



News from Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority

£20,000 WASTE PREVENTION FUND LAUNCHED FOR COMMUNITY GROUPS

A £20,000 funding pot for Merseyside community groups is being launched next week (Monday 4th July).

The money is being made available to local projects in the region that can have a positive effect on the environment, with up to £3,000 to be had per application.

Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority (MWDA) and Veolia Environmental Services are behind the scheme which is open for applications until 30th September 2011.

Those looking to apply for funding should contact MWDA.

Carl Beer, Chief Executive of MWDA, said: "We've been running this scheme for several years now and always get a lot of applications.

"Projects can be big or small, wide-reaching or specifically targeted. We always ask that as much detail as possible goes into the application, as this helps us to decide where to best allocate the funding."

The Community Fund is a part of a Merseyside Waste Prevention Strategy which, through direct initiatives and behavioural change, aims to help reduce the amount of waste being produced in the region, the amount of material going to landfill, and the amount of carbon being created in the atmosphere.

Alex Paterson, Director of Veolia Merseyside and Halton, said: "This is a scheme we actively encourage environmental groups to participate in. We all appreciate funding opportunities are scarce during the current economic climate and look forward to positively responding to a number of organisations once the application process is complete and making an important contribution towards their valuable work."

Groups looking to apply for funding need projects to demonstrate one or more of the following:

- Prevent the creation of waste
- Reduce the amount of waste generated and sent to landfill
- Increase the reuse of materials
- Increase recycling
- Address carbon benefits

Funding isn't available for projects which have previously been supported by MWDA. Those who can apply are:

- Community or voluntary organisations
- Small to medium sized enterprises
- Not-for-profit organisations
- Charities
- Parish and town councils
- Youth groups
- Uniformed organisations

Last year's Community Fund saw four local groups given funding:

Simply Living (Faiths4Change) – engaged with parents on low incomes to promote waste and sustainable lifestyle awareness through workshops and a promotional event. The topics covered (through parent/toddler groups) included reducing waste, re-using and repairing items, recycling and composting.

SHRINE (St Helens Recycling Initiative for the Neighbourhood by the Local Area Partnership for Creative Learning) – a partnership which includes 10 schools looked at children's concerns with waste and recycling, including 20 'swap shops' where people could bring, buy and swap unwanted household items, and a recycling videogame.

Lighthouse Green Community (Love and Joy Ministries Ltd) – the Anfield-based organisation provided: an 'Information Hub' at their furniture outlet which promotes waste awareness messages; two Open Days that provided environmental information; a 'Bring and Take' Spring Fayre; plus workshops to help people manage their own environmental impact.

Waste Not Want Not (Black Box Creative Communities) – Black Box went out and about to schools in the region to deliver workshops, audits of waste, and performances by pupils. The ten-week series of two-hour workshops covered Maths, Drama and Creative Arts.

Applicants can find more information by getting in touch with MWDA:

Telephone: 0151 255 1444

Email: enquiries@merseysidewda.gov.uk

Fax: 0151 227 1848

Web: www.merseysidewda.gov.uk

ENDS

Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority (MWDA) is responsible for the disposal of municipal waste on Merseyside. Established in 1986 following the abolition of Merseyside County Council, it is a statutory Authority that works with all the local authorities on Merseyside – Knowsley, Liverpool, Sefton, St Helens and Wirral. MWDA takes a lead in advocating recycling, waste minimisation and safe and effective disposal of waste for Merseyside's residents.