

BOB Recycles
(BYKER, OUSEBURN AND BATTLEFIELD
RECYCLES)

PROPOSALS FOR INNOVATIVE AND HIGH QUALITY
RECYCLING AND COMPOSTING IN
BYKER AND BATTLEFIELD

MISSION:
TO CREATE AN INSPIRING, HIGH PERFORMANCE AND DEMOCRATIC
RECYCLING PARTNERSHIP
FOR THE BENEFIT OF PEOPLE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

JUNE 2005

BOB Recycles Executive Summary

Mission

To create an inspiring, high performance and democratic recycling partnership for the benefit of people and the environment.

Introducing BOB Recycles

This report aims to be the beginning of **BOB Recycles**.

BOB stands for Byker, Ouseburn and Battlefield, the areas covered by this report and the proposed recycling scheme.

The report provides the basis for negotiations with Newcastle City Council. It outlines a strong case, with many benefits, for introducing a high quality recycling and composting scheme with active community involvement to the Byker and Battlefield areas. On the basis of discussions and decisions, the detailed legal and financial arrangements can be agreed to establish BOB Recycles.

Aims and Objectives of BOB Recycles

Aims:

- Strong community participation
- Good partnership working
- Providing a high quality and easy to use service

Objectives:

1. Develop the partnership with Newcastle Council, local people and business
2. Establish a viable community-based recycling business
3. Improve the Quality of Life for people in the pilot area
4. Support and help to develop Newcastle Council's Waste Strategy and other policies to improve the well-being of the people of the City
5. Demonstrate and disseminate the benefits of a high quality household recycling and composting collection service and resource separation over waste disposal
6. Develop downstream interests and uses for recycled resources

Background

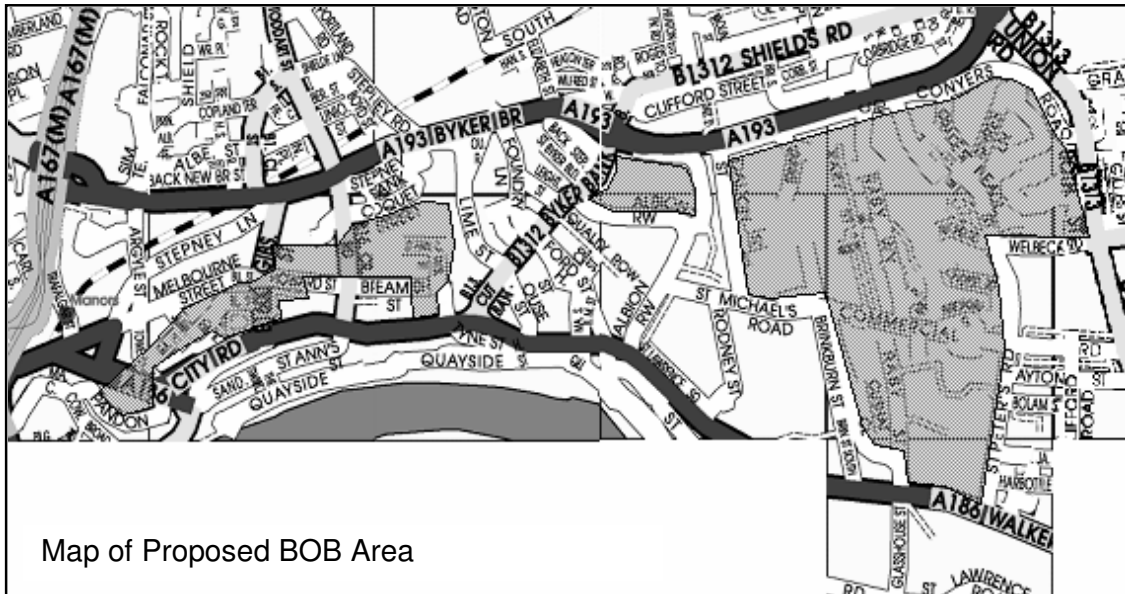
This evaluation came about because household recycling had not been introduced to the Byker estate and nearby Battlefield flats. BAN Waste approached Newcastle council to carry out a study with the aim of producing an innovative high quality recycling service, with strong community participation. Newcastle Council agreed to this proposal and Neighbourhood Renewal Fund provided the £20,000 to carry out the evaluation. The report is produced by 3 BAN Waste members but the proposals have been informed and influenced by the contributions of a wide number of helpful stakeholders, practitioners and residents.

