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Photo courtesy of MRW

As highlighted in the previous issue of *Recycling Bulletin*, Corus co-ordinated a seminar on Alternate Weekly Collection (AWC) at this year's RWM exhibition. The seminar proved to be extremely successful and attracted a record number of attendees. The popularity of the seminar demonstrated that AWC is without doubt a 'hot topic' in the recycling industry.

For those of you who were unable to attend the seminar, we thought you might appreciate a short summary of some of the main points covered in the three presentations, which were delivered by Linda Crichton, Manager of WRAP's ROTATE team, Jonas Grist, Waste Technical Officer at Babergh District Council, and Dave Williams, Manager of Corus Steel Packaging Recycling.

Using the latest local authority research, Dave Williams from Corus opened the seminar by highlighting the uptake of AWC in the UK. The research demonstrates that, of the 434 UK waste collection authorities, 192 have introduced or are about to introduce alternate weekly refuse collections and a further 76 are considering its introduction.

“Corus has seen at first hand the positive impact AWC can have on increasing recycling rates.”

Some of the many benefits to be gained from switching to AWC were explored by Linda Crichton including: a better informed public resulting in increased participation rates; a reduction in residual waste collected at kerbside; and an opportunity to achieve operational efficiencies. Linda emphasised that AWC can result in a step change in recycling performance and that, of the local authorities currently achieving over 40% recycling rates, most are operating AWC.

Jonas Grist spoke in detail about Babergh District Council's experiences of AWC, providing valuable insight to the many local authority representatives who attended on the day. In particular, Jonas highlighted the need for good service provision to begin with, strong officer and cross party political support, good partnership working and effective bids for government funding. He also emphasised the importance of good planning and project management, high quality education and publicity material, keeping the media informed, and clear and firm collection policies.

If you would be interested in receiving copies of the presentations, please contact catherine@proteuspr.co.uk.

News in brief

Final call for 2006 CanRoute Awards

CanRoute centres and suppliers still have time to enter Corus' national award scheme to be in with a chance to benefit from a total PRN prize fund of £30,000. Entries for the CanRoute Supplier of the Year and CanRoute Initiative awards should be submitted by 31 December 2006 - visit www.cspr.co.uk for details. Winners will be announced early in 2007.

LARAC sponsorship

Look out for Corus if you are attending the LARAC conference (14 - 16th November). Corus is one of the main sponsors of this year's event.

New SCRIB website wins acclaim

Corus' SCRIB (Steel Can Recycling Information Bureau) website www.scrib.org, which was re-launched in June, has been hailed a great success by local authorities, teachers and the wider public. Since June, the site has welcomed thousands of visitors, with the interactive games and the 'Kids in Charge' recycling video proving to be the most popular areas of the site. www.scrib.org was recently awarded 'Great Website' in *The Independent*.

Support for School Sports Day

Thanks to the loan of a sports field from Corus, Ysgol Brynteg primary school in Trostre, Llanelli, was able to host a sports day this year. Corus' recycling team helped out on the day, talking to children and parents about the benefits of recycling, and presented all the pupils with steel recycling goodie bags.

On the cover:

Aerosols account for 4% of the metals packaging stream and make a valuable contribution towards the UK's local authority recycling targets.

The paper stock is manufactured from sustainably sourced wood fibre, at a mill that holds ISO14001 certification.

When you have finished with this newsletter please recycle it.

Helping to boost steel can recycling in Cheshire schools

Dave Williams, Manager of Corus Steel Packaging Recycling, with Ann Millington, Kitchen Manager at Neston High School.

Corus and Cheshire County Council are working together to ensure that more steel cans are recycled in the county by running a trial free collection service in five secondary schools.

During the summer term, each school taking part in the trial had an industrial can crusher fitted in the kitchens and a large can bank installed to store all the steel cans before collection.

