

AUTUMN 2011

# waste Watch

 North West Region  
Waste Management Group



 **recycle**  
compost at home

# Welcome

On behalf of the North West Region Waste Management Group (NWRWMG) I would like to welcome you to the fourth edition of Waste Watch.

After its launch in February 2009, the NWRWMG's £500m public procurement exercise, to deliver new waste management facilities for the region, is nearing completion. The final bid has been submitted which puts forward plans to develop a combination of Mechanical Biological Treatment (MBT) and Energy Recovery technologies; non recycled waste will, of course, be treated by these technologies. The successful bidder will be announced later this year; the new facilities are set to be operational before the end of 2014.

More detailed explanations of the technologies involved are provided on page 15 of this magazine; the most important aspect of the introduction of the new waste management facilities, for you, is that they are structured to provide the region with an environmentally-friendly, yet cost-effective waste solution. The technologies are tried and tested throughout Europe and should also ensure that the region reduces its reliance on landfill and avoids potentially severe EU fines.

While the procurement exercise will greatly modernise the current systems used to deal with waste within the region, householders will continue to play a key role in the management of waste. The NWRWMG applauds the continued efforts of householders and looks forward to continuing this partnership. It is paramount that householders throughout the North West region continue to adopt the 3Rs principle of 'reduce, reuse and recycle'.

The following pages will provide an insight into the continuing determination of the NWRWMG's Joint Committee and constituent councils to ensure that our recycling rates will rise; we need to send fewer materials to landfill and make certain that the amount of waste produced continues to fall.

Thank you for taking the time to read Waste Watch; you may wish to use the contact details on the back page to pose questions or seek further information.

Chairman,  
Cllr Evelyn Robinson



# waste watch

North West Region  
Waste Management Group

AT A  
GLANCE



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**COMPOST CENTRAL:** We provide a detailed guide to home composting, explaining how to recycle organic material such as kitchen scraps and garden waste into a dark, crumbly soil conditioner.



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**COUNCIL CATCH-UP:** A round-up of work being carried out by the NWRWMG's member councils and residents, from the introduction of a new kerbside wheelie bin collection in Moyle to turning trash into treasure in Limavady.



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**BLUE BIN DOS AND DON'TS:** Forgotten what materials can and cannot go into your blue recycling bin? Fear not, as our reminder will tell you all you need to know.

## NWRWMG Joint Committee 2011/12 Councillors

**Ballymoney Borough Council**  
Alderman Cecil Cousley  
Councillor Evelyne Robinson

**Coleraine Borough Council**  
Councillor William King  
Councillor William McCandless

**Derry City Council**  
Councillor Michael Cooper  
Councillor Shaun Gallagher

**Limavady Borough Council**  
Alderman Jack Rankin  
Alderman Michael Coyle

**Magherafelt District Council**  
Councillor Sean McPeake  
Councillor Kathleen Lagan

**Moyle District Council**  
Councillor Catherine McCambridge  
Councillor Robert McIlroy

**Strabane District Council**  
Councillor Kieran McGuire  
Councillor Jay McCauley



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# Management Plan

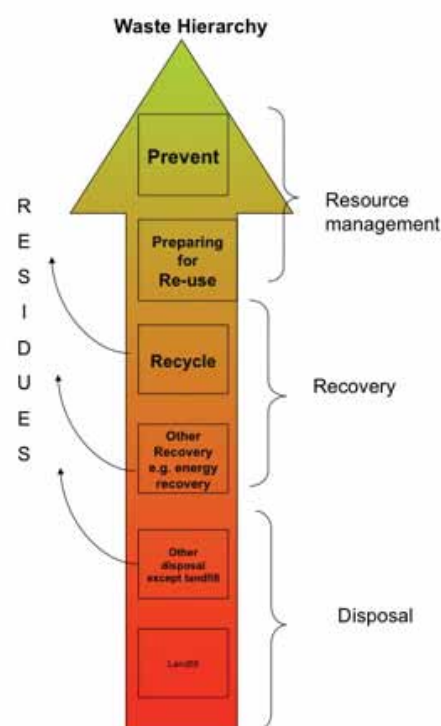
**The NWRWMG was formed in 1999, when it was decided by the seven councils involved that a joint approach would be the most effective method of deciding how best to deal with waste in the area.**

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.







# A closer look at composting



## Composting is an inexpensive and natural process that transforms your kitchen and garden waste into an invaluable and nutrient-rich food for your garden.

Five of the North West Region Waste Management Group councils recently took receipt of and delivered 40,000 home composters to householders, thanks to funding from the Department of the Environment's Rethink Waste Fund. The aim of the grant is to increase the recycling rate and optimise diversion of green waste from landfill.

