Brand new recycling centre for Brampton

Going green in north Cumbria got easier than ever last month when a new Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) opened in Brampton.

The new centre on the Townfoot Industrial Estate was officially opened on March 18. Designed for ease of use it features clear signs and a convenient traffic management system as well as a covered recycling area.

Not only is Brampton HWRC aimed at encouraging people to be more environmentally friendly - the centre itself is green. It has been designed so rainwater can be collected via the covered recycling area roof for use on the site.

Cumbria County Council’s Head of Waste Management, Graham Harrison, said: “The opening of another household waste recycling centre is good news for both the environment and the people of north Cumbria.

“Having this site in Brampton is going to make it even more convenient for people in this part of the county to recycle and play their part in diverting waste from landfill. This new site will also be a major boost to the continuing improvements in Cumbria’s recycling rates.”

The new site accepts a wide range of materials for recycling and is open from 10am to 6pm every day except Tuesdays.
How are we performing?

The chart below indicates the total household waste recycled and composted by district and by the county as a whole from April 2007 to December 2008. All figures include recycling collected via Kerbside Collection Services, Recycle Points (also known as bring sites) and Household Waste Recycling Centres. The figures are provided by Cumbria County Council’s Waste Management Performance Team and reported to the Environment Agency.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Recycled and Composted</th>
<th>Sent to Landfill</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ALLEDALE</td>
<td>43.90%</td>
<td>56.10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BARROW</td>
<td>26.99%</td>
<td>73.01%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CARLISLE</td>
<td>49.31%</td>
<td>50.69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COPELAND</td>
<td>34.63%</td>
<td>65.37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDEN</td>
<td>50.38%</td>
<td>49.62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOUTH LAKELAND</td>
<td>47.95%</td>
<td>52.05%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CUMBRIA</td>
<td>43.79%</td>
<td>56.21%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Looking back

This time last year Cumbria was recycling and composting 39.43% of it’s waste.

The table below is your ready reckoner to waste statistics in Cumbria. The figures below relate to information gathered for April to December in both 2007 and 2008 to allow a like-for-like performance comparison.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total household waste created</td>
<td>204,752</td>
<td>203,362</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total household waste landfilled</td>
<td>124,019</td>
<td>114,310</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of waste recycled</td>
<td>21.03%</td>
<td>24.01%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of waste composted</td>
<td>18.40%</td>
<td>19.78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total percentage recycled and composted</td>
<td>39.40%</td>
<td>43.79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kilograms of waste generated per head in Cumbria</td>
<td>412 kg</td>
<td>409 kg</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Looking at LATS

In terms of Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme (LATS) we are currently 50,000 tonnes in credit. However 2009/10 is a target year so the slate will, in effect, be wiped clean at this time. Our estimate for the end of 2009/10 is that we will be 7,000 tonnes in credit.

A county committed to recycling

Last Autumn, Resource Cumbria used the Cumbrian representative citizens panel, Community Voice, to assess attitudes to recycling in Cumbria and satisfaction with the work conducted by the partnership. The results are in and we are…

Community Voice is Cumbria County Council’s citizens panel. The panel consists of 3000 Cumbria adults who have agreed to respond to regular surveys. The members of the panel are recruited randomly to ensure that it represents an accurate cross-section of the public. The Autumn survey had 1310 respondents in total.

As well as questions relating to attitudes to recycling and recycling facilities countywide the survey also investigated awareness of Resource Cumbria and indeed the Recycle for Cumbria campaign. Furthermore a number of questions were repeated from a more in-depth survey carried out using the panel in 2004. This allows us to perform a like-for-like comparison on a number of attitudes today compared to how they were in 2004 when the partnership was in its infancy.

The survey highlights are listed to the right and the results are extremely positive. The results support the recycling figures we receive on a regular basis and prove that attitudes are also moving in the right direction as recycling is clearly becoming more common place in the minds and behaviour of Cumbrian householders.

Meeting the members

The Partnership Board meeting minutes and other documents are available at resourcecumbria.org.
A revamped recycling service is being rolled out across Barrow in a bid to slash residual waste and boost recycling by over 10%. Review looks at how Barrow Borough Council and the partnership hope to achieve this.

Major changes are underway in Barrow which will enable Barrovians to recycle much more at the kerbside. The existing service currently enables people to recycle paper, glass and cans through their green box and green bag receptacles. As of last month, households now have access to a brand new red bag enabling them to recycle plastic and cardboard.

And with all Barrow’s residents recycling so much more they’ll soon find that less rubbish is being put into the rubbish bin so, to keep the weekly collection, the standard size bin will be replaced with a smaller bin.

Deputy leader of Barrow Borough Council, Ken Williams, said: “With this new service we are not reducing rubbish collection, we are increasing recycling capacity. The system is convenient and I’m sure it will soon become second nature for people to use the various bags and boxes rather than simply dumping everything in the bin.”

