

# RE:ACT

## Household waste update for East Sussex and Brighton & Hove

This is the first issue of RE:ACT, Veolia Environmental Services' newsletter on household waste developments throughout the area. The aim is to produce three issues a year to give an overview of the waste issues facing us. There will be information on the initiatives being undertaken in the districts and boroughs, together with updates on the facilities which are planned to manage our waste.

**Veolia Environmental Services** (formerly known as Onyx) was awarded a 25 year contract in 2003 for the delivery of an integrated waste management service across the area. In partnership with both East Sussex County Council and Brighton & Hove City Council, Veolia Environmental Services has planned a comprehensive approach incorporating a balanced mix of waste management options: reduction and reuse initiatives, recycling, composting and recovery of energy from waste.

### Where are we now?

East Sussex and Brighton & Hove residents are producing 400,000 tonnes of rubbish a year, of which about 26% is currently recycled and the rest is landfilled. Continuing to dispose of all our rubbish in this way is putting increasing pressure on our environment.

Landfill space is expected to run out in 2008 and legislation means that biodegradable municipal waste being disposed of to landfill has to be progressively reduced to 35% of 1995 levels by 2020. There are also government targets for recycling and recovery which need to be met.

### The future is bright

The East Sussex County and Brighton & Hove City Councils' strategy is to provide a more sustainable approach to managing the area's waste for the next 25 years.

### The waste strategy

The aim is to stop so much waste going to landfill and increase recycling and recovery by:

- Reduction and reuse initiatives
- Recycling
- Composting
- Energy Recovery

To put the strategy in place, a network of facilities needs to be developed. These include a Composting Facility, a Materials Recovery Facility, an Energy Recovery Facility, four Waste Transfer Stations and new and improved Household Waste Recycling Sites. Remaining local landfill will also be used for any waste that cannot be recovered.

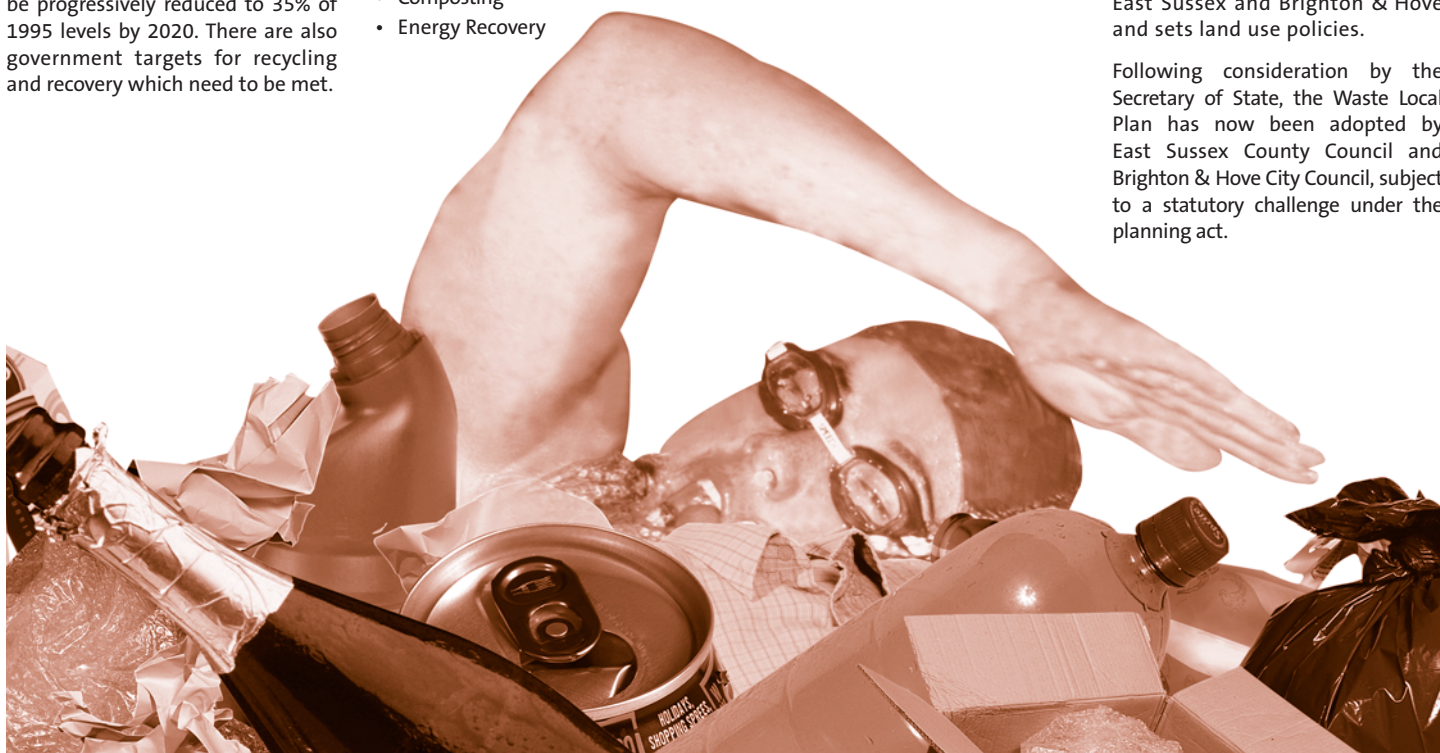
### If we don't change?

