

# ReView



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## WELCOME

### A note from Louis Keep on recycling!

Welcome to SITA Cornwall's fourth community newsletter.

I would like to take this opportunity to recognise that a large proportion of Cornish residents are succeeding at recycling. In 2007 approximately 31 per cent of the county's waste was recycled, which is above the national average. Furthermore, the recycling rate currently stands at over 50 per cent at the household waste recycling centres and 98 per cent at the materials recycling facilities (MRFs).

It must be highlighted that without the waste collection authorities and other Cornish waste businesses and community groups working



together this achievement would not have been possible. The key to success is providing efficient recycling services and raising awareness about the importance of reducing the amount of waste that ends up in landfill.

Of course there is still room for improvement, after all we are still a long way behind our European neighbours and the government has proposed a national target to achieve a recycling rate of 40 per cent by 2010.

In this issue of ReView we outline the latest Cornwall Energy Recovery Centre developments, reveal the programme we have introduced to prevent traders from using household waste recycling centres (HWRCs) and detail current waste-related community events and projects that are taking place in Cornwall.

**Louis de Poncheville**  
General Manager of SITA in Cornwall

## SITA CORNWALL NEWS

### United Mines landfill open day

On Saturday 12th April, SITA Cornwall held an open day at United Mines landfill in St Day. It was an opportunity for people to find out more about the site's day-to-day operations, meet the experts and ask any questions. Some of those who attended were taken on a tour of the landfill to see where the rubbish is tipped and covered and to see the engines which convert landfill gas into electricity.

Katharine Alexander, United Mines landfill manager said: "It is important to hold an open day as many people do not know what happens at landfill sites or think that they are just big holes in the ground, but last year at United Mines we generated more than 27,000 MWh of electricity from the waste! We also undertake environmental monitoring to ensure the waste is managed as responsibly as possible."



The engines which convert landfill gas into electricity

# SITA Cornwall submits planning application for Cornwall Energy Recovery Centre



A photomontage of the CERC

On Thursday 20th March SITA Cornwall submitted a planning application for the Cornwall Energy Recovery Centre (CERC).

Details of the proposal to build the CERC at Rostowrack Farm, St Dennis, were shown to residents at an exhibition held over four days at the end of January.

More than 500 people visited the exhibition, in St Dennis and Foxhole, and 195 of them left comments and questions about the proposals. The comments have been considered and are included in the planning application while any unanswered questions will be replied to individually.

The CERC will benefit Cornwall by diverting 90 per cent of the county's residual waste away from landfill. This is important as United Mines will close in 2010 and Connon Bridge only has a permit until 2014. The centre will also produce energy, by:

- generating 16.6 megawatts of electricity – which is the equivalent needed to power around 21,000 homes
- supplying heat to the china clay industry – replacing some of the fossil fuels currently used

The impact of lorries delivering waste to the site will be minimised with the use of a private haul road, which means that no lorries will go through the nearby village. Once up and running, the centre will also bring around 48 full time jobs.

Commenting on the planning application, David Buckle Project Director for SITA Cornwall said: "The CERC is needed to deal with the county's residual waste which is currently going to landfill. Even if Cornwall achieves the most optimistic rates for recycling, this facility is urgently needed to manage the waste that is left over. Without this facility, Cornwall will be in a desperate situation not only in terms of somewhere to dispose of the waste, but also due to the huge cost of taxes that will be charged on every tonne of waste that is buried."

Louis de Poncheville, General Manager for SITA Cornwall commented: "The CERC will provide much needed, environmentally sustainable energy, playing an important role in reducing the environmental impact of the waste generated in Cornwall. SITA Cornwall is committed to being a good neighbour at all of its 24 sites in the county and if our proposals succeed, St Dennis will be the flagship base for our headquarters."

SITA Cornwall, which runs the integrated waste management contract for the county, has already invested over £15 million in new and upgraded recycling facilities, which has helped to increase the recycling rate at household waste recycling centres from 25 per cent to more than 50 per cent.

Cornwall County Council's planning department has begun a process of registration and validation of the planning application, to be followed by consultation and publicity.

