



# Green Centre News

## *Roar-away success claimed for Kerbside & battery recycling*

Kerbside recycling, introduced in Douglas, Onchan and Braddan in November has been claimed a roar-away success by the Department of Local Government & the Environment.

Stephanie Gray, DLGE Recycling Manager, said, *"Householders taking part in the kerbside scheme with such enthusiasm - a huge thank you to all of them. Although we won't have detailed figures on how much material has been collected until the New Year, it's clear from the first few weeks that the weights of collected materials are high - and, importantly, the level of contamination (that's wrong things put in boxes, such as yoghurt pots) is low. Thanks also to the collection crews for doing such a great job"*.



*'Recycle for Mann' The possibilities are endless*

*"I would however like to remind householders to remove the tops from plastic bottles and squash them if possible (this will save more space in the recycling vehicles). I'd also like to emphasise the importance of putting the covers on the boxes securely - mindful of our current wintry, wet and windy weather"*.

The feedback from workers on all three recycling vehicles has also suggested the scheme is very well supported by local people. Kerbside Recycling Vehicle driver, Ian Boothman, said, *"I've been impressed by the response. In some areas it's incredible: looks like 100%. And although we've had some wet and windy days the recycling boxes have worked. Overall the response has been really positive. Some people have even said thank you because they've wanted kerbside recycling for so long."*

Dudley Butt, DLGE Member with responsibility for waste, has welcomed the Scheme's success. He said, *"We were certain that people wanted kerbside recycling in theory - and so it's very heartening that the evidence at street level has borne this out in practice. The popularity of the scheme is a great Christmas present for all those staff who have put so much time and dedication into making the Scheme work."*

Kerbside recycling collections continued throughout the festive season - although there were no collections on bank holidays. If your Kerbside Collection calendar indicates 'no collection' on one of the bank holidays then please continue to recycle by using one of the 'Bring Banks' if you have too much to fit in your boxes.

The Kerbside Collection Scheme is designed to be effective all year round, but if you produce more bottles, cans, magazines, and papers than usual during the holidays - please don't overload the boxes - instead you can use one of the Bring Bank facilities for larger quantities of glass, cans and so on. Bring Banks are located at the major retail stores, at the Grandstand, commissioners offices, and civic amenity sites. (N.B. There are no other facilities for recycling plastic bottles at the moment; but it is hoped this will be addressed soon.)

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**Latest News:**

- New Zero Waste Mann website now active. Visit [www.zerowastemann.org](http://www.zerowastemann.org)
- Energy advice available soon from [www.brightideas.im](http://www.brightideas.im)
- For IOM 'Liftshare' information see [www.journeymatch.im](http://www.journeymatch.im)
- 2009 Energy 'Expo' 6th/7th March Villa Marina, Douglas

*Continued on back page*

## *50 simple things your business can do*



There are many things businesses can do to reduce their 'carbon footprint', most of which are just common sense.

- 1 no plastic cups-use mugs
- 2 trim canteen waste and recycle
- 3 save paper / print both sides / thin paper
- 4 plain paper fax machine
- 5 affinity credit card
- 6 less paper / fewer memos
- 7 use green cleaners
- 8 re-use old packaging and shredded paper
- 9 use public transport / organise car sharing
- 10 recycle toner cartridges
- 11 put green plants in the office
- 12 environmental purchasing policy
- 13 green catalogue of approved items
- 14 environmental investments pension fund etc
- 15 install reflectors to fluorescent lights
- 16 check efficiency of car fleet
- 17 give green gifts to employees and customers
- 18 stop dripping taps install tap regulators
- 19 install compact fluorescent light bulbs
- 20 switch off at the mains
- 21 start a green team /co-operate/ communicate
- 22 provide cycle racks and lockers
- 23 twin flush toilets / infra red detectors
- 24 set up office recycling facilities
- 25 use environmental image in promotions
- 26 give furniture and equipment away
- 27 in-house newsletter / booklet / video
- 28 lighting audit / turn off lights
- 29 volunteers / give as you earn/ donations
- 30 green fleet / regular service / inflate tyres
- 31 compost green waste
- 32 set up car sharing scheme
- 33 close the loop / buy recycled goods
- 34 annual service for heating system
- 35 annual service for air conditioning
- 36 check ozone leaks /air conditioning /fridges
- 37 double glazing / blinds on windows
- 38 recycle as much as possible
- 39 buy pallets made from recycled plastic
- 40 carry out green audits waste / energy /water
- 41 create written environmental policy
- 42 encourage tele-working using laptops
- 43 use the sun for light tubes and solar panels
- 44 green-space for plants and wildlife outside
- 45 staff awareness and training
- 46 hazardous waste legal requirements
- 47 green design for new buildings and refurbishments
- 48 pass on your waste-symbiosis-synergy
- 49 cut water use in industrial processes
- 50 spread the word-set up a waste club

*Ideas provided by Muriel Garland  
ZWM*

## A Window Solution

You look out through your double glazed windows one day and discover that one of the units has failed: you're faced with two choices, either live with it as it gets worse, or buy a replacement.

Up until now that's been all you could do, well not any more.... A development seems to have come along which ticks all the boxes. Reduced cost, energy saving, using less natural resources etc.

The traditional approach has been to take out the glass sections and replace them with new ones; on the Island the old units invariably go to landfill or are crushed into aggregate for the building trade.

