

This is the fourth issue of RE:ACT, Veolia Environmental Services newsletter with details on the next phase of works at the waste facilities throughout East Sussex and Brighton & Hove. The newsletter also features updates on other activities happening throughout the area.

Veolia Environmental Services, on behalf of East Sussex County Council and Brighton & Hove City Council, provides an integrated waste management service designed to manage the area's household waste more sustainably.

## Woodlands In-Vessel Composting Facility opens its doors!

The construction of the Woodlands Composting Facility at Whitesmith, East Sussex was completed in August 2009 and the facility is expected to be fully operational by spring 2010 producing organic soil conditioner ideal for organic growers and gardeners alike. Perfect timing for gardeners to start mulching in Spring. For your supplies please contact Martin Prior on 07901 573485.

The facility has the capacity to handle 46,000 tonnes a year of principally green waste from the area's network of Household Waste Recycling Sites, to produce organic soil conditioner. Currently, open windrow composting is carried out on three sites in East Sussex but these facilities are not sufficient to meet future needs.

Construction of the site at Whitesmith included an in vessel composting facility for the composting of kitchen and green garden waste; the site was previously used as a chipping and logging facility. Internal and external walls were formed with a natural cedar cladding fixed between ground level and the roof to give the building an agricultural appearance.

The composting facility is a key element of the long term integrated waste management contract with

Veolia Environmental Services in partnership with East Sussex County Council and Brighton & Hove City Council. The contract's aim is to increase the sustainability of the area's household waste management by encouraging greater composting, recycling and energy recovery and reducing the amount of waste being sent to landfill.

Construction was completed with no lost time due to injury and Veolia Environmental Services celebrated this by joining forces with construction company Bam Nuttall and donating a cheque for £5,700 to local charity 'Charlie's Challenge'.

Charlie's Challenge is a charity which raises money to finance urgently needed research into children's brain tumours, which was established in 1993 after Charlie Boutwood, then aged 20 months, was diagnosed with

a malignant brain tumour. Luckily for Charlie after a long battle he is now living life to the full. However, not all children are as lucky and brain tumours account for 25% of all childhood cancers.

Veolia Environmental Services and Bam Nuttall pledged to make a donation to the charity based in Heathfield, near Whitesmith for each day worked without a lost time occurrence; work progressed on site for more than 300 days without a lost time incident.

Representatives from the charity attended a special presentation at the site to accept the cheque and express their thanks Nigel Boutwood, Chairman of the Trustees said "We are really pleased to accept this donation from Veolia Environmental Services and Bam Nuttall and would like to let everyone know this generous donation will go towards the continued research into children's brain tumours, thank you once again."



# Household Waste Recycling Rates on the up!

Figures for last year reveal that East Sussex and Brighton & Hove's Household Waste Recycling Sites have

## recycled and composted over 48% of waste

deposited by residents at the sites, which are operated by Veolia Environmental Services in partnership with East Sussex County Council and Brighton & Hove City Council.

Around 36,500 tonnes of waste - the weight of almost 96 Boeing 747 aeroplanes has been composted and recycled. The figures break down to include:

<b>17,200</b>	<b>4,500</b>	<b>2,900</b>
<b>tonnes of green garden waste</b>	<b>tonnes of cardboard and paper</b>	<b>tonnes of wood</b>

These materials have now provided the resources to make new and useful products including compost and newsprint.

Keith McGurk, managing director for Veolia Environmental Services South Downs, commented on the figures:

"This is a great effort. By taking advantage of the facilities available at Household Waste and Recycling Sites around the County and City, the public can make a real contribution to the environment by reducing waste and providing resources to make new products. These statistics show the increasing importance the people of East Sussex and Brighton & Hove are placing on recycling, and are tremendously encouraging for the next year."



## Veolia 'Wears it Pink' for breast cancer campaign!



Veolia Environmental Services South Downs dared to 'Wear it Pink' in aid of the Breast Cancer Care campaign across the UK.

Collections were organised at the Household Waste Recycling Sites' across East Sussex and Brighton & Hove on Friday 30 October which was also designated as 'Wear it Pink' dress down day at all Veolia Environmental Services South Downs offices and Household Waste Recycling Sites' with staff donating £2 to 'Wear it Pink.' The total amount raised was over £4,000.

'Wear it Pink' is the Breast Cancer Campaign's biggest fundraising event during the October awareness month and currently supports 112 research projects worth almost £14.5 million in 50 centres of excellence across the UK.

## And the winner is...

Veolia Environmental Services were proud to sponsor two of the most prestigious awards in Brighton & Hove and East Sussex throughout 2009 – The Responsible Business of the Year award at the Brighton & Hove business awards went to Mooncup, and the Sustainable Business of the Year award at the Sussex Business Awards went to Pureprint. We would like to congratulate all the winners and finalists of the awards – congratulations and well done!



