

Environmental Report

April 2009 - March 2010

Reducing waste - the sky's the limit



Contents

- 2 Foreword
- 3 Green Business - Why bother?
- 5 A year in review
- 8 Environmental performance review

Foreword

I am pleased to report that despite operating in the midst of a global economic recession, Yorwaste had a good year in 2009/10.

Whilst ensuring we remained prudent with our money, we were able to continue to invest and introduce new initiatives designed to divert waste from landfill and promote recycling and recovery.

Some of the highlights include:

- An investment of £80,000 in new Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs) to improve customer service and reduce costs
- The introduction of further green electricity generating facilities at our Skibeden and Harewood Whin landfill sites
- A major contract to process and market thousands of tonnes of recyclables from Lincolnshire
- Expansion of a confidential waste destruction service to address customer fears over identify theft and fraud
- Landfill tax credits generate more than £600,000 for use by Yorventure in community and environmental projects across the region.

It is also pleasing to note we have made good progress in relation to our environmental performance, which is measured through a series of key indicators. Highlights of these include:

- Zero enforcement notices being issued following implementation of environmental improvements at our Harewood Whin and Skibeden landfill sites
- Increased recycling at our Household Waste Recycling Centres in York and North Yorkshire
- A significant increase in the amount of renewable energy produced at our landfill sites.

There is every evidence to suggest that 2010/11 will continue to see Yorwaste make further strides in relation to its environmental performance and landfill diversion and recycling initiatives.

Steve Grieve
Managing Director

Green Business - Why bother?

Green business might be regarded as being too much like hard work or an unwelcome distraction from real business.

However, there are many genuine reasons to think about implementing some green business principles. It is not just about doing the right thing by fulfilling duties to the environment; it is also the smart thing to do because being responsible and accountable can bring some very real commercial advantages.

Some of our customers tell us that they became 'green' simply because as the recession started to bite they became even more focused on reducing costs, minimising waste and working smarter. They became green as a side effect of really examining their business processes and implementing improvements.

Ken Davidson, Yorwaste's Sales and Marketing Manager, believes there are many good reasons to start:

"Many environmental initiatives improve operational efficiency by reducing waste production, water usage and becoming more energy efficient. Increasingly consumers are becoming more discerning about how and where products are produced.

"Good green principles build trust in your company and open up new lines of dialogue with customers and stakeholders. So much of a company's reputation is based on trust among its customers, employees, suppliers, shareholders. A strong reputation in environmental and social responsibility can help a company build this trust.

"The more a company is committed to its green principles, the less it is exposing itself to risks. This could be an environmental risk where you are required to reengineer products to remove a newly controlled substance or a legal risk where you fail to anticipate and plan for new legislation.

"Many businesses are beginning to see the tangible benefits from the implementation of green initiatives that cut costs, improve company perception and add value to an organisation proposition.

"We see waste management as an integral part of this green business agenda, helping our customers with waste related green initiatives."



A year in review

Over the last 12 months, thanks to new investment and initiatives, tremendous strides have been made by Yorwaste to help its customers divert waste from landfill and promote recycling. Over the next four pages we provide a summary of the main highlights.

Green waste partnership

A partnership between Yorwaste and two local farmers is preventing around 8,000 tonnes of garden waste being sent to landfill each year.

John Seymour and his son Tom, who own and run Dromanby Farm in Kirby in Cleveland, near Stokesley, accept garden waste as part of the kerbside collection scheme Yorwaste operates in partnership with Hambleton District Council and North Yorkshire County Council.

Each fortnight green waste is taken to the farm where it is shredded and eventually transformed into a soil conditioner that is used on the farmers' fields. Over the four years the partnership has been operating it is estimated that 8,000 tonnes of garden waste has been composted and prevented from being sent to landfill.

Tony Sharkey, Yorwaste's Director of Future Developments, said: "Partnerships like this are the way forward for the waste management industry because not only do they have a very positive environmental impact, they also promote the use of local solutions for dealing with waste."



New technology pays dividends

Last year Yorwaste invested £80,000 equipping 42 waste collection vehicles with state-of-the-art Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs) that are linked to specially-designed office software.

The technology allows collections to be created and allocated automatically and dispatched to the vehicle drivers in real time, via their handheld PDA, without the need for them to come to an office to get the information.

The PDAs then allow the drivers to record the type of waste they are collecting from customers and ensure they get an electronic signature to confirm the waste has been collected. Once the waste is taken for disposal/recycling, a barcode scanner on the PDA allows them to scan it at the weighbridge and this records information about the weight and generates a ticket number.

