

WINTER 2010

# waste watch

 North West Region  
Waste Management Group



# Welcome

On behalf of the North West Region Waste Management Group (NWRWMG), I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to Waste Watch.

In this first edition we aim to introduce the NWRWMG as an organisation, explain the vital work we do and outline our plans for the future.

This is an exciting time for waste management in the North West and the issue of how the region deals with its waste has never been more significant.

The introduction of European Union legislation has meant that we, like every other region in the UK, must closely examine our current waste management methods and ensure that the necessary infrastructure is put in place in order for us to move forward and meet our statutory obligations.

The NWRWMG Councillors are working to ensure that the area benefits from an environmentally-friendly, yet cost-effective, waste solution. We cannot do this alone, which is why the work we do in partnership with you, the local community, and the private sector is vital.

Fundamental to our work is the acceptance by all sections of society, as producers of waste, of their responsibility to support and adopt more sustainable waste management practices, both at home and at work.

We hope this magazine gives you a better understanding of the waste management plans for your area and encourages you to think of waste as a potential resource from which we can recoup energy, and not just an unwanted by-product.

**Chairman,**  
Cllr Evelyne Robinson



# A team game

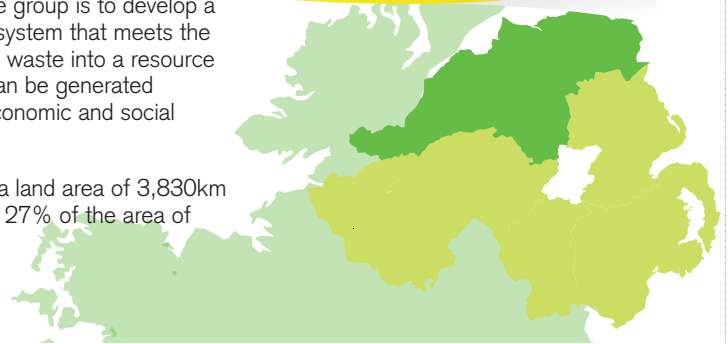
The North West Region Waste Management Group is the team of seven councils responsible for ensuring that waste management in the North West region of Northern Ireland is carried out effectively.

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

The NWRWMG has a land area of 3,830km sq, 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**



# Making plans

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/operations to achieve the targets set out in its Waste Management Plan. In 2000 there were 37 Household Waste/ Recycling

Centres & Civic Amenity sites in the region and today the Group has 106 such centres. In addition 128,000 households have blue bins and more than 31,000 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.





# WASTE – A NEW APPROACH

The NWRWMG is encouraging all households in the region to contribute to the waste management effort by reducing, reusing, recycling and composting as much of their day-to-day waste as possible.

There is still the issue of what to do with municipal residual waste – that waste which is left in black bags and wheelie bins after the rest has been sent for recycling and composting.

Historically, the most common method of dealing with residual waste has been to send it to landfill – a site for the disposal of waste materials by burial – but European law now states that this practice must be significantly reduced.

The NWRWMG has carried out considerable research into the most efficient alternative to landfill of dealing with residual waste, coming to the conclusion that a combination of Mechanical Biological Treatment (MBT) and Energy Recovery is the best way forward.

To this end, the NWRWMG has launched a major public procurement process to develop Energy Recovery and MBT facilities on suitable sites in the North West region. The contract is expected to be awarded before the end of 2010 and the MBT and Energy Recovery plants are anticipated to be fully operational by 2014.



**FACT:** The NWRWMG must recycle **35%** of household wastes by **2010** and **50%** by **2020**.

**FACT:** The annual household recycling and composting rate for the NWRWMG member councils increased from

**31%**  
in 2007/8 to  
**34%**  
in 2008/9

## The Tender Approach

The NWRWMG formally initiated a £500m public procurement process in February 2009, the aim of which is to secure Mechanical Biological Treatment (MBT) facilities with a capacity of c.140,000 tonnes of waste annually and Energy Recovery facilities with the capacity to deal with the MBT outputs.

The procurement, one of the biggest of its kind ever launched in Northern Ireland, invited private sector companies to bid for the contract to build the new waste management facilities. The procurement was published in the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU).

The contract is expected to be awarded before the end of 2010 and the MBT and Energy Recovery plants are anticipated to be operational by 2014. The shortlist of bidding companies through to the next stage of the procurement process has just been announced. In alphabetical order, they are:

- Biffa Waste Service Ltd
- Brickkiln Waste Ltd/United Utilities Plc
- Greenstar Holding Ltd (Greenstar UK)
- One51 PLC/VT Environmental Engineering Ltd

Councillor Evelyne Robinson, Chairman of NWRWMG's Joint Committee of elected representatives, said: "The publication of this contract notice in the OJEU was a milestone in the procurement process.

**"We are delighted with the volume and calibre of bidders who all have the economic and financial standing, extensive experience and technical capability to provide the North West with the technologies required to meet our European waste targets."**



# THE RACE IS ON

Legislation laid down by the European Union has set a series of tough waste targets which Northern Ireland as a whole must meet. We must increase the amount of waste we are recycling and composting to 50% of total waste levels by 2020.



