

# wastelines

recycle for Gloucestershire

News from the Gloucestershire Waste Partnership

Issue 4 October 2006

## Welcome to the fourth edition of Wastelines

A lot of interesting things are on the horizon for waste and recycling in Gloucestershire. In particular we will be going out to consultation on the draft JMWMS at the end of October, and waste will be the theme of the next Great Gloucestershire Debate. (see the article by Wayne Lewis).

Most excitingly, the Gloucestershire LGA has produced and signed up to a vision statement to front the strategy promoting a possible 70% recycling and composting by Gloucestershire Households. (see lead article)

Some of the issues arising from the strategy, such as In Vessel Composting, Kitchen Waste and Alternate Weekly Collections, are also explored.

The next issue will be out in January so, if you have any news views or issues you would like to share or air, please get your copy to David Hughes by the 15th December. david.hughes@gloucestershire.gov.uk

Sue Kinsey, Editor

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## Rubbish top of the Agenda!

**It's official! Rubbish is top of Gloucestershire's political agenda. The Gloucestershire LGA (council leaders and chief executives) has been considering the complexities and challenges of waste management.**

The main theme that emerged was waste minimisation – quite simply, if we don't produce it in the first place, it isn't a problem. Waste minimisation needs to include the shops from where the rubbish (in the form of packaging) usually comes, the householder's disposal options (determined by the services supplied by councils), and the habits of each householder (how informed and motivated they are).

In July, the LGA agreed a number of areas to be taken forward by the Gloucestershire Waste Partnership (GWP). Most importantly, they agreed a Joint Strategic Statement and a Recycling and Composting Vision that will become the foreword to Gloucestershire's Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (JMWMS).

The Vision Statement is very forward thinking. It takes responsibility for recycling to the individual householder, rather than committing to high-level district or

countywide targets. In essence, it proposes a deal between the seven Gloucestershire councils and each and every householder. The deal is: "if we provide you with good information, comprehensive, user-friendly kerbside collection facilities you will be able to recycle the majority of your rubbish – in excess of 70%".

### The New LGA Vision

*All households in Gloucestershire will have convenient and easy-to-use collection services, enabling them to recycle and compost at least 70% of their rubbish by April 2010.*

*Householders in Gloucestershire need to make informed buying and disposal decisions. We all need to minimise waste and help protect the local and global environment.*

Mike Williams



# Waste Strategy Consultation underway

**Wastelines readers will recall that GWP has been working on a new Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Gloucestershire. A draft strategy has now been approved for consultation and the public will shortly be asked for their views.**

Public consultation gets underway at the end of October 2006 and runs for 12 weeks. The consultation documents will be posted on Council websites, together with a questionnaire. The documents and questionnaire will also be available from libraries and council offices.

We will be holding a number of stakeholder workshops, where stakeholders such as elected members, environmental groups and the waste industry will be able to learn more about the strategy and offer their views. We will seek householders' views through a mail out to a random sample of the population. A Community Panel will also be formed, where we will be able to gain more in-depth feedback.

In addition to the more "traditional" forms of public consultation set out above, we will also be launching a "Great Gloucestershire Debate" on waste in November. The Great Gloucestershire Debate has been developed by the Gloucestershire Strategic Partnership and is an exciting consultation campaign to get people living and working in Gloucestershire talking about the issues that matter most to them. Waste will be the third subject tackled, and follows previous debates on Transport and Food.

The debate is held through the local media, with key media partners including the Citizen and Echo newspapers and BBC Radio Gloucestershire. Members of the public can get involved through the letters pages of local newspapers, radio phone-ins, and an online discussion forum. The Great Gloucestershire Debate provides an opportunity to engage people who might not otherwise take part in public consultation exercises. Over the next few months we hope to get the whole of Gloucestershire talking rubbish!

Wayne Lewis

## In Vessel Composting- The way forward?



**Composting is an age-old natural process whereby organic matter is decomposed by bacteria. We will all have observed this process, whether at home in our compost heaps or by seeing leaves decomposing in woodlands. Compost processes are aerobic, (in the presence of oxygen) and an efficient system can produce a highly marketable soil improver and fertiliser. Any emissions from composting can be controlled by natural processes such as biofilters (made from tree bark).**

All Local Authorities are under increased pressure to landfill less and recycle more. When put in landfill sites, organic or biodegradable waste produces methane, a contributing factor to climate change. Composting is a real opportunity to divert waste from landfill, helping to reduce the effects of climate change and produce a high quality product.