Composting is a term we hear a lot about, particular at this time of the year, so we thought it would be useful to take a closer look at the process, examining what exactly it entails, why you should do it, how to do it and, finally, how to use it.

### What is composting?

Composting is nature's way of recycling. As kitchen and garden waste decays it breaks down into a dark and crumbly soil – called compost – which when spread on your garden acts as a natural fertiliser for plants and flowers.

The waste is broken down by the work of a thousand creatures – bacteria, fungi, beetles and worms – which munch their way through the material to biodegrade it into compost. Compost is a soil-improver, which looks like rich, dark soil. You can make compost in your garden.

By making a compost heap you can improve your garden by digging into the soil to improve the soil texture and quality, help retain moisture around plants and discourage weeds. It saves you from buying peat and fertilizer and helps reduce disposal costs for waste.

For further information on composting visit  
[www.recyclenow.com/compost](http://www.recyclenow.com/compost)  
[www.rethinkwasteni.org](http://www.rethinkwasteni.org)

### Why make compost?

Making compost helps the environment by recycling and sending less waste to landfill sites. Compost helps you to grow healthy plants by improving soil condition through adding water and nutrients.

#### Benefits for the environment:

Doing your bit to reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill by composting at home can save powerful global warming gases equivalent to:

- the CO<sub>2</sub> your kettle produces annually; or
- what your washing machine produces in three months; or
- not watching television for three months

#### Benefits for your garden:

Your compost is a nutrient-rich food product for your garden and will help:

- improve soil structure and condition
- maintain moisture levels
- keep your soil's pH balance in check; and
- suppress plant disease

### Getting the right mix

The key to good compost lies in getting the mix right – you need to keep your Greens and Browns properly balanced. If your compost is too wet, add more Browns (wood clippings, newspaper, toilet and kitchen roll, garden pruning, dry leaves, twigs, straw, wool etc.) If it's too dry then you need to add more Greens. Making sure there is enough air is also important – adding scrunched up bits of cardboard is a simple way to create air pockets that will keep your compost healthy. Air can also be added by mixing the contents. After approximately six to nine months your finished compost will be ready.

### Using your Compost

So, you have followed the guide and have successfully created your compost. What's the next step – how do you put your compost to good use?

Finished compost is a dark brown, almost black soil-like layer that you'll find at the bottom of your bin. It has a spongy texture and is rich in nutrients. Some compost bins have a small hatch at the bottom that you can remove to get at the finished product, but sometimes it's even easier to lift the bin or to tip it over to get at your compost.

Spreading the finished compost into your flowerbeds greatly improves soil quality by helping it retain moisture and suppressing weeds. Composting is the easiest way to make your garden more beautiful.



# Fill this up...



# ...not this



At least  
**30%** of your  
household  
bin could  
be composted  
at home

Do your bit to reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill and transform your kitchen and garden waste into a valuable and nutrient rich food for your garden.

 **recycle**  
compost at home



# Limavady makes treasure out of trash



The event was a huge success, with over £9,200 raised for the very worthy cause and 15 of those who took part doing so with bikes collected as 'waste'. The bikes collected for this event, plus another 30 collected afterwards, have all now been passed on to the Bike Aid for Africa charity.

John McCarron, from Limavady Borough Council, explained:

**"Our 'waste' bikes had some minor repairs carried out prior to departure for Africa. Now given a second life, they have all been put to good use by doctors, nurses, development workers and villagers."**

"Access to transport is vital for health and development workers in the ongoing battle to alleviate poverty. So this initiative not only diverted useful resources from landfill whilst raising funds for NI Children's Hospice, but also provided vital transport and enjoyment for those less well off than ourselves. Limavady's 'trash' definitely was treasure for a lot of others."

**Thanks to the huge success of a recent sponsored cycle, Limavady Borough Council's Technical Services Department has proved true the old adage that 'one person's trash is another person's treasure'.**

As reported in the previous edition of Waste Watch, the council organised an event to raise vital funds for the Northern Ireland Children's Hospice, with council staff not only collecting bicycles at recycling centres presented as 'waste', but also visiting homes in the borough to collect unwanted bikes and parts of bikes.

## Kerbside success for Moyle

**Moyle District Council has recently introduced a new kerbside wheelie bin collection for grass cuttings, leaves, twigs, plants, flowers, weeds, shrubs and hedge prunings.**

This new initiative was introduced to the Moyle area to help increase the council's overall recycling targets and reduce landfill waste. Moyle District Council was successful in obtaining funding from the Department of the Environment through its Rethink Waste Fund for a new 26-tonne bin lorry and 5,000 brown wheelie bins.

