

Recycling Bulletin

October/November 2005



Research reveals trends in successful Local Authority steel recycling schemes

At RWM, Corus revealed the findings of its analysis of the UK's most successful local authority steel packaging recycling schemes.

Using data collected for the PackFlow Project, Corus looked in detail at 74 local authorities who currently collect over 3.5kg of steel packaging per household each year. 3.5kg was chosen because this is the average household yield required to ensure that the UK meets its 2008 steel packaging recycling target of 54%.

The practices of these 74 high performing local authorities were compared to the UK average, providing an initial view of which variables seemed to have the greatest influence on steel packaging recycling rates.

The results demonstrate that certain recycling practices appear to have a significant positive impact on steel can recycling rates.

These findings will assist in identifying ways in which local authorities can increase their steel packaging recycling performance to help meet the 2008 recycling target.

Frequency of collection - 69% of the high performing local authorities collected recyclables fortnightly

Sorting method - 65% of the local authorities offered co-mingled collection

Coverage of schemes - the average proportion of households in their area covered by the successful kerbside collection schemes was 88%, but nearly two thirds (60%) of the local authorities had 95% - 100% kerbside coverage

Collectors - 55% of the local authorities had in-house contractors

Scheme longevity - 68.5% of the schemes were started more than three years ago (pre 2002), with 23% of schemes started over ten years ago (pre 1995)

Restrictions on refuse disposal - just under half (47%) of the local authorities already have or are planning some form of refuse restriction policy e.g. sack limit, reduced bin size, alternate weekly refuse collections etc

Corus makes a stand at RWM

We were delighted to welcome so many familiar and new faces to our stand at this year's RWM exhibition.

Visitors were able to talk face to face to our team about the best ways to launch or improve their steel packaging recycling schemes, as well as find out about cost-effective recycling methods and equipment.

We also ran a competition to win a luxury hamper filled with a variety of products in steel packaging - all filled with edible goodies of course!

The lucky winners were John Mooney from Pennine Pack, Stuart Jackson of Doncaster Community Recycling Partnership and Shaun O'Brien of Meadowhall Cleaning Services. Congratulations to all three winners!

News in brief

Sponsorship gets school children switched on to steel recycling

Children in Newport will be able to learn about steel can recycling in a fun way. Thanks to Corus' sponsorship of an interactive education pod at the new resource centre of community recycling organisation, Newport Wastesavers. The education pod, which will include interactive activities and games, will help to encourage children to get involved in recycling from an early age. Corus has contributed PRN funds to the project.

Consultation into Packaging Recycling Targets

The consultation process of this year's second Consultation Paper on packaging ended on October 3rd. Of key interest, as far as local authorities and Corus are concerned, is the annual targets for additional steel packaging to be collected from the domestic waste stream. Corus has recommended that the steel target should be 364,000 tonnes recycled by 2008. Effectively, this means that an additional 47,000 tonnes of steel cans need to be collected in 2008, compared to 2004. This is a challenging 37% increase on current levels of steel can recycling. Corus, working with local authorities, will do all it can to sustain a favourable environment to allow this to be achieved.

Corus helps to increase steel can recycling in Yorkshire

Todd Waste Management is a regional recycling company handling the material collected through kerbside collection schemes and can banks in Yorkshire.

Every year, Todd Waste Management recycles more than 200 tonnes of steel. However, the baling equipment

the company previously used was becoming unable to handle the increasing quantity of steel cans that were being collected, so they approached Corus for advice on new equipment.

Corus responded by providing Todd Waste Management's Knapton facility with a new can baler which can bale between 25,000 and 125,000 cans per hour. Not only has this solved Todd Waste Management's problem of what to do with loose cans, but it has also increased the company's productivity when processing steel cans.

Steel packaging recycling in Scarborough gets a kick start

Scarborough Borough Council has introduced a recycling collection service for approximately 25,000 households in the south of the borough.

The Council is providing residents with a blue bin to collect paper and re-usable bags to collect plastic bottles, steel cans and aluminium cans. Yorwaste, who is responsible

for the handling of Scarborough Borough Council's recycling, approached Corus for help towards the funding of the recycling bags. Corus was pleased to provide funding which could allow an additional 2.5 million steel cans to be collected.

