

ISSUE THIRTEEN

Waste

Aware

Scotland

Let's get it sorted



Consumer Power Special

...find out what you can do to reduce waste

Front cover image -
Special thanks to the staff
at Tesco in Stirling.



Contents

Write to us at SWAG...

Got something you want to comment on?
Do you recycle something unusual?
Perhaps you want to tell us about the
recycling in your area?

Write to: SWAG, Islay House,
Livilands Lane, Stirling, FK8 2BG.

Or email: laura.smith@ksbscotland.org.uk

On the Campaign Trail with Waste Aware Scotland	Page 4
Consumer Power Special	Page 8
Waste Surgery	Page 10
WRAP Update	Page 14
Waste Aware Community	Page 16
Other News	Page 18
Amanda's Diary	Page 20
Waste Aware Quiz - win Worn Again trainers	Page 20



Receive WAS by email and save paper!

Instead of receiving this magazine by post why not have it sent to your email? Not only will you get all the news hot off the press, you'll help save paper too.

To receive future issues straight to your inbox, send your name and email address to laura.smith@ksbscotland.org.uk If you don't get your own copy at the moment then visit www.wasteawareScotland.org.uk to subscribe. Please remember to recycle your copy of WAS once you've finished with it - or better still, pass it on for someone else to enjoy!

In The Next Issue...

If you have anything you would like included in the next issue please get in touch or send us your copy and pictures by 1st June 2006.

**ISSUE FOURTEEN
WILL BE AVAILABLE
JULY 2006.**





Editor's Letter



Laura Smith
EDITOR

Welcome to the thirteenth edition of the Waste Aware Scotland Magazine.

Municipal waste increases by around 2% each year. In this edition, find out how the Waste Prevention Consultation aims to tackle this growing problem on pages 8 and 9.

Vicky, our Public Enquiries Officer, gives examples of what you as a consumer can do to reduce your waste on pages 10 and 11. There are also some other useful ideas to reduce your waste on pages 12 and 13.

As we head into spring, there are a number of exciting events taking place across Scotland, such as Compost Awareness Week and Real Nappy Week. For more information about these and other events, see page 20.

I hope you enjoy this edition of the Waste Aware Scotland magazine. If you have any suggestions about the magazine please get in touch.

SWAG Contacts

Laura Smith

Editor, PR & Campaigns Officer
Tel: 01786 468246
Email: laura.smith@ksbscotland.org.uk

Dr Nicki Souter

Campaigns Manager
Tel: 01786 468244
Email: nicki.souter@ksbscotland.org.uk

Vicky Armour

Enquiries & Campaigns Officer
Tel: 01786 468781
Email: victoria.armour@ksbscotland.org.uk

Write to us at:

SWAG
Islay House, Livilands Lane,
Stirling, FK8 2BG
Tel: 01786 468246 Fax: 01786 464611
Email: info@wasteawarescotland.org.uk
Web: www.wasteawarescotland.org.uk

On the Campaign Trail wi

East Renfrewshire – closing the gap

According to the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), East Renfrewshire Council has the fourth highest recycling rate of Scotland's 32 local authorities. As part of the Waste Aware East Renfrewshire campaign, local residents are now being urged to make even more use of their recycling facilities and in turn help 'close the gap' between East Renfrewshire and other top recycling areas in Scotland.



The campaign was launched in mid February, featuring local school children running a race. The image that has appeared on billboards, bus shelters and in local press, portrays the importance of local residents helping East Renfrewshire Council to further improve its position among the top recycling areas in Scotland. This approach is hoped to encourage residents to make extra effort to recycle more of their waste.

March sees a great opportunity to recycle more waste in the area with the restart of the garden waste collections. The same local children used in the 'Close the gap' campaign will again grace the billboards, bus shelters and newspaper pages of East Renfrewshire. Sticking with the sporting theme, the children will now be shown 'kicking off' the season.



For more information about recycling in East Renfrewshire, please call the recycling helpline on **0141 577 3001** or visit www.eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/recycle

Dundee football clubs meet on grass (and other green waste)

Representatives from Dundee United and Dundee Football Club took part in the launch of Dundee City Council's commercial green waste campaign to encourage other companies to follow their lead this coming spring.

Grass cuttings from both stadiums are collected by Dundee City Council and are then composted at the city's Riverside facility before being sold on as 'Discovery Compost' to gardeners.

Head groundsman from Dundee United, Albert Dawson, and Dundee FC Stadium Manager Jim Thomson, attended the launch with city council Environmental Services and Sustainability Convener Councillor, Julie Sturrock.