The brown wheelie bins have been distributed and the service commenced on 11th April, 2011, producing a great response from residents. All of the green waste is being processed into compost at Coleraine Borough Council's site at Letterloan.

An additional 260 tonnes of green waste has been collected since the start of the service from Moyle DC residents – it has proved to be a great success.





## Ballymoney Rethinks Waste

**Ballymoney Borough Council has successfully obtained funding for four schemes through the Department of the Environment's Rethink Waste campaign to provide new facilities and develop an awareness of the need to reduce and reuse as well as recycle.**

The council, which is constantly striving to increase and improve the range of waste management options for residents, has also assisted Cloughmills Community Action Team in obtaining funding for a food waste project through Rethink Waste.

The funding obtained will be invested in the following projects:

- Installation of concrete wall units at Crosstagherty Waste Handling & Transfer Facility to enable bulking up of timber. There are now dedicated

skips at Knock Road and Crosstagherty Household Recycling Centres for the collection of timber. Since the inception of this service in November 2010, in excess of 350 tonnes of timber have been diverted from landfill.

- Installation of a static compactor for food and bagged waste at Crosstagherty Household Recycling Centre. This enables the useful separation of food waste from other household items which can then be processed for recycling.
- New signage and branding across all council recycling centres. The former civic amenity sites are now rebranded as household recycling centres, highlighting the growing emphasis on waste separation and recycling. All village and supermarket recycling centres also have new signage.
- A communications campaign raising the profile of reducing and reusing waste, rather than simply recycling waste generated. Through this, the council purchased advertising panels for its refuse collection vehicles to promote the enhanced blue bin service and the 3Rs message of reduce, reuse, recycle. Also purchased were display materials for educational work with schools and community groups, and two newspaper advertisements outlining all the waste management options available across the borough.

Councillor Evelyne Robinson, Chair of the NWRWMG and Environmental Services Committee, with Declan Donnelly, Recycling and Education Officer at Ballymoney Borough Council

In addition, Ballymoney Borough Council is collaborating with Cloughmills Community Action Team under the 'Incredible Edible Cloughmills' umbrella on a food waste project.

Key elements of the initiative include display materials such as pop up banners and car stickers, workshops with schools on 'waste free lunches' and development of the website, [www.incredibleediblecloughmills.eu](http://www.incredibleediblecloughmills.eu), which showcases the project and its activities. These projects all represent efforts being made to assist borough residents to 'rethink waste'.

Councillor Evelyne Robinson, Chair of the North West Region Waste Management Group, said:

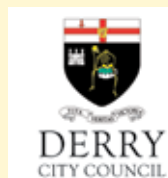
"We can no longer sustain a 'one skip fits all' waste solution. Waste can contain many useful materials and as householders we should consider how we could reduce the amount of waste in the home, or indeed what we could do with it, rather than putting it in a bin.

"We now have facilities for managing waste rather than simply disposing of it. We greatly appreciate the cooperation of all our householders as we try to reduce the amount of waste we bury. You now have more choices than ever and can recycle at home or at one of our recycling centres."

For more information on waste in Ballymoney, log on to [www.ballymoney.gov.uk](http://www.ballymoney.gov.uk) or telephone 028 2766 0257.



# Council makes composting call



Pupils from Belmont House show how they compost their fruit scraps and use the compost for their 'Grow Your Own' project

**A Derry City Council initiative aimed at encouraging more people to compost earlier this year has seen the delivery of free home compost units to over 15,000 homes across the council area.**

The scheme was part of a Department of the Environment-funded Rethink Waste Fund project for councils to increase the diversion of household waste from landfill through recycling and reuse. The roll-out of the compost bins is also a key part of the council's Waste Plan, linking in with the work being done by the North West Region Waste Management Group, which was involved in making the application for funding.

To raise the profile of composting and to encourage more people to take part, the campaign highlighted a range of local initiatives which are already established and which have helped households make composting part of their daily lives.

Pupils from Belmont House School showed the rest of the city the way forward by using food scraps to make compost for their

'Grow Your Own' project. As a result they are now enjoying the benefits of home-grown fruit and vegetables thanks to their composting initiative.

Marion Farrell, Outreach teacher at the school, explained how the pupils came to become involved in making compost and as a result have also become enthusiastic gardeners.

"Belmont House has a sustainability plan and what we are looking at is building all of our skills, both pupils' and teachers', and part of that is growing our own food. Last year we started off by making compost and growing our own vegetables and we have enjoyed eating them," she said.

"The children love it. They love the gardening on Friday afternoons. All winter they've been asking when they are going

to garden again - they couldn't wait to get back to the gardening."

