

wasteline

ISSUE 5 SPRING 2010



INSIDE:

Minister Poots
in Copenhagen
'Snow' Problem!

The 'Primark Effect'

arc21



John Quinn

arc21 constantly seeks to use any method possible to reinforce the importance of the 3Rs and how vital it is that people reduce, reuse and recycle as much of their household waste as possible.

This edition of Wasteline looks at the problem of the 'Primark Effect' - the phenomenon of consumers throwing away barely worn cheap clothing which is clogging up landfill sites across Northern Ireland rather than being recycled.

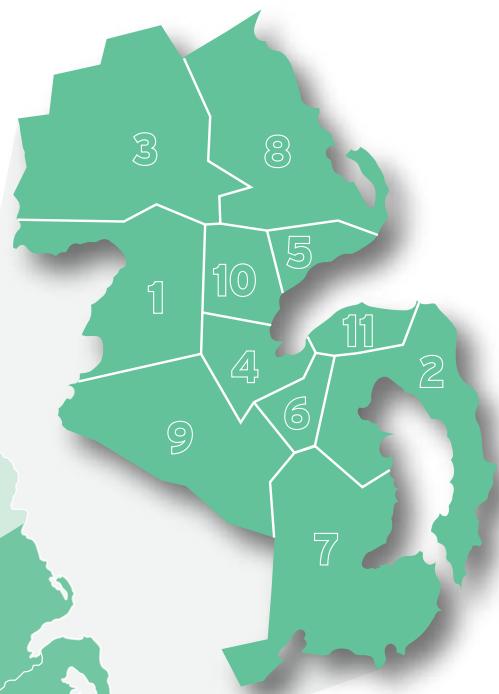
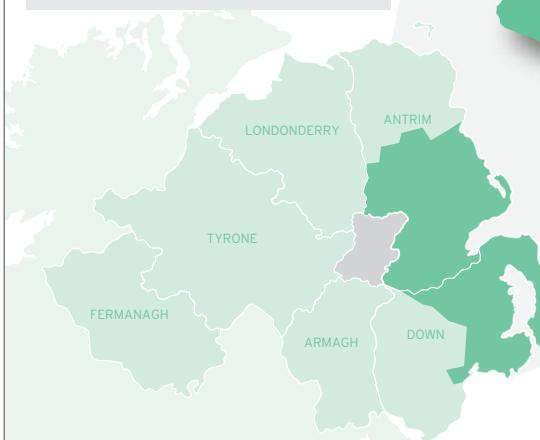
Did you know that we purchase over two million tonnes of clothing in the UK every year and that only 300,000 tonnes of this is recycled or passed to charity shops? This means that over one million tonnes of clothing finds its way to landfill - a practice which must end soon.

Also, now that spring has sprung, we are encouraging households to get home composting and have provided some top tips on how you can transform some of your kitchen and garden waste into soil-enhancing compost. We are also urging you to keep an eye out for a new brand of thieves who, perhaps as a result of the current financial climate, are pilfering textiles from recycling banks. And how did our councils cope with the 'Big Freeze' of winter? Find out on page 10.

The Department of the Environment recently launched a new Rethink Waste website and in this edition of Wasteline we hear from the Environment Minister, Edwin Poots, who gives his thoughts on the way forward for the waste management effort in Northern Ireland. He stresses the importance of arc21's current procurement process to introduce new waste management facilities that will bring us in line with the rest of Europe and help save taxpayers' money. That's something which everyone can welcome.

ABOUT ARC21

arc21 Councils
1. Antrim Borough Council
2. Ards Borough Council
3. Ballymena Borough Council
4. Belfast City Council
5. Carrickfergus Borough Council
6. Castlereagh Borough Council
7. Down District Council
8. Larne Borough Council
9. Lisburn City Council
10. Newtownabbey Borough Council
11. North Down Borough Council



Representing 11 councils in the east of Northern Ireland, arc21's area accounts for almost 60% of the Province's municipal waste output, about 550,000 tonnes a year.

Environmental concerns and new EU regulations mean that we simply can't keep sending our waste to landfill sites. Failure to address the problem could lead

to potentially huge EU infraction fines (up to £500 in extra rates per household every year).

arc21's aim is to encourage households and businesses to reduce, reuse and recycle as much as possible, and to deliver new waste infrastructure to manage waste efficiently and in an environmentally friendly manner.