Gloucestershire County Council is looking at opportunities to encourage composting, and the technology that is looking most promising at present is an In Vessel Composting (IVC) process.

IVC allows the aerobic process to be accurately and efficiently controlled, monitored and accelerated to ensure that a high quality product is produced all year round. The system also offers real

opportunities for composting a wider range of wastes; most IVCs are able to cope with food waste; a waste that most Local Authorities have difficulty recycling and which accounts for 25% of our rubbish. The high temperatures produced in an In Vessel facility mean that food waste is pasteurised before being naturally matured in windrow heaps (long rows of compost which are regularly turned). Compost product from modern plants can meet all regulatory standards and is safe to spread on land.

An IVC facility in Gloucestershire would be a local solution to a global environmental problem; it is odourless, has low visual impact and offers a real and sustainable 'closed loop' opportunity for managing Gloucestershire's household waste.

John Jackson

## News from the Recycle for Gloucestershire Campaign

**Last month GWP received the good news that our bid to WRAP's Behavioural Change Local Fund (BCLF) has been successful. This fund is provided to finance communications campaigns to support individual local authorities, or partnerships of local authorities, in their quest to get more items recycled more often.**

The amount of the funding is still being finalised, but it is likely to be approximately £300,000. This will enable us to continue the successful 'Recycle For Gloucestershire' campaign until March 2008.

A number of media will be used in an integrated campaign, that includes leaflets, press advertising, posters, press releases, radio, roadshows, door-to-door canvassing and the continued evolution of our website, [www.recycleforgloucestershire.com](http://www.recycleforgloucestershire.com) The programme features a number of individual campaigns throughout the 18 month period.

In this campaign, as well as continuing with our tried and trusted methods, there will be one or two innovations. These will include a programme to recruit, train and support 'Recycling Champions' in Cheltenham Borough and Gloucester City, and a recycling league table initiative in the Forest of Dean.

Also included in the comprehensive programme is communications support for the county's first food waste collection, to be trialed by Stroud District Council, and support for scheme changes in Tewkesbury Borough and Cotswold District.

David Hughes

# Alternate Weekly Collections

Cotswold District Council will be asking its elected members to consider how the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (JMWMS) should be implemented in their area. The Cotswold D.C strategy will outline the options for moving towards an alternate weekly collection of household and green waste, and the collection of recyclable materials as part of a wider policy of waste minimisation. As part of this process, Cotswold D C will be proposing a move from the black sack collection system to a wheeled bin service.

We recognise that we need to help the public to reduce the amount of waste going in the bin. Waste minimisation is the key and to help "slim the bin" we will be asking the District Council to consider increasing the number of recyclables collected at kerbside to include plastic, cardboard and kitchen waste. As part of the proposal, we will also be recommending an extensive awareness raising and promotional campaign to give advice and support to the public.

The District Council is considering this move to support the JMWMS and ensure a reduction in the amount of waste we throw away and to help to avoid landfill penalties.

John Parkinson



## Stroud Kitchen Waste Pilot

**Food waste forms over 25% of the average household's bin by weight. This waste can be composted, but it must be put through a specialised treatment process (such as In-vessel Composting) to comply with the Animal By-products Regulations. Stroud District Council will be introducing a kitchen waste collection scheme in a pilot area involving 1800 properties, in spring 2007. This will involve the collection of kitchen waste and dry recyclables on a weekly basis with refuse collected fortnightly.**

Householders will be provided with a small kitchen caddy for inside the house and a food bin for a weekly collection of food. The caddy will allow the householder to transfer the food waste from the kitchen to the larger outside bin.

This system enables costs to be kept to a minimum and gives householders a service they want, i.e. less waste to landfill and weekly recycling collections.

Funding has been secured for the project, which it is hoped will start next spring. The containers will be delivered to households

before the scheme starts, along with information on how to use them. The promotional activity is due to start towards the end of 2006.

Stroud District Council is committed to increasing the amount of waste recycled in the district and to keeping its position as one of the lowest waste producing authorities in the country. Reducing the amount of waste going to landfill will help create a better and more sustainable environment.

Sue Hurt



## Y-Waste

Three organisations, supported by Stroud District Council, have launched a website, [www.y-waste.org](http://www.y-waste.org), as the first stage in helping businesses to find cost effective and efficient solutions to waste collection and recycling. The Federation of Small Businesses (FSB), the Stroud Chamber of Commerce, and Trade and Parklife want to hear about concerns Stroud businesses have when disposing of their rubbish. The website asks businesses to complete a brief survey, which may help to provide a cost effective solution.

