



# Waste and Resources Action Programme

The Waste and Resources Action Programme, WRAP, has been assigned a critical role by UK Governments to work with industry, the public sector and the wider community, to promote sustainable waste management by creating markets for recycled products and materials, and by tackling barriers to the use of these materials. Our mission is to promote more efficient and stable markets for secondary materials and products.

WRAP, a not for profit company limited by guarantee, is supported by contributions totalling £55 million over three years from the Welsh Assembly Government, the Scottish Executive, the Northern Ireland Assembly, DEFRA and DTI. Contributions from the Assembly Government are £1.65 million over three years.

## Investment in Reprocessing

- WRAP's first major project has been a competition to provide support for increased reprocessing capacity in the newsprint industry, designed to enable an extra **321,000 tonnes** of recovered newspapers and magazines to be recycled each year by 2004. This contract, currently subject to State Aids clearance, has been awarded to **UPM Kymmene (UK) Ltd for their Shotton site**. WRAP has raised over £15.5m from the landfill operators to support this investment and in April 2002 work started on plant.
- WRAP has run a competitive tender for part funding a processing infrastructure to divert **20,000 tonnes of post consumer plastic bottles** by means of an automated plastic bottle sorter or similar. Negotiations are underway with the potential grant recipients and announcements will be made in due course.

- WRAP is making available appropriate funding support to enable an **increase in reprocessing capacity by 160,000 tonnes for finely ground glass** for such applications as cement substitution and a fluxing agent in bricks and sanitary ware. The closing date for the first stage in the competitive process was 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2002.
- Also WRAP is currently assessing applications for **capital support in the wood sector**. This competition was open to the panel board sector, which is the largest market for recycled wood material, and all other wood recycling applications. WRAP has assessed all applications and is now in negotiation with a limited number of applicants for the purpose of agreeing grant funding.

## Research and Development

- Through WRAP's R&D Programme, **£5.5m funding has been invested into 34 major R&D research projects**. This research is focused on projects, which are close to market and could lead to an additional 2.9 million tonnes of material being recycled. Through this programme, WRAP has provided total project costs of £169,000 to the **Biocomposites Centre, University of Wales**. The aim of the project is to develop an on line monitoring system to assess the contamination of wood waste and improve feedstock performance in the panel board industry.
- **Conway Concrete Products Ltd**, Caerleon are also a project partner in the ConGlassCrete project being funded by WRAP and undertaken by the Centre for Cement and Concrete, University of Sheffield. The aim of the project is to increase cullet consumption in concrete products and will also seek to initiate certification processes for concrete products containing glass as aggregate and cementitious material and for ground glass use in concrete. Conway Concrete are providing practical support to the project and will receive technical advice and support directly tailored to their needs and their products. The partnership model which The Wales Environment Trust developed with Conway Concrete will also be disseminated for potential use in the UK.
- WRAP are also part funding with Biffaward a £40,000 project being undertaken by **Cardiff University** investigating the feasibility of reprocessing plastic arising at landfill in a cost effective way.

## Quality Sourcing

- A **Recycling Manager Training Programme** has been developed for local authority staff and recycling managers. The free of charge residential courses are aimed at local authorities, community and private sectors who manage, develop or promote collections of recyclable and compostable materials. A course is being held in **Gwynedd** during **3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> March 2003**. The course was piloted in Wales in September to take account of Welsh local authority differences and the National Waste Strategy for Wales.

- WRAP has also published a **Kerbside Collection Report**, which reviews Local Authorities that operate a kerbside collection scheme for glass. The most successful will be used to create good practice guides to promote an increase in kerbside collection of glass.

## Public and Private Sector Procurement

- Extensive market research among public and private sector buyers has been commissioned to establish their **attitudes to recycled materials** and what would persuade them to buy more. Two clear messages stand out. Firstly, **quality is a major concern**, and secondly, **lack of information** on recycled products is critical to increased procurement.
- The results of these studies will guide WRAP's future work on procurement, which is aimed at high volume buyers such as industry and the public sector.
- WRAP has developed a **model paper supply contract** for use by Local Authorities selling recovered paper to paper reprocessors for use as a raw material. The contract aims to get wider acceptance of the use of longer term contracts incorporating a degree of price predictability. Thus reducing exposure to market volatility. It is available for use by Local Authorities in Wales.
- An Awareness Raising Seminar on the **use of recycled glass media in abrasive blasting operations** was held in Wales in September 2002.
- WRAP is supporting Central Government and the Welsh Assembly Government in **setting targets** for procuring products and materials containing recycled materials in the public sector.

## Financial Mechanisms

- The Business Development Service was launched at the end of January 2002 to provide a **marriage service for funders and recycling businesses**.
- The BDS is now **actively assisting businesses in the sector**. Since the Wales Liaison Officer has been in post, 15 businesses (23% of UK total) have received a business appraisal; 7 (24% of UK total) have had their business plans reviewed; and funding has or is being actively sought for 4 businesses (40% of the UK total) in Wales.
- WRAP has employed an Asset Management Company to develop a **Lease Guarantee Scheme**. The scheme will give guaranteed leases on specific types of plant to businesses in the recycling sector.

- WRAP is intending to launch a **Pilot Equity Fund** in May 2003. The fund will be used to increase investment for early stage and developing businesses which can't secure investment from conventional sources.

## WRAP Information

- November 2002 marked the first anniversary of WRAP's **helpline 0808 100 2040**. This was launched to offer practical advice for businesses on the opportunities in recycling and the availability of recycled materials and products. It has assisted over 300 callers in 2002.
- WRAP is developing a web based **Wood Recycling Map** to enable greater levels of wood recycling to be achieved by providing producers of wood waste with up to date information on collection services, and processing and recycling facilities in their area.

## Compost

- WRAP has been working alongside The Composting Association to convert the existing industry standard to a BSI Publicly Available Specification that can be applied to waste derived composts. The new **BSI PAS Compost Standard** was launched on **13 November**.
- A joint seminar with Welsh Assembly Government **Compost- Quality Assurance and Standards** is being held on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2003.
- WRAP has developed a **QMS Training Programme** aimed at helping compost producers meet the standard and gain accreditation. A course is being held in Wales on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2003.
- The **CERT site, Carmarthenshire** was identified as a Best Practice Site and was visited by end users, local authority waste managers and regulators in demonstration visits organised by WRAP.

## Working with others in Wales

- WRAP's **Wales Liaison Officer** has been in post since May 2002.
- Relationships have been established with the WDA, Groundwork and Arena Network across Wales. Awareness raising on the support which WRAP offers to business has been undertaken with local officers working for these other business support providers.
- WRAP is a member of the Advisory Group for the CWMre market development initiative. A **Memorandum of Understanding** has also been drawn up between WRAP and

CWMre which builds on the complementary nature of the services, skills and expertise which each organisation has to offer.

- WRAP is a member of the **Wales Waste Forum**.
- An **open meeting was held in Cardiff on 4th November 2002** to present details of WRAP's programmes; the progress made towards its recycling targets; and engage with key stakeholders in Wales regarding our future priorities. We were joined by Welsh Assembly Government Environment Minister Sue Essex, who discussed the importance of developing markets for recycled products in Wales.

Further information about any of the WRAP's programmes can be found on our website: [www.wrap.org.uk](http://www.wrap.org.uk) or please contact:

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