



NEWS RELEASE

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YORWASTE EXCEEDS YORK RECYCLING TARGETS

Yorwaste is exceeding the targets set for recycling material that is brought into the three household waste recycling centres it operates in York.

The waste management and recycling company is approaching the 5th year of a ten-year contract with City of York Council to manage the sites (on behalf of City of York Council) at Hazel Court, Beckfield Lane and Towthorpe, and recycling performance in 2008/09 topped 68% across the three sites.

This exceeds the target of set by City of York Council, and Yorwaste is confident the figure will rise even higher as people become even more aware of the need to increase the amount of materials they recycle.

Yorwaste puts the success of the household waste recycling centres down to the support of local people and the investment made by the council to open a new, state-of-the-art recycling centre at Hazel Court, as well as making improvements to the sites at Beckfield Lane and Towthorpe.

Thousands of people pass through the three centres each week leaving an average of approximately 500 tonnes of waste. Of this figure, 350 tonnes is currently being recycled.

Steve Arundel, Yorwaste's Household Waste Recycling Centre Manager, said: "In partnership with City of York Council, we have made it easier than ever before to recycle waste at the three sites.

"We have had tremendous support from local people and with everyone becoming more environmentally aware each day, and new technology being introduced that will enable people to recycle even more of their household waste, we fully expect the recycling rates to rise even higher."

Operating a household waste recycling centre is much more than just about ensuring there are enough skips available, as staff working at the three sites can testify to. Not a day goes by when staff are not helping people find items such as keys, glasses and wallets that have mistakenly fallen into skips.

Recently, at Hazel Court, a frantic woman turned up asking if staff could help her find the black sacks her husband had thrown out the previous evening. Staff were bemused when she said she was looking for some tissues but not when they, luckily, found them and discovered they contained the five diamond rings she has been cleaning!

Mr Arundel said: "It is certainly never dull working at the household sites as there is always someone that needs our help in one way or another."

ENDS.

Notes to Newsdesks/Reporters:

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About Yorwaste:

Yorwaste is an innovative waste management and recycling company owned by North Yorkshire County Council and City of York Council. Managing more than one million tonnes of waste each year, it provides a comprehensive range of services from engineered landfill and recycling to liquid waste treatment and supply landfill gas for power generation.

The company's Yorventure operation supports local communities and has provided more than £7m in grants for approved projects over the past ten years. Further information can be found at www.yorwaste.co.uk