Julie Hannaway, Derry City Council's Waste and Recycling Officer, believes the campaign was a great success, saying:

"We received a fantastic reaction to the initiative, demonstrating people's increased awareness and willingness to improve their local environment. Council's Waste Plan outlines its commitment to diverting significant volumes of 'green' biodegradable municipal waste away from landfill in consideration of the Landfill Directive and Emissions Directive."

Christine Doherty, Derry City Council's Biodiversity Officer, welcomed the composting initiative as a positive step towards increasing local people's awareness of how they can do one thing to help their local environment and biodiversity. She said:

"Amateur gardeners account for nearly 70% of peat used in horticulture in the UK, but many do not understand the extensive damage that the peat extraction process causes. Peat bogs are important carbon sinks, but peat extraction releases greenhouse gases, which contributes to climate change. By home composting, people can reduce greenhouse gas emissions, the amount of waste sent to landfill sites and protect bogs for local wildlife. This Derry City Council initiative is an excellent opportunity for everyone to pledge to turn a new leaf and to go peat-free, to make your own compost."

Resident gardening guru with BBC Radio Foyle, Gareth Austin, who is also a local Horticultural Lecturer with the North West Regional College (NWRC), also lent his support to the initiative, saying:

"Week one of any gardening course we teach in the NWRC involves how to make your own compost. There are no negatives to it, it's great for the garden and good for your plants - and remember, a healthy soil needs less fertiliser and less watering so it's good for your pocket too!"



BBC Radio Foyle gardening expert Gareth Austin was on hand to help the Mayor of Derry, Councillor Colum Eastwood, with his composting bin. Also pictured is Derry City Council Recycling Officer Julie Hannaway





# It's a glass act for Coleraine

**Coleraine Borough Council is pleased to announce that blue recycling bins now accept glass bottles and jars and the council is calling on the public to help boost recycling by putting empty and rinsed out glass bottles and jars in their blue bins.**

Due to new optical separation technology at the Glassdon recycling plant in Toomebridge, where Coleraine Borough's blue bin contents go for sorting, residents of the borough can recycle even more rubbish easily and conveniently from home.

Fiona Watters, Waste and Recycling Officer with Coleraine Borough Council, explained:

"We are delighted that blue bins can now take glass bottles and jars. This will make glass recycling easy and convenient for everyone. We are now able to put all colours of glass bottles and jars into the blue bin.



"This includes wine bottles, beer bottles, spirit bottles, jam jars, coffee jars, sauce bottles, sauce jars and medicine bottles. All we ask is that glass bottles and jars are empty and rinsed out. Lids can be left on. Broken bottles and jars are also acceptable in blue bins."

Coleraine Borough Council is keen to point out that some types of glass should NOT go into the blue bin. Glass that should not go into the blue bin includes Pyrex, cookware, plate glass, ceramics, pottery, windows, cups, saucers, plates, spectacles, lenses and crystal.

Fiona added:

"Glass collected in Coleraine Borough Council's blue bins will go back to remelt and be made into new glass bottles and jars. Now that we can all easily recycle glass from home, we hope that our recycling rate will increase by around 5%, giving us a recycling rate of about 42%. My thanks go to everyone for recycling their rubbish - each and every item of rubbish we recycle helps our environment."

For further information on recycling in Coleraine Borough Council area, please go to [www.colerainebc.gov.uk/](http://www.colerainebc.gov.uk/) recycle or phone the Recycling Helpline, Environmental Services, on 028 7034 7272.



# Strabane making a meal of it

**The Strabane public were treated to a cookery demonstration in the town centre recently which provided tips on how to be creative with leftovers and store cupboard ingredients - and help reduce levels of food waste.**

Organised by Strabane District Council in partnership with the Department of the Environment's Rethink Waste campaign, the event saw cookery demonstrator Wendy Donaldson from Food NI show how you can cook up quick, easy and innovative dishes which help people save money and help the environment.

The initiative was a part of the DoE's 'Love Food Hate Waste' campaign, which aims to raise awareness about the extent of food waste, thus reducing the amounts sent to landfill.

Yvonne Lecky, from Strabane District Council, said:

"In the UK £12 billion is spent every year in buying and throwing away good food, which costs the average family £680 a year - around £50 per month. The 'Love Food Hate Waste' campaign shows that by doing



John Minnis from the Department of the Environment's Rethink Waste NI, pictured with Yvonne Lecky, Strabane District Council's Recycling Officer, Michaela Boyle, Council Chairperson, Wendy Donaldson, Food NI chef, and Strabane residents, Olive Sillis and Rionach Uí Dhaimhín, at the Love Food Hate Waste cookery demonstration in Strabane

some easy, practical, everyday things in the home we can all waste less food.

"Overall the day was a great success and residents went home with a bundle of useful recipes as well as hints and tips on how they can reduce their waste, help the environment and save a packet."