For more information please visit www.arc21.gov.uk





Environment Minister Edwin Poots paid a visit to a waste management facility in Copenhagen, Denmark, recently while he was in the city for the UN Climate Change conference

DID YOU KNOW?

- The Amagerforbranding EfW is two km from Copenhagen city centre
- The plant provides 70,000 residents with heat all year round
- The EfW also provides enough electricity for 70,000 households (28 Megawatts)
- In Denmark 24% of waste is converted into energy

THE MINISTER'S THOUGHTS ON ENERGY FROM WASTE

& the way forward for waste management in Northern Ireland.

Local Government has embarked on the largest waste infrastructure development programme ever undertaken in Northern Ireland.

My responsibilities as Environment Minister make me very conscious that the decisions we take now will have long-lasting implications, for both our environment and our children, not to mention our wallets; and I am committed to ensuring that those decisions are the right ones. What we call waste is in fact a valuable resource and in the current economic conditions we cannot afford to turn our backs on this resource or not seek to tap its full potential.

Does this mean I want to install chimneys all over the Province? Absolutely not. When I attended the UN Climate Change conference in Copenhagen recently, I took the opportunity to learn more about the kind of waste facilities that we are seeking to acquire here. Denmark is acknowledged to have one of the most sophisticated waste management systems in the world. By integrating high energy from waste production with high recycling rates and an almost total ban on landfill,

Denmark has ensured that it will have no difficulty in achieving compliance with Landfill Directive targets. It will do so, moreover, with one of the lowest waste-to-energy gate fees in Europe.

I am convinced, having talked to colleagues in the Danish Ministry of the Environment, as well as my Ministerial counterparts in Scotland, England and Wales, that a similarly balanced approach is achievable here in Northern Ireland, and that we can create an immediate positive impact, but we need to be prepared to learn from others. To that end, I am fully committed to supporting the work of the waste management groups and to progressing the procurement of new infrastructure. I am equally committed to ensuring that the totality of infrastructure procured adds up to the best possible economical and environmental solution for Northern Ireland as a whole.

Local Government's current procurement plans would see Northern Ireland as a whole acquiring up to seven Mechanical Biological Treatment (MBT) plants and three Energy Recovery Facilities (ERFs). New infrastructure is essential if we are to meet national and European targets which, if exceeded, could cost Northern Ireland fines of £500,000 a day, not to

mention the landfill taxes and other costs which will ultimately make burying waste a non-viable option in any event.

But the balanced network of facilities that is our objective cannot be achieved without significant investment, in recycling as well as in the major waste infrastructure. We have made tremendous progress in recent years in encouraging more recycling, increasing household recycling rates from less than 5% in 1999 to a figure of almost 34% for the year 2008/09. While we have a target to reach 50% by 2020, we have aspirations to achieve significantly higher rates over and above that. Indeed, some councils are now achieving recycling rates of some 50% which demonstrates that the target is achievable and that more is possible. What is more, the resources extracted from recycling are feeding real local companies who are producing real products from newspapers to packaging and plastic pipes. I am determined that the reuse and recycling of waste should be a top priority for all of us, and that Northern Ireland's need for Energy from Waste facilities should be firmly in the context of a focus on optimising the potential to maximise our recycling capacity.



PATIENCE WITH THIEVES 'WEARING THIN'

It's often said that thieves would 'steal the shirt off your back', but in a modern day twist, thieves have started to pilfer textiles from recycling centres. Spurred on by the recession and high recycling prices for textiles, textile banks and the general public across the UK are being targeted in search of easy money.

The thefts, however, aren't just being made directly from textile banks; there's also a problem with fraudsters setting up their own 'unauthorised' banks and unofficial door-to-door collections.

This is not a victim free crime, though, with charities, voluntary groups, councils and rate payers all losing out. The Salvation Army, for example, estimates that the criminals are depriving it and those it provides services to of almost £600,000 a year.

As well as lost revenue, the thefts are forcing operators of textile banks to provide additional security measures or replace damaged banks; a problem which can cost upwards of £1,000.

In a separate campaign the British Heart Foundation (Northern Ireland) is also warning people that some charities only receive 4.5% of the profits from the sale of donated textiles collected by commercial operators.

Ricky Burnett, arc21's Director of Policy & Operations, has said that thefts from banks operated by local councils and the use of unapproved banks will not be tolerated:

"Apart from the cost and inconvenience to ratepayers who have to foot the bill for these thefts, there's also anecdotal evidence from GB that thieves are endangering the wellbeing of children by putting them inside the banks to get the textiles out.