All this information is then relayed back to an office computer, which allows Yorwaste to raise an electronic invoice that is sent to the customer, along with summary of the entire process. Using the PDAs results in better route planning and, therefore, greater fuel efficiency.



Confidential waste destruction

Fears about identify theft and fraud has resulted in Yorwaste expanding its confidential waste destruction service.

In 2009, Yorwaste invested in a new £39,000 state-of-the-art shredder at its Resource Recovery Centre at Seamer Carr in Scarborough. The investment was needed to cope with the extra amounts of confidential paper and other items that organisations are now seeking to have safely destroyed, to prevent them falling in to the hands of fraudsters.

Yorwaste collects the paper, which is put in special security tagged bags, directly from business premises and transports it to Seamer Carr where it is taken into a camera-monitored room and fed in to the shredder by a select group of hand-picked staff.

The paper is shredded (one tonne of paper can be shredded every hour) into tiny strips. It is then baled up and sent off to be recycled. The organisations who generate the paper then all receive a data destruction certificate.



Site improvements

In the last 12 months Yorwaste has made tremendous progress in improving the management of our landfill sites at Harewood Whin, near York, and Skibeden, Skipton.

Implementation of comprehensive environmental programmes, to address issues such as leachate and landfill gas control, at both sites significantly enhanced the company's environmental performance,

with the Environment Agency confirming that Harewood Whin and Skibeden are now operating to a satisfactory standard.

Green power generation

Yorwaste has started to produce green electricity from its Skibeden landfill site, near Skipton.

Two new generators, fuelled by gases produced by decomposing landfill materials, are now providing over 1 MW of electricity generating capacity, providing enough to power over 1,000 homes in the area.

The generators were installed in response to local residents' concerns over odours at the site and as an addition to other improvements to the overall management of Skibeden.

Skibeden Site Manager, Malcolm Forsey, explained: "This is an ecologically important development as it involves the sustainable generation of electricity without leaving a major carbon footprint, improving the quality of the site within the local area. It has also reduced odours by 80%."

2009/10 also saw over 3 MW of additional generating capacity being added to our landfill site at Harewood Whin.

Contract wins in...

...York

TSYS, one of the world's largest companies for outsourced payment services, has chosen Yorwaste to deliver waste management and recycling services at its European head office based in York.

TSYS selected Yorwaste after identifying the need to increase recycling rates within its office. TSYS offers a broad range of issuer and acquirer processing technologies that support consumer finance, credit, debit, healthcare, loyalty and prepaid services for financial institutions and retail companies in the Americas, Europe, Middle East, Africa and Asia-Pacific regions.

Yorwaste is collecting 60 tonnes of waste each year, including cardboard, paper, plastic bottles, cans, glass and food waste, with the vast majority of this material being recycled.

Michael McHugh, Senior Facilities Assistant at TSYS, said: "Yorwaste has a real appetite for helping us to manage changes in our office general waste programme."

...Lincolnshire

Yorwaste has begun work on a three-year contract to process and market thousands of tonnes of recyclables generated in Lincolnshire.

On behalf of Lincolnshire County Council, the company is recycling 12,000 tonnes of recyclable material per year from the East Lindsey District of Lincolnshire.

The contract, which could be extended to five years, involves mixed recyclable materials, such as plastic, paper, cans and cardboard, collected from kerbside schemes in East Lindsey being taken to a waste transfer station in Louth.

The material is then taken to Yorwaste's Resource Recovery Centre in Scarborough, where it is sorted and separated, before being baled and reprocessed through various recycling markets.

Steve Grieve, Managing Director of Yorwaste, said: "This contract represents a significant milestone for Yorwaste, demonstrating our ability to win new business from areas outside of North Yorkshire and the City of York."

Environmental performance review

Yorwaste measures its environmental performance through a series of key indicators. Our performance against these indicators in 2009/10 is detailed over the following pages.

Climate change

Indicator: Carbon footprint

Yorwaste is committed to minimising its own contribution to climate change and to managing our waste and recyclable materials to make best use of their resources. The company has quantified its carbon footprint in terms of equivalent CO₂ emission per tonne of waste handled in the table opposite. It can be seen that Yorwaste's actual carbon footprint is dominated by the process-related landfill gas emissions, generated by the waste which has been deposited in our landfill sites. These gases will be generated for many years to come, even after the sites have been restored. In order to minimise the organisation's carbon footprint, Yorwaste explores all options to divert materials away from landfill disposal, and concentrates significant effort on the effective capture and utilisation of all landfill related emissions.

