



# Green Centre News

## *Kerbside Collection commences November 2008*

*The long awaited introduction of a full-scale kerbside collection of recyclable materials is to finally commence in November.*

*A political partnership involving the Department of Local Government & the Environment, Douglas Corporation, Onchan Commissioners and Braddan Commissioners has been formed, with the DLGE agreeing to pick up the cost of the service for the first three years.*

*The service will be undertaken by Douglas Corporation who have recruited ex-Manx Waste Solutions owner, Peter Scott to manage the operation.*

*Specialist vehicles have been obtained with moveable compartments to collect the kerbside sorted materials. The materials will then be delivered to a bulking-up facility before either shipping off island or sending to a local outlet.*

*The eastern area is being targeted initially as it contains the largest number and concentration of homes in the Island; but it is intended that other areas will have a service rolled out to them over the next few years.*

*The selected households, which will not include many of the flats in Douglas for logistic reasons, will all be supplied with two boxes.*

*One will be for newspapers, magazines and 'junk' mail and will be provided with a 'shower cap' to keep the material dry when put out for collection or stored outside. The other box will be for glass bottles and jars, tin and aluminium cans, foil and plastic bottles (without tops).*

*To start with only the glass will remain on the Island and it will be sent to Corletts for use as an aggregate in the making of block paving or as bedding material for the blocks.*

*Paper is made into newsprint and will be returning to the Island for printing the Courier etc.*

*The intention is that areas in the East, particularly 'flatland', which will not be serviced, will be targeted for additional 'bring banks' - a solution that has been argued by some opponents as a more 'sustainable' alternative to individual household collections.*

*However, it is also realized that to increase the amount of recycling in the Island, which is still woefully low, it has to be made 'easy' for people to participate; and this is a method that has been proven to work elsewhere.*

*A series of public road-shows are planned during October, following the media launch, so an opportunity to view the vehicles will be provided in advance of the service becoming operational.*



*'Recycle for Mann'  
The possibilities are endless*

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### Latest News:

- The recycling shed at the Eastern Civic Amenity Site is now open for 'business'
- A screen and projector stand is available for use by environmental groups—call in at the Green Centre
- Support 'No Shop Day' Saturday 29th November 2008. For further info see: [www.buynothingday.co.uk](http://www.buynothingday.co.uk)

## *FoE National Conference 2008*

*FoE co-ordinator Phil Corlett was the sole representative attending from the IOM branch.*

*This particular trip was important as it was the final presentation by Tony Juniper in his standing as Executive Director for 8yrs of FoE UK, but he has been a member for 18yrs – rumour has it he may go onto FoE International which has 2 million members world wide.*

*IoM FoE presented a good luck card, the latest Green Centre Newsletter and Transition IoM leaflets to Tony & his successor Andy Atkins.*

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## *MEAC Energy Saving Tips - No cost incurred*



- Turn off the lights when you leave a room for a long period. Don't leave outside lights on during daylight periods.
- Unplug mobile phone chargers when they are not in use. Likewise, when not in use, turn off any adapters that may be attached to your electrical appliances such as computers, answer phones, etc.
- Turn off the TV/video and hi-fi at the wall socket rather than leaving it on standby. The blinking red eye consumes at least 50% of the energy it takes when the TV is on.
- Defrost the fridge and freezer regularly to ensure they are running efficiently. If it tends to frost up quickly, check the door seal. And if you absolutely have to put your fridge next to a cooker or boiler, leave a good gap between them. Keep the condenser coils at the back clean and make sure they are not pushed up too close to a wall. Cleaning off the fluff that gathers on the back of your fridge will help it run more efficiently.
- Don't leave the fridge door open for longer than necessary, as cold air will escape.
- Allow warm food to cool down before placing it in the fridge as additional energy is required to cool down the fridge.
- Defrost things overnight in the fridge. The cooler temperature of the frozen food will allow the fridge to save energy.
- Fill any empty spaces in either a chest freezer or an upright freezer. Use empty cardboard boxes to minimise the airflow to save energy that would otherwise be spent fanning the air.
- Don't use the car for short journeys, walk or cycle - good for the environment and it keeps you fit!
- Don't use more water than needed for both cooking and filling the kettle.
- When making toast, use a toaster rather than the grill.
- Move furniture away from radiators to allow the hot air to circulate.
- Draw the curtains in the evening to reduce any lost through the windows.
- Do not drape curtains over a radiator as this will direct the heat towards the window and away from the room.
- Adjust your curtains or blinds to let in as much light as possible during the day.
- Use a full load in the washing machine where possible.
- Use the half load or economy program where possible.
- Use a lower temperature program where possible, as most modern washing powders are efficient at lower temperatures.
- Hang the washing out - use a washing line to dry your clothes instead of a tumble dryer.
- Use a lower and/or shorter dishwasher program where possible.
- Switch off the car engine when waiting to collect a passenger.
- Take showers instead of baths - to save even more energy, set your hot water thermostat to 60C/140F - although, a power shower can use more water than a bath! A five minute shower uses 35 litres of water, compared to a bath that uses 80 litres - this can save over 300 litres of water a week. Fit a flow restrictor to the shower and restrict flow to six litres a minute for optimum flow and water saving.
- Reduce, re-use and recycle the things you buy.
- Compost kitchen leftovers with paper and cardboard - make your waste into something useful.
- Ensure food is totally defrosted before cooking. Thawing food in the oven before it cooks requires up to 50 per cent more energy.