# Maresfield Recycling Site now fully open!

The new state-of-the-art Household Waste Recycling Site in Maresfield fully opened to members of the public on Monday 19 October 2009. The opening of the new facility replaced the nearby mobile Uckfield recycling site which permanently closed on Sunday 25 October 2009.

Residents using the new site have found significant improvements; it is much bigger with greatly increased parking space and longer opening hours which run continuously from 8.00am until 4.00pm Monday to Saturday and Sundays 9.00am until 4.00pm.

Soil, wood and hardcore are amongst the list of materials that can be recycled, which also includes cans, green waste, paper and cardboard, glass bottles and jars, plastic bottles, textiles, engine oil, metal, fridges, batteries, electrical goods and household chemicals. General rubbish not for recycling can also be brought here.

Councillor Matthew Lock, lead member for transport and environment at East Sussex County Council, said: "It's great to see this new recycling site opening at Maresfield. It adds to the network of sites across the county where people can drop off their rubbish for it to be separated and recycled. This avoids sending the waste to landfill and it helps to protect the environment."

The new Maresfield Household Waste Recycling Site is located off the A272 on Batts Bridge Road, just south of the roundabout.



# A FIRST F

In June Newhaven saw w

Before



After



# Bring out y

Brighton & Hove City Council is keeping abreast of the latest recycling initiatives by introducing the first bra collection banks in the city.

The council is offering the new service in a bid to encourage recycling and to raise money for a local breast cancer charity.

The scheme is being launched by Cityclean, the council's waste, recycling and street cleansing service, and BCR Global, a national textile recycling company.

The bras will be transported along with other clothing, to developing countries including Africa, Pakistan and Eastern Europe, where they will be repaired (if necessary) and sold on, providing business opportunities as well

## Recycle whilst you sunbathe!

Visitors to Brighton beach can now recycle their litter in new bright recycling bins designed especially for the seafront.

On a busy day last summer Brighton & Hove City Council collected nearly 2 tonnes of litter from the refuse bins. The recycling bins will help divert some of this waste and are situated next to a large 'litter' bin on the seafront.

Mixed glass, bottles and jars, plastic

bottles, mixed paper and card, drinks cans and food tins can all be recycled.

Ten recycling bins will be positioned in pairs, with one bin especially for glass and the second for the mixed stream, each unit will have a 1100litre capacity, which is the same as the containers around the city. They are easy to spot as the bins are between four metre high flags in Cityclean green. Most bins are between the two piers

# FOR THE UK IF NOT BEYOND

what can only be described as a first for the UK if not beyond.



The basement of the North Quay Energy Recovery Facility weighing some 8000 tonnes was momentarily manoeuvred by floating it and then winching it into position.

This innovative construction method was decided as the best way to build part of the facility where major components are being installed some 15 metres below ground.

The benefit this brings is that it significantly reduces the height of the overall building to 24 metres with an arch rising to 27 metres therefore being much lower than would normally be the case.

Keith McGurk, Managing Director from Veolia ES South Downs said: "In the design and construction we have focused on creating a high quality, innovative design that recognises the character and sensitivity of its landscape setting; we make every effort to ensure our facilities are pleasing to the eye."

Before the caisson was floated a circular pit approximately 20 metres deep and 170 metres in circumference was excavated, a significant part of this excavation was completed underwater. Whilst this work was underway the basement floor was being constructed at ground level.

A sheet pile wall was erected around the pit and the basement structure to create a watertight environment; which was filled with water. At the optimum level the basement floated and then was winched over the pit and lowered into position by slowly reducing the water level. The whole operation took just 6 hours.

This method in the main is used to create river crossings, as far as Veolia and its contractors Hochtief are aware, this is the first time it has been used on land.

Construction is ongoing and in the coming months you will start to see the building take shape.

Following on from the need to reduce and re-use as much waste as possible, recycling is always the next step. The Newhaven facility has the capacity to process just over 50 percent of the municipal household waste in East Sussex and Brighton & Hove namely 210,000 tonnes of waste per year. It will only process waste that could not otherwise be recycled generating electricity for export into the national grid, enough to power 25,000 homes, thus turning waste into a resource.

## your bras!

ng as affordable clothing.

Every bra donated will earn money for local breast cancer charity The Pink Dolphin Appeal which raises money for The Park Centre for Breast Cancer in Brighton.

Councillors from Brighton & Hove showed their support by donating the first batch of unwanted bras to the campaign and are hoping to inspire residents across the city to join them.

Environment Director Jenny Rowlands said: "Women in Brighton & Hove are brilliant at recycling clothing through charity shops or at the many textile banks around the city. However, many never think of donating their bras.

"Now we have a great chance to put all that unwanted underwear to good use.

We are urging women in the city to have a rummage, dig out and donate all their old bras. I'm sure they'll find the experience really uplifting!"

