

Yorwaste world

What's happening in Yorworld?

Spring 2011



New waste
and recycling
service launched

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“By offering a zero to landfill service we truly can provide a total waste management solution”



Zero to landfill – now a reality

In previous editions of Yorworld I have spoken about waste as a resource and how this has become a key element of our business. In 2011 this is even more the case.

The continuing rise in landfill tax, currently £56 a tonne and rising to £64 a tonne in April 2012, means it has never been more important to minimise, reuse, recycle and recover waste. Waste is a resource and as such this is now at the forefront of our sales offering. We have even appointed our first commodity trader (see page 6) to ensure we maximise the value we get from recyclables for ourselves and our customers.

We are trading commodities across the world, however additional reprocessing capacity is now coming online in the UK, particularly in relation to fibre and plastic products. This is good news as it will reduce reliance on Far Eastern markets and contribute towards a reduction in the carbon footprint as we will no longer need to transport as much material out of the UK.

By offering our customers a range of options for dealing with their waste, we can help them to control costs and meet their environmental objectives, which is a win, win situation for them.

The newest option we can offer to our customers, and perhaps the most important, is zero to landfill. We are offering this service for the first time in 2011 and are currently working with one of our longest-standing clients, food and confectionery giant Nestlé, as they prepare to report zero to landfill for all the waste generated at its large site in York.

The spiralling cost of landfill represents a trigger point for economic and environmental alternatives and by offering a zero to landfill service we truly can provide a total waste management solution.

This represents an exciting time for Yorwaste and we look forward to working with other customers to help them achieve zero to landfill status.

Steve Grieve
Managing Director

New Tees Valley service launched

Businesses in the Tees Valley are making major financial savings, as well as helping the environment, following the launch of a new waste and recycling service.

One of the first businesses to take advantage of the service is Scholars Restaurant in Bondgate, Darlington. Its owner, Joyce Mead, used to pay Darlington Borough Council £2,000 a year to collect her waste.

Under the new service she is able to separate the restaurant's waste as Yorwaste provides two large bins – one for mixed recyclable materials such as cardboard, plastic, paper and cans and another for non-recyclable materials, such as food waste.

Despite having two bins, Joyce has seen her waste collection bills fall to £936 a year under the Yorwaste service.

Joyce said: “It is a win, win situation for me because as well as saving money I am now also helping the environment because for the first time much of the waste we produce in the restaurant is now being sent for recycling.”

“Everyone has a responsibility to reduce their carbon footprint and the fact we can make our contribution whilst also reducing our waste bills is fantastic.”

Yorwaste takes the waste collected to its transfer station at Tancred, which is near Catterick. The materials are then separated and sorted, with the recycled waste being baled and sold via the recycling markets.

Lindsey Skelton, Yorwaste's Site Manager at Tancred, said: “Despite only launching the service in Darlington on the 4th April we have already signed up 40 businesses in the town.”

“These businesses range from restaurants like the one Joyce owns, through to Signs Express (South Durham).”

“In the current economic climate, businesses are looking to make savings wherever they can and our new service can help them to do that whilst also increasing the amount of waste they recycle.”

Lindsey Skelton (left) with Scholars Restaurant owner Joyce Mead



Chris is tuned into TV recycling

A rise in the number of flat-screen televisions and monitors being disposed of is prompting Yorwaste to review its electrical recycling service on the outskirts of York.

Yorwaste initially established its TV and monitor recycling service, which is based at its facility on the Hessay Industrial Estate, to process old bulky Cathode Ray Tubes (CRT). The site processes around 3,000 TVs and computer monitors per week.

However, since 2008 there have been virtually no CRT TVs or computer monitors sold in the UK. This means that the proportion of flat-screen TVs, such as LCD and Plasma sets, being sent for recycling will steadily increase and overtake the number of CRTs within the next couple of years.

As a result of this Yorwaste is reviewing its electrical recycling service, which also encompasses the recycling of appliances such as laptops, toasters, Hi-Fi, DVD players and vacuum cleaners.

The review is being carried out by the company's new Senior Commercial Manager, Chris Wilson, who said: "Government legislation has for some time now prevented the disposal of electrical equipment in landfill and from the early stages Yorwaste has been at the forefront of identifying sustainable and environmentally friendly recycling solutions

"The recycling of CRT televisions at Hessay has been very successful but the proportion of flat-screen TVs is starting to increase and this means we are now facing different challenges handling the new-style sets.