Councillor Sturrock said, "The commercial green waste collection is a great example of a collaboration between Dundee's businesses and the City Council, which is a real winner for everyone.

"Commitment to recycling and waste minimisation will ensure that Dundee retains its place as Scotland's recycling city!"

Albert Dawson, Dundee United's head groundsman added, "We produce a lot of grass cuttings during the summer months. It seems pointless to waste a product which can be recycled so we are delighted to continue to work with the council to recycle our grass cuttings."



For more information on the commercial waste collections or to find out more about recycling in Dundee, please call **01382 432777** or email recycle@dundeecity.gov.uk



th Waste Aware Scotland

Falkirk forges ahead with recycling

Falkirk Council started their kerbside recycling scheme in 2002 and has seen a massive increase in recycling from 6% to 28%. The scheme has rolled out to 58,000 households in the Falkirk area. The 3 bin kerbside scheme collects a staggering 850-900 tonnes of materials each month from the blue bin alone.

Robin Baird, Waste Minimisation Advisor (Strategy) said, "Since the introduction of the kerbside recycling initiative there has been a massive change in the way the public think about their waste, with recycling becoming part of everyday life. It is up to us as a council to continue to support the public in their quest to reduce and reuse, as well as recycle".

In November last year, the council increased collections of the blue bin from monthly to fortnightly. Due to the success of this change, the blue bin collections will now remain every fortnight.

Brown bin collections will resume in April this year.

A further 1900 households are taking part in a tenemental recycling pilot run in partnership with Action Recycle.



Falkirk's Mobile Awareness Vehicle



For more information about recycling in Falkirk, please call **01324 504 444** or visit www.falkirk.gov.uk

Mr Finnie opens East Ayrshire Council's upgraded Materials Recovery Facility

On 27 February 2006, Ross Finnie MSP, Minister for Environment and Rural Development, officially opened East Ayrshire Council's upgraded Materials Recovery Facility in Kilmarnock. Originally built in 1999, the recent extension and equipment upgrades were made possible as a result of a successful funding bid to the Scottish Executive Strategic Waste Fund.

Materials collected from over 52,000 households and Recycling Points will be sorted at the new facility. Cans, cardboard, glass, and plastic bottles will all be sorted before being recycled.

Opening the facility, Mr Finnie said, "East Ayrshire Council is making real progress in improving recycling, making it easier for residents to recycle. The council's recycling rate was 16% in 2004 and according to the most recent quarterly returns from the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), July to September 2005, the recycling rate is now almost 30%."

"I am pleased to have this opportunity to congratulate East Ayrshire Council, and say thank you to the residents for the contribution they are making to improving Scotland's recycling record."



For more information about recycling in East Ayrshire, please call the Recycling Helpline on **0845 6062345**.

Spreading the green message across the Borders

Promoting the recycling message to the public has been a key task for the Recycling Team in the Scottish Borders. As the new kerbside recycling collections and the Waste Aware Borders campaign have been introduced over the last year, the team has been taking their Recycling Roadshow to towns and villages across the Borders.

In the first ten months of the kerbside recycling campaign, the team visited 20 different locations with the roadshow. In addition, members of the team have given talks to community and youth groups as well as to some of the 62 community councils in the Scottish Borders. During last summer the team also visited some of the main agricultural shows, teaming up with the Borders' composting advisors, Dave and Jane Allan of 'ASK Organic'.

The latest roadshows are being held in Berwickshire, where kerbside recycling starts in March. Members of the public can see the new recycling bags and wheeled bins and discuss recycling issues with the team. There will also be information on display about a range of ways to reduce and reuse waste.



For more information, please visit www.scotborders.gov.uk/recycling or call the Recycling Helpline on 01835 825 5128 or email ReduceReuseRecycle@scotborders.gov.uk

Job focus – Edinburgh Recycling Advisory Officers

As Recycling Advisory Officers, Helen Ward and Campbell Clark are valuable additions to the Waste Aware Edinburgh team. Their job is to encourage participation in recycling schemes and reduce contamination in garden waste bins and multi-material kerbside boxes as part of the Waste Aware Edinburgh campaign.

This involves working on information from collection crews to target areas of low participation by visiting residents and trying to encourage them to use their boxes and garden waste bin, along with answering any questions they may have about the service. In this way, they find out why people are not using the service and, where possible, offer solutions such as providing smaller boxes or arranging an assisted collection.