"arc21 and local councils are liaising with the police and the Northern Ireland Environment Agency to take measures

to enhance the security of the banks, and take action against those who are operating unauthorised banks and collections. If the public are in any doubt that a textile bank or a collector may not be legitimate, they should check with the authorities."



TIME TO BIN IT

With the 'Big Freeze' of winter now just a cold memory - and the gardening season upon us - it's time to spring into home composting action and transform some of your kitchen and garden waste into soil-enhancing compost.

SO, WHAT EXACTLY IS COMPOSTING?

A lot of people have heard of home composting but are not sure what exactly it is. Put simply, composting is nature's way of recycling waste. It is an inexpensive and natural process that transforms some of your kitchen and garden waste into a valuable and nutrient-rich food for your garden.

CAN ANYBODY DO IT?

Home composting can be as easy or as complicated as you want it to be - all you need are scraps and a place to put them. Contact your local council to obtain a home composting bin, place it in a sunny area of your garden and start filling it with kitchen and garden waste. Then leave the bin to let nature take its course and the waste should have turned into compost within 12 months.

HOW DO I KNOW WHEN IT'S FINISHED?

Home composting essentially is an aerobic process, so always make sure there are plenty of air holes in your pile and turn your bin regularly to ensure

it receives as much oxygen as possible. Compost is finished when it smells good, looks good and feels like nice, dark, rich earth. The scraps that you added should be unrecognisable.

WHY BOTHER?

Home composting has major environmental benefits as it increases recycling and reduces the amount of waste that is sent to landfill. Waste decomposed at landfill sites creates a harmful greenhouse gas, called methane, which damages the earth's atmosphere. However, when the same waste is composted above ground at home, oxygen helps the waste decompose aerobically which means hardly any methane is produced. Home composting also greatly improves soil condition through the water and nutrients it adds, helping your garden grow more healthy plants.

CAN ALL KITCHEN AND GARDEN WASTE BE HOME COMPOSTED?

Absolutely not. You need to be extremely careful what goes into a home composting bin. Most vegetarian food scraps are fine, but be sure to avoid those from a meat or dairy source as these can send out a message to local wildlife that you are serving up some sort of buffet. Materials that can and can't be composted are listed below:



Kitchen waste: Fruits, fruit peelings, uncooked vegetables, vegetable peeling, tea bags, coffee grounds, newspapers (no shiny ads), crushed egg shells, cut flowers and house plants.



Garden waste: Plant trimmings, leaves, grass cuttings, weeds, twigs and branches (cut into pieces).



Don't home compost: Meat, chicken, fish, oil, dairy products, disposable nappies, soil and large woody material.



IT'S A 'GLASS' ACT!



As you've peered into your bag of glass bottles bound for the bottle bank, have you wondered why putting brown glass into the green glass bank and vice versa wasn't good 'recycling etiquette'? Well, wonder no more! A new initiative by arc21's councils means that you can now put any colour of glass into any bottle bank at any council community recycling point.

It now makes no difference if the bottle or jar is made from clear, brown or green glass; they can all be placed mixed into any bottle bank. There's no need to sort the bottles and jars by colour - and that means that there's one less excuse for not doing it!

Making the announcement, Ricky Burnett, arc21's Operations & Policy Director, said:

"I believe the public will welcome this change. It will also help councils manage their capacity more effectively, particularly during busy periods such as that experienced during Christmas and New Year."

"While glass still has to be sorted, advances in technology mean that this can now be done mechanically. New equipment can sort and separate glass centrally into the various types for recycling which includes the production of new glass bottles. We think the public will view this as a 'glass' act!"

Signs have appeared on all council-managed bottle banks over recent weeks to indicate their new multi-coloured capability. If you want to find your nearest facility, please visit your council's website or contact them directly.

ORGANICS CONTRACT ADDS 70,000 TONNES TO RECYCLING TARGETS

Northern Ireland's ability to meet stringent EU recycling targets has taken a major step forward with the formal announcement of a £75 million contract from arc21 to collect and recycle over a third of all organic household waste produced in the region.

Northern Ireland recycling company Natural World Products (NWP) has been appointed to deliver the new targets and it's expected that up to 20 new jobs will be created as a result.

NWP Director, Caolan Woods, said:

"The value of arc21 is that it allows councils to collaborate in a way that wasn't previously possible in order to collectively meet the challenges of waste management in an environmental and cost effective way."

