

## Briefing Paper: Range of Recyclable Materials collected in Leeds.

### 1.0 Household Waste Sorting Sites (HWSS).

1.1 Leeds City Council (LCC) currently provides 11 HWSS across the city at Calverley Bridge, East Leeds, Ellar Ghyll, Gamblethorpe, Kirkstall Road, Stanley Road, Meanwood Road, Thorp Arch, Pudsey Grangefield, Milners' Road and Holmewell Road. A strategic review of these sites is currently being undertaken to look at their distribution and determine how they meet current and future needs especially with respect to population densities. East Leeds HWSS is due to close in spring 2010 for redevelopment, with reopening planned for spring 2011. Gamblethorpe HWSS is due to close in September 2010 in accordance with planning requirements to allow the completion of the restoration of the adjacent landfill site.

1.2 A wide range of materials are collected for **recycling** at the HWSS:

- **Paper** (inc. shredded paper, computer paper, newspaper, junk mail, magazines, telephone directories, envelopes)
- **Metal cans** ( inc. aluminium, food and drink cans, steel cans)
- **Cardboard packaging** ( inc. brown, glossy food packaging, egg boxes)
- **Plastic bottles** (types 1(PET), 2(HDPE))
- **Glass** (bottles and jars)
- **Aerosol cans**
- **Aluminium foil**
- **Small electrical goods** (kettles, toasters, irons, hifi's, cd players etc.)
- **Large electrical goods** (cookers, washing machines, fridges, freezers)
- **Batteries (car & domestic)**
- **Green waste**
- **Tyres**
- **Household rubble**
- **Scrap metal**
- **Fluorescent tubes**
- **Low energy bulbs**
- **Tetrapaks** (*only at Thorp Arch, Meanwood, Milners' Rd, White Rose & Owlcoates*)
- **Oil** ( engine and vegetable)
- **Wood** ( including mdf and chipboard)
- **Gypsum-containing materials** (uncontaminated plasterboard and indoor plaster)
- **Garden chemicals**

1.3 The range of plastics recycled is largely dictated by market forces and until there is a demand for these materials it is not cost effective to separate them from the residual waste.

- 1.4 The following plastics are not recycled at HWSS:
- Plastic types 3 (PVC),  
5 (polypropylene PP)  
6 (polystyrene PS),  
7 (others)
- 1.5 These include the plastic types used for yogurt pots, food trays, margarine tubs. These waste streams can be recycled, subject to VFM justification, but this is likely to need further investment at sites. e.g recycling of polystyrene may require the waste stream to be bulked up and then baled to produce sufficient weight to gain income from sale for recycling. Hard plastics, UPVC windows and glazing glass are also not collected for recycling at the present time.
- 1.6 Wherever possible items are collected for **reuse**. The following are collected at the HWSS for donation to charities for reuse or sale.
- **Clothes**
  - **Shoes**
  - **Books**
  - **Ink Cartridges**
  - **Spectacles**
  - **Stamps**
  - **Mobile Phones**
- 1.7 Part used tins of paint suitable for reuse are collected currently at 5 of the HWSS for reuse by the local Community Repaint group, Seagulls, who provides it to local community groups at low cost. Subject to a current procurement, it is planned to expand paint collections to all HWSS within the next 12 months.
- 1.8 A small number of sewing machines, knitting machines and tools are collected by Work Aid, who repairs and refurbishes items for shipment to projects overseas.
- 1.9 Bicycles are also collected sporadically by reuse groups. More recently a Bradford based group have contacted the Waste and Recycling team, to express interest in collections from HWSS, they are trying to set up a company to repair and sell bikes. This is a product which could easily be supplied through the household waste sites but finding an established outlet is proving difficult.
- 1.10 At five HWSS (Meanwood Road, Thorp Arch, Pudsey Grangefield, Milner Road and Holmewell Road) bulk storage containers have been provided to allow the segregation and dry storage of larger household furniture items that are suitable for reuse: These are collected from the sites by local furniture reuse projects ( St Judes, Leeds & Moortown, South Leeds Alternative Technology Enterprise (SLATE), Emmaus) who then clean, repair and either distribute them to those in need or sell them in their shops. Provision of

containers for this use could be developed further subject to capacity requirements at other HWSS.