## Household Recycling and Composting targets

Section 4.8 of the Group's Plan sets out the targets for household recycling and composting at:

**TO RECYCLE AND COMPOST: 35% of household wastes by 2010**

**TO RECYCLE AND COMPOST: 40% of household wastes by 2015**

**TO RECYCLE AND COMPOST: 45% of household wastes by 2020**

Whilst the recycling and composting targets included in the Northern Ireland Waste Management Strategy (NIWMS) and the NWRWMG Waste Management plan of December 2006 aim to reach 45% by 2020 this has been revised to 50% in order to be consistent with the EU Waste Framework Directive of 2008. Therefore, operationally, the recycling and composting target of NWRWMG is to reach 50% by 2020 and this business case is predicated on that ambition.

visit us at:

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

The European Landfill Directive has set targets which state that by 2010, bio-degradable municipal waste going to landfill must be 75% of 1995 levels, 50% by 2013 and 35% by 2020. Failure to meet these targets could lead to severe European Union fines – at a cost of up to £500,000 per day to Northern Ireland. The Northern Ireland Landfill Allowance Scheme sets the targets for the North West group at:

**75% of 1995 levels by 2010** (NWRWMG - NILAS TARGET 89,283 TONNES)

**50% of 1995 levels by 2013** (NWRWMG - NILAS TARGET 61,172 TONNES)

**35% of 1995 levels by 2020** (NWRWMG - NILAS TARGET 42,384 TONNES)

There is also a strong environmental incentive to reduce landfilled waste as landfill is a major contributor to greenhouse gas emissions, due to the methane released by decomposing waste.

Time is of the essence if Northern Ireland is to meet these EU targets and avoid heavy fines. It is absolutely vital that every resident in the area plays their part in helping the NWRWMG help the region to meet these targets.

## Remember the 'Three Rs'

The most effective way for members of the public to reduce the amount of waste being sent to landfill is to adapt the 'Three Rs' principle of 'Reduce, Reuse and Recycle' to their household waste.

There are a number of straightforward steps which families can take in order to cut down the amount of waste they are producing, starting by making alterations to your shopping list when going to the supermarket.

Replace disposable products, such as nappies, tissues, face wipes, plastic cups and cutlery with items that can be reused and buy bottles instead of cans and rechargeable batteries instead of non-rechargeable.

Unnecessary waste can be reduced by avoiding purchases that are not essential and by borrowing and sharing items which are not used often with neighbours.

Additionally, rather than throwing out CDs and books, give them to friends, a charity shop or a library.

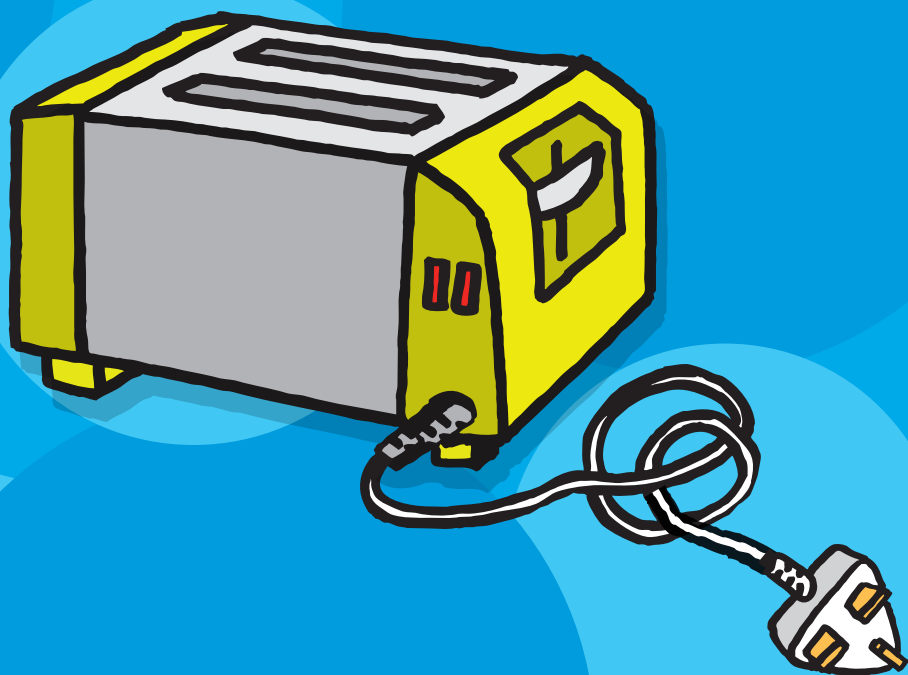
Recycling in and around the home can be easy when you know how - the important thing is to always make sure that you have a recycle bin at your home and to keep it in a visible place so you remember to use it.

Materials which can be placed in a blue bin include paper, aluminium and steel cans, cardboard, plastics, cartons (tetra paks), household plastic packaging, small appliances, textiles and aerosols. Materials such as glass and bulky household items can also be recycled at your Household Waste and Recycling Centre.

If you don't have a blue bin, contact your local council and they will supply you with one.



# Blue bin boost for North West



## Recycling Bins can now accept more

Recycling efforts in the North West area have received a major boost with the news that blue recycling bins can now accept empty aerosol cans, juice cartons, plastic food containers, clothes, shoes and small electrical appliances.

Due to improvements in our recycling processes, residents in the region can recycle waste even more conveniently and help improve recycling rates.