Recycling and recovery targets will not be met, which could result in fines. Waste will have to be exported long distances for disposal, which means excessive cost to the environment and the councils.

### Waste Local Plan update

The Waste Local Plan identifies potential sites suitable for waste management development in East Sussex and Brighton & Hove and sets land use policies.

Following consideration by the Secretary of State, the Waste Local Plan has now been adopted by East Sussex County Council and Brighton & Hove City Council, subject to a statutory challenge under the planning act.



Every 90 minutes enough rubbish is produced to fill a swimming pool

# Time to RE:ACT

- **Householders can make a big difference by making small lifestyle changes**

such as home composting or using a cloth bag to do shopping, as well as recycling. For more tips look for our leaflet 'Putting rubbish to better use' on our web site at [www.onyxsouthdowns.co.uk](http://www.onyxsouthdowns.co.uk) or ring 01273 410231 for your copy.

- **By viewing rubbish as a potential resource we can drastically reduce the amount we throw away.**

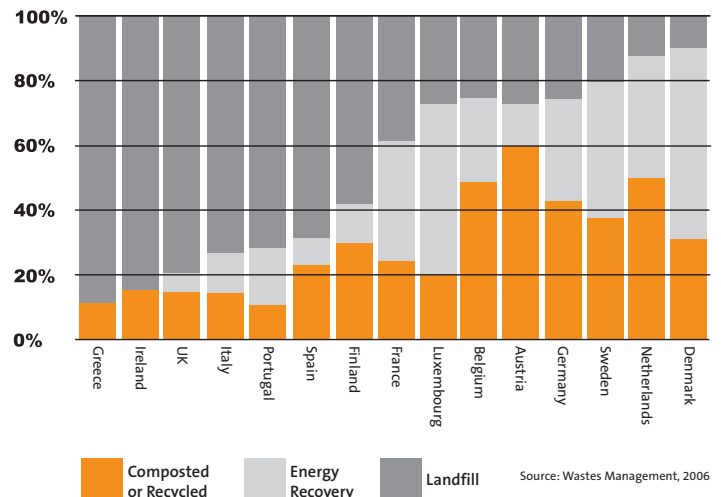


“Reducing, reusing and recycling our rubbish at home as much as possible is something we can all do. It saves energy and raw materials, reduces the amount of waste being disposed of and saves you money too.”