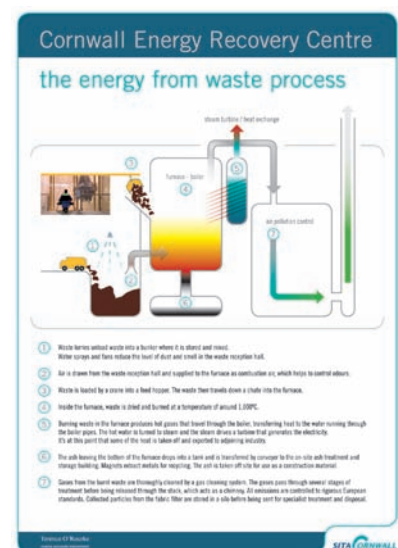
## Feedback from the CERC exhibition

In January SITA Cornwall held a four day exhibition to display the plans for an energy-from-waste facility in St Dennis. In total more than 500 people attended the Cornwall Energy Recovery (CERC) exhibition. Of the 195 who completed a feedback form;

**98%**  
were local residents

**58%**  
found out everything they needed to know about the CERC proposals

**77%**  
commented on the CERC proposals and 48% of these comments focused on the visual impact of the facility including the height of the chimney and the proximity of the facility to housing.



One of the display boards at the CERC exhibition

## Supporting FareShare



FareShare is a national organisation which collects surplus in-life food from retailers and manufacturers that would otherwise have gone to landfill, and distributes it to organisations such as day centres, hostels, lunch clubs, refuge centres and women's refuges.

Currently FareShare contributes towards 3.3 million meals to 12,000 people in over 420 community projects.

SITA Cornwall has been working with community waste sector organisation Cornwall Waste Action on a feasibility study and development plan to start up a FareShare branch in Cornwall, which would be the first rural FareShare outlet in the UK.

Cornwall Waste Action are hoping that FareShare Cornwall will be operational in early 2009. Anyone who can help with funding or premises for the project please contact Nicola Wurzbach on 01736 334684.

### DID YOU KNOW?

## Focus on MRFs



- We operate two material recycling facilities (MRFs) in Cornwall at Pool and Bodmin.
- The main function of these facilities is to segregate, bale and send materials on to reprocessors.
- We receive an average of 4,000 tonnes of material at the two MRFs every month.
- The average recycling rate at the MRFs is currently 98 per cent.

# Reducing Waste in Cornwall Seminars

Over the last two months within all six districts of Cornwall, members of local community groups, Councillors and interested individuals attended the Reducing Waste in Cornwall seminars. They were introduced to the seven easy steps to reduce waste at home, set out in the Waste Reduction Strategy for Cornwall. The seminars also publicised the different ways that the Recycle for Cornwall team (who represent the partnership of the seven Cornish local authorities, the Cornwall Primary Care Trust and the Environment Agency) can encourage and support Cornwall's residents and visitors to reduce, reuse and recycle as much rubbish as possible.

Following these events the Recycle for Cornwall staff would be pleased to hear from anyone who would like them to work in their local area. The team want to support the enthusiasm of local people who are keen to make a difference in their communities and



Recycle for Cornwall staff and enthusiastic Caradon residents

get the waste reduction messages to Cornwall's grass roots. They are available to attend events, give presentations and run workshops for schools or community groups as well as supporting bespoke initiatives such as local battery recycling collection points.

For more information please look at their website [www.recycleforcornwall.org.uk](http://www.recycleforcornwall.org.uk). You also can contact them about any waste issue by phone on 0800 612 0456 or email [info@recycleforcornwall.org.uk](mailto:info@recycleforcornwall.org.uk)

### SITA CORNWALL NEWS

## SITA Cornwall Championing Household Waste Recycling Centres

SITA Cornwall is advising businesses in the county to use recycling centres and facilities that are specially set up for them, rather than taking business waste to those set up for householders. People using the Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) who;

- use HWRCs frequently and
- are using a van or vehicle that looks as if it is used for work or
- are bringing in a type of waste that appears to be connected to any particular trade

are now asked to complete a disclaimer form.

The form, which is a legal document, requires anyone asked to, to sign to say that the waste that they have brought to the site is domestic waste and that it is not the by-product of any business related activity. If this is false, they may be prosecuted by the Environment Agency. The HWRCs have been designed for the convenience and easy use of householders only. If businesses use them, they increase the traffic and reduce the space available at the centres.

