

## **BAN Waste February 05 Newsletter**

### **Introduction**

Hello. My name is Paul Roberts and I've just taken over from Liz as the Support Worker for BAN Waste, based at the Healthy Cities Project. There are a number of reasons for sending you this Newsletter. One is to introduce myself. Another is to tell you about the current activities at BAN Waste. A third is to ask you if you are still interested in being a member. Communication on a day to day basis with active members tends to take place through e-mail contact. This is ideal from the organisations point of view because it means communication is fast, simple, less wasteful in paper and cheaper. Everyone can set up a free online e-mail account using a computer at the local library (the use of which is almost invariably free at the moment). If you need help with this contact me. So please do send me an e-mail at [banwaste@bykerplant.freemove.co.uk](mailto:banwaste@bykerplant.freemove.co.uk) giving as much information as possible on the questions I'm enclosing with this Newsletter on which of the sub-groups, etc you would like to be involved with. Not everybody feels happy with using computers even with help, so if you want to be involved or kept in touch and wish to be contacted by letter or phone still fill in the choices form and you will be included on the members list. You can also use the freepost label if you wish, remembering that we do get charged for each one returned. If you have decided that you no longer wish to be involved with BAN waste, simply do not respond in any way to this invitation and you will be removed from the contact list.

BAN Waste is at an interesting point in it's development , moving from an organisation dedicated to preventing the expansion of the Byker incinerator and opposition to the then City Council's very limited perspective on what could be done about the problem of waste, to an organisation that is taking a much more proactive role in tackling resource recycling. We have established a more positive working relationship with the new council and its officers, resulting in a whole new variety of possibilities for future co-operative projects, such as being in partnership to organise the recycling at community events. The activists within BAN waste have been keenly involved in projects such as the following.

1 **Byker & St. Ann's Recycling & Composting** – this is an NRF funded project (£20,000) which Steve Manchee and Bill Hopwood of the Sustainable Cities Research Institute, both BAN Waste members, are acting as consultants – the Business Plan needs to be completed by the end of March & a clearly defined structure for what looks likely to be a small SME will very definitely be in place.

2 **Monitoring & Education Project** – this has as yet not started but applications are in the process of being made for a £10,000 pilot to evaluate the reasons for poor recycling uptake in Cowgate. In addition it is proposed to develop a video around recycling best practice, detailed costs & possible funders have already been sourced.

3 **Round Table** – the aim of this project is to hold a series of high-powered lectures/discussions from eminent players in the recycling field on both a national & international level. The Council are being pressed to underwrite this initiative

4 **NE Community & Voluntary Recycling Forum** – this project is already up and running but needs funding to secure its long term future.

5 **Recycling at the Soil Association National Conference**- A sub-group of BAN Waste activists in conjunction with North East Recycling organised the recycling for the conference and on the basis of the success of that project are putting together a bid to do the same for the Tall Ships Festival.

We also have a new constitution, the essential elements of which are:

### **AIMS**

The aims of the organisation are:

- To promote the adoption and implementation of a sustainable waste strategy in Newcastle
- To promote public involvement in the adoption and implementation of this strategy

### **POWERS**

In order to achieve the aims, the organisation has the powers to do the following:

- To encourage a debate within Newcastle about waste management issues
- To set up services in relation to sustainable waste management
- To employ and pay staff and hire contractors
- To acquire, sell or lease property
- To raise funds by any lawful means
- To accept gifts for the general purposes of the organisation

So what does this mean for our members? Well, it means there are opportunities to become involved in a variety of exciting new projects at all levels. There is also the possibility of paid work within the projects at different stages and at a variety of skill levels. BAN Waste will need 'champions' in all the community areas in the city to monitor current recycling and help with new initiatives. You could receive training to help you be one of those champions.

**To help with the communication and reinforce the bonds a room has been booked at The Quaker Meeting House in Jesmond for Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March at 6.00 p.m. All members and interested parties are invited to attend and we will have a series of mini-presentations by one the key players among the activists involved in each of the projects/groups currently underway or planned.**

Let us know by e-mail or on the Interests Return Form enclosed if you may attend, so that we can provide some light refreshments.

