

Issue 9 2012

junkmail

Devon Community Recycling & Community Composting Network News



The plight of the pig - nature's anerobic digester?

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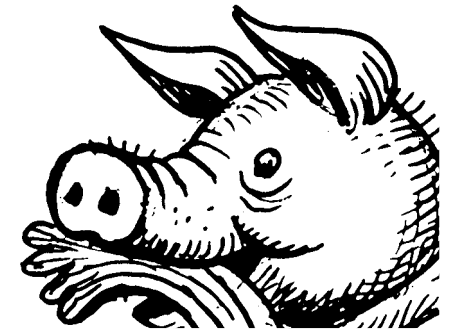
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'The plight of the pig in the nanny state' – nature's anaerobic digester?

'The plight of the pig in the nanny state' – nature's anaerobic digester?

There is, it seems, still no discussion within powers that be about feeding waste food to pigs. Surplus and wasted food is a huge issue. Do look at Tristram Stuart's website and book 'Waste- uncovering the global food scandal', <http://www.tristramstuart.co.uk/>, and Simon Fairlie's 'Meat: a benign extravagance', with a chapter entitled 'the plight of the pig in the nanny state'. Both analyse the problems and identify many solutions. The information in Stuart's book should



shock people 'farmers, manufacturers, supermarkets and consumers in America and Europe waste up to half of their food – enough to feed all

the world's hungry three times over. Forests are destroyed and one tenth of the west's greenhouse gas emissions are released growing food that will never be eaten'.

'Stuart catalogues appalling waste all through the food supply chain: the farmer whose tasty, blemish-free carrots are only deemed fit to feed animals because they are a mite too bendy to be sold in supermarkets, which assume buyers can only cope with straight veg; retail chains that padlock their bins or deliberately

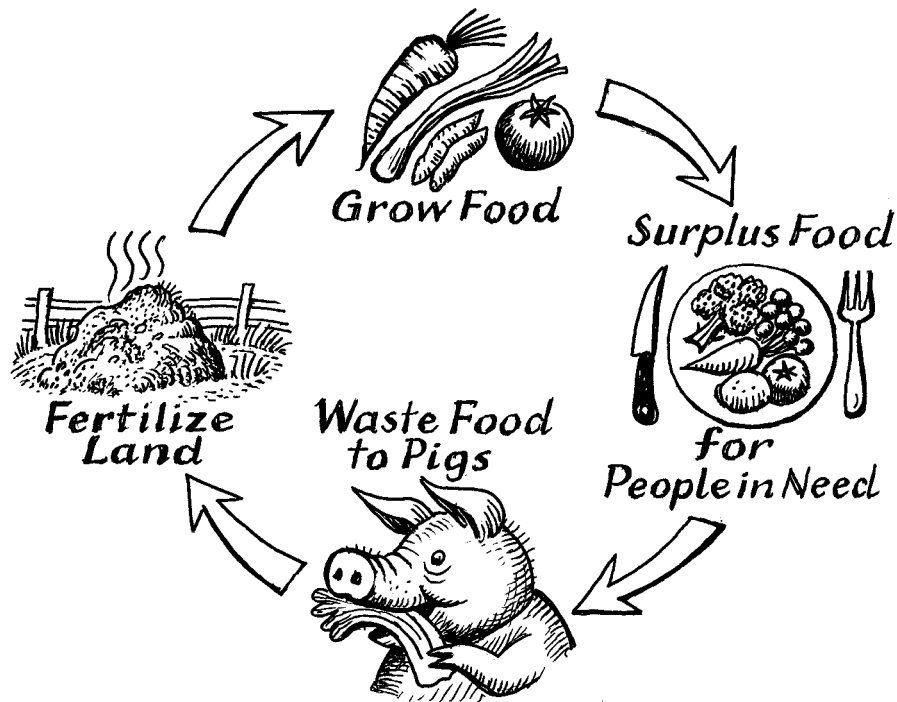
spoil the edible contents, for fear their customers will forage in them; consumers who fall for buy-one-get-one-free offers to buy food they will not eat.'