The new system was made possible by significant partnership investment. The new recycling and refuse receptacles were purchased through the pooling of Waste Infrastructure Capital Grant (WICG). As well as capital investment however, the partnership were also keen to invest time and resources so a project team was created comprising officers from Barrow Borough Council as well as Cumbria County Council’s Waste Prevention Team and Communications Officers.

Any new service is only successful if people actually use it so it was clear to all that in order to get the people of Barrow on board with recycling a robust communications campaign was quite necessary. Subsequently a project communications plan was developed and submitted to the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) for consideration. The joint bid that the partnership developed was once again successful in securing WRAP funding - this time to the tune of £78,000. A further £15,000 was also contributed by Cumbria County Council.

Thanks to this joint working and indeed funding, we have been able to launch Barrow’s new service with gusto. There have already been advertorials in the local press, as well as fantastically colourful adverts on the borough’s buses, bus shelters and on local radio. The two new vehicles brought in to deliver the new service have also been given the “Recycle for Barrow” treatment each with huge billboards attached to their sides promoting the new service.

Each household was also informed individually about the new service with each receiving a news bulletin informing them of the new service and also a instructional leaflet and their own personal collection calendar.

Furthermore the WRAP funding has enabled us to employ yet another Recycling Ranger - a post that proved invaluable during previous funded campaigns. And the new ranger will certainly have plenty to do as no less than 49 roadshows, talks and school assemblies have been planned for the new service roll out period.

Barrow Recycling Officer, Peter Buckley explains: “Events like these are vital as there is no substitute to getting out and talking to people. It’s a great opportunity to sound them out - we can talk them through the new system and resolve any concerns they may have.”

“We’ve recently talked to over 100 people at a roadshow at Netto Supermarket. At this event alone we were able to distribute 30 green boxes and take orders for many more. Some of the families we spoke to were a little worried as to how they would cope with the reduced capacity refuse bin but once we showed them the new recycling system and explained how much space this would create in the bin, they left perfectly happy and often eager to get started.”

Deputy Leader, Ken Williams, concluded: “Barrow has a wonderful community spirit and I’m hoping everybody in the borough will come together in seizing the opportunity this new service provides to massively increase our recycling rates.”

To ask questions about the new service or request new recycling containers contact Barrow Borough Council on 0800 731 9826 or email recycling@barrowbc.gov.uk.

During the last 12 months we have held numerous roadshows and met thousands of Cumbrian parents. As a result of these efforts we have issued 1500 vouchers and over a thousand have been redeemed.

Real nappies are a great alternative to disposables. They can be reused over and over so they are much better for the environment than the 8 million disposable nappies that are thrown away every day in the UK.

The Cumbria Real Nappy Scheme voucher offers a real financial saving to the families who take it up - they can save up to £500 on the cost of using disposables. It also offers great savings to the county as a whole. It is estimated that if the real nappies are used for the full two years a baby is in nappies this can divert some 1.65 tonnes of waste from landfill. This means that each voucher could result in the avoidance of £126.95 of landfill charges.

April 27 - May 1 is national Real Nappy Week. Resource Cumbria will be hitting the road once again to sign up even more Cumbrians to the campaign. For more information visit cumbriarealnappycampaign.org.

This April we will celebrate the 1st birthday of the Cumbria Real Nappy Campaign - Resource Cumbria’s money-off voucher scheme which enables Cumbrian families to try real nappies.

Happy 1st birthday to us
As Cumbria County Council and Shanks progress towards the signing of the multi-million pound contract to treat the county’s residual waste, Review caught up with Shanks for an update.

Last November a full meeting of Cumbria County Council approved the contract with Shanks, and we are now working to financial close. This is rather like buying a house, with the approval being acceptance of offer, and financial close being exchange of contracts. Progress in reaching financial close has been challenging because of the downturn in global credit markets, however hard work by both Shanks and Cumbria County Council means that even in these difficult times the money required to finance the Public Private Partnership has been secured.

In anticipation of financial close we have continued to prepare the way for innovative, sustainable waste management and are making good progress with developments in both the planning process and the network of Household Waste Recycling Centres.

The planning application for the first of the new Mechanical Biological Treatment (MBT) plants to be built at Hespøn Wood to the north of Carlisle was submitted in December 2008, taking the first step towards sustainable waste management in Cumbria. The 75,000 tonne per annum plant will take “black bag” waste from the Carlisle area for treatment and from the Workington and Penrith areas via transfer stations. The feedback received from local residents during the period of pre-planning consultation has been included in the planning application and Shanks would like to thank everyone who contributed to this process. The planning application will hopefully be determined by the planning committee of the County Council during April. For more information about the planning application please visit our website at shanks.co.uk/shankscumbria.