Dave Williams, Manager at Corus Steel Packaging Recycling, says: "By offering a free collection service for steel cans, Corus hopes to help schools in Cheshire make a real difference to the environment."

Jen Sterry, a Waste Education Officer for Waste Watch who is working closely with Cheshire County Council, adds: "It's great that Corus has come on-board to help us get steel recycling kick-started in our schools."

If the twelve month trial at the secondary schools proves successful, it could be extended to all secondary schools in the area.



Corus continues to support steel can recycling in the North



Robert Jenkins, Recycling Projects Manager, Corus (left) and Steve Cormack of Premier Waste in South Shields (right).

By providing new equipment to a local waste management company, Corus is helping to speed up steel packaging recycling in the North East.

Premier Waste, based in Durham, handles around 50 tonnes of steel packaging every week, collected from 500,000 homes, making it one of the largest kerbside providers in the UK.

Corus has provided funding to upgrade Premier Waste's kerbside sorter and has also provided a can flattener, which can process up to 125,000 steel cans every hour.

Steve Cormack, General Manager Kerbside North at Premier Waste, comments: "The new can flattener is going to make a big difference to our operation, making it more cost-effective and much more efficient."

Robert Jenkins, Recycling Projects Manager at Corus, comments: "We were delighted to continue our long-term relationship and supply Premier Waste with new equipment to make the processing of steel cans quicker and easier."

Candid Comment

Caroline Fuller
Communications Manager
of BAMA (British Aerosol
Manufacturers' Association)



How many aerosols are used in the UK each year?

The UK uses around 600 million aerosols annually - an average of ten cans per person. Two thirds of those filled in the UK are made of recyclable steel. Aerosols account for 4% of the metals packaging stream and make a valuable contribution towards the UK's local authority recycling targets. We estimate that there are about 25,000 tonnes of tinned steel and 4,500 tonnes of high-grade aluminium available from recycling empty aerosols in the UK.

How many local authorities currently include aerosols in their recycling schemes?

Over 75% of local authorities in the UK have told us that they recycle empty aerosols through their can banks or kerbside collection schemes.

What type of assistance can BAMA offer local authorities?

We offer help and support to local authorities by providing free information and literature on aerosol recycling on our website www.bama.co.uk. The website holds guidance for local authorities, artwork for kerbside collection or canbank labels, as well as suggested text and illustrations for consumer leaflets. Canbank labels can also be ordered free of charge.

Some consumers don't think to put aerosols in their kerbside boxes - why do you think this is?

Many consumers simply don't know that their empty aerosols can be recycled along with their other recyclable metals. We would ask local authorities to reassure their residents that they can be recycled safely by following these simple steps:

1. Check how your local authority collects empty aerosols for recycling (e.g. kerbside collection or can bank)
2. Make sure your aerosols are used up, but do not pierce or squash them
3. Remove any plastic parts that come off easily, such as lids
4. Leave them mixed in with your other metal waste, such as food and drinks cans (do not separate them)

What safety tips would you offer local authorities who are concerned about any health and safety aspects of recycling aerosols?

In a Material Reclamation Facility (MRF), waste which contains steel aerosols mixed with other steel cans can be baled, flattened or shredded.

The steel is every bit as recyclable as the other steel cans, and mixing them does not present a problem.

Although a flammable atmosphere could be generated in the baler, tests show that this dissipates to safe levels very quickly in the surrounding air. It is wise to consider safety zoning around the baler by eliminating sources of ignition; maintaining a good standard of housekeeping; using protective clothing; training staff; and having fire extinguishers available.

BAMA has produced a best practice guide entitled 'Post Consumer Recycling', based on independent research in the UK and abroad, which is downloadable from our website.

Where can local authorities find out more about aerosol recycling?

At www.bama.co.uk under 'Resources & Education - Recycling' or at www.recycleaerosols.co.uk



Calling all local authorities and collectors!

With the value of steel cans in the waste stream estimated to be worth around £28 million per year, steel packaging recycling is potentially a great source of revenue for local authorities and waste management companies.