'Wasting food in rich countries cannot be seen in a vacuum. It has a disastrous effect on the poor. Cheap food is an illusion – the pressure on agricultural land for people to feed themselves and produce for export markets is causing widespread deforestation in the Amazon, south-east Asia and Africa, and soil

degradation across the world. Our careless waste pushes up prices for globalised commodities such as grain and rice, forcing poor people to go hungry or beggar themselves.'



than be a significant cost. It could all be dealt with locally with minimal transportation, giving community and farming benefits. In Japan, the government pays pig farmers one third of the cost of installing feeding systems to take food waste.

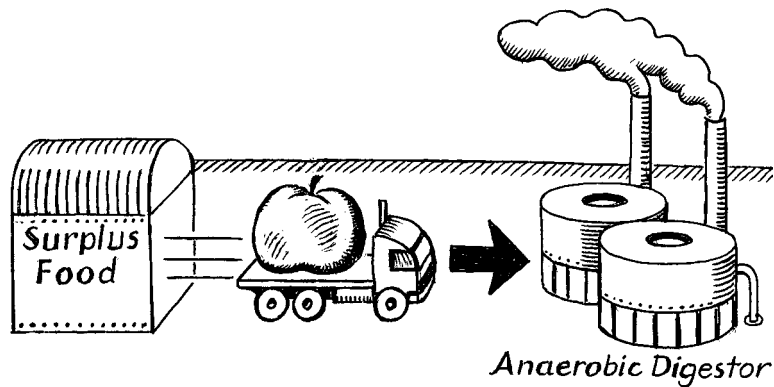


From a community perspective, one may ask 'when will common sense prevail?' Diverting surplus food first to people in need, followed by feeding waste food to pigs would massively



reduce the amount of waste food needing expensive centralised treatment. It would have a value rather

JM previously reported on the excellent work of DCFA Devon & Cornwall Food Assoc. in re-distributing surplus food from producers and retailers to people in need in Plymouth. No supermarkets appear in their list of food sponsors, yet supermarkets are all making 'green' declarations of plans to end food waste going to landfill and diverting it to AD (anaerobic digestion). Whilst AD is better than landfill, this food should be treated according to the waste hierarchy – **prevent and reduce waste, reuse what is possible, then recycle/compost/disposal.**

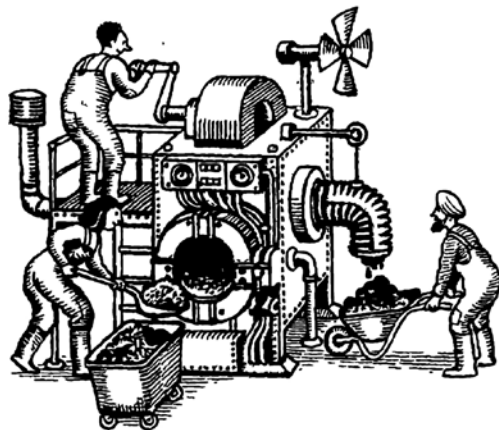


South Devon AD plant gains planning permission

Devon county council has granted planning permission to develop a £15 million Anaerobic Digestion plant on a former china clay site at Lee Moor, South Devon, which will open in April 2013. Advanced Anaerobic Digestion (South West) will use a combination of industrial autoclave processing and anaerobic digestion to treat 75,000 tonnes of waste every year, generating 26 GW of electricity. The compost-like substance produced from the process will be used by nearby Imerys Minerals Lee Moor China Clay workings as part of an on-going land restoration programme.

The number of anaerobic digestion plants in the UK has rocketed from just two in 2005 to 68 in 2011, a new study by WRAP has revealed.

Of the 68 plants, 44 are waste fed with a total processing capacity of 3.7 million tonnes per annum. There are 78 waste-fed plants proposed to be built which have received planning permission, and a further 80 plants in the pipeline awaiting permission.



MEPs call for urgent measures to halve food waste

in EU households, supermarkets, restaurants and along the food supply chain each year, while 79 million EU citizens live beneath the poverty line and 16 million depend on food aid from charitable institutions. Apparently, households are responsible for 42% of this waste (60% of which is avoidable), while manufacturers account for 39%, retailers 5% and the catering sector 14%.