There are a few restrictions on the new items – aerosols cans must be empty, plastic food containers need to be empty and thoroughly washed out, only small electrical appliances are allowed in blue bins - nothing bigger than a toaster - and nothing with glass can be collected.





# recycle for your community

We are making it easier for you to recycle. More can go into your blue bin than ever before



## Blue bins still 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.



# What happens next?

Have you ever wondered what exactly happens to your waste after you have done your bit and filled your recycling bin and council staff have collected your blue bin from your door?

Well, the general answer is that it goes to what is called a Materials Recycling Facility (MRF), like the one pictured right. We will give you more details of the various stages your waste goes through at a MRF in our next edition of Waste Watch.



## COMPOSTING CALL:

### What is compost?

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 thousands of 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.

### 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.

### Where should I put my compost bin?

Your compost bin will work best in a sunny area of your garden, placed on grass or soil. The heat of the sun helps with decomposition and worms and beetles can get into it more easily from grass or soil.

### What can I put into my compost bin?

It is best to place a layer of twigs, cut flowers or the remains of house plants at the bottom of your compost bin. This will help with ventilation. Materials that can be composted include:

#### Kitchen waste: ✓

- Vegetable & fruit peelings
- Uncooked vegetables
- Tea bags & coffee grounds
- Crushed egg shells
- Fruit waste
- Newspaper/paper (shredded/torn)
- Cut flowers & house plants

#### Garden waste: ✓

- Grass cuttings
- Hedge clippings
- Fallen leaves
- Weeds
- Twigs & branches (cut into pieces)

#### Do not compost: ✗

- Meat, fish and chicken
- Grease and oil
- Disposable nappies
- Cat or dog foul
- Large woody material
- Evergreen shrubs
- Soil

**FACT:** The annual tonnage of waste produced per household in the NWRWMG area fell from **1.34 tonnes** in 2007/8 to **1.28 tonnes** in 2008/9.

#### FACT:

**£500,000** per day is what the cost to Northern Ireland could be if the European Landfill Directive targets are not met.



# So far, so good

**Well done to the general public of the North West! Figures show that you are taking the Three Rs principle 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 & Composting rate for the seven NWRWMG member councils increased from **31.31% in 2007/8** to **34.21% this year**, while the annual tonnage of waste per household in the region fell from 1.34 tonnes per annum last year to 1.28 tonnes per annum this year.

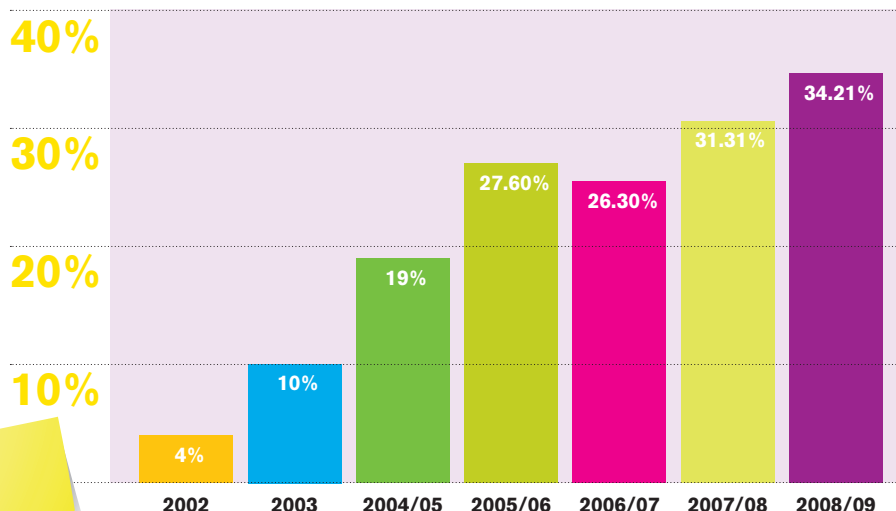
The figures also show that, for the fourth year in succession, the amount of biodegradable municipal waste sent to landfill in the NWRWMG area was well within its allowance.

These figures are very encouraging and credit must go to everyone who played their part. But we can always try to recycle more, so let's try to set a new record this year! The Group's waste management plan can be viewed at:

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



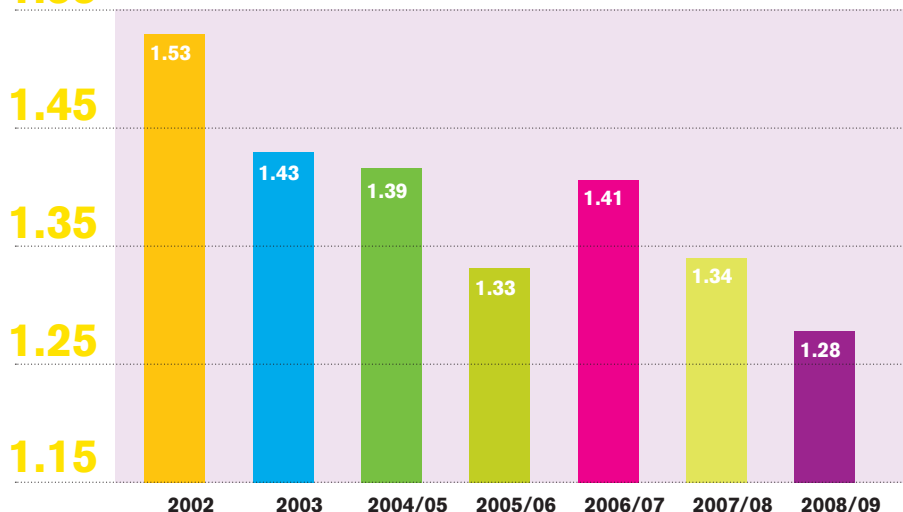
**HOUSEHOLD WASTE RECYCLED & COMPOSTED AS A PERCENTAGE OF HOUSEHOLD WASTE ARISING**



