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Welcome to the September 2014 Newsletter! We are elated to share interesting articles and milestones with you. We also encourage you to waste some TIME and have fun. ☀

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Thank you for your involvement in this **important** project!



**Anthea
Rossouw -
Project Team
Leader**

What is this project about?

Thanks to a Defra (Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) grant, residents at 75 courts and flats across 9 counties in South, East and West England from Housing & Care 21 and Amicus Horizon participate in the 'Waste its Mine its Yours' trial project. Workshops took place where residents learnt how to reduce waste before it reaches kerbside; increase the quantity and quality of recycling and compost food waste into Green Johanna composters. Residents also provided information regarding what they need to increase recycling. Numerous new recycling initiatives have followed. Community engagement practitioner, Anthea Rossouw manages the project, working with the residents, University of Brighton, Great Green Systems, housing managers, Battery Back, The Salvation Army and local authorities. Significant improvements are reported.

Residents win awards

Recently participating residents learned that they had won awards! Rewards are divided into two phases and based on the following criteria: reduction of waste to landfill; increase in recycling; improvement in the quality of recycling and reduction in contamination of recycling. Residents identify how their winnings will be spent. Round one winners are as follows: Housing & Care 21: 1st Alan Hilton Court, Chertsey; 2nd Reginald Mitchell Court, Eastleigh 3rd James Butcher Court, Southsea. Close runners up are: Ebbage, Duke Bernard, Malmesbury and Cavendish Courts. AmicusHorizon sites: Joint 1st: Bevin and Roosevelt Courts – Hastings; Joint 2nd: Roselands – Seddlescome and Royal Terrace – Hastings; 3rd Preston Road – Bexhill. The next round of rewards expands to assess the level of improvements in composting and sites that have improved the most.



Thumbs up at award winning courts Alan Hilton, Chertsey (above) and Royal Terrace, Hastings (below)



For further information on the project or any specific article,
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Armies of residents involved across 9 counties

Signage making sense

Historically local authorities have concentrated on recycling in single households. Housing associations provide 2 million homes to 5 million residents in the UK. There is a need to develop effective strategies to provide good waste services to residents. The project worked with residents to identify the barriers to recycling. During consultation residents and staff provided useful information regarding what was needed to increase the quantity and quality of recycling. "Lack of appropriate signage catering to the needs of multi-lingual, multi-cultural, ageing residents and those with sight and physical challenges", were one top barrier identified. The outcome of these consultations led to the development of weather resistant, eye catching, resident-friendly signage. Says resident Brian at Hedley Davis Court, Salisbury: "The signage has made a very big difference in the bin areas".



Brian at Hedley Davis Court - Salisbury



Loz Willard - Preston Road, Bexhill

Composters save money and rake in crops

The project has provided residents with the knowledge and resources to divert their food waste, garden clippings, paper shreds, egg boxes, crushed egg shells and used tea bags into Green Johanna composters on site. The result is high quality, free compost and a valuable resource on hand whenever needed. Composting residents report they are saving money on less rubbish bags which are now lighter; reducing odours in their bins; saving trips to the bin room and some residents are reverting to gardening, reaping crops and stunning flowers and enjoying the outdoor activity. To date participating residents have composted 11 tonnes of food waste and 3.5 tonnes of garden waste and shredded paper (the weight of 2 adult elephants!). "Now if that isn't a blooming good thing I don't know what is," says resident Denise at Marline Court, St Leonards on Sea.



Grace at Normandy Court



Tomatoes everywhere at Marline Court



Used batteries turned into resource



Throwing batteries in the bin to end up in landfill is harmful to the environment and a waste of a resource. The battery regulations came into force to encourage the recycling of all types of batteries. Britain has to increase battery recycling to 45% by 2016. To achieve the targets and avoid risks, we all need to work together. Many batteries are hazardous. Leaving them in drawers or forgetting them in bags intended to place in containers at shops, are thus a potential risk. Many residents requested a service to dispose of their batteries. To help, BatteryBack provided FREE collections at our Defra trial sites. BatteryBack is one of the UK's premier Producer Compliance Schemes and are financing the cost of treatment and recovery. Each of the battery cans have been UN tested to ensure maximum durability and safety. In the past few months 420kg of batteries have been recycled.