Urgent measures are needed to halve food waste across the EU by 2025 and improve access to food for needy citizens, according to a non-legislative resolution adopted by the European Parliament.

At present, 89 million tonnes of food is wasted in the 27 EU Member States, equivalent to 170kg per person. This is expected to rise to 126 million tonnes by 2020 if no action is taken – a 40% rise.

MEPs estimate that up to 50% of edible and healthy food gets wasted



national measures, to improve the efficiency of food supply and consumption chains sector by sector and to tackle food wastage as a matter of urgency. The most important problem which will need to be tackled, according to MEPs, is increased demand for food, as it will out-strip supply.

The MEP's resolution suggests: retailers should take part in



redistributing unsold food. Dual-date labelling could be introduced to show until when food may be sold (sell-by date) and until when it may be consumed (use-by date), coupled with greater awareness campaigns.

Food packaging should be offered in a range of sizes and designed to conserve food better. Foods close to their expiry dates and damaged food products should be sold at discounted prices, to make them more accessible to people in need.

Public procurement rules for catering and hospitality should be updated to ensure that where possible, contracts are awarded to catering companies that use local produce and give away or redistribute leftover food to poorer people or food banks free of charge, rather than just disposing of it.

Get swapping

Karen Berger has set up Honiton 'Waste Not Want Not' to run a reuse swap day in Honiton. People could deposit their surplus items and take away things they wanted. Karen wants to promote free reuse in the community and said 'we can de-clutter our lives to make space for the things that really matter and ensure that everyone has access to quality goods at no cost.'

Mixed plastic recycling – where next?

Sustainable Crediton and Uffculme Compost Magic have proved there is a huge public demand for mixed plastic recycling collection points in the community. UCM have been collecting mixed plastics at their site in Uffculme for several years. Sustainable Crediton has undertaken several successful plastics recycling events at Morrison's supermarket in Crediton, as reported in the last issue. 75 dumpy bags of rigid plastic



packaging were collected over two mornings, equating to about 75 cubic metres volume.



The recycling event has been repeated recently with equal success, but the group of dedicated volunteers who ran them have said it is necessary to find a permanent solution, as they cannot sustain it on a voluntary basis. Crucially, they were unable to obtain a market value for the plastic collected, even though it's eventual value would be more than £200 p/tonne. PWS Ltd (Peninsular Waste Savers based in North Tawton) collected the bulky mixed plastics, which needed sorting, compaction/baling and storage, and onward transport, before a market value could be realised at a future point.

So how can this situation be solved? How can a market value be obtained for small scale collectors? Who would take responsibility for collecting and recycling mixed plastics? Supermarkets, whose products are

the source of most household waste packaging, or Local Authorities, responsible for household waste? Ideally, supermarkets would deal with it, so it could be taken back to central depots on delivery lorries that bring fresh supplies to supermarkets on an almost daily basis. There must be a way and what is needed is consumer pressure.



Alternatively, it could be done in partnership between the two. Community collection points could be set up at existing recycling bring bank sites, and supermarkets could provide additional space and publicity for collection points in their car parks. Local Authorities or a sub-contractor could collect the material and get the recycling credits. If dumpy bags were used, collection should be able to be done on a cost neutral or low cost basis, with the value of the plastic (around £200 p/tonne), the value of recycling credits (£45 p/tonne), and the saving of landfill taxes and residual waste costs (£80-£120 p/tonne). If community groups are to do

it viably, then the recycling credit rate must allow for the fact that they cannot get a tonnage rate mkt value on it.

Findings from the Sustainable Creditor trials include:

The public have said it is convenient to bring their plastic for recycling at the same time and place that many do their shopping.

It can be done in a low cost way - plastic collection points could be provided cheaply using dumpy bags (as used at recycling centres already). Little investment is needed.