For recipes using typical leftovers visit [www.lovefoodhatewaste.org](http://www.lovefoodhatewaste.org) and for additional tips and ideas on how to reduce, reuse and recycle log onto: [www.rethinkwaste.org](http://www.rethinkwaste.org)



## Magherafelt bins its glass

The recycling effort in the Magherafelt District Council area has received a major boost, with the introduction of new technology meaning blue bins can now accept mixed container glass for recycling.

This means that residents can now place glass bottles and jars of any colour, such as wine, beer or spirit bottles, jam pots and sauce jars, in their blue bins along with the existing materials.

The inclusion of mixed glass has been made possible by the introduction of new optical separation technology by the Council's recycling reprocessor, Glassdon Recycling, which separates the different colours of glass. All the glass recycled will go back to remelt which means that it is remade into new bottles and jars.

John Murtagh from Magherafelt District Council said:

"Magherafelt District Council hopes that this new initiative, which has the potential to increase the council's recycling rate by between 4% and 6%, will make glass recycling easier and more accessible as we strive to improve our already impressive recycling rate.

"In 2009/10 Magherafelt had the highest household recycling rate in Northern Ireland, recycling 50.04% of its household waste. With the introduction of glass to the blue bins and the introduction of other recycling initiatives for residual waste, the council hopes to push on towards 60% recycling, or perhaps more, in 2011/12."

Demonstrating the mixed container glass which their blue bins can now accept are, from left, Anne Forde, Chairperson of Magherafelt District Council, the Council's Environmental Projects Officer, John Murtagh, and Andrew Cassells, Director of Operations, Magherafelt District Council



## The Cycle of Life

Every day we as individuals engage in the manufacturing and consumption of products and materials in one way or another, whether it is the reams of paper to produce this magazine or computer used to type the text. This has a huge impact for all of us. Good waste management can significantly reduce impacts and 'Life Cycle' thinking, a concept developed by the European Commission's Institute for the Environment and Sustainability, can help in making informed choices.

Whilst consumption is necessary on a personal, social and economic level, empowering oneself/organisation to being an active citizen via Life Cycle thinking can have a lasting impact on our Global footprint. Life Cycle thinking considers the range of impacts throughout the life of a product. The crucial awareness is the knowledge in understanding the full implications of consumption and acting on these understandings.

Life Cycle thinking seeks to identify improvements to goods and services in the form of lower environmental impacts and reduced use of resources across all stages.

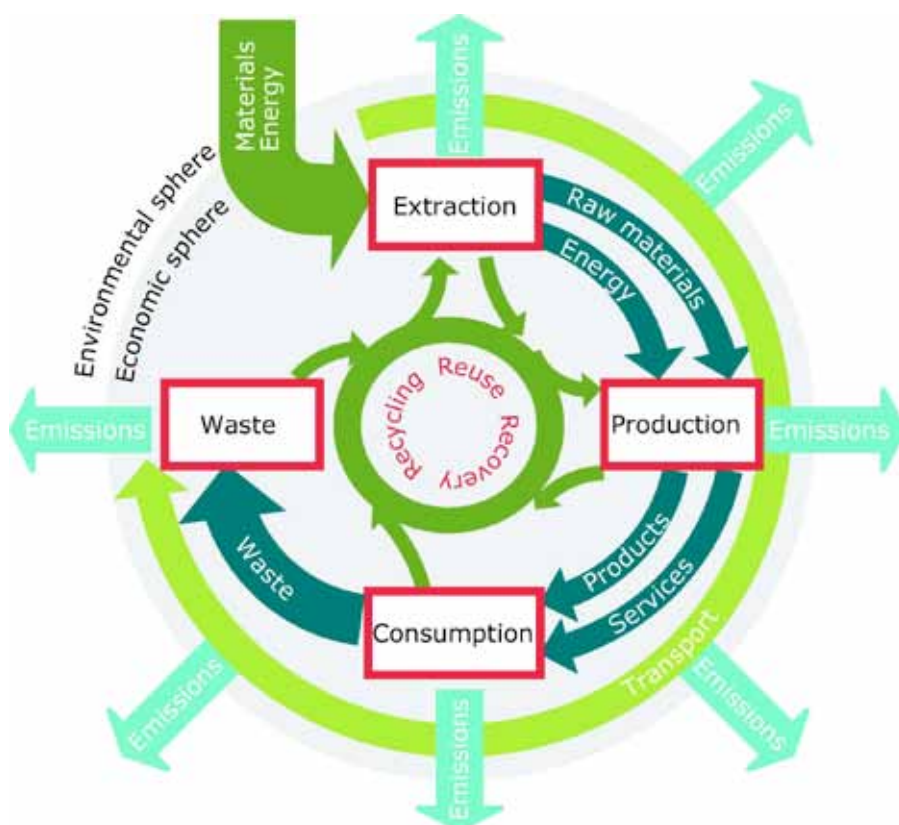
The Waste Framework Directive establishes the waste hierarchy. This sets an order of priority, starting with the preferred option of waste prevention, followed by preparing waste for reuse, recycling and energy recovery, with disposal (such as landfill) as the last resort.