**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	✓

**1.55 HOUSEHOLD WASTE QUANTITIES GENERATED PER HOUSEHOLD**



## GATEWAY TO SUCCESS

**A charity organisation for young adults regarded as having a disability is calling for your help in its ongoing campaign to help Moyle District Council meet its recycling targets and divert waste from the area going to landfill.**

Greenlight Gateway Centre has placed a number of clothing and can banks at various locations throughout the Moyle area, and the organisation is appealing to the public to deposit cans and any

clothes they no longer wear at the banks for recycling.

Greenlight members then separate the aluminium cans from the tin cans and crush them into bales, which can be sent for recycling, while the clothes are gathered in bags at the group's office before being sent to textile recyclers.

Greenlight Gateway members Jason McBride and Michael Reid help to separate cans and clothes at one of the charity's recycling bins, which are located throughout the Moyle District Council area.





# SPEAKING UP FOR WASTE



Bellaghy Primary School pupil Jillian Blair is joined by school principal Mrs Mary Lou Richmond as she receives her Environmental Youth Speak 2009 national award from UTV's Frank Mitchell, who was the event compere

**Magherafelt District Council representative Jillian Blair was the Northern Ireland junior winner at the 2009 finals of an annual public speaking competition aimed at stimulating environmental awareness among young people.**

The Bellaghy Primary School pupil scooped Northern Ireland's top prize at the Environmental Youth Speak competition, which gives young people the opportunity to research and speak their mind on topical environmental issues based on the broad theme of 'Reduce, Reuse and Recycle'.

John Murtagh, Waste Management and Recycling Officer at Magherafelt District Council, said: "Jillian's speech was one of the most inspirational I have heard at any such competition, it really was in a class of its own."

**"It is obvious that Jillian has a passion for caring about the environment and, more importantly, how she can make a difference, however small, in just one day."**

## Centre job's a good one

Construction work is almost complete on the extension and redesign of the Limavady Borough Council-operated Household Recycling Centre on Ballyquin Road, Limavady.

The Council has come up with a novel way of celebrating the facility upgrade, which will encourage local school children and their families to visit the centre and view the recycling opportunities that are available to everyone.

**"The site has been extended back into formerly disused ground and now has a straight through flow of traffic to ease access and drop off of materials, with customers often commenting on the increased number of specific collection points for separated materials,"** explained John McCarron, Waste Management Officer for Limavady Borough Council.

**"In September we started an initiative which encourages children in local schools to design a 'Reduce, Reuse, Recycle' themed piece of artwork which the Council will then mount on a wall inside the centre."**

**"The schoolchildren can then bring their families along to view their work and take the opportunity to view the centre layout and see for themselves the improvement work that has been done."**



## COLERAINE FINDS OUT HOW 'GREEN' IT REALLY IS

**The 11th Northern Ireland Environmental Benchmarking results have been announced by Business in the Community's ARENA Network campaign and Coleraine Borough Council has scored a new high of 72%.**



The survey, carried out by ARENA Network and sponsored by the Northern Ireland Environment Agency and Belfast Harbour Commissioners, annually assesses the top 200 businesses, all 26 local councils, five health trusts and the education sector in Northern Ireland for environmental management, performance and assurance. This year 139 organisations from 15 different sectors took part. Coleraine Borough Council achieved well above the local authority average of 63%.

