carefully about what they are consuming and throwing out.

However, one of the biggest reasons for the vast improvement in recycling rates is the £45m+ which the NWRWMG's councils have invested in facilities and infrastructure in implementing the Waste Management Plan over the last eight years.

This investment has meant that recycling outlets are now much more accessible for the North West public, making it much



easier and more convenient for residents to get involved in the recycling effort.

Back in 2002, householders could only recycle materials by bringing them to House Waste & Recycling Centres and bring banks. In 2004, however, the NWRWMG initiated a fortnightly kerbside recycling programme and today over 129,000 households can avail of the service that provides for a range of materials that can be recycled.

As well as the kerbside recycling programme, the Group has invested in upgrading and increasing the number of the region's Household Waste and Recycling Centres and bring banks. In 2004 the North West had 37 of these facilities, while across the area today there are 109.

In addition, the seven councils in the Group have distributed over 32,000 home composting units, while several councils provide kerbside collection of garden waste.

The graphs on page 14 illustrate the great strides the North West region has made in its recycling effort. The challenge now, for both the NWRWMG and you, the public, is to continue the good work and ensure that recycling rates continue to improve.



The NWRWMG has invested £45m+ in facilities and infrastructure in the last eight years.

www.northwestwaste.org.uk

recycle for your community



What each council's blue bin CAN & CAN'T take

COUNCIL	Aerosols	Cartons	Food Tins & Drink Cans	Large Tins	Mixed Paper & Card	Plastic Bottles & Plastic Food Containers	Textiles	Small Electrical appliances
Ballymoney	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Coleraine	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Derry City	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Limavady	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Magherafelt	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Moyle	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Strabane	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No



Please contact your local authority if you have any questions (details on page 16).

Blue Bins **CANNOT** take

- X Plastic raw meat trays (trays that have raw chicken, raw beef, raw pork or raw fish)
 - X Shredded paper
 - X Nappies
 - X Tissues
 - X T.V.s, microwaves, computer monitors (nothing with glass)
 - X General rubbish, plastic bags or food waste
 - X Glass
 - X Continental quilts
- Please ensure materials are empty, washed out and clean. For small appliances, nothing larger than a domestic toaster. For textiles, bring to your nearest charity collection point or put in your blue bin.

STAT Attack

As most of you will be aware, there are two main facets to the NWRWMG's approach to waste management.

One is overseeing the £500m public procurement exercise to deliver new waste management facilities for the area. More details of this project, one of the largest public procurement exercises ever undertaken in the North West, are provided on page 15.

The other major focus of the Group's work is the promotion of the 3Rs principle – we are constantly striving to encourage people to 'reduce, reuse and recycle' as many materials as possible.

You, the public, obviously have a major role to play in this – and recent statistics prove that the you are taking the 3Rs message on board.

As the graphs and table illustrate, the recycling rate for the area is increasing, the overall amount of waste being produced is falling and the landfill diversion targets are being met.

The annual Household Recycling and Composting Rate for the seven NWRWMG member councils increased from **34.2%** of household waste arisings in **2008/9 to 35.0% in 2009/10**, while the Municipal Recycling and Composting Rate has increased from **31.6% in 2008/9 to 32.6% in 2009/10**.

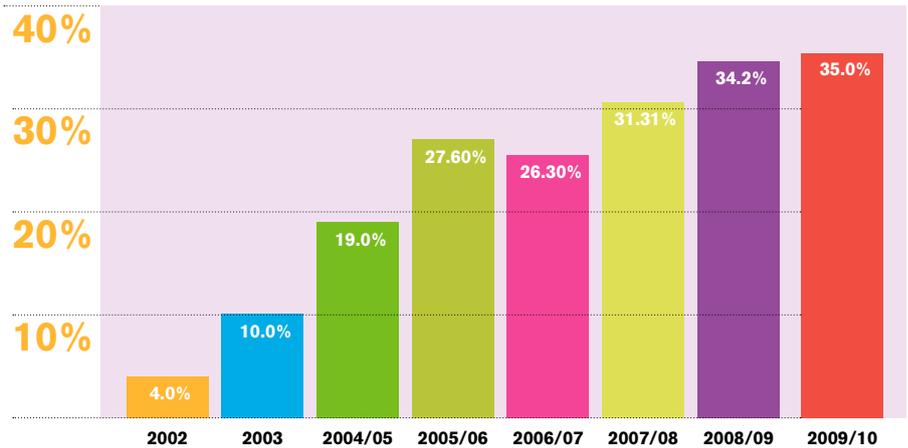
The figures also show that the amount of biodegradable municipal waste sent to landfill in the NWRWMG area was well within its allowance, while the amount of household waste collected per household fell from 1.28 tonnes in 2008/9 to 1.27 tonnes in 2009/10.