Following the waste hierarchy will generally lead to the most resource efficient and environmentally sound choice. However, in some cases refining decisions within the

hierarchy or departing from it can lead to better environmental outcomes. The "best" choice is often influenced by specific local conditions and care needs to be taken not to simply shift environmental problems from one area to another. Decision-makers need to base their choices on firm factual evidence. Life Cycle thinking provides a sound approach to ensure that the best outcome for the environment can be identified and put in place.

Resource awareness can help develop new ways of thinking to discover the connections for consumers to the ecological networks of which they are part. A common first exercise is to link our own daily actions and consumption habits through carbon-footprint calculators, which give an indication of the scale of individual behaviour.

More information on Life Cycle thinking is available at: <http://lct.jrc.ec.europa.eu/>







Save cash & reduce trash. [rethinkwasteni.org](http://rethinkwasteni.org)



# WASTE LESS TO SAVE MORE

## Did you know that rethinking your waste to help the environment can also help you save money?

By reducing the amount of household waste that you and your family produce, less waste will be sent to landfill meaning that Northern Ireland could avoid facing huge European Union fines and increasing landfill tax costs.

These costs will ultimately add to your rates bills, making it very much in everyone's interest to reduce their waste output. Clothing is just one type of waste which could easily be reduced. For example, the average Northern Ireland household throws away a suitcase of clothes every year. Don't throw these out - try your hand at mending or re-designing, donate to friends, family or charity or even go along to a car boot sale - your old dress could be someone else's new party outfit!

Also, did you know that every year in the UK the average family throws away £680 in food waste alone, which equates to over £50 per month? Less than one-fifth of this is truly unavoidable and this money could have been saved if only this food had been better planned and stored.

To help families save money by saving waste, the Department of the Environment's Rethink Waste team has come up with a series of simple waste prevention tips or 'thoughts' to assist.

Have you thought, for example, about:

- Making a list before you go shopping to cut down on your food waste?
- Buying loose instead of packaged fruit and vegetables to reduce packaging waste?
- Bringing your own bags to the shop?
- Donating your old clothes and furniture?
- Reducing unwanted mail by signing up to Mail Preference Systems ([www.mpsonline.org.uk](http://www.mpsonline.org.uk))

There are lots more helpful hints and tips on how you can reduce, reuse and recycle on [rethinkwasteni.org](http://rethinkwasteni.org), [lovefoodhatewasteni.org](http://lovefoodhatewasteni.org) - or you can become a follower on facebook at [facebook.com/rethinkwasteni](http://facebook.com/rethinkwasteni).

Whilst you are there, why not test your waste habits on the DoE's new online calculator on [rethinkwasteni.org](http://rethinkwasteni.org)? Take the quick 10-question quiz to see how much waste you contribute and if you are a Conqueror, Crusader, Challenger or Lost Cause! It's fast, fun and informative and will tell you about yourself and how you can save money.

## Little steps can make a big difference - to the environment and your pockets!



Little changes make a big difference. [rethinkwasteni.org](http://rethinkwasteni.org)



# Speaking out on waste

**Young people from across the North West region have been speaking out on waste as part of an annual public speaking competition aimed at stimulating environmental awareness among young people.**

Environmental Youth Speak, sponsored by the Department of the Environment's Rethink Waste campaign, saw schoolchildren throughout Northern Ireland presenting their ideas on waste management issues, having been given the opportunity to research and discuss predetermined environmental issues.

The competition is split into a junior and senior section, for Primary 6 and 7 and Year 8 and 9 pupils respectively, and each section has a different topic on which the pupils must speak.

Initially the competition is run at a local level by each local council, with the winners of the local heats going on to represent their council at regional level within their regional waste management group. The regional winners then compete for the title of Northern Ireland champion.

This year's junior topic was 'Rethink your rubbish – reduce, reuse, recycle', while those in the senior section had to speak about the 'Love Food Hate Waste' campaign.

Ten pupils from the North West took part in the regional heat, with all of the presentations being of an extremely high standard. Both of the regional winners this year came from Moyle District Council, with Eve Garnier of Gaelscoil an Chaistil and Lara McCarry of Cross and Passion College claiming the North West Junior and Senior titles.