	Tonnes (CO ₂ Equivalent) 2009/10
Process related emissions	
Landfill gas emissions including: Passive venting, flared & power generation	186,873
Transport related emissions	
Transport related emissions including waste transport vehicles and company cars	1,533
Energy consumed	
Electricity	408
Plant & equipment	3,388
Total emission	192,202
Energy exports	
Credit for electricity generated from landfill gas	-20,487
Net total CO₂ equivalent emission	171,715
Tonnes of waste handled	826,336
CO₂ equivalent emission per tonne of waste handled	0.21

Indicator: Electricity generated

Outcome: **YES** Target achieved ✓

Yorwaste aims to increase the amount of electricity it generates year-on-year. During the period 2009/10, more than 47,600 MWh of green electricity was produced at Yorwaste sites through the collection and combustion of landfill gas. This was up from 31,500 MWh during 2008/09. The electricity generated during this period would be enough to provide power for approximately 10,000 homes.

	MWh 2009/10
Harewood Whin	32,487
Seamer Carr	8,111
Scorton	2,313
Skibeden	4,733
TOTAL	47,644

Indicator: Installed electricity generating capacity

Outcome: **YES** Target achieved ✓

Yorwaste aims to increase the amount of electricity generating capacity year-on-year. The capture and utilisation of landfill gas for electricity generation, wherever it is economically viable, is a key element in fulfilling Yorwaste's dual commitment to maximising the value derived from waste, whilst minimising any environmental impacts. In 2009/10 an extra 3.4 MW of installed capacity was added to the existing 3.2 MW at Harewood Whin, resulting in 6.6 MW for the whole site. At Skibeden, a new 1.1 MW generator began operation during the reporting period. In total, the capacity at all our sites is now 9.9 MW.

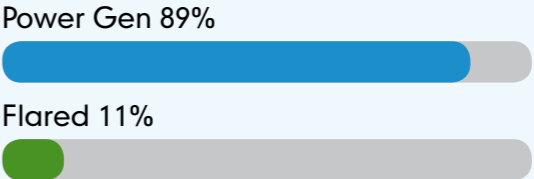
	MW 2009/10
Harewood Whin	6.6 MW
Seamer Carr	1.4 MW
Scorton	0.8 MW
Skibeden	1.1 MW
TOTAL	9.9 MW

Indicator: Proportion of gas flared/used for power generation

Outcome: **YES** Target achieved ✓

Landfill gas is a valuable energy resource but it does have the potential to have significant environmental impact if not adequately controlled. All of Yorwaste sites are engineered to maximise the use of gas generated at the site, although in some cases it is necessary to safely combust the gas using a gas flare. The chart opposite shows how much landfill gas was utilised for power generation, as opposed to flaring. Yorwaste is now utilising more gas for power generation than ever before, thanks to work carried out

at our Harewood Whin and Skibeden landfill sites to improve gas control and increase gas capture, as well as the installation of new generators at both facilities.



Transport

Indicator: Fuel consumption per tonne of waste handled

Outcome: **NO** Target not achieved 

The company's performance in terms of litres of fuel used per tonne of waste handled is summarised on the right. The consumption of fuel has increased as an inevitable consequence of diverting an ever increasing proportion of waste from landfill, the additional handling and processing required to recycle materials and Yorwaste expanding its operations over a wider geographical area. We believe, however, that the significant environmental benefits associated with increased recycling makes this increase worthwhile.

	2008/09	2009/10
Total Waste Handled (tonnes)		826,336
Total fuel consumed (litres)		1,836,181
Litres of fuel per tonne of waste	1.95	2.2

Land use and wildlife

Indicator: Site restoration

Outcome: **YES** Target achieved 

Yorwaste currently manages eight landfill sites, four of which are now fully closed and undergoing restoration and landscaping.

The long term plan is to ensure all sites are ultimately returned to general agricultural use once it reaches the end of its operational life.

Yorwaste set a target of restoring 58% of the total area of its landfill sites by the end of the period. This target has been fully achieved, with in excess of 60% of the total land area being restored.

Indicator: Biodiversity & habitats

Outcome: **YES** Target achieved 

Wherever possible, Yorwaste will ensure that once its operations are complete in an area, the land is managed so as to maximise the environmental benefit and improve biodiversity. The company seeks the advice of ecologists in order to ensure restoration schemes developed for landfill operations make best use of the land to create wildlife habitats.