"There is a different process required in dismantling LCD or Plasma televisions, so the review we are carrying out will look at how we can manage the transition from CRTs to flat-screens over the next five years, as well as generally seeking further improvements to our entire electrical recycling service."

Chris is also reviewing the operation of Yorwaste's Materials Recycling Facility at Hessay, which sorts out and separates recyclables such as paper, cardboard, glass, plastic bottles and cans.

He added: "We are unable to expand our facility at Hessay, so one of the options we are looking at is relocating to a larger site that would allow us to expand and further maximise our recycling services."



Chris Wilson

Wamitab training

As part of the site licence/environmental permit, required by the Environment Agency on each site, the person or persons responsible for management of the site need a current COTC (Certificate of Technical Competence), issued by WAMITAB.

The original WAMITAB qualification came into force in the late 1990s and the scheme is still running. To obtain the qualification the applicant had to prove to an approved assessor that they had sufficient and documented proof of waste management knowledge over an agreed range of subjects.

It was thought that once the qualification was obtained that it was there for good, however due to recent changes in legislation, proof of continuing competency needs to be proved.

This takes the form of a multi-choice exam, with questions on the core subject and additional questions on the individual award being applied for. This exam needs retaking every 2 years in order to keep the award up to date.

Following a days' training at Harewood Whin, several Yorwaste team members have already successfully passed the exam and proved continuing competency.

As the original awards were all taken at different times, some Yorwaste staff will need to take the exam next year so it looks like WAMITAB and exams will be with Yorwaste for many years to come. This was a shock to people who hadn't taken an exam since school, college or their driving test!

Gas migration alleviation work

At Yorwaste's closed landfill sites, Mickleby and West Tanfield, there has been a history of problematic gas migration issues.

Because of the low quantity of gas produced at both sites, there isn't enough for an electricity generating plant to be installed that creates electricity which could then be sold to the National Grid.

Therefore, the gas is currently fed into a gas flare that burns the excess gas off. However, due to the spacing and age of the gas wells on site, the systems were not capable of coping with the gas being produced, leading to some gas being picked up in adjacent perimeter monitoring boreholes.

Yorwaste appointed Enitial Contracts Ltd and worked together to design a plan of additional gas wells and infrastructure to eliminate the gas migration issues. This involved the construction of the new gas system to supplement the existing and subsequent 'balancing' of the gas field over several months, to ensure that the gas in the wells is being used efficiently.

The good news is that on recent monitoring of the perimeter boreholes the gas migration has effectively stopped on both sites. Yorwaste will, of course, continue to monitor the situation in the future.



Harewood Whin expansion

Yorwaste has recently received planning approval to expand its resource recovery centre at Harewood Whin, near York.

After receiving permission from City of York Council, the company is going to increase the size of the materials recycling building at Harewood Whin, as well as installing new recycling and processing equipment.

We have also received approval to extend the operating hours for this facility until 9pm.

The expansion of the recycling building will allow the company to continue to meet customer's recycling needs, while having a larger building for commercial and industrial waste will enable this part of the site to operate more efficiently.

These site improvements will allow Yorwaste to cope with the amount of waste expected to be produced in the locality over the next ten to 15 years and make a major contribution to further landfill diversion.

Wayne's mantra is sell, sell, sell

Yorwaste's first-ever Commodity Trader may not work on the London Stock Exchange or Wall Street, but his mantra is still very much sell, sell, sell!

Wayne Cox is responsible for ensuring Yorwaste gets the best-possible prices for the recyclable materials it collects.

And with a buoyant international recyclable commodity market it means that just like a city trader, Wayne's phone and email is currently red hot.

Wayne spends his time negotiating the price of materials such as paper, glass, cardboard, plastic and cans with waste brokers across the world. However this new role created by Yorwaste is much more than just about selling to the highest bidder.

As an ethically responsible company, Wayne has to ensure that any material sold by Yorwaste goes to accredited recycling outlets. This includes the UK, Indonesia, and China – the three markets where Yorwaste currently sells the majority of its paper.

After just six months in the role, Wayne, who was previously Recycling Supervisor at Yorwaste's Seamer Carr Resource Recovery Centre in Scarborough, has already sold thousands of tonnes of commodities.

He said: "When I tell people I am a commodity trader they think I work in London on the Stock Exchange but the role I have is very similar in that my aim is to get the best possible price for the products we sell."