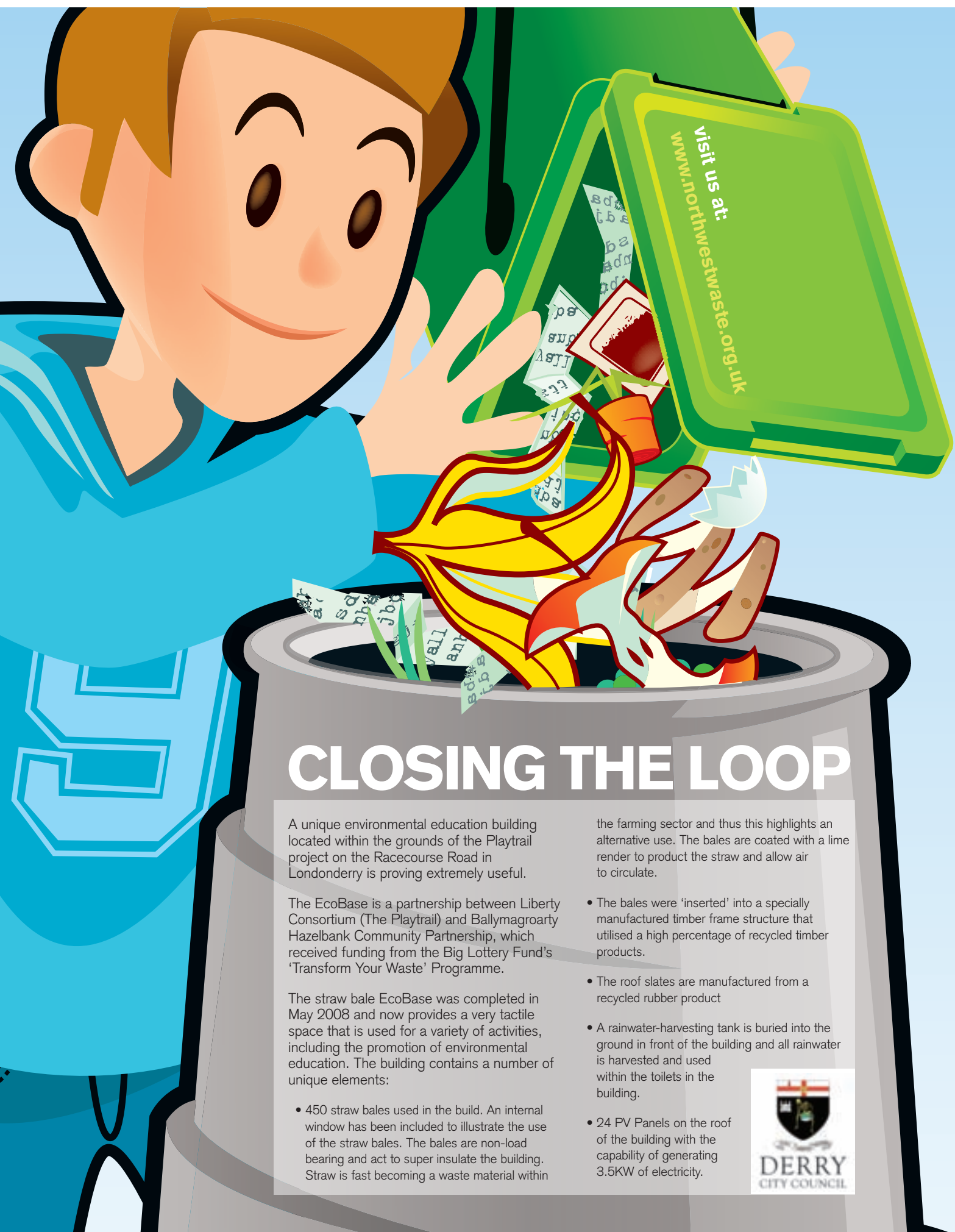
Fiona Watters, Waste and Recycling Officer with Coleraine Borough Council, said: "The ARENA Environmental Benchmarking Survey assesses how we are managing our impact on the environment. The Survey looks, in particular, at our environmental policies for managing areas like waste, recycling, energy, purchasing and transport."

"This year the Council scored 72.4% in the survey, putting us in Quintile 2, which is like getting a B. We are pleased that the environmental policies and procedures we have put in place, along with our good environmental practice, have been recognised by the ARENA Survey."

"However, we want to continue to improve and aim for a Quintile 1 position, which means scoring over 80%. This is a challenging target, but one which our core team and all staff are striving to achieve."

To find out who else participated in the survey and how they scored, visit [www.bitcni.org.uk](http://www.bitcni.org.uk)

John Anderson, Building Superintendent, Roger Wilson, Town Clerk & Chief Executive, and Fiona Watters, Waste & Recycling Officer for Coleraine Borough Council, with the ARENA Survey results.



## CLOSING THE LOOP

A unique environmental education building located within the grounds of the Playtrail project on the Racecourse Road in Londonderry is proving extremely useful.

The EcoBase is a partnership between Liberty Consortium (The Playtrail) and Ballymagroarty Hazelbank Community Partnership, which received funding from the Big Lottery Fund's 'Transform Your Waste' Programme.

The straw bale EcoBase was completed in May 2008 and now provides a very tactile space that is used for a variety of activities, including the promotion of environmental education. The building contains a number of unique elements:

- 450 straw bales used in the build. An internal window has been included to illustrate the use of the straw bales. The bales are non-load bearing and act to super insulate the building. Straw is fast becoming a waste material within

the farming sector and thus this highlights an alternative use. The bales are coated with a lime render to protect the straw and allow air to circulate.

- The bales were 'inserted' into a specially manufactured timber frame structure that utilised a high percentage of recycled timber products.
- The roof slates are manufactured from a recycled rubber product
- A rainwater-harvesting tank is buried into the ground in front of the building and all rainwater is harvested and used within the toilets in the building.
- 24 PV Panels on the roof of the building with the capability of generating 3.5KW of electricity.





## BALLYMONEY SCHOOLS LEARN THE LESSON!



St Brigid's applied learning techniques endorsed by the Revised curriculum to the traditional themes within Eco Schools.

The use of technology set this application apart, as did its inclusive nature, with all pupils participating regardless of their ability. Indeed, St Brigid's success is being used by Tidy Northern Ireland as a case study.

Both schools now use more blue than black bins – further evidence, if it were needed, that Eco Schools and environmental education have very tangible outcomes.

LEFT: Ballymoney Nursery pupils show how it's done. Check out the Tidy Northern Ireland website: [www.tidynorthernireland.org](http://www.tidynorthernireland.org)



A renewed emphasis on Eco Schools has seen two Ballymoney schools pick up the prestigious Green Flag award – proving that the 'Reduce, Reuse, Recycle' message is being heard loud and clear in the town.