The second MBT facility that Shanks will be building will be in the Barrow area. A suitable site has been identified and we will shortly begin the process of consulting with the residents of Barrow, and other stakeholders. The Barrow facility will be an identical plant to the one at Hespøn Wood, Carlisle and will process up to 75,000 tonnes of residual waste using the same Ecodeco technology to produce a range of materials for recycling and a fuel that is used as a replacement fossil fuel in energy intensive industries.

We are pleased to be able to say that Shanks agreed an advance services agreement March 2009 to operate the new Household Waste Recycling Centre at Brampton. If you have used the site you may have noticed that the skip looks a bit different from the other sites in Cumbria. The new branding at Brampton will be coming your way soon when Shanks takes over the management of all sites in Cumbria.

Chords have been striking and drums have been banging all over the county as primary school pupils have been taking part in their special R Factor boot camps.

School children across Cumbria are proving to be innovative musicians of the future thanks to Resource Cumbria’s latest initiative, the R Factor. Inspired by TV’s hit show “X Factor”, ours is a fantastic new Cumbrian talent quest aimed at spreading the message of the 3Rs - reduce, reuse and recycle.

Since January primary school children in the region have been experimenting with instruments made from recycled products cultivating a child friendly “Boot Camp” with professional music charity MusicLinks where they have planned, written and recorded their own unique musical message to promote the 3Rs of recycling.

Andy Halsey from Musiclinks explains “The children were given the chance to feel like a real recording artist for an afternoon. Although it was just in the classroom, they said they’d felt like “proper pop stars!” It was brilliant to hear the finished result so quickly. The whole workshop had an exciting feel to it and was very well paced, so children didn’t get bored and all felt very involved.”

“The quality of work produced by the pupils has been outstanding. Along with their teachers they have worked extremely hard, and feedback from the schools so far has been very positive. Children seem to have enjoyed the process and felt a real sense of achievement”.

And now it’s time for our budding stars to face the music as their songs will now go forward to our panel of judges. The panel, comprising representatives from Musiclinks, Lakeland Radio and Resource Cumbria, will select their 6 favourite finalists to go through to the public vote.

Resource Cumbria’s representative on the judging panel, Ian Garrow, said “I’m really excited to be judging the R Factor. The range of music produced by the students to promote recycling in Cumbria has been phenomenal. There have been nursery rhymes, raps, solos and choirs amongst others and all have been to a very high standard. The judging process so far has been tough with so much talent; however we are sure that whichever 2 schools are the eventual winners their songs will strike the right chord to encourage the people of Cumbria to carry out the 3Rs.”

The finalists go to air on Monday 20 April when the texts lines also go live for people to vote. You will be able to hear the finalists montage on your local radio station or by visiting recycleforcumbria.org from this date.

So get involved and vote for your winner. Who has the R Factor? You decide!

The picture above features Musiclinks tutor Keith Redfern and the R Factor workshop at Crasthwaite primary school. Image courtesy of the Westmorland Gazette.
As part of their efforts to minimise schools’ waste, officers from Resource Cumbria have adopted the Eco-Schools scheme as a means of encouraging action and certifying the work that schools do in this area.

Schools across Cumbria produce around 2,200 tonnes of waste every year. Cumbria County Council’s Waste Education Team and district council officers work specifically with schools to encourage them to embrace the 3Rs: reduce, reuse and recycle.

The team offers schools a free service to help them find ways to reduce their waste, to reuse what resources they can and then link in to local recycling services. The team also helps schools with their purchasing, encouraging them to buy recycled products where possible and also to compost their fruit and vegetable waste.

All of these actions help schools become sustainable and take part in the national Eco-Schools award scheme. This is a “whole school, whole environment” programme which aims to make schools lean and green learning machines.

There are three levels of award once a school has registered for the scheme - bronze, silver and green flag (which entitles the holder school to fly the green flag and use the logo on its stationery). There are 8 schools in Cumbria which currently hold the green flag.

Ian Garrow, the county’s Senior Waste Education Officer speaks of the potential for eco-friendly measures in all of Cumbria’s schools: “Schools produce huge amounts of paper, plastic and food waste. Around 60% of all the carbon dioxide produced by County Council run buildings comes from its schools.”

It is Resource Cumbria’s ambition to assist every school to become an Eco-School. The partnership sponsored an awareness raising event at Cockermouth School in February, where delegates from interested schools were able to come along and share the experiences of other Eco-Schools and gain practical advice from those in the know.

Ian Garrow continued: “Lots of schools are already taking eco-friendly measures of their own and they are just not aware of the help available or indeed the Eco-Schools Award. Many are probably well on their way to the bronze award without even knowing it.”

To find out more about Eco-Schools or to arrange a visit from the Waste Education Team contact Ian Garrow on 01228 227647.