"As a business, we continue to experience rapid growth built on our investment in world leading technology, an experienced and skilled management team and a commitment to excellence in everything that we do. This new contract illustrates our capabilities as a recycling company to process what are significant volumes of organic waste."

"We will be recycling everything from scraps of meat, vegetables and fruit to garden clippings through a process known as in-vessel composting which is a sealed process with strict environmental control to accelerate the composting process. The result is the production of high quality compost which is sold under the Rosey Lee brand through garden centres throughout the island of Ireland. It's also used as top soil on some of Ireland's leading golf courses."

The 15-year deal will result in excess of 70,000 tonnes of organic waste such as garden clippings and food waste being collected and recycled every year.

Alderman Hubert Nicholl, Chairman of arc21, welcomed the arrangement with NWP as an important step towards improving recycling performance:

"Our partnership with NWP will ensure that waste collected from households across the arc21 region will be recycled instead of going to landfill, marking a significant step towards helping arc21 increase its recycling rates to 50% by 2020."

"The introduction of new infrastructure and treatment capacity operating under strict environmental control is helping arc21's constituent councils adopt a managed incremental approach to support householders in their efforts to recycle more."

The new recycling services will help ensure that councils avoid landfill charges as well as meeting EU recycling obligations in order to avoid hefty fines. It is expected that the environmental benefits from recycling the organic waste will reduce harmful CO₂ emissions by approximately 50,000 tonnes annually, the equivalent of taking 12,000 cars off the road each year.

arc21 and NWP have long term plans to build an advanced recycling facility in order to process organic waste. The NWP deal is the largest waste management contract of its kind to be awarded through a competitive tendering process in Northern Ireland.



Ald. Hubert Nicholl, Chairman of arc21, formally announces a new organics recycling contract with Brendan Woods and Caolan Woods from NWP.

THE PRIMARK EFFECT

In January MPs published a report highlighting the problem of the 'Primark Effect', the phenomenon of consumers throwing away barely worn cheap clothing which is clogging up landfill sites across the UK rather than being recycled.

Across England some landfill sites have anecdotally reported that up to a third of all waste being handled is made up of clothing and textiles, up almost 10% in the past five years as cheap clothing has become more readily available.



Every year in the UK we purchase two million tonnes of clothing, over half of which finds its way to landfill. Only 300,000 tonnes is recycled or is passed onto charity shops whilst the remaining 500,000 tonnes ends up unloved and unused in the back of wardrobes.

The Chair of the Committee, Michael Jack MP, urged Government to: "consult manufacturers to develop standards

and criteria for assessing the overall environmental impacts of different kinds of textiles so that more sustainable materials can be promoted."

The Committee also said that a tax on cigarettes, drinks and chewing gum should be considered to help fund the cost of cleaning up after them.

IT'S TIME TO 'PACK' IT IN

Every year it's estimated that five million tonnes of household packaging waste and 8.3 million tonnes of household food waste is created in the UK. Food waste is believed to cost the average family with children £680 annually.

Grocery manufacturers and retailers, however, have agreed to make significant cuts to food and packaging waste which could save customers and the industry £1 billion, and cut carbon emissions by three million tonnes.

A new commitment has been made by industry to go further than before, with renewed efforts to help householders waste less of the food they buy, reduce the environmental impact of packaging, and for the first time, tackle waste from manufacture and supply.

It's hoped that new targets will be agreed to recycle over 70% of packaging waste, a move that could save about eight million tonnes of waste from landfill, and nine million tonnes of greenhouse gases by 2020. One fifth of household waste is currently made up of packaging.

Over 40 national retailers, including the major supermarket chains, Alliance Boots, Mars, Britvic, Unilever and Weetabix, have pledged to:

- Reduce the carbon impact of grocery packaging by 1.1 million tonnes of CO₂ equivalent emissions (10% reduction) through reducing the weight, increasing the recycling rates, and increasing the recycled content of grocery packaging
- Help consumers reduce the amount of food they waste by 330,000 tonnes (4% reduction), saving £800million and over 1 million tonnes of carbon emissions in the process
- Cut food and packaging waste throughout the supply chain, saving around 0.7million tonnes of CO₂ equivalent (5% reduction).