Sally Whyatt - Absalom Court, Gillingham

Recycling thermometers rise

The project aim has been to update residents regularly regarding their progress to reduce landfill waste and to increase the quantity and quality of recycling. A poster depicting an updateable thermometer, has been developed bespoke to each participating site. A team of committed site staff and Green Champions have done a sterling job of collecting data since inception of the project. Regular spot checks complimented by scores of photographs taken by the project team, have enabled the development of a system to provide the recycling rates for residents to check on their posters. A robust profile of the waste and recycling at each court has also been developed.



A proud resident at James Butcher, Portsmouth, checking their recycling levels

Revamped waste areas supe up recycling bins

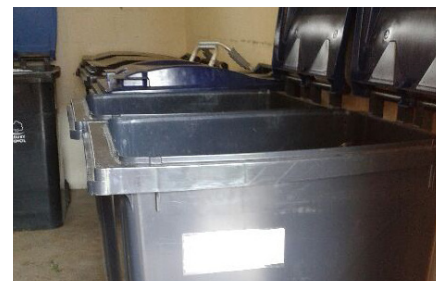


Residents provided their views (and possible solutions) to improve recycling at engagement workshops. The project team listened and works with local authorities, waste services contractors and the housing association management to improve services or infrastructure where possible. Examples of changes are: the local councils in Canterbury, Ramsgate, Eastbourne, Runnymede and Ashford changed bins and services. This has led to significant changes to recycling at Newport, Vyeson, Alan Hilton, Duke Bernard - and Cheriton Courts and Leslie Chalk House. AmicusHorizon have improved access for residents and waste removal contractors at Preston Road, Bexhill.

Newport Court, Canterbury - Sporting new bins and new services courtesy of Canterbury City Council (with thanks!)



Access for All - Work in progress at Preston Road - Bexhill



Mountains of textiles put to use



Lynn Bruton, Leslie
Chalk House

Working together in a partnership with The Salvation Army to channel textiles and bric-a-brac from flat and court doors to the Salvation Army where it is put to good use, is proving successful. A unique plan, bespoke to the needs of flat residents, developed by the project team, delivered two and a half tonnes of textiles in just 2 collections in this ongoing scheme! The next collection takes place between 15th to 19th September 2014. Comments from manager Kirsty Hardy at Burchell Court, Lancing, echoed by many sites on the project are: *"It saves loads of textiles and bric a brac from rubbish bins when flats are vacated;*

residents know where their recycling is going; it is a seamless, secure scheme; saves having a textile bin in already over crowded bin areas; as people become less mobile, taking it off site is a challenge; staying on site in poor weather conditions means it just goes in the rubbish; this is a sustainable solution bespoke to residents needs. It is sorted!"



Kirsty Hardy, Burchell Court

Courts and Flats take the lead

Did you know?

- It takes 25 plastic bottles to make 1 fleece
- 1 recycled aluminium can saves enough energy to run a TV for 3 hours
- It takes 7 days to recycle newspapers into a new one!



Working with local authorities, courts such as Ebbage, Jennings and 4 Courts recycle their WEEE (waste electrical and electronic equipment), on site.

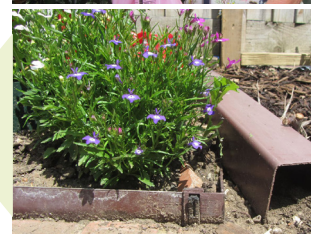


Alan Hilton Court, Chertsey saved a glut of used downpies from going to landfill by using them to stabilise all their flower beds

Embracing a community spirit, The Queen Mother Court welcomes families to join recycling events and provide local Scouts with their newspaper to help raise funds.

Jennings Court, Bristol minimises waste where possible, including office operations. Housing & Care 21 staff can request a free toner recycling box and collection service when they order supplies from Office Depot UK, says Manager Mike Logue.

Rosemary and Tony in St. Leonards on Sea have meticulously monitored bins at Evesham.



'Waste It's Mine - It's Yours'®

Project Partners: