



ATC CONTACTS

HB Alternative Technology Centre,
Hebble End Mill, Hebden Bridge, HX7 6HJ.

Tel: Daytime: 01422-842121
Fax: 01422 84 31 41

info@alternativetechnology.org.uk
www.alternativetechnology.org.uk

Pooetry winners



Susy Feltham of the ATC presents certificates and joint first prizes in the 'Poems against Dog Poo' competition to Nia (aged 6) and Chiara (aged 12). The ATC organised the competition as part of its attempt to prevent dog-fouling along the towpath at Hebble End. 'Alternative' poet John Hegley, who writes regularly for the Guardian, has sent the ATC a quick six-liner to be displayed to encourage dog owners to clear up after their dogs. John Hegley's poem, together with Nia's and Chiara's, will be put on signs along the canal towpath at Hebble End. The signs will form part of the ATC's 'Eco-park' project to improve this stretch of the canal.

Kerb Cawlers

Kerbside has been collecting recyclable materials from houses in Hebden Bridge since the beginning of last year. Initially only drinks and food cans were collected but now Kerbside collects cans, textiles, shoes, paper and green kitchen waste.

Collections are weekly on Mondays from all the houses in Fairfield and once a month from all other houses in Hebden Bridge. As from 4th September, the Eaves Avenue area will also have weekly collections.

Kerbside is currently achieving a 25% presentation rate per week (this is the percentage of residents participating in the scheme) for metals, textiles and paper, and a 75% presentation rate for green kitchen waste. In the first two months of collecting paper they have taken 1.5 tonnes to the mill for recycling.

The aim is for Kerbside to be collecting recyclable materials from all 5,500 households in Hebden Bridge on a weekly basis within five years. Once Eaves Avenue is added to the col-

lection, this will be 315 households being collected from on a weekly basis.

Negotiations are currently taking place with Catholic Care to move into the old church in Fairfield which will be used as a central recycling site for Hebden Royd. This will become a sorting and grading site, creating work and training vacancies for 5 people.

Kerbside is also involved in establishing the Hebden Royd Community Farm on the Walkley's Clogs car park which should be opened by September 2000. To date, there are 2 Kuny Kuny pigs, 2 sheep and 25 hens. Eggs from the hens will be available at cost to households participating on kerbside collections.

Kerbside is an ever growing not for profit community enterprise that always has vacancies for volunteers to help with all aspects of the development of this enterprise. If you are interested, please contact Chip Wood on (01422) 843709.

The BIG Green Roadshow Rolls into Halifax

Manor Heath Park, off the A646, Halifax
Saturday 16th September 2000
10 am - 5 pm

ADMISSION FREE

Do you fancy a fantastic fun-filled FREE day out with something to entertain everybody?

Join us for a living, learning and entertaining experience. Solar and wind-

powered Big Top entertainment, stalls and activities for all.

Visit The Big Green Roadshow, with brand new circus shows in the solar and wind powered big top, storytelling, alternative energy, The Jungle Experience, gardening displays, craft activities, giant sculptures and much more.

A great day out with something for everyone to enjoy.

For further information contact Gill Dennett on 01422 392336

BRANCHING OUT

The Treeresponsibility climate action group will be holding a sponsored WALK FOR TREES on Saturday, 23rd September, to raise funds for the Autumn tree-planting season and local people are invited to join.

The scenic 6 mile route will take in various sites of interest in the Hebden Bridge area, including a short tour of the coppice a Knott Wood; newly planted woodland near the Pennine Way at Charlestown; and the "tree nursery" field above Horsehold where Treeresponsibility plan to raise all the seedlings needed for future plantings. There will be an opportunity for people to help plant a wildlife hedge at this site and cakes and drinks will be available.

Two guided groups will set off at 10.30am and 12.00pm from Holme Arts Centre in Hebden Bridge (next to the Trade Club), but those wishing to make their own way will be able to "book in" and pick up a route map from the centre.

