

SiarNews

Recycling Newsletter

New Household Recycling Trial in Barvas & Tarbert



Mixed recycling from Tarbert

In February this year, Comhairle Nan Eilean Siar chose Barvas and Tarbert to try out a new way of collecting recycling materials direct from their homes. Residents were issued with a new bin for glass and a new bin to put all of the other dry materials for recycling such as cans, paper and plastics.

By making recycling as easy as possible, we hope that this service will encourage all householders in Barvas and Tarbert to recycle more and so reduce the amount of household waste that they send to landfill and reduce the severe financial impact on other services. This service has now been extended until the end of March 2011.

To date we have received 29.5 tonnes of recyclable material, which is 4 times the amount we would normally have taken in the same period through the recycling bank.

Most of us know that we should recycle more to protect the environment and to meet Government targets but do you know the true financial impact on everyone in the Western Isles if we are not able to reduce what goes to landfill?



Tetra packs and the different types of plastics waiting to be baled



Baled material sent to mainland

We send well over 15,000 tonnes of household waste to landfill each year – the equivalent of more than half a tonne of waste produced by each person each year!

For each tonne of waste going to landfill the Comhairle currently has to pay £48 in Landfill Tax - the equivalent of more than **£720,000 each year** which could be spent on much better things, such as education and homecare or even sport and leisure facilities. This tax is on top of the recurrent costs of developing landfill site capacity to comply with new European standards, so the real costs are even higher.

Landfill Tax does not remain at the same rate every year. It is currently at £48 from April 2010, £56 from April 2011 and £64 from April 2012 so on. Each of these £8 increases represents a quarter of a million pounds in Landfill Tax charges each year. This means that almost £100,000 has to be cut from other services **each year**.

Tarbert Resident
Wildon Cameron

"The new service is working well, it is very handy having the recycling bins outside my door. We are all delighted that the service has been extended for further 6 months to March 2011"



Barvas Resident Calum Morrison

"The new bins are great, it is far easier going to the back door rather than the recycling bank! It's amazing how much recycling you can do, my residual bin is no where near full now. There is no excuse for anyone not to be recycling now, the council have done a good thing here, its been a great success."



BETHESDA CHARITY SHOP

Bethesda Charity Shop opened in 1992 and accepts furniture, bric-a-brac and books and over the years has diverted over 100 tonnes of waste each year from landfill.

The shop was primarily set up to raise funds for the hospice.

Hospice care is given free of charge to the patient, and in common with all hospices, we have to raise the cost from voluntary contributions and fundraising activities. Each year we are required to raise over £200,000 to keep the hospice open.

Not only is the shop used as a fundraising tool to raise much needed funds for the Hospice but it is also a social amenity, in that it provides low cost

furniture to the community.

Since December 2009 we have branched into textile recycling, together with Hebrides Alpha, and to date have collected over 27 tonnes, which is then sold on to Blythwood Trading who grade the clothes in 3 ways. The better quality items are sold in charity shops, some is sent to Romania to support local projects including an orphanage and the items that are in

such bad condition that they cannot be re-used are sold as recyclates. So, not only do 2 local charities benefit from this venture, but it also benefits those suffering severe deprivation in developing countries.

We are greatly indebted to the community for their continued support in providing for the shop as in this way they are helping us to care for those who are less fortunate than ourselves.

"I always have some things that aren't in the best condition that I wouldn't put to any of the charity shops but I always feel guilty that someone could put them to good use, the banks have solved my dilemma!"



Find us at:
77 Cromwell Street, Stornoway, Isle of Lewis, HS1 2DG 01851 706465



Re-Store • Repair • Renovate • Refurbish • Renew • Re-sell • Recycle

Find us at
Bornish, South Uist, HS8 5SA Tel: 01878 710298 Open Monday to Friday 09:30–16:30
E-mail: re-store@cothrom.net Web: www.cothrom.net

Re-Store began as part of the Equal funded project Hi Hopes in the Highlands & Islands and opened in 2006. Funding for renovation of the building and equipment was provided by INCREASE (Investment Community Recycling and Social Enterprise) through CRNS (Community Recycling Network for Scotland). The main aim now is a training ground for clients towards employability and of course on the environmental side saving items from landfill. The textile banks were started in December along with Hebrides Alpha and Bethesda, again INCREASE supplied the funding.



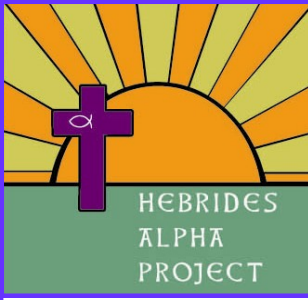
Sideboard looking worse for wear and being held up!



Sideboard getting make over treatment



Sideboard repaired and restored



The therapeutic employment scheme delivered by Hebrides Alpha has been operating since November 2007, delivering a range of services in the local community.

They provide window cleaning, power washing, gutter cleaning and a kerbside recycling service (plastics, glass and cans) within a 15 miles radius of Stornoway, along with hiring out bouncy castles and other inflatables for community and private events around Lews and Harris.



