



MELTON HITS 46% RECYCLING RATE IN YEAR TO MARCH 2006 - landfill waste cut by 13% -

Sevenoaks, Kent, 25 April 2006 – Leading independent municipal services contractor Verdant Group plc today announced that the recycling rate in the Melton Borough Council area in Leicestershire reached 46.65% in the year to 31 March 2006, almost reaching its ambitious 48.65% target.

This achievement, up 10% on the previous year, was also marked by a 13% decline in Melton waste going to landfill. Melton's 46.65% recycling rate would have put it fourth in Defra's 2004-05 league table of the top recycling councils in England and Wales.

Melton's latest recycling success is attributed to all 21,000 households in the borough area using Verdant's wheelie bin and recycling box scheme. Its efficiency and the enthusiasm of Melton's residents helped push the local recycling rate as high as 55% in April and May 2005.

Verdant's scheme features two wheelie bins per household, one for general waste and one for green waste, emptied on alternate weeks, as well as two recycling boxes for weekly kerb side collection.

Green Waste Contribution

Accurate weighing of waste, including green materials, shows that since the twin wheelie bin scheme began full operation across the borough in April 2005, Melton's residents helped recycle nearly 10,000 tonnes of materials that would otherwise have gone to landfill.

They diverted around 5,000 tonnes of green waste and some 4,600 tonnes of dry recyclables, such as paper, glass, plastic, cans and textiles, from landfill. Just over 11,000 tonnes of waste was eventually sent to landfill, down 13% on the previous year.

Paul Coates, Verdant's recycling education officer in Melton, said: "Once again, Melton has risen to the recycling challenge. According to our data, the town would be in the top five recycling councils, which reflects how well our wheelie bin scheme works. But it's Melton's residents who deserve all the praise for their support and enthusiasm. What's also notable is the sharp drop in waste that would otherwise have been buried in the ground."

He added: "In March 2005, I predicted we would hit a 45% recycling rate for the year. We beat that, and now we have the magic 50% rate in our sights. Having achieved up to 55% at times during the past year, I know Melton can do it."

Raman Selvon, senior waste management officer at Melton Borough Council, added: "We're delighted by our local residents' recycling efforts .and with some minor improvements to the service, we are confident of increasing our performance further still. Everything is working well, and we now want to strive toward consistently recycling at least half of Melton's waste every year."

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About Verdant

Verdant Group plc, a specialist in the provision of environmental services to local authorities in England and Wales is fast proving to be one of the most successful companies in this sector. The

UK-owned group, which has its head office in Sevenoaks, provides a wide range of waste collection, recycling and cleansing services to an expanding customer base. Verdant handles recycling, refuse collection and street cleansing contracts for 14 local authorities. Over the last 12 months, there have been some notable additions to the existing portfolio including a 12-year contract for Mid Bedfordshire District Council, a five year contract with Bridgend County Borough Council, a seven year contract for Chiltern District Council, and a seven year contract for Arun District Council. Other current local authority customers include Melton, Anglesey, Gosport, Surrey Heath, Stratford, Warwick, Uttlesford and Wycombe.

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