After the walk, there will be cheap food available from 4.00pm onwards, once again at the Holme Arts Centre and the event will finish up with a closing session to update people on the progress of Treeresponsibility far and forthcoming plans.

Treesponsibility coordinator, Penny Eastwood, said: "I hope lots of local people will get involved. The walk should be a real good fun way of raising the money we need to keep us going this Autumn".

Sponsorship forms are available from Barbara Hebditch on (01422) 845418.

The 4 R's

One of the key issues for Local Agenda 21 groups all over the world, including here in Calderdale, is waste.

The typical household dustbin apparently contains the following:

Paper and card	3.30%
Plastic film	5.00%
Plastic bottles	6.00%
Textiles	2.00%
Glass	9.00%
Compostables	20.00%
Ferrous metals eg steel cans	6.00%
Non ferrous eg aluminium cans	2.00%
Dust etc	7.00%
Miscellaneous	10.00%

In addition, it is estimated that each household throws away 100kgs of furniture and fridges, freezers etc per year. So, remember the 4 R's....

..... Reduce - Reuse - Repair - Recycle

* Reduce the amount of stuff you use. Complain about excess packaging, buy loose fruit and vegetables, avoid buying disposable items....

* Reuse things instead of throwing them away.

Buy things which will last or can be repaired, look out for products sold in packaging which can be refilled, such as washing powders, don't throw anything away which can be used by someone else - your children a local school or charity....

In Holland, there is a system whereby, once a month, people put out onto the street the things that they don't want for other people to pick up and make use of - what is rubbish to one person, might be needed by another.

* Repair what is broken, so it can be used again. Many items are thrown away just because there is a small part broken.

* Recycle what you don't want into something else that is useable. Glass, paper, aluminium are all collected and recycled in Calderdale - plastics, not yet. Make a compost bin or give it to someone who has one. Kerbside (see article on this page) collect vegetable and fruit waste in some areas of Hebden Bridge.

Look out for products made from recycled materials or are biodegradable.

One thing we need to be aware of when creating a recycling industry is that we don't create too much of a market for waste, otherwise we will find ourselves in the position of having to produce waste to feed those industries. This is why REDUCING will always remain the priority.

What a waste!

The most embarrassing question we get asked at the ATC by visitors from all over the world, as well as residents, is: "where do I recycle my plastic in Calderdale?" The answer, quite simply, is: "you can't".

One in three local authorities in the UK operate plastic bottle collection schemes - that's over 178 councils involved in plastic bottle recycling. Forty one percent of local councils operate some form of plastics recycling scheme.

But not in Calderdale - call the Council and ask. They'll tell you that they don't have an outlet. So how do the other councils manage to do it? The good news is that C.M.B.C. is about to appoint a 'Recycling Officer'. The bad news is that they currently have no plans to recycle post consumer plastic.

There are about 250,000 tonnes of plastics bottles used each year in homes throughout Britain. Plastic bottles have become popular because they are very lightweight (there are around 20,000 bottles in a tonne, you work it out!) strong and inexpensive.

So what can we do with them? You'd be amazed! Products made using recycled plastic bottles include new packaging; pipes; industrial strapping; building products, including cladding and window frames; lampshades; water-butts, watering cans; personal organisers; children's furniture; garden fences; fibre fillings for anoraks and sleeping bags; even new clothing such as fleece jackets and knitwear.

Nowadays you can even use recycled plas-

tic in food containers. Silver Spring Mineral Waters of Folkestone use recycled PET in their 2 litre bottles. The Body Shop refill or take back their containers for recycling. The regranulated plastic is used to make items like nail-brushes and combs.

But isn't it difficult to do?

No! There are three main types of plastic used to make bottles. These have different physical properties, which make them particularly suitable for making certain types of container. Once the bottles have been collected, they need to be sorted into these three types - PET, PVC and PE - to achieve the highest sales values. Bales of sorted plastic bottles are purchased by reprocessors. At reprocessing plants around the country, bottles are chopped into small pieces, washed and dried. Any contamination is removed during the process, resulting in the output of high quality plastic flakes. These can be used to manufacture new items.