Further details on the agreement can be found on the WRAP website:
www.wrap.org.uk

SUCCESS STORIES TO DATE:

Marks and Spencer wanted to replace the plastic tray in which its beef joints were packaged while ensuring the preservation of the meat. The solution was a 'skin pack' (a type of packaging that is wrapped tightly around the product) that has not only cut packaging weight by up to 69% but also keeps the meat fresher for up to four days, leading to less food waste.

Musgrave has changed its packaging for sugar snap peas from over-wrapped trays to lightweight plastic pouches that have reduced packaging weight by more than 81% or 2.5 tonnes a year.

Young's Seafood has redesigned its packaging so it is 13% lighter, 26% smaller and the carton is 100% recyclable.





www.rethinkwasteni.org

Pictured at the launch of the DoE's new Rethink Waste website is the Environment Minister, Edwin Poots, with Jane and Adam Monahan from Cavehill Primary School, Hannah Neeson from Antrim Primary School and John Monahan from Holy Family Nursery School

RETHINK WASTE

The Department of the Environment has launched a new waste prevention website as the first step in its Rethink Waste campaign.

The Rethink Waste campaign website, www.rethinkwasteni.org, aims to raise awareness, encourage best practice and achieve behavioural change among households, the business, community and education sectors. The campaign seeks to effect a cultural shift towards better waste prevention and resource management, and improved environmental quality in Northern Ireland.

The campaign also aims to raise awareness of the simple steps that everyone can take to help reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill and improve our environment for future generations.

Speaking at the launch at Bryson Recycling, the Minister of the Environment, Edwin Poots, said:

"Rethinkwasteni.org seeks to communicate the message that waste affects aspects of everyday life in households, businesses, schools and communities right across Northern Ireland."

"We are asking individuals and organizations to rethink their attitudes to waste and to become more aware of simple steps that they can take to reduce, reuse, recycle and recover waste in order to send less of it to landfill."

"Everyone has a part to play if Northern Ireland is to comply with EU targets and avoid infractions."

[Home](#) [About Waste](#) [News & Events](#) [Partners](#) [Glossary](#) [Useful Links](#) [eZine](#) [Feedback](#)

rethink waste

at home
12.2 million plastic bags were handed out by the major supermarkets in Northern Ireland in May 2009

[find out more about waste prevention >](#)

at work **in education** **in your community**

ABOUT WASTE

[Waste Hierarchy](#)
[Waste Prevention](#)
[Waste Management Strategy](#)
[EU Directives](#)
[Legislation](#)
[Waste Management Groups](#)
[Energy from Waste](#)
[Facts & Figures](#)
[Names & Contacts](#)

news and events

25 February 2010
Belfast City Council helps to glam up your glad rags! Next event 6 March, St George's Market, Belfast.

Belfast City Council's (BCC) Stitch and Style is an evening of mending, altering and embellishing clothes. It aims to encourage people to make the most of their wardrobes. High street clothes are becoming cheaper and more disposable. In Belfast we throw away enough textiles every week to fill 5 double-decker buses!

Stitch and Style (part of Waste Week 2009) on 3 June comprised a workshop where seamstresses and designers offered advice on stitching, sewing and embellishing. BCC had a maximum capacity of 120 people registered for the workshop in just 3 days! There was a recycled fashion fair, open to the public throughout the evening, recycled jewellery, clothes, and accessories were on sale. The evening ended with a fashion show where second hand shoes, vintage


[Enlarge Image](#)

The website contains carefully tailored information for each target group, and aims to engage the public through user-friendly, interactive features. It will also act as an effective portal and signpost to partner organizations, with a focus on sharing best practice across different sectors.

A JOLLY GOOD FELLOW



Congratulations to Alderman Mervyn Rea who recently became an Honorary Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Waste Management (CIWM). The accolade was bestowed on the Antrim Councillor and former Chairman of arc21 at a special event in Belfast's Malone House in March of this year.

Honorary Fellowships are awarded to those who have 'rendered notable service to waste management' and 'persons of distinction with a concern for the environment'. In addition to over a decade of service to arc21, Mervyn has been a long-serving Chair of Antrim council's Environmental Services Committee, helping guide the Borough to become one of the top recyclers in UK Local Government. He has also served on a host of other waste related bodies, making a significant contribution to the development of waste strategy across the Province.

John Quinn, arc21's CEO, added:

"This is a major achievement for Mervyn which reflects the huge efforts he has made on behalf of the environment over the past 25 years. At Antrim he oversaw many innovative developments such as Northern Ireland's first Materials Recovery Facility and kerbside recyclable collection - he also helped introduce the island's first fully engineered landfill site and has guided the development of waste strategy at a regional level.