To tackle contaminated recycling boxes and garden waste bins, they speak with householders who may be having difficulty with the services and clarify any misunderstandings or address any problems. Generally, the majority of contamination issues are caused by residents not realising

what should and shouldn't go in their garden waste bin and recycling boxes. Of course, there are always exceptions and in these cases householders are encouraged to take responsibility for their waste. Overall, they aim to provide support to residents to ensure that as many people as possible are making the best use of the facilities available, and help increase the recycling rate in Edinburgh.

The fewer contaminated boxes that are presented, the more effective the kerbside collection is, and of course, the more waste is diverted from landfill. With brown bins, if any non-compostable waste is accidentally taken to be composted, it can cause damage to machinery and ruin the composting process. One contaminated bin can mean that a whole truckload, which is on average 11.5 tonnes, then has to be sent to landfill.



For more information, please call the helpline on 0131 529 3030.



Meteoric rise in recycling for Midlothian

The latest figures show that Midlothian now recycles a quarter of its waste, thanks to the council's swift introduction of the kerbside recycling scheme, the Waste Aware Midlothian campaign last year, and the enthusiastic response from residents. In figures published by the Scottish Executive, Midlothian has gone from languishing at the bottom end of Scotland's recycling table with only a 4.7% recycling rate in 2004-05 to a much improved 24.9% from July to September 2005!



Councillor Derek Milligan, Cabinet Member for Commercial Services said: "This is great news and evidence of the strong support for kerbside recycling in our communities. We know we are only part way there and have more homes to include in our 'Let's Recycle' programme before April. We agree there is so much more can be done and I welcome the further consultation on issues such as how producers and retailers can minimise the production of packaging and reduce waste. Having successfully introduced kerbside recycling, our message will move in the coming months to reducing and reusing, as well as recycling waste."



For more information about recycling in Midlothian, please call **0845 130 2322**.

What else has SWAG been up to?

New Business Recycling Directory

SWAG has developed a new Waste Aware Business website which includes a Business Recycling Directory. This web-based tool, which has been available since 31st January, is accessible via the new 'Waste Aware Business' website (www.wasteawarebusiness.com).

Businesses can search for reuse and recycling services by location and material to find out what is available to them in their local area. A range of service providers are included such as local authorities, the private waste management sector, and community sector organisations.

The website also contains a number of useful links to other initiatives and organisations that are working with businesses to facilitate resource efficiency, such as Envirowise and the Business Environment Partnership (BEP).



Fiona Johnston - Waste Aware Business Campaigns Officer

Waste Aware Business will continue to develop over the coming months, with a number of new sections and tools being added to the website, including a poster creator, a how to guide, frequently asked questions, and case studies.

Regular updates will be made to the recycling directory to ensure that it remains relevant and up-to-date.

The completed website will provide a 'one-stop shop' style approach for businesses to access a range of information and links.



For further information please call Fiona Johnston on **01786 468797**, visit www.wasteawarebusiness.com or email info@wasteawarebusiness.com

Consumer Power

The average Scottish consumer **wastes £1,597 per year** on goods and services that they don't use, and **£438** of this is uneaten food.

Scotland's National Waste Strategy set an aim of 0% growth in municipal waste arisings by the year 2010. This means that we all need to start cutting down on the amount of waste we produce. Although recycling rates are improving, (the last quarterly statistics on waste show that the rolling year recycling/composting rate for the 12 months up to June 2005 was 19.2%) municipal waste continues to increase by around 2% per year.

The reasons for the growth in waste arisings are complex. We have more money than ever before; goods, especially food, clothes and electronic items, are cheaper than ever before; there are more single person households, each requiring their own set of household goods; consumers want greater convenience, buying highly packaged ready meals and a vast array of disposable items; and attitudes are changing - the 'make do and mend' attitude is in decline.

If current trends continue, the amount of household waste produced in Scotland could double within 20 years. In a bid to stem this growth in waste, the Scottish Executive and the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) have published a consultation paper detailing actions that could be taken by everyone to reduce waste.