Both girls went on to represent the North West in the Northern Ireland Grand Final, held at Craigavon Civic and Conference Centre.

Congratulations to both girls on their success and congratulations to all the pupils who took part in the local and regional heats.





[www.northwestwaste.org.uk](http://www.northwestwaste.org.uk)



## NWRWMG 'tooling' its resources

**The North West Region Waste Management Group is pleased to announce the introduction of a new online video presentation and educational tool.**

Called The Future of Waste Resource Management, the launch heralds the next phase of the Group's plan to introduce waste prevention, recycling and associated activities to ratepayers in the area.

You can view The Future of Waste Resource Management by going to the North West Region Waste Management Group's website, [www.northwestwaste.org.uk](http://www.northwestwaste.org.uk), and following the links.

Using a combination of video footage and state-of-the-art animation, The Future of Waste Resource Management explores the background to the North West Group's residual waste treatment project, emphasises the need for waste prevention and recycling and also takes an in-depth look at energy recovery.

The video and animation, produced by Belfast web designers, Eyesparks, can be viewed as an end-to-end movie or as a series of individual films. It also graphically portrays some of the waste management technologies currently under consideration by the Group.

Evelyne Robinson, Chair of the North West Group's Joint Committee, said: "We took the view that waste management in general, and waste reduction in particular, are of such importance that we need to do all we can to ensure that our citizens are kept fully informed. This new addition to our website does that in an engaging and informative way."

So what can visitors to the site expect to see?

After the introductory segment, which features a scene-setting commentary from Councillor Robinson and Steve Lee, Chief Executive of the Chartered Institution of Wastes Management, there are detailed sections on waste reduction, reuse and recycling. Viewers will also find sections on energy recovery and disposal techniques and technologies.

As well as being an imbedded element of the NWRWMG's website, it is expected that The Future of Waste Resource Management will also be used as a presentational aid and as an educational tool as part of the Group's ongoing educational outreach campaign. There is also a plan to make DVD copies available for community, school and business groups.





## What goes in the blue bin?

**NEW**



### yes please

- ✓ Aerosols
- ✓ Cartons
- ✓ Food tins and drink cans
- ✓ Large tins
- ✓ Mixed paper & card
- ✓ Plastic bottles & plastic food containers
- ✓ Textile
- ✓ Small electrical appliances
- ✓ Mixed glass bottles & jars (see table below)



### no thanks

- ✗ Plastic raw meat trays (trays that have raw chicken, raw beef, raw pork or raw fish)
- ✗ Shredded paper
- ✗ Nappies
- ✗ Tissues
- ✗ T.V.s, microwaves, computer monitors (nothing with glass)
- ✗ General rubbish, plastic bags or food waste
- ✗ 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.

## 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 | Mixed Glass bottles and jars |
|-------------|----------|---------|------------------------|------------|--------------------|---|----------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Ballymoney  | Yes      | Yes     | Yes                    | Yes        | Yes                | Yes                                       | No       | No                          | No                           |
| Coleraine   | Yes      | Yes     | Yes                    | Yes        | Yes                | Yes                                       | Yes      | Yes                         | Yes                          |
| Derry City  | Yes      | Yes     | Yes                    | Yes        | Yes                | Yes                                       | Yes      | Yes                         | Yes                          |
| Limavady    | Yes      | Yes     | Yes                    | Yes        | Yes                | Yes                                       | Yes      | Yes                         | Yes                          |
| Magherafelt | Yes      | Yes     | Yes                    | Yes        | Yes                | Yes                                       | No       | No                          | Yes                          |
| Moyle       | Yes      | Yes     | Yes                    | Yes        | Yes                | Yes                                       | Yes      | Yes                         | Yes                          |
| Strabane    | Yes      | Yes     | Yes                    | Yes        | Yes                | Yes                                       | No       | No                          | No                           |



# NEW ERA for waste management

**Recent statistics prove that you, the North West public, are taking the 3Rs message of reduce, reuse and recycle on board. The recycling rate for the region is increasing, the overall amount of waste being produced is falling and the landfill diversion targets are being met.**

The figures prove that great strides are being made and the North West public are to be commended for their efforts. It is also 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.

Unfortunately, however, there is some waste that simply cannot be recycled. That waste which is left in your black bags and wheelie bins 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 our 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.

Launched in February 2009, the competition is now in its final stage with the final tender being received in August 2011.