Challenges

There are a number of physical and socio-economic features that pose challenges for a recycling service in Byker and Battlefield:

- Byker has narrow streets, lanes and paths rather than traditional streets
- 45% of the properties are flats in medium rise blocks
- 48% of households have single occupancy
- the area is classified as having a high level of deprivation, which usually means low rates of recycling

In addition BOB Recycles (BOB) will collect organic kitchen waste. This is a first in Newcastle, tackling a key waste stream that will become more important in the future due to British and EU policies.



BOB's Approach

- Strong innovative outreach and community involvement.
- Good Partnership working
- User friendly weekly collection system of dry recyclates and kitchen waste

Community Involvement

BOB will engage in innovative, intensive and extensive outreach.

- Pre-launch: deliver leaflets, knock on doors, attend community groups, hold 1stalls in public venues, visit schools, etc
- On-going: twice yearly newsletter, continue meetings with community groups, work with schools, youth clubs, etc. The involvement of young people will increase awareness of recycling in the wider community
- BOB will be part of the community: with Community Prizes, involvement in local festivals, etc
- Friends of BOB: establish a membership of supporting individuals and organisations

There is strong evidence that good community information and involvement produces a higher level of participation and more materials being put out which are cleaner and better sorted. All of this contributes to higher recycling levels and more diversion from landfill. In addition a successful system can increase community confidence and well-being.



Photos of Community Events

Partnership

The report has been prepared in partnership with Newcastle Council's councillors, officers, and trade unions, local communities and businesses. This approach would continue in the structure of BOB.

BOB's Structure

BOB will be a socially owned and not-for-profit organisation established as a Company Limited by Guarantee. Friends of BOB, open to organisations and individuals, would be established. A Management Board of stakeholders – residents, Newcastle Council, Friends of BOB and BAN Waste, plus co-optees – would be established. This would oversee the progress of BOB, receive regular reports and provide support. A number of the members would be elected to an executive which would be directly involved in establishing and furthering BOB's work.

Quality Service

Operations

BOB will provide a weekly collection for all households of paper, cardboard, glass, plastic bottles, cans, and textiles. This will be mainly from the doorstep with an exploration of options for flats including doorstep, use of binrooms and mini-bring schemes.

BOB will also provide a weekly collection of kitchen organic waste to be composted locally, with the compost being provided free to residents and for sale to the wider public.

BOB, in discussion with residents, will explore the most suitable containers for recycling.

The materials will be collected, and then directly sorted into containers on electric powered Pedestrian Controlled Vehicles (PCVs).

The collected materials will be taken to a depot for sorting, shipping, and composting. BOB is proposing the purchase of a 30,000 square foot site in Low Walker, with a large building, utilities, secure fencing and good road access, as the main operating base and the hire of two railway arches in the Ouseburn as a depot for the PCVs.

BOB Recycles: Strong community participation, Good partnership working, Quality easy to use service

Staff

BOB's staff will be crucial to its success. BOB will seek motivated people to work in a challenging opportunity and will treat them well with training opportunities, etc.

BOB will have 5 full time staff, a project co-ordinator and four collectors. The collectors will be 'Green Ambassadors', being informative and friendly as well as collecting materials. They will also deal with sorting and bulking recyclates and composting the organic matter. They will be seconded from Newcastle Council staff.

BOB will have 2 part-time workers, preferably from the local area, doing outreach and monitoring of the service.

All the staff will be on Local Authority wages and conditions and covered for Health and Safety, etc. BOB will invest in the training of the staff.

Yields

BOB would expect, based on evidence of other Community recycling organisations, that participation rates would start around 30% and rise to 60% (compared to SITA's 20% in similar areas of high deprivation) and that yields per household would be comparable, at least, with the rest of the City. In addition BOB would collect kitchen waste. It is likely that if the SITA collection is extended to all of the Byker and Battlefield area (including flats) that it would gather around 100 tonnes a year. Once established BOB would expect to collect around 160 tonnes of recyclates and 210 tonnes of kitchen waste.

	Present SITA Scheme	BOB	
		30% participation	60% participation
Dry recyclates	100	82	164
Organic matter	0	107	215
Total	100	189	379

Quality

BOB is committed to delivering a high quality service. BOB will comply with all legislation to do with waste as well as Health and Safety, Fire, etc. BOB will have insurance and equipment maintenance contracts. BOB will operate clear financial controls with a separate book keeper and independent auditor.