Neither is a good use of natural resources, considering the energy expended in their manufacture as well as that of their replacements. The news gets worse because your new units are unlikely to last any longer than their predecessors.

Building Regulations

increasingly demand the use of double-glazing, so the law of unintended consequences means more and more waste.

Several Island firms are now providing an innovative solution to the problem; and the monetary savings are considerable even before environmental issues are considered.

They have a repair process, involving a keyhole surgery technique to clean the inside of the unit, finally fitting it with an unobtrusive valve arrangement so it can stay dry. The permanently fitted valve allows the window to still retain its original qualities of insulation and noise reduction, successfully treated windows stay dry for good.

Some within the existing glazing industry are not that pleased with the development, possibly because a good proportion of their work comes from the constant demand for replacements.

For centuries windows used to last until the wooden frames became un-repairable, then in the 1970's we were told that installing double-glazing would save us money. Remember the ad with Ted Moulton and the slogan 'You only fit double-glazing once so fit the best'

That sounds a little hollow now we know how soon they fail. Naturally we weren't told they are actually designed with failure in mind.

There is a separate environmental problem with the toxic waste produced by the uPVC process, but just to stick with the glass replacement problem, the cost and environmental effects of this built in obsolescence should no longer be acceptable in this day and age.

The yellow pages section of the 2009 phone book should have the details of companies who can look at your windows and give free advice.

*Article by Richard Birchall*



Several Island firms are now providing an innovative solution to the problem of 'blown' double-glazed window units

## Liftshare - You know it makes sense

This has been an amazing year. Over 75,000 new members registered to the liftshare network in 2008, meaning more people than ever are likely to be travelling your way.

So if you haven't found anyone yet, do log into your account again and have another look - there could well be some new members who would make ideal car-sharers for you...

And what better time to save some money and inject some friendly company into your journeys than during the

New Year? As our cartoon observes, the economy is not in a good way right now, and we all need to save money in every way we can. Why not make it your new year's resolution to share as many journeys as possible?

Do help your friends, colleagues and family save money too, by forwarding this e-card onto them and encouraging them to give car-sharing a try by registering at [www.liftshare.com](http://www.liftshare.com).

And please help us keep our service the best it can be by:

- making sure your journey details are always up to date
- responding to all invitations to share, even if you are unable to accept
- using the 'my feedback' page to keep us updated as to whether or not the match was suitable.

With very best wishes for a happy, healthy and prosperous 2009.

The FOE liftshare team



Question: "Why is the economy like a car-sharer?"  
Answer: "It could do with a lift!"

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[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*



## The Energy Hierarchy

The energy hierarchy shows a simple principle for prioritising solutions to the energy problems of the immediate future. Any energy policy should put emphasis on reducing demand.

### SUSTAINABLE



**Energy Conservation** - changing behaviour to reduce demand

**Energy Efficiency** - using technology to reduce demand

**Renewable/Sustainable Energy Sources** - setting a path to replace fossil fuels

**Conventional Energy Sources** - using low carbon technologies

**Business As Usual** - continue to exploit conventional energy sources; i.e. No change

### UNSUSTAINABLE

## Roar-away success claimed for Kerbside & battery recycling *cont.*

Unfortunately there are certain Christmassy items that cannot be recycled through the box scheme; such as Christmas cards or gift-wrapping. Instead Christmas cards can be recycled, to benefit the Woodland Trust, via M&S, Tesco, WH Smith or TK Maxx stores in Douglas. Christmas and other gift-wrapping paper can't be recycled – but it can be reused.

In addition to the success of the kerbside scheme, more than 4 tonnes of batteries have been recycled since the introduction of the Co-op in-store battery-recycling scheme in June 2005. This weight is equivalent to the collection of 200,000 AA batteries, those used in items such as torches, portable radios, remote controlled toys, and TV remote handsets. In total, across the Island, 11.5 tonnes (or ½ million AA batteries) have been collected, including those dropped off at Civic Amenity Sites and collected by schools.

Andrew Corrie, Operations Manager for Manx Co-op, said, "The Co-op is very committed to ethical living, as our range of Fair-Trade products shows. Offering battery recycling points is another important way that we can work with local people to make the Isle of Man a better place."

Steve Taggart, Recycling Officer at DLGE, said, "We introduced the scheme in partnership with the Co-op in

order to make recycling as easy as possible for people on the Isle of Man, and I'm absolutely delighted at the response we have had from the public - it's a real success. The massive volume of batteries we've collected for recycling puts us way ahead of equivalent areas in the UK."

Battery recycling is very important. If not disposed of properly batteries can be highly polluting and the metals they contain (e.g. mercury, cadmium and lithium) can escape into our environment and cause significant damage. For example, many battery types contain some mercury – and it only takes 1 gram to pollute 1000 cubic metres of water. Over 70% of the materials in batteries can be recovered through the recycling process and reused.

AA batteries are the most common dry-cell batteries, but the scheme collects all types from very small 'button cell' hearing aid or watch type batteries, to the much larger D size torch batteries. There are two main battery types both of which can be recycled and the component parts reused: single use batteries, such as zinc chloride; and rechargeable batteries, such as nickel cadmium & lithium ion. The batteries are shipped to the UK for sorting before being recycled in specialist plants in the UK and Europe.

Article based on DLGE press release issued by *ffinlo Costain*