- 1.11 LCC is currently developing the plans to restructure the former East Leeds transfer station and HWSS into a modern recycling facility with split level reception areas and additional recycling opportunities. The new site will also incorporate a purpose built shop which will accept reusable items either directly from the public (furniture, bric a brac, books, bikes etc) or recovered from the HWSS which will then be sold from the shop. It is intended that a local community organisation or charity will operate the shop. This scheme is following the successful model operated by Warwickshire County Council where shops have been developed on three HWSS. All are run by local charities and receive a great deal of local support and assist in diverting significant quantities of waste from landfill. Further shops may be developed on other HWSS in the future.
- 1.12 LCC is also working with Weelink, the LCC WEEE ( waste electronic and electrical equipment) producer compliance partner, to increase the opportunities to reuse the larger electrical items currently recycled through the HWSS. Larger electrical items (cookers, fridges, freezers, washing machines, dryers, hoovers, televisions) are being put into the dry storage containers as part of a trial. These are being collected for repair by local furniture recycling organisation, St.Judes. Information gathered during the trial is being used to develop a business plan for a new Approved Authorised Treatment Facility (AATF) where all reusable large electrical items from the HWSS would be repaired and made available for sale in local charity and community shops.
- 1.13 Recent residual waste composition analysis that was carried out at a Leeds HWSS in February 2009 showed that a large proportion of the residual waste by weight (30.25%) was bulky furniture items such as sofas, armchairs, mattresses, with 21.5% carpet and underlay, and 12.2% textiles.
- 1.14 There are opportunities to intercept more of this furniture and textile waste for reuse and recycling. Local carpet, underlay and mattress recycling facilities do not occur at the present time although these are being developed in other parts of the country.

## **2.0 Bring Sites**

- 2.1 Leeds currently has the largest local authority network of what is termed 'Bring Sites' in the UK with over 440 sites. which provide additional opportunities for householders to recycle waste that either cannot go in their kerbside 'SORT' bin (eg glass) or provide an alternative outlet to the SORT collections.
- 2.2 The bring sites are often situated in car parks of supermarkets, pubs and shops, near shopping centres, and in residential areas. They provide containers for recycling a range of materials depending on the space available, including glass, paper, textiles and shoes, food and drink tins and cans, and plastic bottles.

2.3 The bring sites are often situated on private land, and finding new sites can be challenging, involving lengthy discussions and agreement with the landowner, liaison with local residents and Area Management Teams and elected members. Work to expand the network further is being developed through the Recycling Improvement Plan and the HWSS strategic review.

### **3.0 Other recycling methods used elsewhere: On-street recycling**

3.1 Cardiff, Blackpool, Barnet, Test Valley, Camden, Colchester are just a few of the councils that have recently installed on-street recycling bins alongside waste bins in busy thoroughfare areas to allow the public to recycle their waste on the way to work, and to allow the large amount of paper, drinks cans and plastic bottles that exist in street litter to be recycled rather than disposed to landfill.

3.2 The provision of on-street recycling reinforces the recycling message that is being delivered to the householders at home. Leeds has in the past installed split litter bins to capture recyclable materials from customers on the go but levels of contamination grew to such a level that it became unsuitable for recycling. A planned approach needs to be developed before any on the go recycling is reinstated including an extensive communication strategy.

3.3 Subterranean bring storage systems have been utilised as an alternative to free standing bring banks.

3.4 The Envac system pneumatic waste collection system is an alternative system that is also available. Separate recyclable wastes are put into different containers which are connected to a pneumatic collection system. The waste materials are sucked through an underground pipeline system to a central collection point up to 2km away. The waste is compacted prior to transfer to a container that is then loaded onto a vehicle for removal. This system has been installed in the Wembley City residential complex next to the new Wembley Stadium where it is used to collect household waste, although similar systems can be used to collect waste from street collection bins. The system delivers benefits in terms of low carbon emissions due to the lack of collection vehicles and produces a more pleasant vehicle free environment.

**Examples of on the go recycling facilities:**

**Prices range from £495 - £625 for individual bins for each waste stream to £900-£1500 for single bins with split compartments.**

**Test Valley**



**Colchester**



**Hillingdon**