There are many ways to reduce energy use, most of which are just common sense.

## FoE National Conference 2008

Tony's replacement Andy Atkins joins Friends of the Earth from development charity Tearfund.

He launched their work on climate change and persuaded UK development charities to work on climate change as a poverty issue.

Andy has also campaigned for human rights in Chile and has worked for development charity CAFOD. A link well worth reading with loads more info on Andy is here - [http://www.foe.co.uk/living/latest/andy\\_atkins\\_10803.html](http://www.foe.co.uk/living/latest/andy_atkins_10803.html) IoM FoE invited Andy to the Island when he has settled in to his post, as Tony Juniper came and met our MHK's and gave a well attended

public talk a few years ago at the Villa Marina about Climate Change.

Over 300 local group members attended the Conference and a large part of the Loughborough University campus was taken over by FoE UK with workshops starting Friday afternoon thru Saturday and Sunday on various subjects.

Of particular interest & topical for the Island was one on the 'Renewables' campaign that FoE UK will be running and another very applicable one was on 'Consumerism' and how we can reduce it 'Buy Nothing Day' on November 29<sup>th</sup> is one example of

this - <http://www.buynothingday.co.uk/>

In total Phil attended 3 workshops, 1 film ('Age of Stupid' <http://crudemovie.net/> which we hope to show here soon), numerous talks/presentations, made some good connections, brought back a helpful FoE report on waste & resource use & sampled the local 'brew' resource!

Report by Phil Corlett



Phil presenting good luck card, Transition IOM and Green Centre newsletter to retiring Executive Director Tony Juniper

## Go Electric - Phil test rides Vectrix electric scooter

Following the successful showing of the film "Who Killed the Electric Car" in Ramsey Town Hall I was lucky enough to ride the Vectrix electric super scooter back to Douglas.

After some rudimentary instructions the previous day I put the key in and the digital clocks switched on - but I couldn't work out how to make it go.....

At this time I was sitting in full view outside the town hall trying to look as though I knew what I was doing. By some stroke of luck I

pulled the levers in together holding for enough time to get the 'GO' sign on the left sided digital display.

From here on it was all fun, as despite its size the Vectrix really is easy to ride, and by gum it goes! Once out of Ramsey heading for Andreas I gave the throttle a big handful and in seconds I was up to 62mph max speed (although this is governed and I've been told it would otherwise do 90mph). The drawback of fast acceleration & higher speeds is the constant read out of 'estimated' mileage drops quickly and I went from 60+ miles

at the town hall rapidly down to 27 by Vondy's Garage...until I worked out that riding steady (but still quick enough) meant the estimated mileage reduced steadily as well.

It became quite exciting conserving the mileage whilst nipping through the country



Acceleration is stunning but the lack of the sound of a 'revving' engine can be quite unnerving.

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## Seaweed - a wasted resource?

Very often it's possible to see a JCB hard at work collecting tonnes of brown seaweed from the sands in Douglas Bay and depositing it at the waters edge to be picked up by the tide and taken out to sea.

Wouldn't it be great if it could be put to good use.

In living memory local farmers used to gather and spread it on the land as an organic fertiliser. It decomposes slowly, has good water-retention but there could be problems with high salt content. It is said that land within easy reach of the shore was more valuable than land further inland because of the easy access to seaweed.

Are there any other uses?

Well in Ireland they've developed a seaweed industry that employs nearly 500 people. Seaweed is used as a food, in cosmetics, as a fertiliser and to make various industrial gums. Hot seaweed baths are said to work wonders for sufferers of rheumatism and arthritis.

It could be that some enterprising Islander will see the business potential of this natural resource and develop our own Manx seaweed industry. The JCB can then be put to better use.