"The recycling market is particularly buoyant at the moment, although it has always been a very volatile market, so currently it is about maximising the sale of materials, whilst also exploring new markets, such as textiles."

Yorwaste has various centres for the sorting and separation of waste - including Tancred, near Catterick; Seamer Carr in Scarborough; Hessay, near York; Harewood Whin, York; and Low Moor, Bradford – and Wayne has to ensure that the materials that come into these centres are of good quality and not been contaminated by non-recyclable materials, such as food waste.

He added: "This part of my job is made easier by the fact that people, whether households or businesses, take great care to separate their recyclable materials, which means we are able offer high quality products that are always in demand, even when the recycling markets are at their most volatile."



Want to find out more? Visit: www.yorwaste.co.uk

What's happening in **Yorworld?**

Butterfly project

Yorwaste continues to sponsor a local project in Skipton that challenges youngsters to design a garden that is butterfly friendly and uses as much recycled material as possible.

Even more schools have entered this year's Rotary butterfly gardens project, which involves children growing gardens in old car tyres and using recycled compost.

Along with Yorwaste the project is supported by the Yorkshire Agricultural Society, Skipton Town Council, Skipton in Bloom and the Craven Herald. The competition will be judged in July and the prizes will be awarded at Skipton Town Hall.

We have also had some good feedback about the operation of our Skibeden site recently, most notably a letter published by the Craven Herald from a local resident praising the friendly service.

In the letter the resident says staff are always respectful and helpful and that his weekly trip to Skibeden is a "pleasure".



Compost giveaways

With the compost season now underway, Yorwaste has teamed up with two of our local councils to offer our nationally-accredited soil improver free of charge.

We are holding a series of free giveaways in York and Scarborough throughout 2011, and the first couple of events have already been a major success.

At the end of March we gave away 70 tonnes of soil improver at just three events in Scarborough, Whitby and Filey, and a similar amount was snapped up at two events held in York.

Working with Scarborough Borough Council and City of York Council, we will be holding similar events throughout the spring and summer.

Nick Smith, Manager of Yorwaste's Resource Recovery Centre at Seamer Carr, Scarborough, said: "It is fantastic to be able to give back the soil improver for people to use in the gardens and by recycling and reusing they are making a significant contribution to protecting the environment."



New signs

New signs advertising the sale of recycled aggregates and compost have been put up at the entrance of Yorwaste's Tancred waste transfer station, near Catterick.

It is hoped that the new signs will attract more people into Tancred and boost the sale of recycled aggregates and compost.

Defra affirms support for recycling incentives

Defra has confirmed that it is still favouring rewarding residents to recycle and will be assessing options for encouraging incentive-based schemes as part of the forthcoming Waste Review.

Both in government and in opposition, the Conservative Party has been a strong proponent of incentive-based schemes, even though local authorities have expressed concerns over the high introduction costs.

North East business waste survey

A new survey reveals businesses across the North East generate over two million tonnes of waste each year, with a third being sent to landfill.

In total, 723,085 tonnes (33%) of waste was found to be sent to landfill, while 778,680 tonnes (35%) of waste arisings were recycled. Other methods, such as reuse, composting and land-spreading accounted for 1,059,568 tonnes, while 178,288 tonnes was sent for energy recovery.

It is envisioned that the findings of the study, carried out by the North East Sustainable Resources Board, will help waste and recycling businesses to target infrastructure and collection operations in the region.

Paper recycling rate falls

The paper recycling rate fell from 67% in 2009 to 65% in 2010 as paper and board recyclers were slow to respond to increased consumption levels, the Confederation of Paper Industries has claimed.

In its Annual Review 2010, the sector trade association stated that 2010 had been a year of "retrenchment" for the paper sector following the recessionary impact on the industry 2009.

New Shredder

Yorwaste has invested £200,000 in a new shredder for its SJB Recycling business.

The new Morbark slow speed shredder has been purchased to ensure we can process wood and green waste material at SJB sites in West Yorkshire and at Yorwaste's Harewood Whin site in York.

The shredder can shred between 50 tonnes and 60 tonnes an hour depending on the material and is a vast improvement on the previous machines we were using, which were small, unreliable and had high running costs.

We estimate the new machine will save us around £50,000 a year in depreciation and running costs, as well as having an increase in production to deal with the extra tonnages.