- **Putting waste into context**

Different countries manage their waste in a number of ways. Currently, the UK and countries such as Portugal, Greece and Italy send a large amount of rubbish to landfill and have low recycling rates. In other parts of Europe, such as Denmark and the Netherlands, there is a more balanced and sustainable mix, with greater recycling and greater recovery of energy from waste. In time, East Sussex and Brighton & Hove can achieve a similar balance with the household rubbish produced.

EU Waste Management (2004)



- **Providing the infrastructure to turn household waste into a resource**

District councils are working hard to get the message across to residents. Householders in the area are being urged to ACT through various initiatives, from school visits to campaigns such as 'The Big G' in Eastbourne. Recycling facilities in the districts and boroughs are also being improved, with more recycling points and doorstep recycling collection services being expanded to cover even more households.

East Sussex County Council and Brighton & Hove City Council are responsible for treating and disposing of all the household waste collected by the district and borough councils and the unitary authority. Their strategy is to provide a more sustainable approach to managing the area's waste for the next 25 years.

Along with Veolia Environmental Services, they are taking a proactive, long-term approach to tackling the growing rubbish mountain, and as a result new and better waste facilities will be rolled out across the county.

These include an Enclosed Composting Facility, a Materials Recovery Facility that will segregate and send our recyclables to be turned into new products and an Energy Recovery Facility that will produce electricity from the remaining waste and reduce landfill to the bare minimum.



- |                                   |                           |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1: Household Waste Recycling Site | 4: Composting Facility    |
| 2: Energy Recovery Facility       | 5: Waste Transfer Station |
| 3: Materials Recovery Facility    | 6: Landfill Site          |

# Recycling ready to rise

🔁 Recovering resources has a crucial role to play and this facility will support the area's kerbside collection schemes. 🔄



Computer generated image of the proposed new Materials Recovery Facility and Transfer Station



**Have you got the bottle to recycle?**

[www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/cityclean](http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/cityclean)



Householders in Brighton & Hove could soon have their own Materials Recovery Facility which will sort recyclables, now that Veolia Environmental Services' new planning application has got the go-ahead.

After listening to the comments and views of local residents and following consultation with statutory consultees, Veolia Environmental Services submitted a new planning application to Brighton & Hove City Council in March 2006 for the proposed construction of such needed facilities at Hollingdean Lane. These will comprise a Materials Recovery Facility, a waste Transfer Station and a Visitor Centre, with operations set to begin in 2007.

The facility will ensure that everyone's efforts and ambitions to increase recycling can be realised. It will sort and prepare separated paper, cans, plastic bottles and glass for onward recycling and load residual waste onto vehicles for disposal facilities elsewhere. It will also have the flexibility to deal with additional materials, as end markets are identified.

The amount of recycled material produced is expected to rise in the coming years and the facility will be able to adapt to meet changing needs. It is expected to process initially

around 30,000 tonnes of recyclables a year and if recycling takes off it could handle as much as 80,000 tonnes. Of course, the more material is separated out for recycling at home, the less waste will be left for disposal.

John Collis, Project Director for Veolia Environmental Services, commented: "We are delighted that we have retained the main features of the proposed facility within our new application, whilst also reflecting the views of local residents. Recent figures on the increased level of recycling demonstrate the value that the facility will bring to the community."

The key changes within the new application include a reduction in the maximum throughput of the facility from 200,000 to 160,000 tonnes a year. Currently Brighton & Hove produces about 120,000 tonnes a year. This will give the facility additional scope to cope with projected levels of waste generated in the area over its expected lifetime.

In addition, in consideration of the nearby school, the design of the centre has been modified to include a covered drive-through, so that vehicles passing around the back of the building nearest the school, where recyclables are sorted, do so within an enclosed extension.

# Another step towards a sustainable future

Sustainability is about providing long-term solutions that look after the environment. Effective waste management is about harnessing sustainable solutions while delivering a service to local communities.

Veolia Environmental Services has submitted proposals for an Energy Recovery Facility at North Quay, Newhaven. As part of an integrated waste management scheme, the facility will deliver a safe and effective way of getting benefit from household waste which is not reused, composted or recycled.