Pupils from Ballymoney Nursery and St Brigid's Primary proved you can have a positive impact on the environment from a very early age.

Ballymoney Nursery is a fine example of a small school community committed to enabling children to experience the joys of our environment by bringing issues such as waste and the natural environment to life.

All of the staff involved agreed that achieving the Green Flag – an awards scheme which recognises the UK's best green spaces – was just recognition of a vibrant, engaging and educational project.

## STRABANE FAIR DAY

Strabane District Council ensured the 'Reduce, Reuse, Recycle' message was well promoted at the 2009 Annual Fair Day in Strabane by putting on a special float for the parade.

The joint theme of the float was 'Reduce, Reuse, Recycle' and Save Our Planet. Members of the council's Technical Services Department joined in the parade by pupils of two Strabane schools who have recently obtained Green Flag Eco Schools status.

St Columba's Primary School, Clady, promoted Save Our Planet, with St Anne's Primary promoting the 'Three Rs'. Both schools produced colourful displays for the float and wore special T-shirts they had designed themselves for the parade.

Kirk the Woodland Creature, from the Yellow Woods Challenge, also joined the parade and travelled on the float to wave to the crowd and promote the recycling of Yellow Pages.

The float was decorated with colourful trees and plants which promoted the benefits of recycling organic waste to make compost which can be used in gardens to help grow vegetables and flowers.



Strabane District Council's special float

# Exciting times ahead

While it is vitally important that we continue to drive up our recycling rates, we still have to deal with the issue of how best to manage the waste from black bin bags and wheelie bins that can't be recycled or composted.

Common practice until now has been to send this waste, known as municipal residual waste, to landfill to be buried. However, due to the strict European Union restrictions mentioned earlier and the need to turn waste into a resource, this practice must end and an alternative practical solution to landfill must be found.

An MBT plant in London



The responsibility of deciding on the best strategy lies with the NWRWMG. This will be the most important and exciting waste management development to take place in the North West for decades, changing the way the region deals with waste forever.

After due consideration and consultation with all relevant stakeholders, we believe a combination of Mechanical Biological Treatment (MBT) and Energy Recovery technologies to be the most effective and efficient way to deal with residual waste. There are up to 200 examples of these types of plants already in operation throughout Europe.

It is our responsibility to oversee the development of these facilities and to ensure that they are in place on the best site and in the required timeframe. The tender process for these new technologies is under way and is explained in more detail on page 3.

## Mechanical Biological Treatment

### What is Mechanical Biological Treatment?

Mechanical Biological Treatment (MBT) is a term used to describe a group of technologies that deal with residual municipal waste.

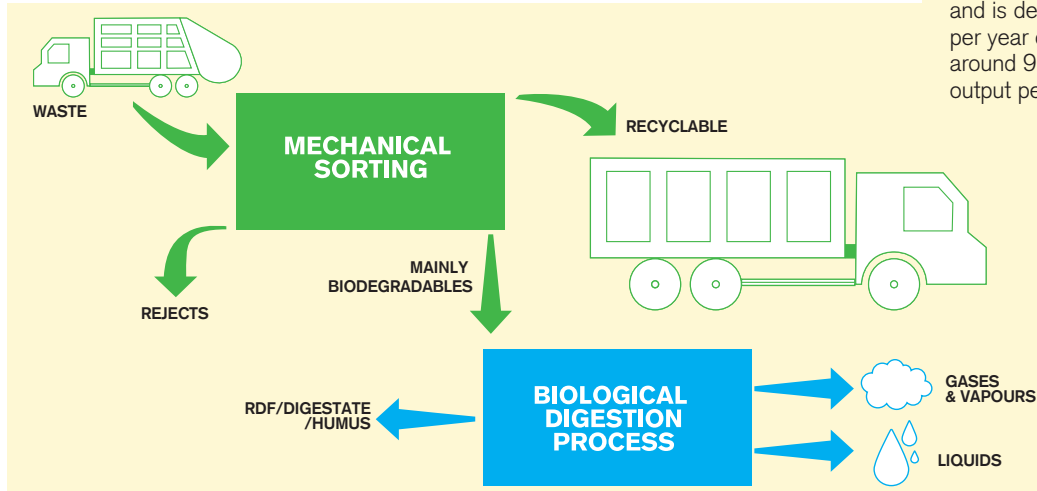
When waste goes to an MBT facility, recyclable or re-usable material will be extracted from it by a mechanical process, with the waste then subjected to further treatment to produce a more biologically stable material. MBTs operate as part of a wider integrated approach involving additional treatment stages, such as Energy Recovery.

### 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.

### Where else is MBT used?

There are currently more than 70 purpose-built MBT plants in Europe, located mainly in Austria, France, Germany and Italy. The number of MBT plants in the UK is increasing, with a number of local authorities considering employing the technology. One UK example is the composting-based MBT plant in Dorset, which opened in 2006 and is designed to take 50,000 tonnes per year of mixed waste, producing around 9,000 tonnes of compost-like output per year.





