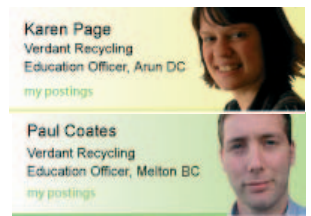




## verdant winter bulletin

Winner "Best Commitment to Health and Safety Practices" 2005 National Recycling Awards.



Read our blogs at

[the.recycle.box](http://the.recycle.box) better recycling through education  
[www.thecyclebox.com](http://www.thecyclebox.com)

## Verdant leads recycling drive

Latest Government figures released last month show Verdant councils in the leading pack for proportions of waste materials recycled during 2004/05.

Melton BC held its position in the upper echelons, remaining in England's top 15 councils with almost 37% of total waste recycled. Gaining ground quickly and commended in Defra's press announcement was Chiltern DC which was placed in the top five authorities for recycling of dry materials - including glass paper and plastic - with a 29% rate.

Amongst those dramatically increasing recycling rates was Mid Bedfordshire DC which burst through its government target to increase its recycling rate by 11% during the past year in which Verdant has taken over its recycling service. Gosport BC also managed an excellent 7.5% increase.

Overall, the national figures showed that people in England recycled and composted nearly 23% of their waste, putting the government on course to meet its 2005/6 target of 25%.



"It's encouraging to see Verdant's partner councils moving their recycling services forward so strongly. We see it as our job to do all we can to ensure that each and every one significantly exceeds its targets", said Simon Miles, Verdant managing director.

## Verdant and Anglesey extend community recycling service

A year on since Verdant joined with Anglesey County Council and Menter Mon a community enterprise agency to implement the Cleanstream community recycling scheme in Holyhead, the second phase of the project will soon be extending the service across the island.

With nearly £2 million of EU Objective One funding, the new SRS project will introduce a new kerbside collection of twin recycling boxes on alternate weeks to an estimated 12,000 households.

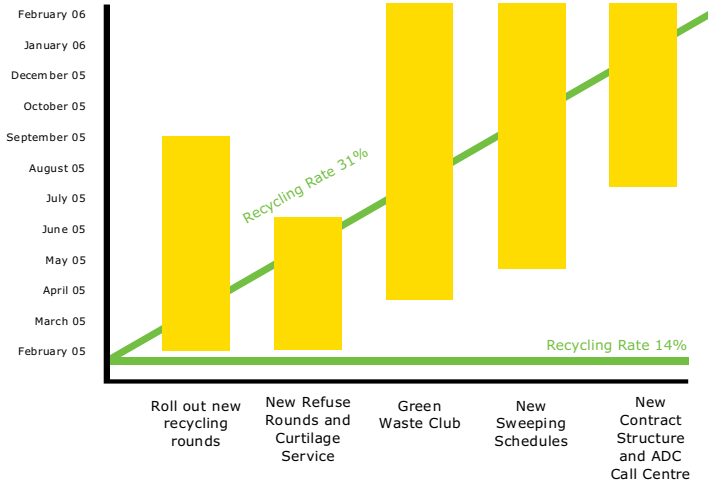
Verdant has ordered four more collection vehicles from local firm FAUN that specialises in municipal and specialist vehicles. They will join the trio of 7.5 tonne collection vehicles that were purchased for phase one of Cleanstream.

Extending the initiative will help divert even more waste and continue improving the island's recycling rate. The four way SRS agreement is believed to be one of the first of its kind in Wales linking a local authority, the private sector and the local community.

Steffan Owen, SRS project manager, commented "Verdant have been extremely pro-active in establishing this partnership and enabling significant funding to be secured. Their experience and willingness to co-operate has been of great benefit to the project."



## Arun's great leap forward



Verdant is working closely with Arun District Council on key improvements to its refuse street cleansing and recycling service, including the introduction of new services, and this work has begun to yield strong results. Major changes have included replacement of the old fleet, the re-routing of all refuse and recycling rounds, changes to kerbside collection, and the introduction of a Green Waste Club.

Recycling rates have risen dramatically in the past 12 months from 14% to 31% – an increase of 17% on the previous year (see graph). This improvement will be officially confirmed in the Defra figures due out next year. While some of the changes temporarily disrupted local services, Verdant's effectiveness can be seen in measurable success.

## Verdant's victory at the National Recycling Awards



Verdant Group Plc was awarded the Best Commitment to Health and Safety Practice in the National Recycling Awards last October, run by Materials Recycling Week.

Verdant has always been committed to maintaining the safety of its employees and last summer saw the launch of a new range of Health and Safety posters as part of increased focus on the topic.

Jon Miles, the Verdant Group chairman who also has board responsibility for health and safety, said: "The work that Verdant does is full of potential hazards, ranging from heavy bags and wheelie bins to broken glass, needles, slippery pavements, big vehicles, powerful handling equipment and, most of all, local traffic. Health and safety is an absolute top priority so that our staff minimise the threat of potential accidents and injuries, wherever and however they work."

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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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To read the latest blogs from Verdant Recycling & Education Officers, Karen and Paul, go to [www.thecyclebox.com](http://www.thecyclebox.com)