So come on Calderdale, local councils all around us are doing it; it's time you started.

What can you do in the meantime? Well you can lobby your local councillor, or send a letter, fax or e-mail to us and we'll do it for you; call the new recycling officer and make your feelings known; contact Calderdale Local Agenda 21 group and ask them to do something.

And practical things in your everyday life? Re-use your carrier bags when you go to the

supermarket or use them for bin-liners (better still refuse them and take a sturdy textile bag with you!); use old CDs as drinks mats or make bird scarers for the garden out of them; make individual cloches/plant protectors from large fizzy drinks bottles; use margarine tubs and ice-cream tubs as storage containers; yoghurt pots make ideal small plant pots for your spring seedlings, they can also be used as paint pots by your local school or playgroup; buy a large bottle of pop rather than a lot of small ones and since we can't recycle plastic in Calderdale (yet!) buy glass containers instead of plastic, where they are available. Avoid buying items you consider are over-packaged. Don't add extra packaging yourself - a melon, a grapefruit or a bunch of bananas already has natural packaging - does it need to go in a plastic bag as well as your shopping bag, and does that already efficiently packaged dairy product or piece of meat really need another wrapper?

If you have any other ideas PLEASE LET US KNOW.

Much of the information in this article was gathered from the following web sites, thanks - do visit them. You can access them and many other interesting and useful sites from the Links Page of the ATC website - www.alternativetechnology.org.uk

www.tecweb.com/recoup/main.htm
www.nrf.org.uk/buy-recycled/database/
www.wastewatch.org.uk/

SOAK UP THE SUN

Would you like to reduce pollution and reduce your fuel bills? Then, why not consider installing a solar water heating system?

With solar water heating, your annual hot water bills should be reduced by at least half. Solar systems usually give 20 years useful service, during which time the money saved more than repays the initial cost.

The ATC has launched a Solar Club, one of twenty now operating around the country. Solar Clubs are non-profit making and their aim is to make it as easy and cheap as possible to install solar water heating.

The Solar Club is easy to join and members have the benefit of:

- * Professional training, advice and support
- * An independent home visit to assess if solar water heating would be suitable for your home
- * Discounted solar panels and other components
- * Sharing skills, labour and tools.

If you have basic DIY skills, the practical work involved will be well within your capability - expert training and assistance will be on hand if needed. What's more, if you don't like the idea of DIY installation, we can install the entire system for you (with your help) and the system will still be a lot cheaper



than those commercially available.

- * There will be an information evening about the Solar Club on Monday 4th September, 7.30pm at the ATC. This will be an opportunity to find out more about the Solar Club, ask questions and meet the Club organisers. There will be no obligation - just come along and learn!
- * For more information about the Club, further information evenings and training days, contact the Solar Club coordinator John Brierley at the ATC or at home on (01422) 886792 or e-mail: solarclub@alternativetechnology.org.uk

Cyber voices against climate change

A new web site and 'e-petition' has just been launched by a coalition of leading environmental organizations calling on world leaders to act on climate change. The aim is to get 10 million messages sent by November, when the crucial United Nations Climate Summit in The Hague takes place. The Summit is supposed to finalise rules for operating the Kyoto climate treaty which was signed in 1997. Since then, emissions in most countries have continued to rise and if countries keep dragging their feet, there is little hope of the treaty entering into force.

"It is now 10 years since the international scientific community issued its first warning about the threats the world faces from climate change," said Andrew Kerr of WWF's Climate Change Campaign. "That's why we're aiming for 10 million messages - one million for each year that governments have failed to take action. It is scandalous that available solutions to this problem have been so thoroughly neglected."

To send a message, go to www.climatevoice.org (or you can access it from the Links Page of the ATC website).