"Few people in Northern Ireland understand waste issues as well as Mervyn and his Honorary Fellowship of CIWM is a well deserved reflection of his unstinting public service and high standing in waste circles."

Top left: Terry March, CIWM President, Alderman Mervyn Rea and Steve Lee, CIWM Chief Executive, at the special event in Belfast's Malone House to honour Alderman Rea becoming an Honorary Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Waste Management.

Keep the faith

Belfast City Council's waste management team has launched a new environmental initiative for faith organisations in the City.

Known as 'Eco-Faith', the aim is to help and encourage faith groups across Belfast to reduce their carbon footprints by making small adjustments to their waste, water usage, energy and transport habits.

Each faith group that becomes involved will work through a series of practical steps, such as:

- promoting waste reduction and recycling
- monitoring energy use
- sustainable transport.

The groups will be able to work through bronze, silver and gold environmental awards and eventually be awarded with a permanent 'Eco-Faith' accreditation.

By taking part in the initiative, faith organisations will not only be helping the environment, but they'll also learn how to save money.

For more information or to sign up to 'Eco-Faith', call 0800 032 8100 or email wasteeducation@belfastcity.gov.uk

LARNE RECYCLING CENTRES RESPOND TO PUBLIC DEMAND

Opening hours for Larne Borough Council's recycling centres in Glenarm and Redlands have been extended.

The initiative is in response to a public consultation by the Council which identified opening hours better suited to local demand. Overall there will be increased access to recycling with seven-day access to the Redlands site and extended evening opening at both sites during the summer months.



Larne Borough Council's Environment Education Officer, Barry Tapster, said:

"The Household Recycling Centres are very well used. We have high numbers of people actively participating in recycling, not just by bringing waste to the sites, but pre-sorting materials before visits.

"Since we opened both recycling centres we have constantly been increasing the range of materials suitable for recycling. Our staff are always on hand to advise and help maximise any recycling opportunities and minimise the amount of waste that ends up in landfill."

'SNOW' PROBLEM!

If you thought this was a tough winter, don't worry - you weren't imagining it. It may be just a cold memory now that Spring has sprung, but just a few months ago Northern Ireland and the rest of the UK was experiencing one of its coldest spells for over 30 years.

Provisional figures from the Met Office have indicated that the mean average Northern Ireland temperature during the winter of 2009/10 was just 2°C - the lowest it's been since the winter of 1978/79 and the third lowest since 1914.

With significant and prolonged amounts of snow and ice, the weather caused chaos on the roads and at airports, as well as forcing dozens of schools to close. Bin lorries are heavy (and expensive!) vehicles and, as you'd expect, councils pay careful attention to the safety of both the public and its staff when it comes to assessing whether conditions are suitable or not.

Despite the severe weather, however, local councils made a huge effort to ensure that waste collection services carried on as normal as possible and with the minimum amount of disruption. arc21 estimates that up to 90% of bins were collected on their specified collection day - quite an achievement given the circumstances.

Wasteline thought it would be interesting to report the experiences of some of arc21's constituent councils and how their waste management operation coped during the cold winter.

In Ards the weather conditions during December 2009 didn't present too many problems, with only 115 bins across the Borough not being collected on their specified day. That represents just 0.06% of the 201,000 bins which were collected.

Conditions deteriorated in January, but even then only 905 bins weren't collected on their normal day. Despite treacherous roads throughout the Ards area, a big effort was made to tackle the many problems created by icy surfaces to ensure that collections were made for all but a few houses.

Castlereagh, meanwhile, encountered quite a number of problems with snow and ice which disrupted normal services. Collection staff, however, worked hard to ensure that if bins weren't collected on

the usual day they were emptied as soon as it was physically possible.

Carrickfergus managed to collect 90% of its bins on the correct day throughout the winter, although there were particular problems for the 400 bins which make up the council's 'country run'. Residents, however, were very understanding and when bin lorries could travel safely they lifted all the rubbish that was left out.

In urban areas there were some problems with cul-de-sacs, especially those with slight inclines. Supervisors went out every day to check the area and in some instances smaller tipper lorries were used to bring bins to the main road for the bin lorry. Some bin runs were also delayed to help avoid the worst of the conditions.

In Larne it was a case of all hands on deck with street cleansing staff being diverted to help with collections and help Road Service grit roads the day before collections. Some outlying rural areas, where the snow didn't thaw at all, encountered most of the problems, but the council ensured that when it was possible to collect waste, everything which was left was collected.