The waste prevention consultation runs until April 28 2006 and covers the following areas:

- The reasons for increased generation of household waste, including increasing disposable income, more single person households (single households tend to generate more waste, proportionately, than larger households), and convenience led lifestyles.
- Work that is already being done to promote household waste prevention. For example, the Scottish Executive is funding the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP), a UK body, to carry out work on home composting and real nappies and to work with retailers on the design of products.
- The manufacture and design of products, so that less waste is created.
- Whether action should be taken in relation to disposable products.
- The role of retailers in areas such as the marketing and packaging of goods.
- The provision of information to consumers on the waste which may be generated by products.
- Whether action should be taken on plastic carrier bags, and what priority should be given to action on plastic bags in the overall context of household waste prevention.
- Whether more action should be taken to tackle unwanted mail.
- Whether more action should be taken to promote home and community composting.
- Whether more action should be taken to promote reuse and repair of goods.
- Whether the way in which local authorities collect waste, and the frequency of collections, impacts on the overall generation of waste.
- Whether the Executive should consider further the possible introduction of direct charges for households for waste collection, with these charges varying depending on the amount of waste generated. The consultation makes it clear that no moves in relation to the potential introduction of direct variable charging would take place without further full and detailed consultation.
- Whether targets should be laid down on local authorities in relation to household waste prevention.

Get Involved.....

As a consumer, you can approach local retailers about what you perceive to be excess packaging, about stocking particular products, and about the provision of information and recycling facilities.

The Department of Trade and Industry's Consumer Direct Service provides advice to consumers on how best to complain. See www.consumerdirect.gov.uk for more information.

Have your say.....

Make sure your opinions are heard. To share your opinions on waste prevention, or for further information, you can download the consultation from www.scotland.gov.uk/consultations. The consultation closes on 28 April 2006.

For ways to reduce the amount of waste you produce see the Waste Surgery on page 10.

Waste Surgery

Consumer Decisions

Welcome to the Waste Surgery where SWAG's Enquiries Officer, Vicky Armour, answers your household waste questions. This time she suggests some ideas on how you can use the choices that you make as a consumer to reduce your waste.

How can I **reduce** my household waste through my shopping choices?

Buy recycled products

- You can buy a range of recycled products at most supermarkets, including recycled bin liners, recycled paper notepads and toilet tissue.

Buy rechargeable batteries

- You can reduce the waste from disposable batteries by choosing rechargeable alternatives, which can be used again and again and save you money.

Buy long lasting products

- You can choose products with a longer life span, eg energy saving light bulbs, to avoid having to replace them as often. This helps to reduce waste and save you money.



Avoid unnecessary consumption

- Take a shopping list to make sure that you only buy what you need.

Avoid over-packaging

- Buy concentrated products, eg concentrated juice.

Take a reusable bag

- You can avoid the waste from carrier bags by taking your own bag to the shops to use again. This can be a rucksack, a cloth bag, or a Bag for Life that you can buy in most supermarkets.

Avoid disposable products

- You can buy many reusable alternatives to reduce the waste associated with single-use products, including cleaning cloths and razors.

Avoid over-packaging

- Buy products, such as shampoo and washing powder, in bulk to reduce the amount of packaging needed.

Avoid over-packaging

- Buy food loose, such as fruit and vegetables, to remove the need for packaging.

What other things can I

Avoid food waste

You can avoid creating excess food waste by ensuring that you only cook what is needed.



Reduce unwanted mail

While most direct mailing material can be recycled, it is better not to have received it in the first place. By opting out of receiving this mail, you can help help to reduce the amount of waste paper produced.

The Mailing Preference Service, run by the Direct Marketing Association (DMA), supports consumers' rights to choose the mail they want. This service can stop unwanted mail that is delivered to a named addressee at your address - whether this is to you or another named person. The service can stop up to 95% of mail of this type. It cannot stop mail from companies with whom you already have dealings, mail that is addressed to "the occupier," or mail that is not addressed.

Register by calling the hotline **0845 703 4599** or visiting the website **www.mpsonline.org.uk**

You can also write to the Freepost address: MPS FREEPOST, 29 LON 20771, London W1E 0ZT

Please note that using this method could result in you no longer receiving some mail that you may still wish to receive.



Repair

Many items can be repaired and reused to reduce waste and avoid having to buy new products. Bicycles, clothes and shoes, computers and furniture can all be repaired.



Reuse paint

15-25% of purchased paint is wasted in the UK. Instead of throwing away unwanted or surplus paint, why not donate it to your nearest Community Re-paint scheme. The paint is then redistributed for reuse by community groups, charities and voluntary organisations. For more information, visit **www.communityrepaint.org.uk**





do to reduce my waste?

Shop locally

Try buying products locally as this can reduce waste associated with transportation and packaging e.g. from farmer's markets or local greengrocers.



Use services

You can hire or borrow many items that you may only need once or twice to avoid buying things that you won't use often.

