



verdant winter bulletin

Melton rollout goes ahead

Melton is going borough-wide with a new fortnightly wheelie bin refuse collection system after a successful pilot boosted recycling from 31 per cent to 42 percent. Councillors voted in favour of the rollout after reviewing detailed operational, environmental and financial information.

The new extended scheme will serve around 20,000 urban and rural households and features two wheelie bins per household. One bin is for general waste and the other is for green waste. These are emptied on alternate weeks and two recycling boxes are provided for weekly kerbside collection.

Roger Edwards, Verdant development director, said: "Our six month trial proved that the service works efficiently, increases recycling rates, reduces waste and has the approval of the vast majority of participating residents.

"An independent survey of local residents showed that 81 per cent of residents found the wheelie bins easy or very easy to use, and were fairly or very satisfied with the new scheme."

Arun's new Recycling and education officer

Karen Page has been appointed as Verdant's new Recycling and education officer in Arun DC. Changing behaviour and public attitudes is a key driver behind waste minimisation and recycling.



Karen Page Arun DC's new Recycling and education officer

Karen will provide education and training, particularly targeted at schools, to raise awareness of recycling and promoting best practice. Karen joins Verdant from the Environment Agency where she was involved in regulating waste sites. Karen said:

"I feel excited about having been chosen to represent Verdant and offered the opportunity to work closely with Arun District Council. The key challenge of the role will be ensuring that the contract is rolled out smoothly. I aim to achieve this by developing closer links between Arun and Verdant and by acting as a point of contact for the public. It is exciting to be working with a council of Arun's huge potential at a time when recycling is increasingly hot news."

Verdant partnership brings recycling to Anglesey

Cleanstream, an innovative three way partnership brought together by Verdant to create a new kerbside recycling scheme in Anglesey, is starting this month.

The partnership, comprising Isle of Anglesey County Council, Menter Môn, the community enterprise agency, and Verdant, will help divert waste from landfill, improve the island's recycling record, and provide opportunities for the local community.

The two-year project will use three 7.5 tonne collection

vehicles, each with a two man crew. Two vehicles will be operated by Verdant, which already handles the main street and beach cleaning, domestic and trade waste collection, and recycling service contract on Anglesey, and one by Menter Môn.



Residents will be provided with two recycling boxes, one for glass, cans, plastic and textiles, the other for paper, which will be collected each week from their homes. Recycled materials will be sold for reuse and reprocessing. Any income earned will be used to support the long term sustainability of the project.

Verdant grabs Green Apple Environmental Award



Melton council has been awarded a prestigious – CIWM sponsored – Green Apple Environmental Award for the work of former Recycling and education officer Catherine Rowlings.

In schools, the focus was on promoting better scientific understanding of recycling, practical work to reuse waste, and visits to look at local installations. Together, this has contributed significantly to the borough's achievement of a 39% recycling rate.

Catherine worked with schools to promote the 'three Rs' of sustainability as part of the curriculum: reduce, reuse and recycle. As well as being the environmentally-aware citizens of the future, children have an important part to play in encouraging households to recycle now.

Councillor Nigel Angrave, Chairman of the Waste Management Task Group at Melton, said: "We thank Catherine for all her hard work and will do everything we can to support the work of our new recycling and Education officer Paul Coates."



Verdant staff with Wycombe Green Flag award

Wycombe Green Flag award win

Verdant has helped secure a Green Flag award for Higginson Park in Marlow (Wycombe DC), one of just two in Bucks, and one of 253 winners across England and Wales. Green Flag Awards are the national standard for parks and green spaces, managed by the Civic Trust.

Commenting on the park, where Verdant maintains the grounds, judges said that maintenance standards are particularly high, conservation is of a very good standard, and there is a committed and pro-active management.

The strength of the community contribution from the Town Council, Marlow Society, the Chiltern Society and event organisers was also a major factor in winning the award. Verdant's Business manager, Jason Eldridge said: "I would like to pass on my congratulations to all the staff at Wycombe. This award is a big achievement for them and says a lot about the hard work and commitment they put in."

All sites are listed on www.greenflagaward.org.uk

Training for success

Verdant is committed to developing a highly skilled workforce as a key element in providing the highest possible quality service delivery. The company has a wide programme of training for staff to help them develop their skills and gain new ones.

At the moment, the market for LGV (large goods vehicle) drivers is tough, and set to get tougher with the introduction of the EU Working Time Directive. So it makes sense to invest in training for staff so that they can have the opportunity to achieve these valuable qualifications. In January alone we have had two staff passing their category 'C' (CLASS 2) LGV Test.

Melton's street cleansing team also recently achieved success, all securing National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) certificates. Staff undertook two months intensive training and study in all aspects of cleansing work, funded by public sector grant, and were awarded level two NVQs in December 2004.



New vehicles for Chiltern DC

One of Verdant's high profile paper recycling vehicles now out in Chiltern

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We want to hear your views on this newsletter and on the services we provide in your area. If you have any feedback, please contact our Development Director:

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