These are great strides and the North West public are to be commended for their efforts – but it's absolutely vital that everyone keeps up the good work and realises their responsibility to view waste as a potential resource rather than an unwanted by-product.

www.northwestwaste.org.uk



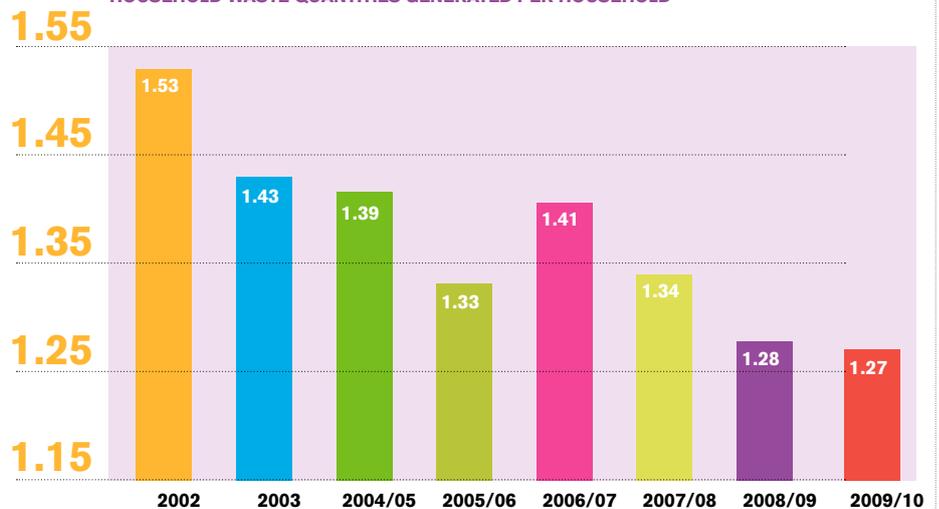
HOUSEHOLD WASTE RECYCLED & COMPOSTED AS A PERCENTAGE OF HOUSEHOLD WASTE ARISING



BMW = BIODEGRADABLE MUNICIPAL WASTE

YEAR	*BMW land Filled	BMW Allowance	Target Met
2005/06	95,480	128,839	✓
2006/07	104,257	123,745	✓
2007/08	98,763	121,306	✓
2008/09	89,558	118,847	✓
2009/10	74,958	89,283	✓

HOUSEHOLD WASTE QUANTITIES GENERATED PER HOUSEHOLD



PERCENTAGE OF MUNICIPAL WASTE SENT FOR RECYCLING AND COMPOSTING AS A PERCENTAGE OF THE TOTAL MUNICIPAL WASTE ARISING



Bidders shortlist down to final two

While the work of the NWRWMG and the North West public in adhering to the 3Rs of Reduce, Reuse and Recycle is vitally important and proving successful, there is, unfortunately, some waste that simply cannot be recycled.



The waste that is left in your black wheelie bin because it cannot be recycled or composted is called residual municipal waste. It is the NWRWMG's responsibility to deliver the most environmentally-friendly and cost-effective solution for dealing with this waste.

Until now the most common method of dealing with unrecyclable waste has been to send it to landfill sites but this has got to change. Due to severe EU restrictions, as well as growing environmental factors, the North West as a region – and Northern Ireland as a whole – must dramatically reduce its reliance on landfill.

To this end, the NWRWMG has been co-ordinating a £500m public procurement exercise – one of the biggest the region has seen – to deliver new waste management facilities for the area which will reduce the environmental impact of waste and ensure the region meets European Union waste targets.

The Residual Waste Treatment Project was launched in February 2009 and the two bidders through to the final stage of the process were announced recently. The shortlisted bidders are waste specialists Greenstar Holdings Ltd and the Brickkiln / Shanks / Sisk Consortium.