- Hire tools for DIY/maintenance such as power tools and carpet cleaners.
- Hire glassware for parties instead of buying new or using disposable cups.
- Borrow books, DVDs and magazines from friends or from your local library.
- Instead of buying new DVDs or computer games, why not rent them from your local video shop. You can now also rent them online and have them delivered to your door.
- There are a number of toy libraries in Scotland where you can borrow toys for a nominal fee (and sometimes free), call **0131 664 2746** or visit **www.natll.org.uk** for more information.



For more information...

For more information about these and other ways to reduce your waste, visit Sort it.

Sort It is an online information tool with details of local and national outlets and services that can help you to reduce, reuse and recycle your household waste.



The Sort It website can be found at www.sort-it.org.uk

WRAP Update

WRAP Home Composting Campaign 2006/07

Since 2004, SWAG has been delivering campaigns with local authority partners for the WRAP (the Waste & Resources Action Programme) Home Composting Scheme. Over 50,000 compost bins have been sold across Scotland so far through the scheme. This year, the campaign involves more local authorities than ever before, 16 in total, so look out for compost bin offers which may be coming to your area soon. And if there is not a WRAP scheme running in your area, you may still be able to obtain a bin through a local authority or other scheme - visit www.sort-it.org.uk for details.

Every household ordering a bin will also receive a 'How To' Guide full of handy composting hints, an accessories leaflet detailing kitchen caddies, liners and other accessories that you can order to make composting at home even easier, and a bi-annual support newsletter full of useful advice to help you to get the most out of your bin and compost.

Further support for the scheme will be provided by the growing team of Home Composting Advisors, who will be travelling around Scotland in their new vans to support householders and carry out education visits to schools and other groups. In Dumfries & Galloway alone, 2150 children have taken part in composting education activities so far, run jointly by Ian Parker of WRAP and Sarah Turnbull of Solway Heritage.



For more information about Home Composting, visit: www.wasteawarescotland.org.uk/compost or call the Composting Helpline on 0845 600 0323.

WRAP helps Heinz adopt lightest steel food can ends in UK

With support from WRAP (the Waste & Resources Action Programme), HJ Heinz, in conjunction with Impress Group BV, has carried out successful trials of a new lightweight 'easy open' steel can.

The new end has a thickness of just 0.18mm – beating the lightest food can end previously available by 0.02mm and creating a new 'best in class'. Heinz now intends to convert its entire range of 200g and 400g cans to use the new lightweight can end, a move that will eliminate around 1,400 tonnes of steel waste annually.

WRAP awarded £250,000 to Heinz from its Waste Minimisation Innovation Fund, a scheme set up to assist industry and retailers to reduce the amount of packaging and food waste that ends up in the household bin.

The second part of the WRAP-funded project will see the project partners working together to develop and trial lighter can bodies. If this proves equally successful and the findings are taken up across the sector, the scheme could reduce UK household waste by as much as 28,000 tonnes per year.



A further funding call was announced by WRAP last month. Applications are open until 31st March for expressions of interest on Food Waste projects, and 20th April for Packaging Innovation tenders.

Further information and downloadable tender documents are available from WRAP: www.wrap.org.uk/innovationfund



Real Nappy Week 2006

Real Nappy Week, which takes place from 24th-30th April 2006, will celebrate its 10th anniversary this year! The week is organised by the Women's Environmental Network (WEN) and the Real Nappy Campaign and is supported by SWAG. It is a great opportunity for parents and parents-to-be to get involved and find out more about real nappies through local and regional events. See www.wen.org.uk/rnw to find out about events in your area.

Healthcare Professionals' Pack

WRAP has commissioned SWAG to produce a Healthcare Professionals' Pack for the Real Nappy Campaign in Scotland. The pack will have the dual purpose of informing both healthcare professionals, such as midwives and health visitors, and parents and parents-to-be themselves, about real nappies through a handy booklet, posters and nappy samples for demonstration. The pack will be distributed throughout 2006.



For more information about Real Nappy Week 2006 or the Healthcare Professionals' Pack, visit: www.wasteawarescotland.org.uk/realnappies

Orkney's Real Nappy Scheme



Orkney's Real Nappy Scheme is a partnership between Orkney Islands Council, the Balfour Hospital Maternity Unit and Home-Start Orkney which aims to convert the Maternity Unit to using real nappies and increase

the visibility and awareness of real nappies throughout Orkney. To achieve and support this, the scheme is offering incentive packs of real nappies to all new and expectant parents on the islands, or a cash back alternative to parents already using real nappies. The scheme also has two nappy library kits showing the main types of real nappies available, which are a useful resource to increase awareness about real nappies. It is hoped that a voluntary nappy network will be set up to continue the work of the scheme beyond 2007.