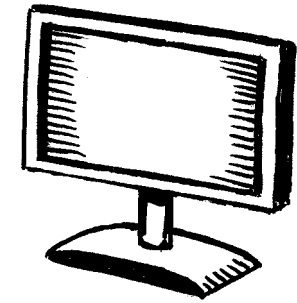
Dumpy bags are more user friendly for plastic recycling than traditional metal recycling banks, which require each item to be 'posted' through a narrow slot. They are quick to use, service and empty

People are willing to wash and present clean plastic packaging, which will have a good market value.



There is a video of the events on YouTube at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=35HSycWORKU>

Almost a quarter of WEEE reusable, says WRAP



Devon recycling centres where it will be recycled and plans are in place to trial WEEE bring banks in high profile areas, such as supermarkets. If successful, bring banks will be placed in similar locations across Devon.

However, JM believes small WEEE should be added to household kerbside recycling collections, otherwise it remains too easy for householders to dispose of WEEE in their rubbish bins.

Reuse

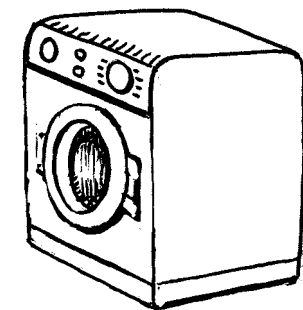
But there are inadequate targets for reuse. The UK's Reuse and Recycling EU Social Enterprises network (RREUSE) said: "The measures agreed will severely hinder reuse rates of WEEE

Almost a quarter of waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) taken to UK recycling centres could be reused or repaired, with a potential resale value of £220 million, according to new research by the Waste & Resources Action Programme (WRAP).

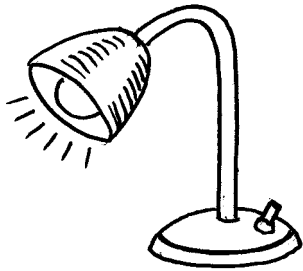
The value of WEEE suitable for resale collected via bulky waste collections would also be around £77 million.

This comes at the same time that the EU has set higher targets for recycling Waste electrical items (WEEE.) The EU has set targets to recycle WEEE equivalent to 45% of the weight that has been placed onto the market in 2016, this will rise to 65% in 2019.

Currently WEEE can be taken to



in Europe and not exploit the clear benefits and potential of reuse in Europe. These decisions were taken regardless of studies showing that one in two Europeans would be happy to purchase second hand electronic equipment and that reusing appliances could not only create up to 200 jobs per 1,000 tonnes of electronics, but as well help achieve



the resource efficiency needs of Europe that the European Commission is currently promoting.”

Meanwhile WRAP’s report **‘Realising the Reuse Value of Household WEEE’** looks at the quality of waste electrical items dropped at household waste recycling centres and collected as part of bulky waste collections. It found that 23% was either fit for resale and reuse or required only minor repairs before it could be resold.

“Large domestic appliances such as washing machines offer good potential value, from reuse, use of parts or from scrap, make up 61% of the resale value from the bulky waste

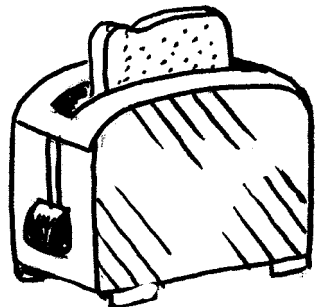
collections. Fridges and freezers offer particularly good reuse potential if they’re still working”, said WRAP.

Tests showed that, after cleaning, 12% of all WEEE was fit for resale, while a further 11% was suitable for resale once minor repairs were carried out, making up nearly a quarter of all the WEEE that had been collected.

The research also looked at the reasons for disposal of different types of WEEE and found that as much as 28% of consumer equipment was disposed of because it was being replaced with a newer model, regardless of its condition. As many as 47% of those questioned at Recycling Centres felt that it was cheaper to replace rather than repair the item they were leaving.

WRAP estimates that around 160,000 tonnes of small WEEE is thrown away in household residual waste every year.

In a separate study WRAP (Waste & Resources Action Programme) will analyse the composition of bulky waste across the UK, to identify further potential for reuse..