A careful note was kept of all missed collections for every road in the Borough, as well as all collection attempts. People were very cooperative and responded well to being kept informed of efforts to keep service disruption to a minimum. Close neighbours in Ballymena Borough Council also managed to make regular collections from most houses.

On the whole the poor weather didn't pose too many problems in Lisburn and most people were content to leave their bins out for an extra day or two if it wasn't physically possible for bin lorries to safely access their roads. As with most councils, it was the rural districts and more hilly areas which encountered the most difficulty, but people appreciated that exceptional weather conditions will cause a degree of disruption. Up the road, Belfast noted that services suffered minimal disruption.

Living up to its 'Gold Coast' nickname, weather conditions in North Down weren't as extreme as in other parts of the arc21 region. The council was happy to report that all households had their bins collected and that for the small number of streets which did pose a problem, this was solved by using smaller vehicles or delaying collection until later in the day when the ice had melted.



RESIDUAL WASTE TREATMENT PROJECT UPDATE



arc21's £1bn scheme to deliver new waste infrastructure for the eastern part of Northern Ireland has entered the next stage of its procurement process.

The facilities, which will include an Energy from Waste (EfW) plant and up to two Mechanical Biological Treatment facilities, are one element of a wider waste management plan to boost recycling rates and minimise the amount of waste we produce in the first place.

The project, one of the largest public procurement exercises ever undertaken in Northern Ireland, has entered its detailed 'dialogue stage' with the remaining consortia bidding to deliver the new facilities. This process will enable bidders to submit detailed proposals for evaluation by arc21.

It's anticipated that the contract will be awarded towards autumn 2011. The new infrastructure will help increase recycling rates by up to 5% and ensure that the region meets EU regulations to significantly reduce the amount of waste being sent to landfill.

The proposed EfW plant will also generate enough renewable energy to supply the needs of 40,000 households.



RECYCLING REBOUND

In 2008 when the financial crisis was really taking hold of the global economy it appeared that nothing would be unaffected – including the recycling sector.

Recycling materials such as paper, plastics and metals is only feasible if there's somebody willing to buy the recycled raw material and turn it into something useable. Much of the world's demand for this raw material is based in China, but back in autumn 2008 as consumer confidence and demand dried up, so too did demand for recycled material. In some cases this led to recycled materials being stockpiled in

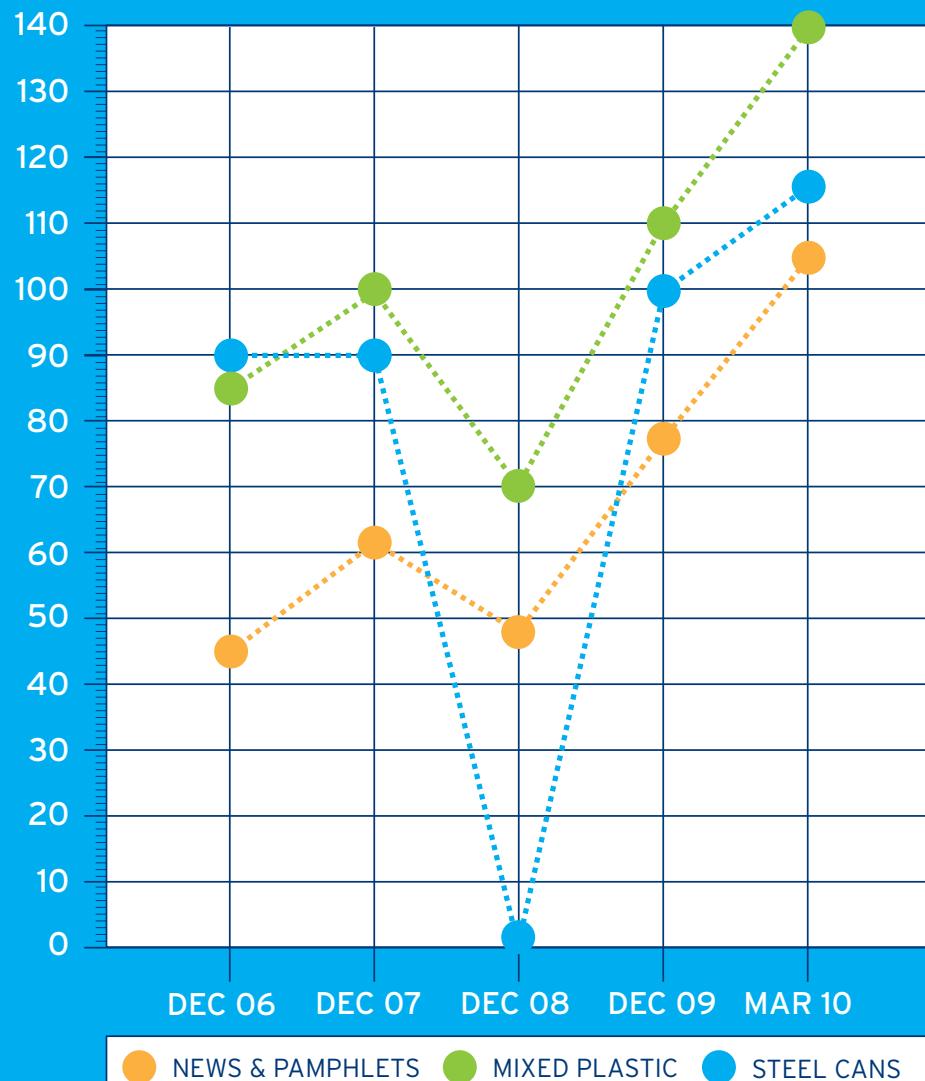
Great Britain because its market had temporarily disappeared.