# what is energy recovery?

**Energy Recovery is a waste management method used to recover energy from residual municipal waste. Energy Recovery disposes of waste in such a way that energy is produced in the form of electricity and/or heat.**

There are a number of Energy Recovery technologies available, including mass incineration, gasification, pyrolysis or the use of cement kilns. The NWRWMG Joint Committee has decided that incineration is not an acceptable technology in the North West Region.

## How does the Energy Recovery process work?

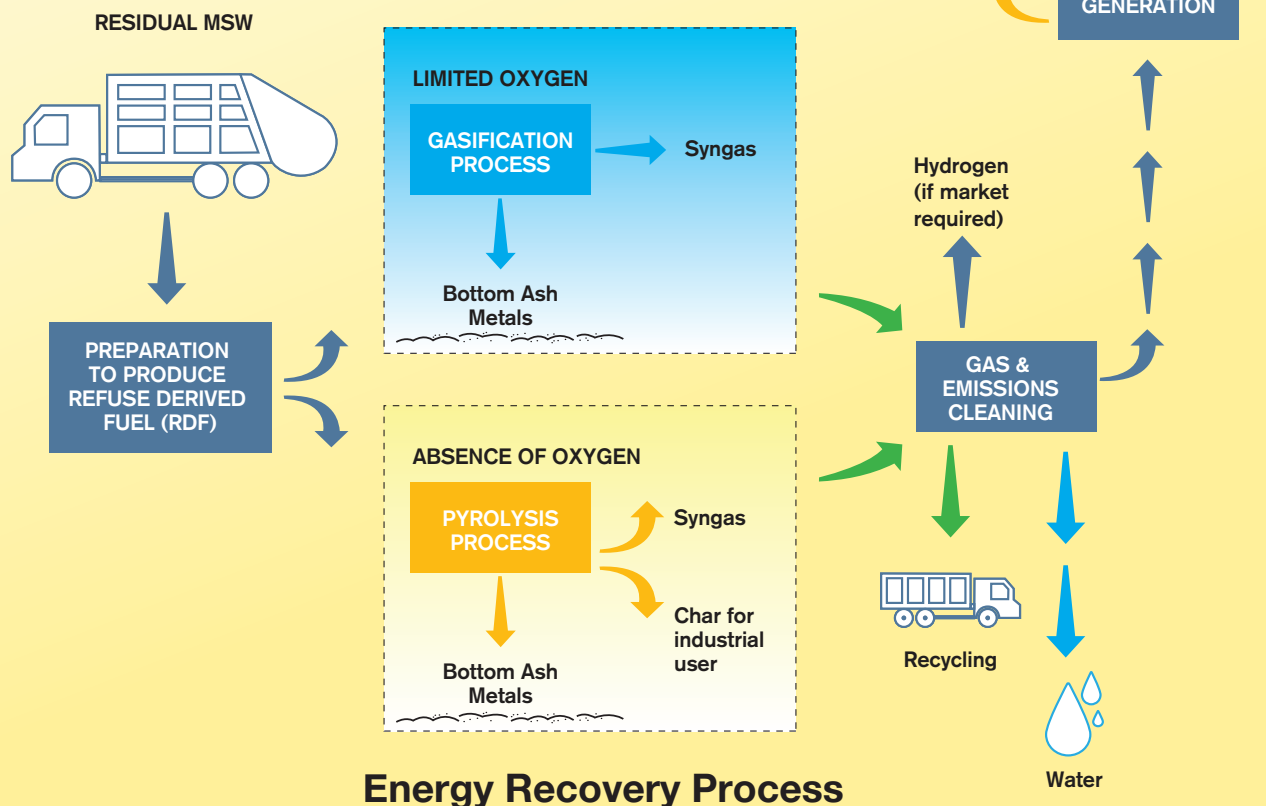
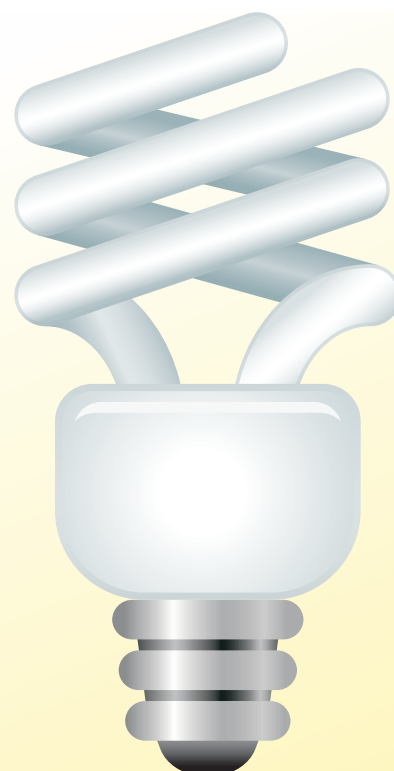
Gasification is used to recover energy from residual waste. Gasification uses small amounts of oxygen to dispose of waste in such a way that useful energy is produced, in the form of electricity and heat. Gasification involves the partial oxidation of a substance. This means that

oxygen is added but the amounts are not sufficient to allow complete oxidation or full combustion to occur. The temperatures employed are typically above 650 degrees Celsius and the 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 which contains relatively little carbon.

Pyrolysis is a similar process to gasification but uses no oxygen rather than restricted oxygen. In the cement kiln process, the use of fossil fuels is displaced and that energy saved.