For more information visit : [www.seaweed.ie](http://www.seaweed.ie)

The Green Centre  
Chester Street Centre  
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IM1 2PG

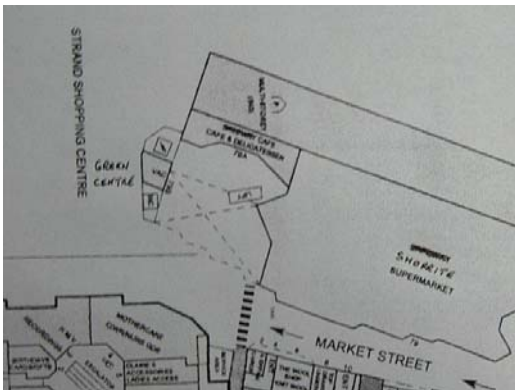
[www.zerowastemann.org](http://www.zerowastemann.org)

[www.meac.iofm.net](http://www.meac.iofm.net)

[www.foe.org.im](http://www.foe.org.im)

Opening Hours: Saturdays 10.00 am - 2.00 pm  
(Although often open till 4.00 pm)

## Campaigning for the Island's environment



below Snaefell; but by now the estimated mileage was down to 7 miles and I still had Hailwood's Rise to go before things went down hill. The trip was becoming more exciting by the minute ...I love a challenge!

Going down hill the heavy drain was off the batteries and I motored into Douglas with 10 miles showing. At the top of the Arches on Victoria Rd I decided to put the other 'innovation' on this bike to the test and that is the regenerative braking. If you turn the throttle backwards it acts like a brake BUT at the same time it charges the batteries. So you really don't need to use the very good Brembo brakes at all; and once down the very steep hill (using no brakes) estimated mileage was showing 40...result! A quick tootle down the 'prom' and she was back home at Tommy Leonard's.

I'd recommend the Vectrix as a commuter bike; ideal for our car congested Island as it has the range and it's nippy enough to zip past most cars (0-50 in 6 secs). It's not cheap to buy at £5K+ but it is very cheap to run, only costing pennies to charge and with very few moving parts i.e. no oil, filter, pistons, rings, clutch etc. very little service costs.

Thanks to Tommy Leonard Motorcycles, Castlemona Avenue, Douglas for the test ride and for further info. call in the shop or view [www.vectrix.co.uk](http://www.vectrix.co.uk)

## MEAC Energy Saving Tips

- Most extractor fans above ovens are rarely effective, especially the ones that don't have an external flue. An open window is often just as good.
- Put a lid on a pan when boiling water it will boil up to six per cent faster. Once the water is boiling, turn it down as most energy is used bringing water to the boil.
- Computer screensaver - contrary to popular belief, screensavers are designed to save your computer screen, not to save energy - consider switching off the computer monitor during long periods of non-use. The monitor itself uses more than half the system's energy and there really is no reason for leaving it on all night if it is not being used all night. Never fear, turning a computer on and off uses negligible energy and most computers are designed to withstand the effects of being switched on and off ten or more times a day.

## Go Electric (continued from page 3)

roads and from Andreas I took it round to Sully. There I met a biker mate who has raced in the MGP and he and 2 others were very impressed while they looked over the smartly finished Vectrix.

As a challenge I headed up Tholt y Will and the bike tackled the hairpins smoothly and it powered all the way up to the Bungalow

## A little 'Give and Take'

We set up a local Freecycling site a couple of years ago because it seemed like a simple notion that would work well here on the Isle of Man.

The idea behind Freecycling is very simple. If you have anything you no longer need you send a message to the local moderator who then posts an OFFER message on the website. If you are looking for something you send a WANTED message. No money changes hands and everybody benefits.

There are usually a couple of hundred messages on our site and they are removed after one calendar year. Because the island is so small it is easy to go and collect or deliver items.

Beds, tables, paving stones and toys have all been offered and taken on our Freecycling site. We even had somebody asking for a rabbit but unfortunately under the rules NO PETS are allowed to change hands.

So if you want to put your car in the garage this winter it might be

an idea to start getting rid of some of that surplus stuff that's taking up room in there.

Re-use is an important part of the waste hierarchy and cuts down on the amount of resources used in producing new items and transporting them to the island. So if your baby has grown out of its cot or you never got round to using that exercise bike. Send me a message and let 's see if somebody else can use them.

To join the Freecycle Network go to [www.freecycle.org](http://www.freecycle.org) and find the Isle of Man group

Or go straight to [www.uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/freecycleisleofman](http://www.uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/freecycleisleofman)

Article by Muriel Garland ZWM