



verdant autumn bulletin



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Green waste club at Arun

The 'sterling efforts' of Arun's Green Waste Club have diverted over 1,000 tonnes of green materials from landfill over the past few months – and more local people are now being invited to join the Club.

Verdant's dedicated green waste collection service began in April, with collections made every week from 5,000 Club members, over 1,000 tonnes of green waste, such as grass clippings and prunings, have been diverted from landfill. This helps Arun improve its overall recycling rate and reduce waste disposal costs, while the green waste is converted into compost for resale to garden centres and the like.

Verdant business development director Roger Edwards says: "Arun residents have responded phenomenally to the Green Waste Club concept and their sterling efforts are greatly applauded. The hundreds of tonnes of green waste that they have recycled over the summer are the major reason why the county and district council have agreed to provide additional funding to expand the Club further.

We had to temporarily suspend new member applications in the summer so we could plan and deliver the complex collection and logistics service on which the Club depends. Now we're all ready to do more and look forward to welcoming more green-fingered recyclers to the Club."

Chris Halfpenny promotion

Verdant have announced the promotion of Chris Halfpenny, formerly Verdant business manager for its contract with Melton Borough Council in the East Midlands.

Chris has been promoted to Contract Portfolio Manager, responsible for Verdant's service delivery for the Melton, Chiltern, Wycombe, Warwick, Stratford, Anglesey and Bridgend local authorities.



Melton is one of the elite English councils for recycling, an achievement enabled with Verdant's highly focused, efficient and responsive recycling service. Recent recycling expansion in Melton has pushed up its recycling rate to an impressive 50% (based on Verdant's provisional figures).

Simon Miles Managing Director of Verdant said: "Chris's professionalism and dedication have been proven in Melton where he and his team developed and rolled out new services and built excellent client relationships. That hard-won skill and expertise will be usefully deployed in managing and developing Verdant's waste and recycling contracts in England and Wales."

Thanks to all those who came to see us at LGA

We are grateful to councillors and officers from our current partner councils who came to visit our stand at the Local Government Association conference in Harrogate in July.



Verdant Managing Director Simon Miles who was present at the conference for the week said: 'It was particularly useful to hear directly from stakeholders about current perceptions of the service provided and to be able to discuss ways in which good services can be made even better'.

Further boost to national recycling



Recycling of household waste has doubled in the last four years, according to new provisional figures published today by Defra. The figures show that English households recycled more than a fifth of their waste, (approaching 23%) in 2004/05. They are the first signal of recycling rates in 2004/05 which, though unaudited, provide a good indication of the level being achieved.

Performance around the country varies with, on average, residents in the North East recycling the least (16%) and people in East of England recycling the most (29%). The greatest leap has been in the East Midlands, up 7% on last year to 27%.

Local Environmental Quality Minister, Ben Bradshaw, said: "We've doubled the amount we recycle in just four years. These figures prove how much more people understand the importance of recycling compared to even just four years ago."

"Every person in England is currently recycling enough to fill 8 green wheelie bins, but we could be recycling as much as 20 bins worth - up to 60% of our waste. And local authorities will have to look at improving their recycling rates too. We want to be well on the way to our 2010 target of 30% of waste being recycled - sooner rather than later."

Supervisors Conference

Verdant believes that the excellence of public services is to a great degree dependent upon the quality of front line supervision deployed. September saw our inaugural supervisors' conference which was held in the Jarvis Hotel, Pembury and attended by over 20 supervisors from our depots across our local authority client base.

A series of training events were held throughout the day to help Verdant staff in their roles with updates on the company and new contracts also provided. Disciplinary and staff recruitment training featured along with a presentation from Paul Coates the Melton Recycling and Education Officer. Group Fleet Manager Gary Frost gave an update from the transport department ably assisted by his team.

The afternoon was rounded off with a competitive team quiz and an evening meal. "I found the day very informative and everyone agreed it was a huge success", said Darren Pritchard the Anglesey depot Supervisor.



Verdant shortlisted in National Recycling Awards

Verdant's strong commitment to health and safety standards and good practice has been recognised by its nomination for the Best Commitment to Health and Safety Practices award category of the National Recycling Awards 2005, run by Materials Recycling Week (MRW).

The nomination follows the launch in the summer of a new range of posters aimed at reinforcing vital safety messages which have been appearing at Verdant depots across the company's 17 municipal service contract areas. The result will be announced on 25th October.



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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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