Wales and Northern Ireland to tax plastic carrier bags

A charge of 5p for single use carrier bags will be introduced in Northern Ireland from April 2013. It will rise to 10p in April 2014, in order to give people time to get used to the system. This follows the Welsh Governments move to tax single use bags in 2011, which led to a 7% drop in plastic bag use even before the tax came in.

Northern Ireland is aiming to reduce the estimated 250 million carrier bags that are used each year, and intends to use revenue raised through the levy to fund environmental projects.

NI’s Environment Minister Alex Attwood said: “There is no doubt that carrier bags are a scourge on the environment. Evidence from other countries demonstrates that a bag levy is a simple and effective means to reduce substantially the negative environmental impact of carrier bag consumption. A proposed ten pence levy on single use carrier bags and lower cost reusable carrier bags can bring about significant environmental improvement.”

Mr Attwood said the charge had worked “extremely well” in the Republic which has seen a 90% reduction in plastic bag consumption since charges were introduced in 2002, and over £60 million pounds has been raised for environmental initiatives.

He said the measure would raise up to £4m a year in Northern Ireland, which would be used for environmental causes.



Devon awards £26.5m HWRC contract to SITA

SITA UK is set to take over the running of 17 of Devon county council's 19 household waste recycling centres (HWRCs) on May 1st from Viridor, after winning a five-year contract from Devon County Council. Maclins Quarry Recycling Centre in South Molton, will be operated by South Molton Recycle Ltd and Deepmoor, Torrington will be operated by Devon Waste Management Ltd.

SITA manages Devon's new HWRC at Pinbrook Road in Exeter which opened in June 2011, where a recycling rate of 85% has been achieved. The council is looking to replicate this success across all of its recycling centres, which recycled 74% of waste in 2010/11.

Councillor Roger Croad, Devon's lead member for environment, said: "Based on the company's impressive track record at our centre at Pinbrook, we will be keen for the whole county to benefit from the same level of service it has been providing in Exeter. Where space allows, other centres in Devon will be able to accept more types of waste for recycling, such as carpets, mattresses and bulky plastics so that

more items than ever can be recycled and diverted from landfill. The re-sale areas at larger centres will also offer an improved experience. The new contract includes targets which we will be keen for SITA UK to meet, so we will expect recycling rates at our centres to reach new record levels."

Across the 17 centres, SITA UK will handle around 85,000 tonnes of recycling each year.

Many in the community sector dream of Recycling Centres of the future where they are waste prevention, resource and reuse supercentres, where the reuse and resource area is bigger than the recycling area, where things can be repaired and/or refurbished, where people can buy all kinds of reclaimed and reusable materials like wood, metal, stone, doors and windows, diy stuff, fabrics & home furnishings, comprehensive range of household items and furniture, garden materials etc. How many hundreds of jobs would that create, and I believe it could pay for itself from sales.

Waste wood biomass plant set to open in Plymouth

A £16 million biomass plant in Belliver Way, Plymouth will convert 40,000 tonnes of waste wood into renewable heat and power each year. The facility plans to be operational from October 2012. A partnership of companies have come together to form a new energy services company known as O-Gen Plymtrek. The plant will work by converting waste wood, destined for landfill, to a gas fuel which will be combusted in a boiler to create steam. This steam will drive a turbine to produce the energy. It will generate around 26,000 MWh of electricity a year as well as heat.

The National Community Wood Recycling Network can help community projects wanting to set up wood reuse facilities or anyone starting out. See www.communitywoodrecycling.org.uk

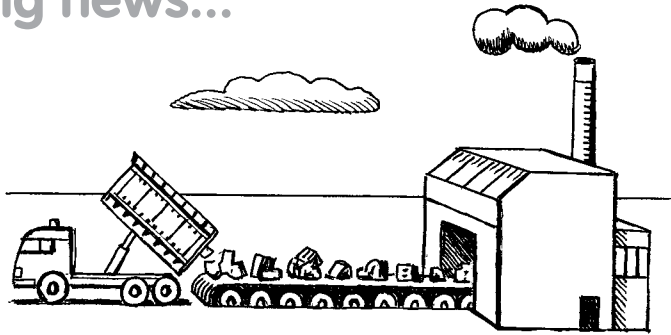
'Revolutionary' MDF recycling process being developed

An innovative process for recycling MDF wood (similar to chipboard) has been granted patent approval in a move which could lead to the first MDF recycling plant being developed in the UK. According to WRAP, Britain disposes of an estimated 340,000 tonnes of MDF to landfill annually.