■ **Yorwaste set a target for the period of maintaining its biodiversity strategy.**

The strategy is monitored via regular surveys carried out by independent consultants. They ensure that restoration plans are being effective and any recommendations are incorporated into future schemes.

■ **Yorwaste targeted to implement a programme of work to improve wildlife habitats on site. Both of these targets were fully achieved.**

Regulatory compliance

Indicator: Number of enforcement notices achieved

Outcome: **YES** Target achieved 

The regulatory pressures on operators of waste management facilities in the UK are significant. Yorwaste remains committed to ensuring full compliance with all relevant legislation and operating all our sites to the highest possible standards. Our sites are subject to regular inspection by the Environment Agency, during which operational performance is assessed.

During the period, Yorwaste targeted improvements in its management of landfill gas and leachate, which are key environmental issues at its Harewood Whin and Skibeden landfill sites. Implementation of comprehensive environmental improvement programmes at these sites has been successful in enhancing the company's environmental performance and significantly improving the management of these important environmental risks.

Completion of this work has contributed to the company achieving its target of zero enforcement notices during the period.

Environmental Management Systems

Indicator: Proportion of sites operating with a formal EMS

Outcome: **YES** Target achieved 

Yorwaste recognises the environmental risks associated with its operations and has chosen to manage these risks through a formal Environmental Management System (EMS) for many years. The electronic EMS, implemented at all sites ensures that all personnel are aware of their environmental responsibilities, and the actions they must take to ensure that all environmental impacts are being adequately managed. The system is subject to regular internal audit to ensure ongoing compliance and identify any potential weakness in the system.

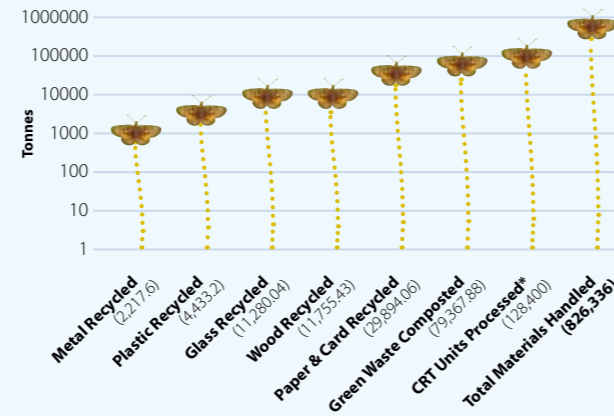
The company's EMS has been designed and operated using the ISO14001 Standard Model for Environmental Management Systems. Whilst it is not currently externally certified to the international standard, Yorwaste is committed to obtaining this independent certification during 2010.

Waste minimisation and resource productivity

Indicator: Material recovered from the waste stream

The development of schemes to divert materials away from landfill and extract maximum value from recyclable materials continues to remain a key focus for Yorwaste. The tonnages of recycle material processed through Yorwaste facilities were maintained despite the global recession which had a major impact on the recycling markets in 2009/10. Given the volatility of the markets no specific target was set in this area.

* CRT units processed are in units, not tonnes



Outcome: **YES** Target achieved ✓

Indicator: Household waste recycling rates at Yorwaste managed centres

A standard way of measuring the recycling rate at Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC) is through a Best Value Performance Indicator (BVPI). Targets are set for site operators relating to the diversion of materials away from landfill and into the recycling streams. The performance against the BVPI targets across the six HWRC managed by Yorwaste on behalf of City of York Council and North Yorkshire County Council is summarised on the right.

	2009/10 Recycling Target	2009/10 Recycling Outcome
City of York Council	60%	62%
North Yorkshire County Council	55%	65%

Outcome: **YES** Target achieved ✓

Neighbourliness

Indicator: Stakeholder feedback

Outcome: **YES** Target achieved ✓

Yorwaste is committed to providing an excellent service to its customers whilst at the same time minimising any potential impact on its neighbours. As such stakeholder feedback is extremely important to us.

The significant improvements in landfill gas management made at the Harewood Whin and Skibeden sites has resulted in a greatly reduced risk of odour control issues around these sites.

The number of justified complaints relating to landfill operations received during the period averaged less than one per site, down from over 2 complaints per site last year.

The number of justified customer complaints relating to Household Waste Recycling Centre operations averaged significantly less than one per site during the period.