### **Composting**

Some of you may be aware of this already. WRAP are organising a number of composting best practice days across the country and the one for our region is to be on the 9<sup>th</sup> March at Premier Waste in Durham. Contact Steve Manchee ([stevemanchee@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:stevemanchee@blueyonder.co.uk) or telephone 281 2962 by the 14<sup>th</sup> February if you want to book a place co-operate on transport.

### **Defra steps up waste war**

*Defra has announced a barrage of new initiatives to reduce waste and encourage recycling. Most importantly for local authorities, it has reduced the financial penalty from E200/tonne to E150/tonne for non-compliance with the targets for diverting biodegradable waste from landfill under the Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme.*

Furthermore, individual local authority recycling targets for 2005/06 are to be held at 30%. Defra said this would "reduce pressure on the highest performers without compromising achievement of the 25% national recycling target". It will benefit over 100 authorities.

At the same time, it will work directly with local authorities to explore original ways to motivate householders to recycle. £5 million has been earmarked for 2005/06 to help local authorities carry out pilot programmes of novel incentives to encourage household recycling and waste reduction. This is part of a three-year targeted Waste

Performance and Efficiency Grant of £260m (formerly known as the Waste Performance Reward Grant) to support new and more efficient ways of reducing waste and landfill, and increase recycling.

Also as part of Defra's five-year strategy, WRAP (the Waste & Resources Action Programme), will work with retailers on novel ways of encouraging people to recycle. This £1.2 million project includes the use of new technology in 'bring banks', and financial incentives such as discount vouchers. Additionally, the Innovation Forum project, run by a group of local authorities, will focus on ways to foster effective joint working between waste collection and waste disposal authorities. It will encourage central and local government and its partners to talk about new ways of working together.

Finally, Defra is calling for bids for new research projects under the Waste and Resources R&D programme. Potential research contractors are invited to submit expressions of interest. See:

[www.defra.gov.uk/environment/research](http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/research)

[www.defra.gov.uk/environment/waste/wip/research](http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/waste/wip/research)

[www.defra.gov.uk/environment/waste/localauth/mangewaste](http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/waste/localauth/mangewaste)

[www.defra.gov.uk/science/](http://www.defra.gov.uk/science/)

### **Planning changes**

The Government is taking further steps to help ensure there are sufficient waste management facilities via four changes to the planning procedures.

1. Clearer policies on waste sites to be developed regionally and locally, and sites to be identified in local plans - updating Planning Policy Guidance Note 10 (PPG 10).
2. Greater clarity on waste management objectives and decision making principles, and achieving 'best value' through partnership working - a change to the guidance on the preparation of Municipal Waste Management Strategies.
3. Changes to the decision-making principles/procedures in Waste Strategy 2000 to support the changes above.
4. Proposals for periodic publishing of national data and advice on waste arisings, recycling potential and any national capacity needs.

Views on PPG 10 are required by 11 March; see: [www.odpm.gov.uk/planning](http://www.odpm.gov.uk/planning).

Views on the others are sought by 31 March.

See: [www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/wasteman-strat](http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/wasteman-strat).

### **Grassroots Action**

£4m of grants are available for English community organizations in partnership with local authorities which work to cut waste. Activities can include kerbside collection, used furniture redistribution and community composting.

[www.defra.gov.uk/environment/waste/community/](http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/waste/community/)

### **General Information**

1. Newcastle Community Empowerment Fund is offering a series of training workshops around the theme of community participation in the Newcastle Partnership. There are six 3-4 hour sessions on the following dates-

- February 9<sup>th</sup>, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, March 8<sup>th</sup>, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, April 14<sup>th</sup>, and April 27<sup>th</sup>. These sessions are **free** and childcare and transport costs can be covered as well as food and drinks being provided.

2. If you are interested and would like further details contact **Wilf Richards on 0191 3735109/ 0706 439 084/ [wilf.permascape@virgin.net](mailto:wilf.permascape@virgin.net)**