The companies have put forward detailed proposals on their plans to develop a combination of Mechanical Biological Treatment (MBT) and Energy Recovery technologies to treat waste which can't be recycled. The bidders have now been invited to their final Competitive Dialogue sessions and will shortly be required to submit Final Tenders.

Councillor Evelyne Robinson, NWRWMG Chairman, said:

"This is one of the largest and most complex procurement projects ever undertaken in the North West and will radically modernise and improve the region's waste management effort.

"The technologies employed at the new waste facilities will bring the North West in to line with those European countries at the forefront in dealing with unrecyclable waste and ensure we avoid potentially severe EU fines for failing to reduce our reliance on landfill.

"The NWRWMG has carefully managed the procurement process since it was launched at the start of last year, closely scrutinising each bid at every stage of the process to ensure we can achieve the most economically advantageous waste management solution for the region.

"We are pleased with the calibre of the final two solutions and look forward to announcing the preferred bidder later in 2011, with the new waste facilities set to be operational before the end of 2014."

The European Landfill Directive requires that by 2020 the amount of material being sent to landfill must be reduced to just 35% of 1995 levels. NWRWMG is also seeking to raise recycling and composting rates throughout the region from the current level of 35% to at least 50%, also by 2020.



TECHNICAL TALK

Ok, so you know that MBT and Energy Recovery plants are set to be developed in the North West, but what exactly are these new technologies and how do they work. Here Waste Watch attempts to answer the key questions surrounding the forthcoming waste management facilities.

What is MBT?

Mechanical Biological Treatment is a term used to describe a group of technologies that deal with residual municipal waste. When waste goes to a MBT facility, recyclable or reusable material will be extracted from it by a mechanical process, with the waste then subjected to a further treatment to produce a more biologically stable material.

How does the MBT process work?

As the name suggests, there are two main stages – a mechanical stage and a

biological stage. The mechanical stage has two main roles, breaking down the waste into smaller parts (e.g. by shredding) and removing some recyclable material. During the biological stage, the waste will either be composted or digested, usually in an enclosed system.

What is Energy Recovery?

Energy Recovery is a waste management method which treats residual municipal waste in such a way that energy is recovered in the form of heat and/or electricity. There are a number of Energy Recovery technologies available, including mass incineration, gasification, pyrolysis and the use of cement kilns – but the NWRWMG has decided mass incineration is not acceptable for the region.

How does the Energy Recovery process work?

Gasification is used to recover energy from residual waste. Gasification uses small amounts of oxygen to treat waste in such a way that useful energy is produced, in the form of electricity and heat. Gasification

involves the partial oxidation of a substance. This means that oxygen is added but the amounts are not sufficient to allow complete oxidation or full combustion to occur. The process's main product is a syngas, which is used to drive turbines or gas engines to produce electricity. The other main product is a solid residue of non-combustible materials (ash) which contains relatively little carbon.

Pyrolysis is a similar process to gasification but without the use of any oxygen rather than restricted oxygen, as in gasification. In the cement kiln process, the use of fossil fuels is displaced and that energy is saved.

Where will the facilities be located?

It is extremely important that the ideal site or sites are found. To help in this process, we asked the NWRWMG's seven constituent councils and the public and private sectors to suggest potential sites. Bidders may use the NWRWMG sites or their own sites in their bids. Sites are then evaluated as part of the overall bid evaluation process.

ACTIVITY SECTION

It's important that young people don't assume that contributing to the waste management effort in their area can be left to the adults in the family. Absolutely not! You, too, can play your part whether you are just starting primary school or coming to the end of your school career. The NWRWMG is calling on you to get involved and do whatever you can to help reduce, reuse and recycle as many materials from your house as possible. So, for some fun and to help get you thinking about what materials can be recycled, why not have a go at our Sudoku game below. Most of you will be used to playing Sudoku with numbers – this is your opportunity to play Recovery Sudoku, using symbols instead of numbers. The same rules apply – every row, column and mini-grid must contain all six symbols, but only once each.



Sudoku

Once you have finished, you can check if you are correct by logging on to our website, www.northwestwaste.org, where we have provided the correct final grid for you. But only check that when you have tried your best to complete the grid yourself. **Good luck!**



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