Sally Emmerson, Recycling Officer at Scarborough Borough Council, comments: "We are very grateful to Corus for their help towards the funding of the recycling bags. Providing bags has enabled us to collect more of the common household materials, and to encourage Scarborough to get recycling to help improve our environmental credentials."





CANDID an industry viewpoint COMMENT

Participation is the latest buzzword in the recycling industry and John Enright, Head of Defra's Local Authority Support Unit, responds to some of the key questions in this debate, posed by Recycling Bulletin.

Q. What do you see as the main opportunities for local authorities to increase consumer participation in kerbside recycling schemes?

WRAP's national campaign Recycle Now, www.recyclenowpartners.org.uk, which includes initiatives such as the BIG recycle, presents a tremendous opportunity for authorities to link in their local recycling collection campaigns with the national media coverage. I also believe that the increase in the number of materials collected will encourage greater participation, as it will reduce the amount left as residue and the householder will see the impact directly when they see what remains in their bins.

Q. Do you think more local authorities will look to introduce restrictions such as alternate weekly collections or bin limit in recycling schemes in a bid to increase recycling rates?

Yes, more authorities are developing new initiatives, such as reducing the size of collection bins, charging for green waste and now some are introducing penalties for residents who refuse to separate their waste for recycling. Defra does not prescribe one collection methodology, or endorse penalties on the public. Instead, we have provided further funding to authorities to pilot incentive schemes. We also provide targeted support to authorities to help them improve their performance. For further information visit the WIP Local Authority Support Website <http://lasupport.defra.gov.uk>.

Q. How important is communication in improving participation rates?

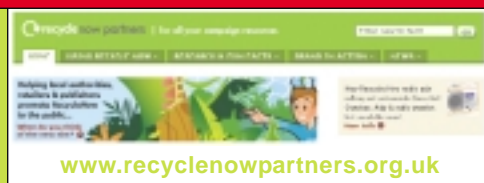
Without it, forget it. There is no point spending millions of pounds developing the infrastructure from collection box to vehicle, if we have failed to communicate to the public that they have an active role in creating a more sustainable environment. We are tackling this and WRAP's national campaign has been successful in raising public awareness on the collection of recyclables.

This message does not stop at collection. Local politicians and authority officers have tough decisions to make on planning, and the community has to be convinced why a treatment or processing facility is required to treat their waste more sustainably.

Q. What assistance is available for local authorities looking for guidance on the issue of participation?

The Kerbside Collection Toolkit 'PERFORM', developed under the Local Authority Support Programme (LASU), helps authorities, the community and private sector to model current and potential schemes to improve participation rates. LASU is also developing further case studies and guidance on street bank schemes, for these must not be forgotten as kerbside schemes are rolled out. Direct operational support is also offered through WRAP's ROTATE programme, which assists authorities on the ground. www.wrap.org.uk/local_authorities/rotate.

Pictured left: John Miller of Yorwaste and Sally Emmerson of Scarborough Borough Council with Dave Williams of Corus.





New Northern Ireland CanRoute centre comes on board

We are pleased to announce that Corus has opened a further CanRoute centre in Northern Ireland.

Seaforde Scrap Metals, based in County Down, will be processing the steel cans collected through some of the kerbside collection schemes and civic amenity sites in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

The family-run firm has been handling scrap ferrous and non-ferrous metal for the last 85 years. In the last six months, the company has expanded its business to include the processing of household steel packaging collected by local authority and waste management schemes.

Owner, John Killen, comments:

"We are very pleased to be working with Corus to recycle the steel packaging. We have seen the uptake in kerbside collection schemes steadily increase and we believe that steel packaging recycling will be a growth market for us over the coming years."



Seaforde Scrap Metals expects to receive more than 1,000 tonnes of loose and lightly baled cans over the next year. As a CanRoute centre, the company will take the steel from a number of recycling facilities and, after checking the steel meets Corus quality requirements, transport it in bulk to one of four Corus steelplants in the UK.

Garvin Freeman, Corus Recycling Development Representative for the South West comments: "It's excellent news that Seaforde Scrap Metals has teamed up with us to recycle household steel packaging. There is now the potential to recover a substantial tonnage of steel packaging, and reduce the amount of this easily recyclable steel that would otherwise end up in landfill sites."

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