

BREW Centre for Local Authorities

The BREW Centre for Local Authorities is a pilot project funded by DEFRA through the Business Resource Efficiency and Waste programme and is a consortium between the Local Government Association, the National Industrial Symbiosis Programme and Oxfordshire County Council. The BREW Centre is steered by EnCams, Environment Agency, Envirowise, DEFRA, Regional Development Agencies, the South East Centre of Excellence and Valpak.

The aim of the BREW Centre is to support Local Authorities working with their local business community to become more profitable businesses through minimised waste and more efficient use of materials, water and energy.

BREW Centre Deliverables

In its first year the BREW Centre has delivered the following:

- Funding for fifteen Trailblazer Local Authority projects that support resource efficiency within their business community
- A network of Local Authority officers sharing resource efficiency knowledge and best practice;
- A website hosting case studies of best practice projects that enable and support the provision of services, underpinning resource efficiency within businesses

In its second year the BREW Centre looks to:

- Fund over 20 Local Authority projects supporting the business resource efficiency and waste aims and objectives;
- Continue the provision of the Centre's services including a monthly e-zine, regional events and the website
- Develop and support the BREW Centre network

Year 1 Trailblazers

- Braintree District Council – Collection and recycling of street market waste
- Dorset County Council – Collection and recycling of kitchen waste, paper and cardboard
- Hampshire County Council – Improving the recycling of construction and demolition waste
- Isle of Wight Council – Creating a business waste strategy
- Kent County Council – Trade waste recycling bring site
- Nottingham City Council – Collection and recycling of trade waste
- Oxford City Council – Collection and recycling of trade waste
- Oxfordshire County Council – Provision of a bring service for trade waste recycling
- London Borough of Richmond upon Thames – Collection and recycling of trade waste
- Walsall Council – Environmental business survey and support service
- West Oxfordshire District Council – Collection and recycling of trade waste & a trade waste survey
- West Midlands Regional Assembly (RTAB) – Survey assessing reprocessing capacity
- Worcestershire County Council – Feasibility study into anaerobic digestion for trade food waste and farm slurry

Website www.eas.local.gov.uk/brew
E-mail brew.centre@oxfordshire.gov.uk
Telephone 01865 815099

Waste Strategy for England 2007: From Paper to Practice

Here the BREW Centre suggests how Local Authorities can make the Strategy work in practice.

1. How can you stimulate the market for recyclates?

- By supporting sustainable procurement through your own supply chain. Read the joint report by Oxfordshire County Council and SEEDA on the BREW Centre website
- OGCbuying.solutions provide sustainable procurement solutions to Local Authorities. Visit online.ogcbuyingsolutions.gov.uk/news/ for more details

2. How can you make best use of the reprocessing opportunities in your region?

To initiate improvements in recycling and reprocessing service provision it is critical to understand the current picture for your region. West Midlands RTAB has recently developed a full methodology to rate current provision and identify gaps. You can replicate and learn from their experience by visiting the BREW Centre website.

3. How can you improve resource efficiency awareness amongst businesses?

- Distribute the Business Resource Efficiency Pack to your local businesses. Read the project toolkit on the BREW Centre website
- Read best practice case studies from Local Authorities who are already working with businesses on the BREW Centre website

4. How can the BREW Delivery Bodies help your Authority?

- **Environment Agency** – A source of relevant business legislation that you can signpost your businesses to. They also provide the online Waste Directory.
- **Envirowise** - Offering advice to help companies become more resource efficient by identifying where waste production can be minimised and cost-savings made. They can work in partnership with Local Authorities supporting workshops, websites and waste reviews.
- **National Industrial Symbiosis Programme** - Can facilitate resource exchanges between numerous organisations.
- **Regional Development Agencies** - Providing a crucial link between the needs of business and the policies of Government.
- **WRAP** - Focusing on creating stable and efficient markets for recycled materials and products and removing the barriers to waste minimisation, re-use and recycling.

5. How can you create new trade waste recycling services?

- *Working with the private sector* - Following a waste survey Oxfordshire County Council was able to work with external waste contractors to move from a trade disposal centre into a trade recycling centre. Learn more about their experience on the BREW Centre website
- *Utilising existing direct service operations* - Collection services are a must to encourage full participation in waste reduction. See how Braintree District Council created a collection service for the town market stallholders and Dorset County Council began collecting kitchen and paper trade waste from businesses in their area on the BREW Centre website

6. How can you engage with your local business community?

Walsall and the Isle of Wight have had particular success in addressing the needs of their local business community through engaging with existing business networks and discovering that businesses are very enthusiastic to reduce waste. Read more on the BREW Centre website