The bright pink bra recycling banks are easily recognisable and are situated at Brighton & Hove City Council 'bring sites' at:

- St John's Place, near Floral Clock.
- King Alfred Leisure Centre
- Sainsbury's supermarket, West Hove
- Brighton Marina, ASDA car park
- Chalky Road, opposite Portslade Community School
- Preston Park Drove entrance
- Queen Park Terrace
- Upper Rock Gardens
- The Level, south end of park





## Rethink Rubbish Schools Education Programme update

In the summer of 2009 team members from the Rethink Rubbish Team developed and began presenting a much improved and updated version of their educational programme that provides different and adaptable learning modules for primary and secondary school children. This programme now benefits from an interactive Powerpoint introduction that teaches children about rubbish and climate change and shows them the link and consequences of these elements on our environment.

The session then involves a team based activity to get the children discussing and considering the issues involved and ends with a Powerpoint based quiz to test their knowledge. The central message that is repeated to the children is Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Compost. The aim being to educate our community at an early age about the consequences of their actions and the very simple measures they can take to make our world a better place for them and future generations. The team have found this message then filters through to their parents and other family members.

This programme is also available to community groups and can be delivered without the need for Powerpoint. As climate change and waste reduction become ever more important issues in our daily lives, the Rethink Rubbish Bus and its' team represent a vital and indispensable service for the community that is now more in demand than ever.



## Rethink Rubbish Bus Goes Solar Powered for all Events

The Rethink Recycle Bus has been converted to solar power with the aim of creating a more energy independent and environmentally friendly design that reinforces the message already presented by the team. This not only gives the public a visual representation of what E.S.C.C are doing to reduce their carbon footprint but also puts a vehicle at the forefront of a public awareness campaign, involving the issues of rubbish and climate change, a working example of what can be done.

The energy inefficient petrol generator, air cooling system and heaters of the RR bus have been removed. Internal heating for the vehicle is now provided by the energy efficient Eberspächer

space heater. The bulbs that provide the vehicles internal lighting have been replaced with highly efficient LED bulbs that provide an energy saving of 95%.

The solar panels have a manufacturer's warranty of 25 years and even the batteries are of a grade high enough to return strong service for 10 years or more with good care. These life spans mean the value of our investment can easily be transferred into the new build of the next vehicle if the current RR Bus was retired from service at any point in the future.

The bus also incorporates an Educational Power meter – showing variance of power which the public can use to angle the Solar Array to the Sun for themselves.

## Praise for quick thinking first aider



**Household Waste Recycling Site deputy manager Lesley Waterhouse administered CPR and helped a local resident who suffered a suspected heart attack whilst disposing of some waste at the Household Waste Recycling Site in Crowborough.**

In August this year, it was a normal working day for Lesley until she saw that a gentleman had collapsed on one of the gantries and turned blue. Members of staff on site quickly called the emergency services, whilst Lesley used her first aid skills and gave him CPR until he regained consciousness and started breathing again. The ambulance arrived quickly and tended to the man who has a history of heart problems.

Lesley and her team received a visit from Glenn Davies the director of Health and Safety for Veolia Environmental Services to thank them for their help, Glenn said: "I would like to thank Lesley and her team, their prompt action is to be commended without their quick thinking this could've been an entirely different story."

Lesley who has worked for Veolia Environmental Services in South Downs for five years said at the time: "There isn't time to think in a situation like that, you just follow your instincts. I am so pleased the gentleman is ok. If my help was needed, I would do it all again, I would like to express my thanks to my team who were excellent, every member of the team did exactly what needed to be done without needing to be asked."

# Don't miss the Rethink Rubbish bus



Our specially designed mobile exhibition unit is packed full of information on how to **reduce and recycle your rubbish**.

We visit schools, shopping centres, fetes and fairs throughout East Sussex and are available to hire with staff for free.

To book the bus or find out where you can get on board call 01273 482323 [www.eastsussex.gov.uk/rethinkrubbish](http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/rethinkrubbish)



**rethink rubbish**  
small actions, big changes

*colourful displays, multimedia computers, games  
quizzes, compost bin displays, washable nappy displays,  
leaflets, advice*



**T H A N K Y O U**

*from everyone at*



The council's in-house refuse & recycling service

We would like to thank everyone for helping us recycle 25,000 tonnes of rubbish this year. That's equivalent to 1678 double decker buses – more than six times the size of the Brighton & Hove Bus Company fleet.

Everyone who recycles cans in Brighton & Hove is also helping to grow fruit trees in Malawi through our partnership with Alupro and the charity Ripple Africa.

Latest figures show that in the past year we have all contributed to growing 204 fruit trees for families in rural Malawi. The more we recycle, the more fruit trees will be grown.

This newsletter has been sent to you as an individual interested in local waste issues and the progress being made in East Sussex and Brighton & Hove on the waste management strategy. If you wish to continue to receive your copy of RE: **ACT** no action is necessary. Otherwise, please tick below.

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