For those looking to take advantage of the opportunities that steel recycling offers, the Corus Steel Packaging Recycling website - www.cspr.co.uk - is an excellent resource.



As well as detailing the variety of guidance and services on offer from Corus to encourage and increase steel recycling, the website provides a single point for information on:

- types of steel products that are recyclable
- CanRoute - the UK network of regional steel can recycling centres
- cost-effective recovery methods, and
- legislation

Confusion can sometimes arise regarding the types of recyclable steel, but the handy reference page at www.cspr.co.uk lists the full range of containers that can be recycled. These include everything from steel food, pet food and drinks containers to recyclable containers, such as aerosols, household and DIY product containers. Tins for biscuits, sweets and spirits, and steel caps and lids can also be recycled.

Basically, if a magnet sticks to it, it's steel, and it can be recycled!

With Government recycling targets set at 54% for steel by 2008, the time to act is now. Fortunately, it has never been easier to increase people's awareness of recyclable steel containers.

As well as the informative and interactive website, www.scrib.org, Corus can offer guidance on how best to communicate with householders to improve steel packaging recycling rates.

By informing householders about the full range of recyclable steel packaging, local authorities will not only help achieve recycling targets for household waste, but can also improve the economics of household collection schemes.

Visit www.cspr.co.uk for more information.

CanRoute: Recycling cans couldn't be simpler

Corus' CanRoute system continues to go from strength to strength. August was a record month with 5,002 tonnes of steel recovered - the highest monthly tonnage recorded since CanRoute was established in 1999.

CanRoute is **the** steel can collection network for the UK. Here are a few reasons why CanRoute is such a success:

- **Local authorities and other collectors benefit from being able to deliver their cans to a convenient location**
- *Delivery distance and transport costs are reduced*
- **There is less need for additional storage areas locally**
- *Collectors benefit from prompt payment for their steel cans, at a very competitive rate*
- **There are 14 centres located throughout the UK**
- *Operated by leading steel processing companies, the centres receive the cans and check their quality before storing and baling them*
- **Cans are then delivered to Corus in the correct physical and chemical form for them to be recycled at one of Corus' steel reprocessing sites**

CanRoute Centre Sims Newport took delivery of 387 tonnes of steel packaging, mainly food, drink and other containers, in August alone. Manager Richard Morgan explains what happens when the cans arrive at the centre:

"Every day we receive deliveries of steel cans from a range of suppliers - mainly councils, waste management companies and breweries. Some of the cans are loose and others arrive already baled.

"The cans are tipped into designated areas in our yard where they are stored before being put through baling equipment. Once baled to a density of 1.5 tonnes per metre³, the steel is loaded onto wagons to be transported back to Corus' steelworks in Port Talbot to be recycled into new steel products."



Capture a bumper crop of steel packaging this Christmas!

With the Christmas season almost upon us, it's important to keep recycling front of mind at this busy time.

Here are a few seasonal steel recycling messages which can be used to encourage your residents to recycle more during the festive season.

Merry Christmas - and many happy returns!

Get recycling this Christmas and enjoy products in containers made from the same steel next Christmas because steel is 100% recyclable.

Think beyond drink

More than 300 million steel cans are used each week over Christmas but lots of other products contain steel: food cans, spirits packaging, aerosol cans, deodorants, tops, caps and more.

Keep it clean

Ensure all your steel packaging - drinks cans, biscuit tins or others - is rinsed out before being recycled.

In the know

Check your recycling collection schedules over Christmas.

Cleaning the house for guests?

Remember to recycle your steel cleaning product containers such as aerosol polishes and tins of wax cleaners.

Don't yet recycle?

Make it a New Year's resolution... starting NOW! Recycling is one of the most important things you can do to preserve natural resources and protect the environment.

Spread good cheer ...

AND the recycling message this Christmas!



www.corusgroup.com

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