## Where else is Energy Recovery used?

More than 100 advanced treatment plants have been built and are operating in Europe, North America and Japan, capable of treating over 4 million tonnes of waste per year (Source: Juniper Consultancy Services Ltd).



# NEW WEBSITE FOR NWRWMG



**The North West Region Waste Management Group (NWRWMG) has launched a new website to promote understanding of the Group's work and to keep you informed about the latest developments in the waste plan for the North West.**

With a modern, exciting and easy-to-follow design, **[www.northwestwaste.org.uk](http://www.northwestwaste.org.uk)** is packed full of facts and figures, images, graphs, charts, maps and tables and includes your Questions Answered section detailing how you at home can contribute to the waste management effort.

Councillor Evelyne Robinson, Chairman of NWRWMG, said:

“[www.northwestwaste.org.uk](http://www.northwestwaste.org.uk) will aim to provide factual information on our waste strategy and the technologies we hope to

employ to ensure that we do not fall foul of European fines aimed at reducing the amount of waste we send to landfill.

“This is a critical and busy period for NWRWMG, especially as we are in the middle of a major public procurement process to develop MBT and Energy Recovery facilities. We feel it is vital that the public are kept informed and the launch of this new website is one of several mediums we will be using to keep the public informed.

“We would encourage you to see the website for yourselves by logging on to [www.northwestwaste.org.uk](http://www.northwestwaste.org.uk). Please feel free to contact us with your thoughts and comments – we would be delighted to get your feedback on the site as this could help us make improvements where necessary.”

## LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION

Just as important as selecting the right contractor to build our new waste infrastructure in the North West is deciding the correct location for the plant.

It is extremely important that the ideal site or sites are found. To help in this process, we have asked the NWRWMG's seven constituent councils and the public and private sectors to suggest potential sites.

When this process is complete a site evaluation exercise will take place to assess each location. The criteria involved in this will include suitability of access, existing infrastructure and potential flood protection.

Once the sites have been secured, they will be offered for the use of the bidders in the procurement process. Bidders may also include their own site or sites within their offers.



**FACT: The NWRWMG is planning to develop Mechanical Biological Treatment facilities which can deal with 140,000 tonnes of waste per year**





## Spot The Difference

Have a look at the two pictures below which are of Strabane District Council's float during the Annual Fair day Parade. Compare the pictures and see if you can spot the five differences between them.



## ACTIVITY SECTION:

Young people – you too can play a big part in contributing to the waste management effort in your area. Recycling and composting is not just something for mums and dads to worry about. NWRWMG is calling on you to get involved and do whatever you can to make sure as much of the waste from your house is reduced, recycled and reused.

To help trigger your mind about waste management, why not have a go at our three activities below, all of which are based on news and photographs contained in this magazine.

## WASTE QUIZ:

1. What combination of waste management methods has the NWRWMG decided is the best alternative to landfill?
2. Which three practices make up the Three Rs?
3. Name five materials which can be put into a compost bin.
4. What was the annual recycling rate for the NWRWMG area in 2007/08?
5. By how much did the annual recycling rate for the NWRWMG area increase from 2007/8 to 2008/9?



**ANSWERS: TO SPOT THE DIFFERENCE:** • Logo on the float has disappeared • Yellow stripes on the bin have turned purple • Frog's right eye has changed to a red dot • Mushroom spots have disappeared • Flower from the tree has vanished. **WASTE QUIZ ANSWERS:** 1. Mechanical Biological Treatment and Energy Recovery 2. Reduce, Reuse and Recycle 3. Vegetable and fruit peelings, uncooked vegetables, tea bags and coffee grounds, crushed egg shells, fruit waste, newspaper/paper (shredded/torn), cut flowers and house plants, grass clippings, hedge clippings, fallen leaves, weeds, twigs and branches (cut into pieces) 4. 31.31% 5. 2.9%

# Waste word search

How good are you at spotting words scrambled up in a word search? In the grid below there are 15 hidden words which are associated with waste management. Just for fun, why not see if you can spot them.

The hidden words are:

**technologies, electricity, industrial, shortlist, recyclable, materials, bins, councils, landfill, compost, energy, reduce, oxygen, reuse, heat**

t	s	r	n	r	n	a	f	r	e	a	m	m	l	a
e	h	c	e	a	e	g	r	c	h	s	a	r	a	l
c	o	o	e	c	f	u	u	r	n	r	t	a	a	t
h	r	m	n	h	y	d	s	i	n	m	e	i	r	n
n	t	p	e	s	e	c	b	e	v	c	r	i	a	o
o	l	o	r	r	l	e	l	m	h	t	i	h	c	a
l	i	s	g	s	e	h	u	a	s	r	a	t	o	o
o	s	t	y	t	c	i	e	u	b	l	l	s	u	l
g	t	o	b	i	t	m	d	a	a	l	s	l	n	o
i	w	t	v	o	r	n	d	t	t	a	e	e	c	h
e	h	a	r	x	i	m	g	n	e	u	r	p	i	h
s	b	o	a	y	c	l	a	n	d	f	i	l	l	v
e	l	o	a	g	i	t	f	i	i	u	h	i	s	o
r	e	h	n	e	t	s	o	t	e	w	d	i	r	d
n	l	n	r	n	y	a	t	e	n	a	d	p	l	t

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



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