For more information on Orkney's Real Nappy Scheme contact Gael-Isla Orr on **01856 873535 Ext 2327** or email Gael-Isla.Orr@orkney.gov.uk

East Ayrshire Real Nappy Network (EARNN)

East Ayrshire Real Nappy Network (EARNN) was established in June 2005 to promote real nappy use amongst East Ayrshire residents and to encourage new and existing families to consider choosing to use real nappies with their baby.



Angela and baby Eleanor

An invaluable aspect of the project has been working with a group of ten families to monitor their experiences of using real nappies. Mum, Angela Murray said, "As part of the project we were provided with a supply of real nappies to use with Eleanor who was born in June 2005. We keep a diary of what types of nappies we use on a daily basis and how many nappy changes we make. We also record any comments we have on leaks, washing, how happy we are with the nappies and so on."

Another key aspect of the project was to co-host drop-in events with the ten families along with NHS Ayrshire & Arran health professionals and The Scottish Nappy Company to highlight to expectant and existing families just how easy real nappies are to use. The events, which were also supported by East Ayrshire Council's Provost and Head of Protective Services, were successful and enjoyed by all that attended.

For more information on EARNN contact Lesley Scott on **01563 554093**.

Waste Aware Community



Recycle Renfrewshire

The Wise Group's award winning Recycle Renfrewshire project has diverted 286.5 tonnes from landfill since July 2003 through the restoration and delivery of household goods.

The project accepts donations of unwanted furniture, computers and white goods (cookers and washing machines) in response to local welfare demand for household goods. The project runs from a Training and Recycling Centre in Ferguslie Park, Paisley, where goods are refurbished to as good-as-new by trained staff.

The Wise Group trains unemployed people, providing them with SVQ Level II qualifications in furniture restoration, warehouse & distribution and IT systems. Once refurbished, the goods and internet-ready PCs are distributed free of charge to local families in need.



As one Wise Group spokesman explained, "The aim of the project is to tackle poverty and digital exclusion in Renfrewshire, whilst providing a route back to work for local unemployed people through training and work experience."

The Centre can only continue training local unemployed people and providing furniture to families in need if it receives a constant source of goods.

If you live in Renfrewshire and want to donate furniture or computer equipment, call the Centre on **0141 889 1175**, to arrange an uplift at a time convenient for you, or email recycling@thewisegroup.co.uk

Crafty Women

Crafty Women is a social enterprise based in Girvan, South Ayrshire. They aim to contribute to the social, economic and cultural regeneration of the Girvan and South Carrick communities through craft workshops and training.

The group now employs 6 members of staff and has its own craft centre in Girvan. By reusing and recycling donated textiles, wool, yarn, paper, wire and other craft materials, they produce eye catching, new and original craft work. Over half a tonne of waste was recycled by the project in 2005.

Workshops include felt making, jewellery, embroidery, knitting and silk painting and are open to both children and adults. They also design creative activity courses for a range of needs including educational, recreational, therapeutic, team-building, as well as personal and professional development.

Several community projects have taken place, with the group encouraging local participation while designing ceramic murals and wall hangings for the local community, all made from recycled materials.

Donations of craft materials are always welcome and if you would like to get involved you can join for a small fee and gain access to the many resources and materials the group offers.



Crafty Women will be holding a week of day workshops from 10-14th April 2006. To book a place, donate materials or just to find out more, call **01465 714682**.

Fresh Start

As part of the City of Edinburgh Council's Waste Prevention Strategy, Environmental and Consumer Services are actively promoting Fresh Start. Fresh Start was established in July 1999 by church members who wanted to do something practical as a response to the growing crisis of homelessness.

The Starter Pack Service provides new tenants who have been homeless with essential items to set up their home. The packs help relieve the financial burden that many new tenants face. Around 2,000 new tenants benefit from this service each year. Congregations and individuals throughout Edinburgh donate household goods or money that allow Fresh Start to make the packs. Volunteers at the two warehouses, Fresh Start and Edinburgh Furniture Initiative, make them up into six different packs - crockery and cutlery, pots and pans, cleaning materials, towels, curtains and bedding, and linen. Over 6,000 packs are then distributed to new tenants across Edinburgh and Lothian via local furniture projects.

The Electrical Testing Service tests and recycles small electrical goods which congregations and individuals have donated throughout Edinburgh. The electrical goods are then distributed to new tenants across Edinburgh via local furniture projects.



