

12 July 2023 - HuntsWasteBusters

Attendees and Introduction

Heidi Field – Waste Minimisation Officer HDC
Auriane Cirasuolo – Waste Minimisation Support Officer
Mary - St Ives Eco Action Group
Janet – Cambs West Trefoil Guild
Lara– HDC
Daniel – St Neots Town Council
Catherine - St Neots Town Council + SNARL
Richard– HDC
Simone – HDC
John – Bury Parish Council
Karen – W.I.
Phyllis W.I.
Roger - Ramsey Town Council
Conrad – Ramsey Town Council
Daniela – St Neots Town Council + SNARL
Charlotte – HDC
Liz – Houghton + Wyton
Chris - Huntingdon
Nic – St Ives Town Council + HDC
Claire – Warboys Parish Council
Yasmin – Folksworth and Washingley
Georgie – Huntingdon Town Council
Ramune - Buckden Parish Council, Catworth, Brington & Molesworth, and Southoe and Midloe.
Sue – Buckden Parish Council
Patricia – Brampton
Marcus - Hemingford Abbots Parish Council
Karen - Colne Parish Council
David - Colne Parish Council
Alan - Southoe and Midloe
Melina – St Neots Zero Waste Shop (online)

Apologies

Martin – St Ives Zero Waste Shop
Stephan – Earith Parish Council
Alan – Brampton Parish Council
Tom - Sawtry

Data and Trends

- The waste min team use data on recycling bin rejections to influence communications.
- The main reasons for recycling bins being rejected are black sacks, textiles, and polystyrene.
- On average, 55% of materials collected is either recycled or composted.
- In 2022, we sent 1615 lorry loads for compost, 2234 lorry loads to a recycling

centre, and 2436 lorry loads to landfill.

Current Key Strategies

- Using the waste hierarchy, the team are working on encouraging waste reduction, promoting reuse, and enabling recycling.

Response to the May workshop

The team has reviewed the comments from our workshop held at our last waste minimisation meeting, with key topics being:

Q1: What do you believe are the barriers to reducing waste in Huntingdonshire?

- Lack of enforcement

Waste and Recycling - Whilst some businesses have new rules and regulations ([Plastic Packaging Tax or PPT](#)) there is no limit yet as to how much one can waste and having a recycling bin is not compulsory either. Starting conversations with highly emitting businesses in Huntingdonshire is one of our intentions.

- Littering

We spoke with our peer in Cambridgeshire to understand key leverages and barriers and will install new signage for littering (working with our enforcement team). Street cleansing and enforcement is something we are looking at.

- Ignorance / Lack of awareness of the issues

Raising awareness of the issue and actions residents can take. Ongoing – we are looking at adding an option to book 1-1s with us from our website. We are attending local events and in conversations with some schools too.

- Convenience and costs of refill shops are a barrier

How can we remove barriers? 1) £60's food voucher from the food waste pledge can go towards some of our refill shops 2) As a district, we can't do much more, but an alternative would be to sell some of their products to other shops that are open longer?

Q2 Do you have ideas for reducing waste in the region?

- Promotion of the circular economy initiation | Ongoing – New ideas welcome.
- By-products streamlined (rebrand charity shops into vintage) | This could be a small project we could look into coordinating later in the year.
- More recycling bank in town and villages | We have the wire recycling project, once this is not so early-stage, we can see how we could implement drop off points. We are also looking at speaking to Pathfinder so that they can add bins, but it's proven to be more complicated than expected.
- Education for parish council | We attended the parish council meeting, invited them to this meeting, and would be happy to host an online council-only meeting?
- Home compost – Presentation for now, but also something we want to investigate more seriously

Q3: Do you have suggestions for reducing contamination rate within the recycling bin?

- Communication - Letter to residents and to communal | Stickers sent to them, and some added to the bins ('no food waste' on their recycling bin).
- Local maps with recycling point.
- Local Champions / Locally owned coordinator campaigns.
- Name and shame regular commercial culprits (and celebrate success) | We

can't name and shame people, but we have stages (1 to 3) that we send to residents who don't recycle properly.

- Competition between areas 'gamification': Who has the fewest contamination bins? We have met with Cognis to use their app, which has incredibly high recycling improvement rate – But it costs £30 k, a budget we don't have. Ask to speak to CPCA.

Ongoing Project

- Fight Food Waste – Residents are invited to pledge to reduce their food waste and have a chance to win £60 in return. We are also partnering with local celebrities to promote the pledge (including Chef Tristan Welch). [Pledge to Fight Food Waste - RECAP](#)
- Wire Recycling Project: Trialling wire collection and recycling from 6 primary schools. HDC can provide an electrical drop off point at any Repair Cafes.
- As part a countywide scheme we have passed on 50 wet wipe packs to new parents. We're asking for their feedback (good or bad).
- We have discounts available for reusable nappies and will continue to promote the scheme. [Nappy Initiative - Huntingdonshire.gov.uk](#)
- A-Z on our website – we are looking at making it more easily available. [A-Z of Waste - Huntingdonshire.gov.uk.](#)
- We are looking at how we can work with residents who have communal collections to help to reduce contamination and improve recycling.
- [School Poster Competition](#). The two posters have been selected and are being prepared.
- The Metal Matters campaign is live so you will see more information about recycling metals going out on our socials.
- Working with property management companies to reduce contamination and improve communication with their residents.

Upcoming Projects

- Promoting vape recycling – comms being brought together by Cambs CC
- Working with parish councils (online meeting?)
- Support a local child who puts together YouTube videos and would like to do one around recycling in Huntingdonshire.
- Waste Management Park Summer Education Visits are taking place on 6th, 9th and 16th August – more details to follow
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Upcoming Events Waste Minimisation will be attending:

- 22nd July – Huntingdon Eco Fair
- 25th August – Huntingdon Repair Café
- Recycling Centre: 6th – 9th – 16th – 23rd August | 10:00 – 12:00
- Online meeting with Councillors.

Presentation from Alan

Alan kindly presented about the benefits of home composting and brang 3 pots of compost: HDC, his personal one, and shop-bought compost. Attendees asked questions about what to put in, what was used, how it was maintained, and if he added worms to it.

Mary: recycling plaster packs

Mary from the St Ives Eco Action Group has asked about other's experience with recycling plaster packs. To which some people recommended various potential collection points. Mary is currently trying to get a grant from COOP to support a Terracycle recycling bin, which will cost approximately £200/month. One attendee also offered to take this to national level.

Comments from attendees

It would be good to have the A-Z more available.

Some attendees have offered to share our projects onto their notice boards.

Event: Great big green week in St Neots.

The wording of clothe banks should be reconsidered for clarification: It's textiles not just clothe and shoes.

A percentage of the new income for the green bin charge could be spent on effective communication on waste reduction.