As the graph demonstrates, though, recycling prices have bounced back and in some instances are higher now than they were before the crash. While the UK's Waste & Resources Action Plan (WRAP) doesn't rule out further difficulties, it suggests that the "long-term market outlook would suggest that prices are beginning to stabilise."

That's good news for arc21's ratepayers as the waste umbrella group has negotiated a revenue sharing agreement with Bryson Recycling which handles much of the region's recycling material – as prices go up, so too does the amount received by arc21, a six-figure sum which is then 'recycled' annually amongst its member councils.

So next time you fill up your recycling bin or kerbside box, don't forget that every plastic bottle or tin can is actually saving you money off your rates bill!

INDICATIVE RECYCLING PRICES PER TONNE



KID'S CORNER

WORD SEARCH

As with past editions of Wasteline, we are again asking young people to get involved with the waste management effort in their area and help their mums and dads to reduce, reuse and recycle as much of their household waste as possible. Why not have a go at our waste wordsearch to help get you thinking about waste management issues.

The words to find in the wordsearch are: **procurement, environment, composting, packaging, resource, textiles, landfill, recycle, bottles, reduce, reuse.**

T	L	T	A	P	R	E	D	U	C	E	M
E	A	P	A	R	F	E	U	F	C	D	B
X	N	T	A	O	E	E	C	R	Y	Y	O
T	D	V	O	C	T	U	U	Y	G	T	T
I	F	E	I	U	K	O	S	R	C	Y	T
L	I	I	N	R	S	A	E	E	I	I	L
E	L	A	G	E	O	N	G	D	T	T	E
S	L	M	R	M	O	N	T	I	I	R	S
M	A	H	G	E	R	O	M	A	N	A	D
S	R	U	C	N	I	I	H	E	O	G	S
E	N	L	E	T	V	R	F	E	N	R	U
C	O	M	P	O	S	T	I	N	G	T	A

FRESH FACES

ALEX SPENCER

Alex joined arc21 in March 2010 and is responsible to the Projects Co-Ordinator for the provision of a comprehensive range of administrative support in relation to the Residual Waste Treatment Project.



Alex has extensive experience in professional administrative roles and more recently she worked for Arthur Cox and within PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP.

Contact Us:

arc21, Walsh House, Fortwilliam Business Park, 35 Dargan Road, Belfast, BT3 9LZ

Fax: 028 9072 6333

Fax: 028 9072 6332

Email: info@arc21.org.uk

Web: www.arc21.org.uk

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

WASTE BUSTER WINNER

Anna Mayrs from Antrim Primary School picked up a special Waste Buster environmental hamper prize for winning a recent arc21 competition.

Among the green goodies Anna won was a backpack made from recycled juice cartons, a teddy bear made from recycled textiles, a piggy bank

which used to be paper / textiles and a charm bracelet made with recycled aluminium cans / biscuit tins.

Pictured with Ann are Antrim Borough Council's Waste Manager, Michael Laverty, and her teacher, Linda McKee.

Keep on recycling - you never know what useful things you'll help make!