The process exploits a technique known as ohmic heating, commonly

used in large-scale food manufacturing, to heat medium density fibre-board (MDF) to break down the resins that bind it together. This allows the recovery of the wood fibre which is the same quality as virgin wood fibre and can be used to produce new MDF or thermal insulation.

Re-cycling news...



Local waste firm to open commercial waste recycling MRF in Exeter

Devon Contract Waste, who provide recycling services to businesses, plan to open a £4.2 million MRF (materials reclamation facility) in Exeter to process up to 75,000 tonnes of commercial and industrial waste a year from April 2012.

Simon Almond of Devon Contract Waste, said: 'The Titech optical sorting technology will deliver an excellent quality output, and enable us to maximise the recovery of materials for re-sale...'

Could skip companies divert material for reuse from waste skips?

South Molton Recycle opens new reuse shop in Barnstaple

South Molton Recycle's Phoenix charity reuse shop has opened at 81-83 Boutport Street, Barnstaple, EX31 1SR.

The shop sells all kinds of reused household items at affordable prices, and collections can be arranged for bulky items.

Contact **01271 324000** or email Barnstaple@smrphoenix.org

SMR will also be taking over the running of the Barnstaple Recycling Centre, Seven Brethren.

Used2bee

Used2bee based in Paignton are now providing a facility to recycle clothing, bric-a-brac, electricals and books at their depot **UNIT3a Baytor Industrial Estate, Alders Wat Paignton Devon TQ47QJ.**

Clothing and shoes will be accepted and paid for at current market price. Any quantity accepted from 1 bag to a van load!

From: steve clark

Email: used2bee@yahoo.co.uk

Phone: 01803558367

Waste Blog website

www.isonomia.co.uk

You can read about what leading waste experts and consultants are discussing on an interesting blog website which is about "Exploring ideas on waste, recycling, energy and more". Authors include Dominic Hogg of Eunomia and other figures in the world of waste. There is a piece about the challenges facing Rezolve, Cornwall's waste social enterprise project, whose furniture reuse flagship project in Bodmin is under threat of closure.

Community Repaint

More than 200,000 litres of paint were diverted from waste streams and reused for the benefit of local communities in 2011, thanks to the UK's paint reuse network Community RePaint which has 65 schemes nationwide run by community projects.

Devon's Community Repaint scheme is based at Proper Job in Chagford, where surplus paint from households and suppliers/retailers including Farrow and Ball are available for reuse. Proper Job's scheme has been going for about 10 years.

Community Repaint national co-ordinator Clair Lloyd commented "Paint shouldn't be going to landfill at all... it normally has to be treated as hazardous landfill waste, which is more expensive to process. However if it is not properly sorted... (it will end up in residual household landfill waste, where it)... can leach into the water system which can cause significant environmental problems." Hazardous waste costs over £300 per tonne for disposal.

Devon residents can also take paint to their local recycling centre. If it is reusable, it can be placed in the re-sale area for other people to purchase.

Totnes Atmos project

'Imagine a hub that is the heart of a new economy for Totnes and further afield, a food entrepreneurs' school, affordable housing, a business incubator, a living, breathing taste of sustainability in practice'. That is the broad vision for the old Dairy Crest site in Totnes called the Atmos project. You can upload your contribution or comments to developing the vision online at www.atmostotnes.org

Broadcaster Jonathan Dimpleby is supporting the Transition Town Totnes campaign to bring the disused former Dairy Crest site into community ownership. The campaign has been on-going since 2007.