The planning application for the facility, which was submitted to East Sussex County Council in November, is central to efforts to reduce the use of landfill, which is expected to run out in 2008. It will also assist in the delivery of government targets to recover benefit from waste in East Sussex and Brighton & Hove. The facility will export up to 16.5 mega watts of electrical energy which will be supplied to the electricity

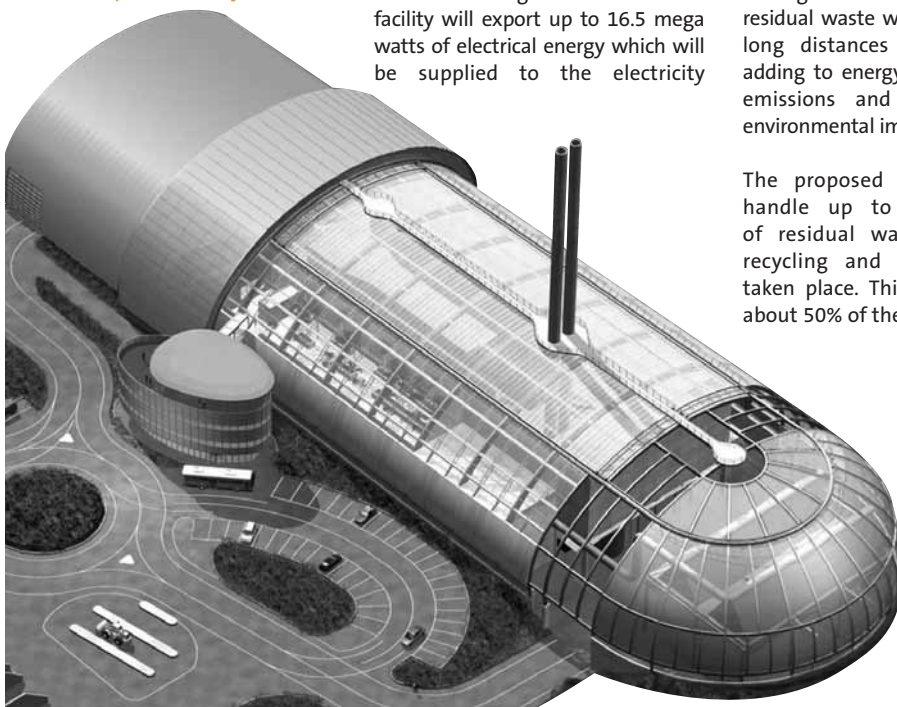
distribution network. This is enough to power more than 16,500 homes - replacing electricity generated using fossil fuels.

The Energy Recovery Facility is a key component of East Sussex and Brighton & Hove's integrated waste management strategy. Without it residual waste would have to travel long distances to be landfilled, adding to energy consumption and emissions and their associated environmental impacts.

The proposed facility will only handle up to 210,000 tonnes of residual waste a year after recycling and composting have taken place. This would represent about 50% of the waste generated.

**Its role is to fill the gap after recycling and composting, and not to compete with it.**

As the area's population and waste volumes grow, the facility's throughput would not increase, leaving ambitious recycling and composting targets to be achieved. The facility will begin operations in 2009, planning consent permitting. It is also crucial in delivering a 21st century solution to the challenge of reducing the impact of waste on the environment.



Proposed Energy Recovery Facility at North Quay, Newhaven



## A modern approach to composting

Veolia Environmental Services submitted a planning application for a dedicated enclosed composting facility in October. The facility will be situated at the Woodland Centre in Whitesmith, between Hailsham and Uckfield.

The facility, one of only a few in the UK to employ advanced enclosed composting technology aiding the speed of decomposition, will be able to process up to 46,000 tonnes a

year of principally green garden waste collected from the network of Household Waste Recycling Sites in East Sussex and Brighton & Hove.