From the start of the competition, companies have put forward increasingly 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 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

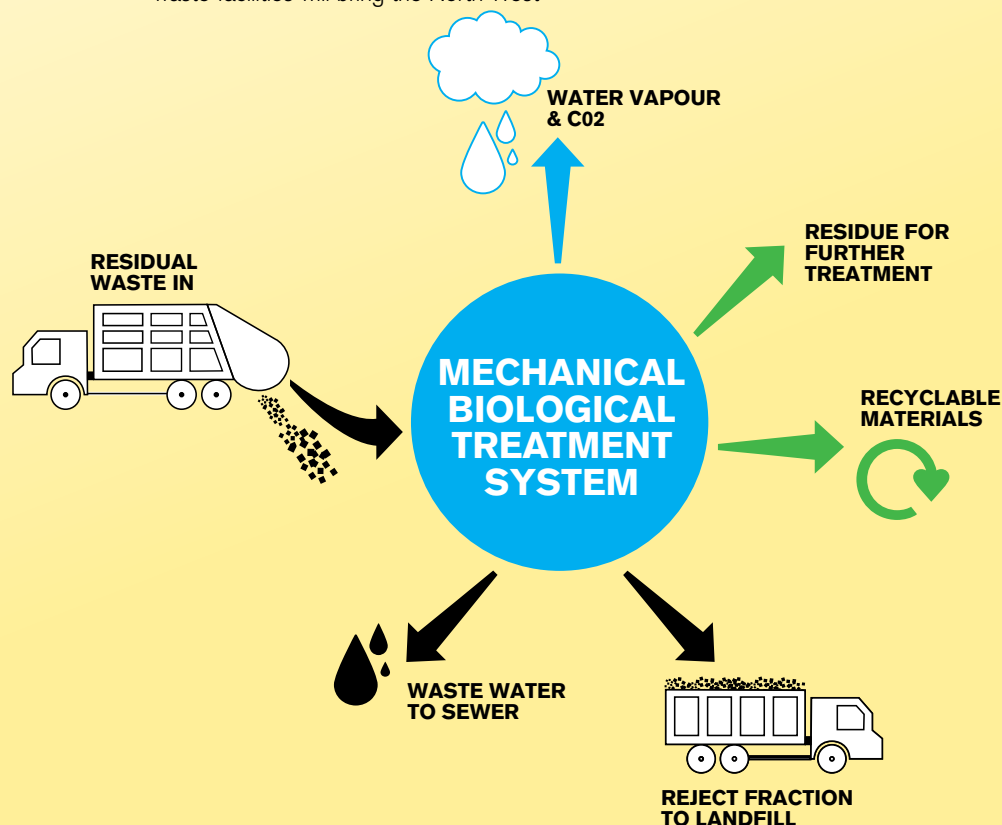
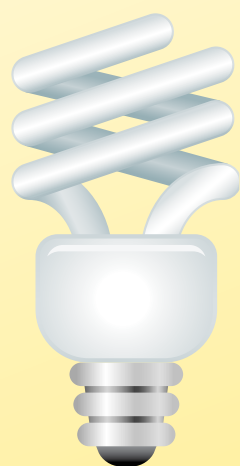
in to line with those European countries at the forefront in dealing with unrecyclable waste and ensure we avoid potentially severe EU fines for failing to reduce our reliance on landfill.

"The NWRWMG has carefully managed the procurement process since it was launched, 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 solutions that have been offered throughout the competition and look forward to announcing the preferred bid later this year, 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.

For more information on the technologies involved in the new waste management facilities which are set to be introduced to the North West, visit [www.northwestwaste.org.uk](http://www.northwestwaste.org.uk)



remember!!  
**3Rs**

# ACTIVITY SECTION

OK kids, now it's over to you. We at the North West Region Waste Management Group have often stressed how important it is that young people get involved in the waste management effort in their area and it is as vital as ever that you become active and do what you can to help your parents reduce, reuse and recycle as many materials from your house as possible.

We are also calling on you to think about waste management in your school, so if you have any ideas on how your school can do more to get involved with the 3Rs then please do not hesitate to speak to your teacher and make a suggestion. It doesn't matter whether you are just starting primary school or coming to the end of your school career – everyone has an important role to play in waste management.

For some fun and to help get you thinking about what materials can go into your blue recycling bin at home, why not tackle our recycling maze below. The maze contains a range of materials which CAN go into our blue bins which, starting from where Recycle Boy is, you have to collect and navigate your way to the blue bin. **Good luck!**



Supported by:



028 7137 0808  
[www.northwestwaste.org.uk](http://www.northwestwaste.org.uk)



Ballymoney Borough Council: 028 2766 0200, Coleraine Borough Council: 028 7034 7272, Derry City Council: 028 7137 4107, Limavady Borough Council: 028 7772 2226, Magherafelt District Council: 028 7939 7979, Moyle District Council: 028 2076 2225, Strabane District Council: 028 7138 2204, NWRWMG: 028 7137 0808