It would be great to see a reuse element in there with a wide range of reusable materials available for all – for all those 'transition' gardens and DIY projects, with a cluster of small enterprises reclaiming, repairing and restoring items for reuse with shared workshop and selling facilities.

Tresoc, Totnes Renewable Energy Society has submitted a planning application for 2 wind turbines, following their successful community share issue to raise investment.

The Transition Streets (TS) project has been very successful in and around Totnes, and we have had many queries from other Transition towns and low-carbon community groups who would like to start something similar.

So we have developed a 'start your own TS project' package that includes 1 day of training, 1 day of additional support, the workbook and all the other project resources such as the project plan, the team roles, the marketing strategy and so on. This gives the Transition/community groups all they need to plan and then run their own project successfully.

We are delighted to announce our inaugural REconomy Project: Local Entrepreneur Forum in Totnes, an event designed to give rise to new social and sustainable enterprises in Totnes and South Devon. The forum will bring local entrepreneurs, investors, and experts together for learning, networking, and deal-making.

See the newsletter at www.transitiontowntotnes.org



Tough going for furniture reuse project

News broke recently that Cornwall's only furniture reuse project, run by Rezolve in Bodmin, was under threat of closure due to financial difficulties. The flagship project provides collections all over the county, and has state of the art premises and training facilities for repair and refurbishment. The economic downturn has had a big impact on furniture reuse projects, and many are finding it very challenging to survive. The number and quality of donated furniture is down as fewer people are moving house, consumers are cutting back on purchasing new items so giving away fewer items, therefore sales are less. Grant and training money has reduced following cuts.

Transport, service, and collection costs have risen. Costly commercial rents usually have to be paid. There is increased competition from charities like British Heart Foundation, who are interested in the best quality items only but have no aims to reduce waste through repair, refurbishment or cleaning, nor meet the wider aims of social, local economic, training and employment benefits provided by social enterprises.

Reuse projects rely on a range of income to balance the budget: sales of donated items, grants, training income, volunteer input, reuse and recycling credits, in kind support, and gift aid if they are a charity.

There needs to be more strategic joined up thinking and action between different authorities and organisations: social services (with clients who need help), housing associations (with people who need to furnish or clear out homes), waste authorities (with bulky waste to collect, reuse, recycle and dispose of at great cost), and training organisations (with clients to place and train). The public has bulky items that they want to be reused.

Reuse projects provide free collections which saves LA's and householders costly bulky waste collections. Then there's the carbon emission savings - the embodied energy, waste disposal, resource extraction, manufacture, packaging, distribution, retailing and transport of new items. 'Carbon credits' could be paid to recognise the emissions saved by reuse.

A contact list of all the projects serving Devon's communities can be found on the DCRN website www.dcrn.org.uk

**MIXED PLASTICS acceptable at Recycling Centres –
PLEASE MAKE SURE EVERYTHING IS CLEAN**

- All plastic drink bottles (squash and put lid back on)
- Plastic milk bottles (squash and put lid back on)
- All plastic household cleaning bottles
- Pre formed biscuit or chocolate box trays
- Plastic sandwich containers
- Yogurt pots, margarine tubs, Ready meal containers etc
- Plastic fruit containers (unless made from expanded polystyrene)
- CD's & cases
- Plastic flower pots (must be clean)

ITEMS NOT ACCEPTABLE and not listed above, such as:

- Nothing contaminated with food, grease or oil (not clean)
- No 'biodegradable' plastic
- Nothing made from more than one type of plastic
- Plastic bags
- Bubble wrap, cling film
- Cereal packet inners, Cellophane wrapping
- Waxed juice type containers (Tetrapaks have separate recycling facilities)
- Paint containers, plastic toys, videos, ink cartridges etc
- Pet food pouches or soft drink pouches
- Expanded polystyrene packaging including EPS food trays
- wrappers from crisps and biscuits
- Anything lined with silver paper
- Toothpaste tubes or disposable razors
- Containers for hand and other skin creams (unless very clean)
- Any large items made from plastic - No furniture, toys etc

ISSUES RELATING DIRECTLY TO THIS PUBLICATION

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