Once screened, shredded and composted, the waste will be transformed into an organic soil conditioner to be used by horticulturalists, organic growers and the public. Producing consistently high quality compost from this type of material is a significant part of Veolia Environmental Services' work. Veolia Environmental Services hopes that it will achieve organic accreditation from the Soil

In addition to recycling glass, paper, cans and plastic bottles, green garden waste can also be composted to produce an organic soil conditioner.

Association, just as it has done with its successful 'Pro-Grow' range in Hampshire.

The land subject to the planning application is a disused plot set

back from the A22, behind an existing timber and wood chipping business. The planned development will therefore aid regeneration of this site, as well as forming links with the existing timber operations.



# What's happening in the districts and boroughs?

## ● Recycling Supermarkets



Gone are the days of going to the tip! Now the 14 Household Waste Recycling Sites in East Sussex and Brighton & Hove are more akin to recycling supermarkets.

Nearly all the sites have now been completely transformed with the addition of bright, modern signs,

new layouts and new containers for an extensive range of materials.

Veolia Environmental Services manages the sites in partnership with East Sussex County Council and Brighton & Hove City Council. They now offer a really wide range of recycling, including green garden waste, cardboard, glass bottles and jars, metal (including food and drinks cans), plastic bottles and TVs and computer monitors.

The last year has seen the recycling rate across the sites increase significantly, reaching highs of almost 50% during 2005. Figures up to April 2006 also show that the sites have diverted a massive 47,000 tonnes of waste from landfill, that's over a tenth of the total household waste produced in East Sussex and Brighton & Hove!

Veolia Environmental Services is continuing to expand the services offered by the sites. Recently, an innovative cooking oil service has been added at the Crowborough, Eastbourne, Hove, Lewes and

Mountfield sites. The used cooking oil will be used to produce biodiesel, a cleaner and greener alternative to conventional diesel for fuelling cars.



## ● Recycled aluminium cans mean new trees for Wealden

Tonnes of waste aluminium do add up... to new trees for Wealden.

Local residents have made it possible for 45 native trees to be planted all over Wealden district, just by recycling their used aluminium drinks cans and foil. For every tonne of aluminium collected for recycling by Wealden District Council's Waste Management Team, the district gets a free tree from the Aluminium Packaging Recycling

Organisation (Alupro). Since last September, 23 school and 15 parish councils have been given trees to plant throughout the district.

In the last two years, 109 trees have been planted in Wealden through the scheme. The raw material and energy savings from recycling the 109 tonnes of aluminium are huge: approximately 872 tonnes of Bauxite, 436 tonnes of process chemicals and 1,526,000kWh of electricity. And the metal can be recycled time and time again without any loss of quality. It means that aluminium drinks cans are often back on the shelves six weeks after being given for recycling.

## ● A boost to recycling in Wealden

Veolia Environmental Services has gained planning permission, subject to legal agreement, from East Sussex County Council to build a new Household Waste Recycling Site and Waste Transfer Station at the derelict military site near Maresfield, in the Uckfield area.

It will provide a much needed permanent replacement for the current mobile service, which operates from Luxford

Field car park on Sunday mornings. Residents will be able to reuse, recycle and dispose of their rubbish at the site seven days a week. The Waste Transfer Station will provide a central delivery point for refuse collection vehicles and recycling points for onward transportation to recycling and disposal facilities further afield. This will help to manage transportation of the area's waste in a more sustainable and efficient way. The facility is expected to be open in 2007.

The proposed Household Waste Recycling Site and Waste Transfer Station near Maresfield



# Don't miss the Rethink Rubbish bus



Our specially designed mobile exhibition unit is packed full of information on how to **reduce and recycle your rubbish**.

We visit schools, shopping centres, fetes and fairs throughout East Sussex and are available to hire with staff for free.

To book the bus or find out where you can get onboard call 01273 482323 [www.eastsussex.gov.uk/rethinkrubbish](http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/rethinkrubbish)



**rethink rubbish**  
small actions, big changes

*colourful displays, multimedia computers, games, quizzes, compost bin displays, washable nappy displays, leaflets, advice*



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