

# MCR NEWS

## Newyddion MCR

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**T**his is the final newsletter from Monmouthshire Community Recycling, the Black Box people. Sadly we will no longer be running the kerbside recycling service for Monmouthshire as of 28th November 2009. In this issue we report back on what we achieved working with residents and businesses in the words of those directly involved.

### VIEW FROM THE CREW...

I have witnessed recycling grow and grow in Monmouthshire since I have worked for MCR and would like to say a BIG BIG thank you to everyone who has made my job feel so rewarding over the years

*(PJ, MCR Driver)*



*a BIG BIG thank you to everyone who has made my job feel so rewarding*

### VIEW FROM THE CUSTOMER...

The service is second to none, it all works very smoothly and it has made a difference to how I feel about my waste. Since we've had cardboard and plastics recycling it seems to have brought everyone on the street on board, and we get favourable comments from visitors about it. I value the service we get – it does more than just shifting rubbish.

*(John Harrison, resident of the Danes, Chepstow)*



*The service has made a difference to how I feel about my waste*

### VIEW FROM THE CLASSROOM...

We recycle in our school so that we can use things again and it helps reduce the rubbish and pollution in our area

*(Katie Wall & James Dawson, Year 6, Thornwell Primary School, Chepstow)*



*It helps reduce the rubbish and pollution in our area*

### VIEW FROM THE BOARD...

We are all proud to have been part of such a successful community project, making a real impact on our waste and CO2 emissions. This is Monmouthshire's first significant community response to climate change.

*(Monmouthshire Community Recycling board of trustees)*

# Monmouthshire's Road to Zero Waste

Two communities in Monmouthshire – the village of St Arvans near Chepstow, and five streets in North Abergavenny – have been taking part in a zero waste challenge for the past two years.

MCR worked in partnership with Monmouthshire County Council, Abergavenny Communities First, St Arvans Community Council and others. The project offered collections of nearly everything that could be recycled or composted, showed residents how they could play their part and asked them for their suggestions. The recipe was highly successful with more people recycling,

more recycling collected and a lot less going to landfill. In North Abergavenny the participation rate nearly doubled from 36% to 69% in a matter of weeks. In St Arvans a phenomenal 95% of residents got involved, which led to a recycling rate of 77%.

Along with the service changes there were home composting promotions, community events and two major projects to tackle litter and to reduce carrier bag use. With St Arvans' performance making it a leader in Wales and the UK, the project won a national award and attracted a lot of interest, most recently featuring on BBC Radio Five Live in October this year. The project was funded by Environment Wales,

supported by the Welsh Assembly Government, and has shown how far and how quickly a community can progress towards zero waste.

The kerbside recycling system was rolled out to the Wye Valley, Caerwent and parts of Caldicot and Chepstow, with two boxes given to households - one for paper and card, the other for glass, cans and plastics. This achieved 88% participation and weights of over 5kg per household per week (phpw). No local authority in Wales recycles more than 4kg phpw from kerbside collection, so once again Monmouthshire came out tops where it was offered a full materials service.

## Wales' Road to Zero Waste...

The Welsh Assembly Government has recently released its draft waste strategy 'Towards Zero Waste', which sets out targets for reducing and recycling waste over the next 40 years. The strategy is based on Wales living within its means – consuming less energy and resources over time so that it reduces its ecological footprint to a sustainable level.

Targets include recycling 70% of what households throw out, and reducing what goes to landfill to only 150kg per person per year by 2024. A great deal of research by industry experts WRAP went into identifying the best ways of doing this – the recommendation is to sort materials as they are collected to keep quality up and costs down.



Zero Waste Castle – at Abergavenny Food Festival MCR ran a zero waste challenge which catered for 34,000 visitors and achieved a recycling rate of 81% in the busy castle area.

## Thanks!

From 28th November Monmouthshire's kerbside recycling service will be operated by the council directly, but with all 22 of MCR's staff transferring. Monmouthshire County Council will be contacting residents to explain any changes they will then be making. We would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the success of the recycling service over the six years it has run, and hope that we have helped Monmouthshire residents realise what is possible.

*David Roman, Executive Director*

## Newsflash...

On 27th October 2009 we passed a big milestone – 20,000 tonnes of materials collected and recycled. This represents over 18,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions avoided, compared with landfill.

### MONMOUTHSHIRE COMMUNITY RECYCLING

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