In December 2009, in partnership with the Bethesda hospice, they extended the service to include the provision of 15 textile banks, situated around the Western Isles. The clothes are sold as a commodity to Blythswood Care, who sort it in their warehouse in Evanton — even rubber soles on boots can be recycled as the base for playgrounds or wiper blades!

In March 2009, Hebrides Alpha was awarded the 'Member of the Year 2010' (sponsored by the Co-Operative group) by the Community Recycling Network for Scotland, when they



received a plaque, a trophy and £2000. They are currently pursuing the idea of providing a business recycling service in the islands for cardboard, paper, plastic and cans.

Hebrides Alpha are able to support six individuals (who have an addiction to alcohol or other drugs, but who are serious about addressing it), at a time; the length of placement is intended to be 6 months, although this is different for each individual depending on their circumstances. Benefits to the individuals include learning new skills, having a structure to their week, receiving up-to-date certificated training and working as part of a team. This leads to increased confidence and self esteem and they are better equipped for going back into full-time employment.

For more information phone (01851) 820830

email info@hebridesalpha.co.uk

or visit

www.hebridesalpha.co.uk

“Its great that Hebrides Alpha are providing such a valuable service as this. I have their recycling bin and my neighbour has used them for cleaning her windows a couple of times.”



Richard Lochhead, Cabinet Secretary, with Hebrides Alpha

New stickers for all household bins



The Waste Aware team have been labelling household bins, with more detailed stickers to help make things easier for people to recognise what items to put in what bin. If your bin has not been labelled, please phone 01851 70 9900 and we will post out the new labels to you. The labels also makes it easier for the bin men to identify at a quick glance

what bin to put in what compartment in the lorry. It is essential that only organic waste be put in the organic bin. We hope that this will help lessen the contamination in the

Chest Heart & Stroke Western Isles benefit from milk tops!

Schools in the Western Isles have been doing a great job of collecting lids from their plastic milk bottles and taking them into school to help raise money for local charities.

With help from Waste Aware and local lady Ann Baird, the milk tops gathered in by the pupils are passed on to

Stornoway Plastics to be recycled into products for the fishing industry such as rings, hooks and creels.

It is a great way of producing new useful items from rubbish that would have been thrown away into Landfill, it is even better that it is produced on the Island.

1145.10kg of milk tops has been handed in to the Waste Aware team and shredded by Ann (this is approximately **715,000 lids!**) which is an incredible weight to be diverted from Landfill and has raised **£629.80** for charity.



Sheilbost Primary School in Harris collected in the heaviest weight, they requested for the money raised to go to their chosen charity, Chest Heart and Stroke Western Isles.

What happens to your organic waste?



Organic waste container for easy disposal of all food to organic bin
 Convenient Easy to clean Easy to store Easy to use

An example of metal content which has been recovered in organic waste, resulting in the damage of one of the shredder cutters of the anaerobic digester.



It is vital that only organic waste, no plastic, metal or glass be put into the organic bin, in order that the process be successful. If you are unsure of how to dispose of materials please phone the helpline on 70 9900 and we'll be happy to help you.



Organic bin for all your food and garden waste.
 All garden waste No plastic Paper liners an option

Please put the following items in your organic bin



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Wood (no nails) ✓ All food scraps ✓ Teabags ✓ Fruit & vegetables ✓ Wood shavings ✓ Tree cuttings ✓ Grass cuttings ✓ Telephone directories ✓ Meat & meat products ✓ Grease proof paper ✓ Contents of vacuum cleaner bag ✓ Newspaper & magazines (unless you live within a kerbside or co-mingled collection area) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Junk mail ✓ Hair clippings ✓ Books ✓ Coffee grounds ✓ Weeds ✓ Soil (no stones) ✓ Paper hand towels ✓ Envelopes ✓ Food boxes (cereal, cake) ✓ Catalogues ✓ Food preparation scraps & peelings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Leaves ✓ Card ✓ Sawdust ✓ Ashes ✓ Kitchen towels ✓ Paper hankies ✓ Cardboard ✓ Bones ✓ Toilet / kitchen roll inner tubes ✓ Eggshells ✓ Nuts & nut shells
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No plastic, glass, cans or metals to be put into organic bin



Organic bin being emptied into split bodied lorry. Correct waste separation is vital
 Organic waste being tipped at Creed Plant.



The "terminator" conveying organic material through to the anaerobic digester.



Example of the composted organic waste produced by the Creed Waste Management Facility (Still going through quality tests)

Waste Aware Western Isles



Waste Aware Western Isles provides facilities for recycling at events, such as the Hebridean Celtic Festival and local shows.

Please make full use of these services and help make a big difference to the islands. For all your recycling needs please contact Waste Aware on 01851 709900.



Creed Integrated Waste Management Facility
 Creed Enterprise Park
 Lochs Road, Isle of Lewis HS2 9JB
 Helpline 01851 709900

We're on the web!
www.cne-siar.gov.uk/recycling