If you require any further information on the project please contact Keith Robertson (Manager). Tel: **0131 476 7741**, e-mail: admin@freshstartweb.org.uk or visit: www.freshstartweb.org.uk

Bits and Bobs - eco friendly arts and play materials

Edinburgh's only Scrapstore, Bits and Bobs, have an amazing assortment of fabric, sticky backed plastic, costume making material, glitter, funky foam, cork, coloured paper and card, and other craft goodies.

Bits and Bobs is an emerging social enterprise in Edinburgh. They offer free collections for unwanted scrap material from businesses, organisations and individuals and recycle it back to schools, nurseries and community groups to be used for arts, crafts and creative play activities.



Bits and Bobs also provide training, work experience and supported employment opportunities for people with learning disabilities and acquired brain injuries.

From unwanted wallpaper, silk flowers and bags of unused lolly-pop sticks, to scrap fabric, to unwanted stationery from offices, they accept anything clean. Unwanted wool could find a new lease of life with some nursery children and unwanted paint could revamp a student flat!

Scrapstores exist to promote the ethos of reduce, reuse and recycle - stopping unwanted materials being sent to landfill and allowing them to be reused at very little cost. Bits and Bobs provide scrap art kits for members and run workshops in scrap art with teams of volunteers and community artists.

Opening Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday
10am -5pm, Saturday 10am -3pm.
Unit 15, New Lairdship Yards,
Broomhouse Road, EH11 3UY
Tel: **0131 4752425** or **4439490** or email:
bitsandbobs@intowork.org.uk

Other News...

Waste Aware Community – can we help?

The Scottish Waste Awareness Group designed the Waste Aware Scotland programme which promotes Reduce, Reuse and Recycle across the whole of Scotland and is closely linked to the National Waste Plan for Scotland.

As campaign strategy development is part of SWAG's core activities, we are able to carry out this work for the community sector at no charge to the groups themselves. The campaign strategies would be localised to focus on your group's particular activities, whilst the delivery of these campaigns would be carried out by your organisation. Typical types of media involved in a Waste Aware Campaign strategy might include flyers, leaflets, press adverts and other outdoor media as appropriate for the local area or scheme.



Govanhill Recycling and Environmental Action Team (GREAT)

If you are preparing a funding bid and want to have a campaigning strategy developed, or would just like general campaigning advice please contact the SWAG office on **01786 468248**.

Compost Awareness Week 2006 – 7th to 13th May

Add power to your flowers...compost!

Compost Awareness Week is a series of international multi-media publicity and education initiatives to showcase compost production and demonstrate compost use. It aims to encourage the public and business communities alike to take action to support composting at all scales, and to use composts. This initiative began in Canada in 1995 and was brought to the UK for the first time in 2001 by The Composting Association. This year's theme is: "Add power to your flowers...compost!"

Compost Awareness Week in Scotland is supported by The Composting Association: Scotland, the Community Recycling Network Scotland (CRNS), Waste Aware Scotland, Recycling Advisory Group Scotland (RAGS), the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), the Local Authority Recycling Advisory Committee (LARAC), the Community Composting Network (CCN) and the Waste & Resources Action Programme (WRAP).



In light of last year's success, a range of events will be taking place in Scotland throughout the week. For full details of events, or to add your event, visit www.wasteawarescotland.org.uk



Woodland Trust – Christmas card recycling success

The Woodland Trust has succeeded in meeting its target of recycling 60 million Christmas cards in this year's Christmas Card Recycling Scheme.

Following last year's successful campaign, which resulted in 58 million cards being recycled in Britain, the Woodland Trust set a target of recycling 60 million cards this year. This was surpassed with an astounding 65 million cards being diverted from landfill this year, with some areas' totals still to be confirmed. This is the equivalent of almost 1,300 tonnes of waste. Over 6 million cards were collected in Scottish WH Smith and Tesco stores during January.



collected. It is hoped that this scheme has engaged many people that do not normally recycle to make it part of their daily lives all year round.

Money made from recycling the cards is donated by local authorities in the form of recycling credits for waste not disposed of in landfill sites. This enables the trust to protect its woodlands, of which it has about 1000, and buy new ones.

SWAG would like to thank participating stores and residents who have excelled themselves in this year's collection. We are confident that they will rise to the challenge once more next year, and make a further improvement on this year's total.

The collection is now in its fifth year, and each of those years has seen an increase in the number of cards

For more information about the scheme, call Colin Kerr on **01786 468789** or visit www.woodland-trust.org.uk/cards

Is your business green enough for glory?