Over 80% of small businesses have said they would like to work together to save money on their waste collection, so the Stroud Chamber of Commerce and Trade hosted a meeting open to any business on 6th October at Ebley Mill in Stroud, to try to find ways for this to happen.

The organisations involved hope to put Stroud on the map as having the first business consortium to jointly negotiate a waste collection deal.

Sue Hurt



## Hello to...

Stephen Herbert who joins the Waste Unit at Shire Hall as Information Officer.

Stephen previously worked for a Housing Association in Cheltenham. This is his first position in the Waste business, and hopefully he will get to grips with the mountains of data we produce!

Stephens's hobbies include playing the guitar, collecting and reading comic books, chess, running, good films, decent cooked food and the TV program "Dragons Den". The person he would most like to meet is Bill Murray!

## Goodbye to...

our Wastelines editor, Sue Kinsey, who leaves Gloucestershire County Council on 21 Nov to take up a new post with the Marine Conservation Society.

Sue has worked enthusiastically over the last three years to develop a waste education programme for schools and a waste prevention programme in partnership with a number of community groups. Sue has been integral to a number of the GWPs successful funding bids, such as the WRAP communications fund, DEFRA recycling incentives scheme and Real Nappies scheme.

We'll miss her friendly nature and positive outlook and wish her every success in her new post.

# District Round up

**Stroud** is putting together an environment strategy to take them up to 2025. The strategy will take a comprehensive look at the environment, focusing on climate change, local areas and waste and recycling. Stroud residents are being invited to give their comments on the Green Paper by 17th November to help put the new strategy and action plan together.

The Beeches, a centre for adults with learning difficulties in Stroud, has just celebrated the first anniversary of its can and foil recycling project. £1000 has been made from their sale so far. They are now hoping to purchase another can crusher and to grow the scheme further. The project has been supported by the Aluminium Packaging Recycling Organisation and Stroud District Council, who helped with the purchase of a can crusher.

**Cotswold** - A resident has been formally cautioned for failing to ensure that his household rubbish was disposed of properly. The householder gave someone else his rubbish to get rid of, and it was dumped at two separate locations just outside Tetbury, within 10 miles of each other.

A 'simple caution' was issued to the offenders as they admitted the offence. This will remain a matter of record for up to five years. Had they not accepted the caution, they could have been prosecuted for failing to ensure the rubbish had been properly disposed of, which carries a fine of up to £5,000.

**Gloucester City Council** is coming to the end of a tendering process to let a 10-year streetcare services partnering arrangement.

They have appointed Accord Operations plc as the preferred bidder and negotiations are ongoing. Once the new partner is in place, Gloucester City Council will undertake a full review of current services, with a view to planning the introduction of an expanded recycling collection service to commence in 2007/08.

**The Forest of Dean's** trial collection of light cardboard packaging mixed with the garden cuttings service has been extended to a more urban part of the Forest of Dean. This will assess the impacts of composting cardboard from an urban area and whether there is any noticeable change in the materials presented for collection.

All the material collected is taken to Rosehill Farm, Dymock for windrow composting. Each of the loads is monitored for types of cardboard included, contamination levels and heavy metal analysis when applied to the land. A control round from outside the trial area is also analysed alongside this monitoring, to assess the composition and contamination levels.

The potential for extending the scheme across the district will be explored once the present trial is completed and all the data collated.

**Cheltenham** has increased their garden waste recycling collections to cover 36,000 properties, which is helping them to achieve over 30% recycling at this point in the year!

They have also started the commercial waste recycling collections of glass, with 15 properties signed up and collections working well.

## Stop Press: Cabinet takes steps to greener future

**Residents in Gloucestershire are a step closer to having their kitchen waste collected separately for composting in a bid to reduce the amount of waste going into landfill.**

Gloucestershire County Council's Cabinet agreed on 17th October to look at providing an 'In Vessel' composting site in the county, that would reduce the amount of rubbish going into landfill by 25%, by separating biodegradable kitchen waste and turning it into compost.

The In Vessel Composter would compost 60,000 tonnes of green waste every year, including 30,000 tonnes of food waste. Gloucestershire throws away more than 300,000 tonnes of rubbish every year and has to pay the cost of putting this in landfill. This new facility would reduce that burden and the cost to the taxpayer.

This development is a major step forward in the joint municipal waste management strategy being developed by the Gloucestershire Waste Partnership.

Wayne Lewis