Yorwaste also measure positive customer feedback relating to site operations in the form of customer compliments. During the 2009/10 period the mean number of complimentary communications received from customers visiting Household Waste Recycling Centres was over 2 per site.

Indicator: Community consultation and liaison groups

Outcome: **YES** Target achieved ✓

Yorwaste has participated in formal public liaison committees at the majority of its landfill sites for a many years. These groups ensure that local communities are kept informed of the operations and any planned developments on the site, and have an opportunity to raise any concerns and provide feedback to the company.

Wherever any major changes are planned at a site, we engage with local people and elected members to

inform them of our plans, provide them with all relevant information and seek their support. All parties are given the opportunity to raise their concerns, which are addressed wherever possible.

Currently the company has formal liaison groups established at the Harewood Whin, Caulklands, Skibeden and Tancred sites. Further groups will be established with the local community wherever this is appropriate.

Indicator: Site educational visits

Outcome: **YES** Target achieved ✓

Yorwaste continues to actively support educational programmes aimed at informing young people about the environmental issues surrounding the waste management and recycling industries.

During the period, the company hosted a number of educational visits at its sites. In May 2009, nearly 300 primary and secondary schoolchildren from the Scarborough area visited the Seamer Carr site

to learn about recycling activities in support of their environmental studies.

In addition, nearly 100 students from the York area toured the recycling, composting and landfill operations at the Harewood Whin site, gaining an appreciation of the real world solutions to the waste management challenges that society faces.

Projects

Indicator: Funding of community and environmental projects

Outcome: **YES** Target achieved ✓

Landfill tax credits generated by Yorwaste continue to be distributed as grants to community and environmental projects through the Landfill Communities Fund.

The grants, which totalled over £600,000 in 2009/10, fund projects close to Yorwaste landfill sites and are distributed by the company's independent not-for-profit Environmental Body, Yorventure Ltd.

Some of the more significant schemes funded in the reporting period were:



1. Seamer Bowling Club

Yorventure awarded a grant of £28,500 for the purchase and installation of a new bowling pavilion. The new facilities provide disabled access, toilet and changing facilities in addition to improving the visual aspect of the Club.

2. Earswick Pond

A Yorventure grant of £7,495 was made to re-develop the pond area and surrounding environs, in order to make it a meaningful sanctuary for a diverse wildlife population.

3. Mulgrave Bowling Green

Mulgrave Sports Association sought to develop a flat bowling green as part of the multi-sports facility in Lythe. Yorventure awarded £20,000 to this project specifically for the irrigation system, channel ditch, seeding and green preparation.

4. Ripon Workhouse Museum Garden

Yorventure contributed £16,000 to this project which aimed to bring back to use a former workhouse garden, which had become derelict and completely overgrown.

5. Rufforth Play Area

Yorventure awarded £43,010 to Rufforth Playing Fields Association to update the existing village play area. The new equipment includes swings, springers, roundabout and a 'fireman's tower'. New play surfaces have also been laid.

Appendix

Yorwaste's environmental performance summary 2009/10

	Outcome
Climate Change	
Continue the programme to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases	n/a
Amount of electricity generated	Achieved
Increase installed electricity generation capacity at landfill sites	Achieved
Increase proportion of landfill gas used for power generation against gas flared	Achieved
Transport	
Fuel consumption (litres of fuel used per tonne of waste handled)	Not achieved
Land Use and Wildlife	
Restore 58% of the total area of landfill sites	Achieved
Develop a biodiversity strategy for the company and implement a programme of work to improve wildlife habitats on sites	Achieved
Regulatory Compliance	
Comply with all regulatory requirements and manage operations so as to receive zero enforcement notices and prosecutions	Achieved
Environmental Management Systems	
Maintain a formal Environmental Management System at all sites	Achieved
Waste Minimisation / Resource Productivity	
Quantities of waste materials recovered from waste streams	n/a
Achieve BVPI recycling target for CYC HWRC's of 60% (excluding inerts)	Achieved
Achieve BVPI target for NYCC HWRC's of 55% (excluding inerts)	Achieved
Neighbourliness	
Reduce the number of complaints received per site for both landfill and HWRC operations	Achieved
Yorwaste will consult with the community and take part in formal public liaison groups	Achieved
Yorwaste will continue to support educational programmes through site visits wherever operational activities permit	Achieved
Projects	
Yorwaste will help fund community and environmental projects close to its landfill sites	Achieved



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