The search is on for Scotland's leading environmentally friendly businesses after the VIBES (Vision in Business for the Environment of Scotland) Awards 2006 were officially launched in February. Now in their seventh year, the awards are open to any business or organisation operating in Scotland that is taking significant steps to improve or reduce its impact on the environment, while saving money in the process.

The VIBES Awards recognise and showcase best practice in Scotland and to highlight the diversity of businesses that enter, the winners of VIBES Awards in 2005 include Albert Bartlett & Sons, potato wholesalers from Airdrie, Loch Duart Ltd, fish farmers from the Highlands, and the Sustainable Communities Initiative from Fife.

And it's not all about glory in Scotland! Glasgow-based Windsave Limited is being tipped for European success after being chosen as the 2006 UK entry into the prestigious European Business Awards for the

Environment (EBAE). The company beat 11 other British finalists to win a place in the prestigious awards, the winner of which will be announced on 1 June during Green Week in Brussels. Windsave was chosen to represent the UK after its success at the VIBES awards in 2004 where it won the West of Scotland Small Business Award.

The VIBES awards are managed by a partnership of organisations including the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), Forward Scotland, the Scottish Executive, Scottish Water, the Federation of Small Businesses in Scotland, Envirowise, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, National Society for Clean Air and Environmental Protection Scotland, Scottish Enterprise and CBI Scotland, and are sponsored by Rolls Royce Inchinnan and Allied Distillers, both previous national winners.



Businesses and organisations can obtain an application form by contacting Linsey McGillivray, VIBES Awards Co-ordinator on **01896 754 797** or visiting the awards website: www.vibes.org.uk

Amanda's Diary...



Here are some key events taking place over the next few months. To find out more about these and other events taking place, please visit our website.

April 2006

24th - 30th April: Real Nappy Week

Real Nappy Week will celebrate its 10th anniversary this year! Organised by the Women's Environmental Network and the Real Nappy Campaign, the week is a great opportunity for parents and parents-to-be to get involved and find out more about real nappies through local and regional events.

Contact: www.wen.org.uk/rnw

May 2006

7th - 13th May: Compost Awareness Week

The week aims to encourage the public and business communities alike to take action to support composting at all scales and to use composts.

More information about events taking place during this week will be provided on the Waste Aware Scotland website.

Contact: www.wasteawarescotland.org.uk

June 2006

5th - 11th June: The BIG Recycle for Scotland

The BIG Recycle for Scotland week, a major national drive to encourage people in Scotland to recycle more, is returning for a third successive year.

More information about this week will be provided on the Waste Aware Scotland website.

Contact: www.wasteawarescotland.org.uk

13th -16th June: CIWM 2006 - Changing the Face of Waste Management

This is a comprehensive event for waste, recycling and resource management industries. The 3-day exhibition offers over 370 stands from every sector of the industry and live equipment demonstrations. This is complemented by a 5-day waste symposium and conference, incorporating site visits, which draw in delegates from around the world to discuss key issues in recycling, waste thermal treatment and waste and resources management.

Venue: Paignton

Contact: www.ciwm.co.uk/ciwm2006

If you have any events you would like to be included in the diary email amanda.ingram@ksbscotland.org.uk or call **01786 469784**. For more details on events, visit www.wasteawarescotland.org.uk

Waste Aware QUIZ!

This is a test to see how much of the magazine you have actually taken in! If you can answer the following three questions, you can enter our competition to win a pair of unique Worn Again trainers.

From being locked-up (prison blankets), sprayed with Old Spice (men's second-hand suit jackets), thrown on the bathroom floor (towels) to freefalling 13,000 feet (silk parachutes), it's safe to say the materials in Worn Again trainers have been through a lot. These trainers have a history and personality – no two pairs are exactly alike.

The materials for each pair of Worn Again trainers have been given a new lease of life as functional footwear with uncompromising style. Each pair is made from 99% recycled materials.

This competition is open to everyone and the first correct entry picked out of the hat will win a pair of Worn Again trainers.

Q1. When will Compost Awareness Week take place this year?

Q2. How many compost bins have been sold across Scotland so far through the WRAP scheme?

Q3. How much money does the average Scottish consumer waste on goods and services that they don't use?

The closing date for entries is 30 May 2006.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Tel: _____

Thank you to everyone who entered last issue's Waste Aware Quiz. The lucky winner of the Solar Charger was Mrs Moore from Prestwick, South Ayrshire.



For more information about Worn Again trainers please visit www.antipathy.org