BOB will aim to achieve recognised standards for Quality management (ISO9000 or PQASSO) and Environmental standards (EMAS).

The strong community involvement, 'Green Ambassadors' and Friends of BOB will ensure that there are strong links between the users and providers of the service.

BOB will provide a weekly report to Newcastle Council of the amounts of recyclates and organics collected and the levels of participation. BOB's monitoring team will produce a more detailed monthly report on participation. BOB will provide the Council with a monthly report of progress. Every 2 months the Management Board will meet and receive a strategic report on recycling, finance, etc. BOB will work with Northumbria University to have a student do an annual review of all its activities.

Finance

Expenditure

The three years of the initial phase of BOB would cost in total around £800,000. This includes capital costs of £300,000 for premises, equipment, etc and running costs of £500,000 for wages, utilities, insurance, rates, waste licences and outreach materials.

Income

BOB would expect a basic income of £106,000 made up of £92,000 basic waste handling payment and £14,000 income from recycling materials.

Bridging the Gap

BOB would be confident that, in partnership with Newcastle City Council, its innovative approach would be successful in raising funding from one of the many potential sources. This would be likely to meet the capital costs and possibly contribute to the running costs. However it is likely that Newcastle City Council would have to make a contribution of between £100,000 and £150,000 per year towards BOB. This cost however would yield many direct and indirect benefits for the City.

Benefits

Byker and Battlefield

- Provide recycling to 2,800 households presently without a service
- Gain a higher yield than if the SITA contract was extended to Byker

All Newcastle

- Contribute to raising recycling and meeting Best Value indicators 82 (amount recycled) and 91 (number of houses serviced)
- Contribute to meeting aims of the City's Waste Strategy

Community Involvement and Outreach

- The SITA contract does not include responsibility for community involvement or outreach
- It is better to have a close link between the community involvement and the service delivery
- BOB will include both service delivery and strong outreach.

Pilot and Learning Lessons

- BOB will pilot weekly collection
- BOB will explore the benefits of innovative community involvement
- Pilot a number of collection strategies for flats, which will help develop systems for the 15,000 households in Newcastle without recycling
- Develop strong partnership for service delivery between Newcastle Council and the Third Sector

Collection of Kitchen Organic Matter

- A first in City, a major future challenge due to British and EU legislation
- Reduce biowaste going to landfill, with potential saving on LATS of £120,00

Employment:

- Provide 6 FTE jobs directly, with good training
- Provide a further 2 or 3 jobs indirectly
- Future opportunities for more employment

Downstream Business

- BOB already is exploring a number of downstream business opportunities using the recycled materials locally

Strengthen Community

- BOB's approach will strengthen communities and raise sense of local pride

A significant part of the value of the project is precisely to pilot for a range of approaches that can then be applied citywide.

Triple Bottom Line Indicators

Environmental Impact

- Recycling service provided to 2,800 new households
- Reduction of materials to landfill: 900 to 1,000 tonnes over 3 years
- Savings in energy use, from not producing goods from virgin materials, and therefore reduction in carbon dioxide releases
- Reduction of some 800 tonnes of biodegradable matter going to landfill, thereby reducing the production of methane, leachate and CO₂
- Develop best practice recycling methods, applicable across the City
- Compost return improves gardens and window boxes of area
- Local composting reduces transport impacts on environment

Social Impact

- Service delivered by locally controlled social enterprise
- Raises awareness about recycling amongst 2,800 households
- Community participation
- Developing and training staff
- Doorstep collection service by 'Green Ambassadors'
- Pilot Scheme involving monitoring data and action research
- Strengthen community cohesion and pride

Economic Impact

- Revenue stream from sale of recycled materials
- 6 new FTE jobs created directly through project
- Estimated benefit to local economy = 2 to 3 additional local jobs
- Reduce risk of LATS penalties of £120,000
- Opportunities for participation by local businesses in 'downstream' processing of recycled materials
- Research value added

BOB Recycles

(Byker, Ouseburn and Battlefield
Recycles)

This Report was funded by
Neighbourhood Renewal Fund

**If you have any queries or would like more information or a large
print copy of this report please contact:**

Bill Hopwood
Sustainable Cities Research Institute
6 North Street East
Newcastle Upon Tyne
NE1 8ST
0191-243 7148
william.hopwood@unn.ac.uk