Many businesses have been written to and information is available at Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) to explain that they must recycle by having their separated waste collected or taken to one of the many places designated for them. Details on how and where to recycle business waste is listed on the back of the information sheet. The majority of businesses in Cornwall already use the correct facilities and are recycling large quantities of waste that might otherwise go to landfill.

Phil Rudin, SITA Cornwall's Operations Manager, said: "We have to, by law, accept only household waste at HWRCs. These facilities are paid for entirely by the domestic council taxes and they are there for the exclusive use of householders. So if the staff at the centres have reason to believe that somebody might be bringing in trade waste they will have to challenge them."

Businesses have a legal duty to dispose of their waste safely and responsibly and recycling saves the county from wasting valuable land as well as huge landfill costs.

# Clean Cornwall week 2008 – now a biannual event

Fuelled by an anti-litter passion and equipped with rubber gloves and high visibility vests the Clean Cornwall army of litter-picking volunteers is once again descending on Cornwall to rid it of unsightly rubbish.

Hundreds of willing volunteers were recruited to the campaign in its introductory year in 2007 and it is set to get bigger and better for its second year with not one, but two Clean Cornwall Weeks. The first week kicks off in April with a county wide spring clean from 12th to 20th April and this will be followed by an end of season spruce up from 20th – 28th September.

During the two Clean Cornwall Weeks no discarded crisp packet or washed up piece of fishing net will be safe from the Clean Cornwall volunteers who will be collecting tons of rubbish at litter-picks across the county. Beaches, towns, countryside and roads are all on the hit-list and it is hoped that the weeks will result in Cornwall becoming one of the cleanest counties in the country.



Teresa Timms, of VisitCornwall, a key Clean Cornwall partner calls for your help: "Cornwall is a special place and we want to keep it that way, if everyone spared a few hours to join a litter-pick think of the difference that we could make. Join an event taking place in your area or why not arrange your own – pull together a group of friends, get out there and make a difference!"

Take a look at [www.cleancornwall.org](http://www.cleancornwall.org) to find out what events are already planned and for advice on organising your own.

## Recycling Rates

Statistics shown are the recycling rates at the HWRCs for February '08.

<b>Bodmin</b> (Wheal Prosper)	59%
<b>Helston</b> (Gays Hill)	59%
<b>Bude</b> (Tiscott Wood)	58%
<b>Liskeard</b> (Connon Bridge)	57%
<b>Saltash</b>	56%
<b>Redruth</b> (United Mines)	52%
<b>St.Austell</b> (Menear Road)	52%
<b>St.Erth</b> (Hayle)	51%
<b>Newquay</b> (Trevenson Road)	45%
<b>Tintagel</b>	36%
<b>Launceston</b> (Bangors)	32%

These figures reflect an average recycling rate of 52 per cent at the HWRCs in February '08.

### 2 MINUTES WITH...

## Phil Hales SITA Cornwall forklift and baler operator



#### What does your job involve?

I am based at the materials recycling facility (MRF) in Bodmin where I operate the forklift and baler. I unload recyclables off the waste collection vehicles and then load them onto the conveyor belts for sorting. I tip and change cages of cans and plastics and load bales of recyclables onto lorries for transportation to the reprocessors. I also do a bit of general cleaning and sweeping when necessary.

#### What is the biggest challenge?

For me the biggest challenge is the sheer volume of recyclables that enters the MRF. You have to work really hard to keep on top of it, especially just after Christmas when the volume of recyclables seems to rocket!

#### What do you enjoy most about the job?

As strange as it may seem, I enjoy the challenge that I have just mentioned. I get a real buzz out of it! Also, the people I work with are great – we have a laugh together.

### CONTACT US



**Tel:** 0845 6300300  
**Email:** [Cornwallhelpdesk@sita.co.uk](mailto:Cornwallhelpdesk@sita.co.uk)  
**Post:** Customer Helpdesk, SITA Cornwall, United Mines Landfill site, United Downs, St Day, Redruth, Cornwall TR16 5HU  
**Web:** [www.sitacornwall.co.uk](http://www.sitacornwall.co.uk)