



NEWSLETTER



newcastle healthy city project

BAN Waste

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NEWS

Since the last Newsletter there have been several significant events and developments. The public consultation on the new Newcastle Waste Strategy finished at the end of January. More on that later.

On the 26th January we held an Away Day at the Ouseburn Farm:



On the day we tried to identify the issues that most concerned members and would possibly provide a focus for future actions.

Issues were identified and priorities allocated on a scoring system.

Recruitment of new active members and action on **waste minimisation** tied for first place on the day, with action to improve **information from and**

responsiveness of the local authority in third place.

From the results on the day and a follow up meeting to discuss them it was suggested that a number of 'issue action' groups be formed;

Recruitment- New members. Community involvement is seen as essential. Frances Hinton has agreed to co-ordinate this group and a feedback questionnaire is included later in this Newsletter. Please try to give feedback on the questionnaire, even if you do not feel able to commit time and energy to volunteering at the moment.

Lobbying- via the Scrutiny Panel, other committees and surgeries. Bob Stewart has agreed to co-ordinate this one. It will involve keeping a close eye on any meetings where issues of waste and recycling are likely to happen, such as the present passage of the new Newcastle Waste Strategy through the Scrutiny and Executive Committees.



A list of the purpose of these committees and their members is attached for reference.

Information- letting people know. Increasing public confidence through better information from Council Officers, Community Intelligence, practice in other Local Authorities. We are still looking for a co-ordinator for this one.

SEA Monitoring/ Critique. The performance of the Local Authority at Stakeholder events. Monitoring results and conclusions of consultation. Critical appraisal of technical documents issued by the Authority. The SEA process in relation to the previous one. This is now being addressed by the appointment of a fixed term consultant to follow this through.

Waste Minimisation- planning priorities and actions. This is seen as a priority group, but so far we have no co-ordinator to get the ball rolling.

Before we could really implement these groups we were rather overtaken by events when two people attended a meeting of the Environment & Sustainability Scrutiny Panel of the City Council and discovered that what the Officers were proposing was controversial and one aspect in particular, the proposed move from source segregation of recyclates to a co-mingled collection (all in the same bin for sorting later), we oppose quite fundamentally.

It seems that the main rational for going this way is that other local authorities in the country that have changed from source separation of recyclates to co-mingling have boosted their recycling rates significantly.

Whilst we will not bemoan the passing of what has been a rather poor source separation scheme managed by SITA, we know from other best practice models around the world that it is the best system for resource recovery when operated in the optimal way.

There are a number of pilot schemes planned to operate around the city in the next few months, including fortnightly residual waste collections, separate garden waste and kitchen waste collections. If you are in one of the areas affected let us know how things are working.

From all the reports in the media it seems likely that the whole country is moving toward fortnightly collections of residual waste, which also helps to boost recycling rates. Some Newcastle Councillors are expressing reservations, but we do need to lobby them to make the change, since all the reports back from where it has happened are positive once people get used to it and they are properly informed about how it will operate on a continuous basis.



SCRAP Project

Those of you familiar with the **SCRAP project** will be interested in the piece below taken from 'The Waste Paper' published by the Community Recycling Network. It is particularly relevant in the context of the need to engage schools in the emerging waste strategy for the city if it is going to succeed and the fact that the funding for SCRAP seems to be constantly precarious. We need to lobby Councillors on the value of this organisation.

Scrap Success

Thanks to the Schools and Community Recycling Awareness Project (SCRAP), Newcastle is on the way to reaching its 22 per cent recycling target. During the last 21 months, over 70 tonnes of quality waste paper and more than 47 tonnes of mixed recyclable waste have been collected by the project.



SCRAP is a scheme created to provide Newcastle's schools and community groups with recycling bins for waste paper and also to give educational support on the subject.

In March 2005 when the project began, SCRAP had bins on 25 sites and the success of the project has meant that it now has bins on 89 sites including, impressively, all eleven secondary schools in Newcastle. The support received by SCRAP has delighted Louise Mitchinson, Project coordinator: 'Waste paper is one of the biggest waste streams within schools and we have been overwhelmed by the support of local schools and community groups to help us tackle this problem'.

The project is run by the Children's Warehouse, a registered charity with three driving concerns: the environment, the importance of creative play for children and the support of community arts. To encourage children to maintain their enthusiasm for recycling, SCRAP is running a competition for all Local Authority schools registered with the project. The school that recycles the most paper per child will win a £1000 prize.

SCRAP is funded by the Big Lottery Fund's Community recycling and Economic Development Programme and Newcastle City Council.

For further information, visit: www.childrens-warehouse.org.uk/scrap

Nothing sweet about this salt

Several longstanding members of BAN Waste went to a performance of a play called 'Salt of the Earth' at the Northern Stage on April 3rd. It was meant to be



a balanced theatrical experience on the theme of the Byker ash and allotments saga of a few years ago, but everybody from our group that attended thought that it was a poorly thought out and presented caricature of events. Environmental activists and, more significantly, members of the public were portrayed as weak and irrational; whilst professional public health workers and scientists seemed to expound pure rationality. Those of us involved with incinerators and allotments at the time can only say 'pull the other one'.

Finally, back to volunteering and recruitment and a reminder that BAN Waste holds monthly management meetings on the first Monday of the month (except when it is a Bank Holiday, then it reverts to the second Monday). All are welcome to attend- 5 o'clock at Healthy City.

All that remains is for me to say farewell and leave you in the hands of the new Support Worker. Have a good Summer!
Paul



BAN Waste: Recruitment

Ban Waste needs you, and new members too!

- Please tell us what you think of the outline below
- Use it as an opportunity to think of the time you'd like to or are able to currently **volunteer** to BAN Waste, and return the ticked chart to Frances Hinton (frances_hinton@yahoo.com)
- **Feedback** would be welcome, as we propose making (in-house) a recruitment **leaflet**
- In immediate terms (May-August 2007), Ban Waste is mounting a **campaign** about Newcastle City Council's proposed Waste Strategy (SEA). This is about to swing into action (see elsewhere in this newsletter) and needs all of us, and more!
- BAN Waste proposes **recruiting at events** such as the Green Festival. Do you know of other events where recruitment could take place?
- We propose several months of active recruitment, at e.g. the Green Festival, followed up by two **induction evenings**, with refreshments, at which BAN Waste members introduce others to the past, present and future of BAN Waste. The target audience should be Newcastle residents. It would also be useful to make more research links with the various universities. Those recruited will receive the BAN Waste newsletter (by e-mail), and will if possible be matched or match themselves with particular job roles and pledges of time.



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Potential jobs/activities

Would you like to.... (please tick boxes)

	c.2 hrs a week	c. 2 hrs a month	Help Waste Strategy Campaign (SEA)
Lobby Councillors			
Help identify questions for Councillors			
Chair an issue group			
Be a member of an issue group			
Receive more information			
Attend an induction evening			
Help minimise waste in your area			
Help to staff a stall at events			
Identify events for stalls and help organise			
Attend a visit to a waste facility			
Monitor local newspapers re waste			
Help with publicity			
Attend meetings with Newcastle City Council			
Attend meetings elsewhere and report back			
Monitor government initiatives and report			
Organise a social event for BAN Waste			
Attend a social event with BAN Waste members			
Help with fundraising			
Explore research links			
Help with the website			
Work with other BAN Waste volunteers			
Other:			