

21 September 2023 - HuntsWasteBusters

Attendees and Introduction

Heidi – Waste Minimisation Officer HDC
Teri – Assistant Waste Minimisation Officer HDC
Marcus – Hemingford Abbots
Richard
Chris - Huntingdon
Mary – St Ives
Caroline – St Ives
Janet – St Ives
Kay
Lara – St Neots/HDC
Liz – Houghton & Wyton
Nic & Heather – St Ives
Chris – Great Gransden Parish Council
Katy – Project Support Officer, HDC

Apologies

Charlotte - Repair café speaker
Simone

Welcome

Previously just had another successful repair café.

Current Trends

- The waste min team use data on recycling bin rejections to influence communications.
- Stats shared on the number of vehicles loads instead of tonnage to paint a clearer picture of the volume collected, as recycling is a lighter material.
- 62% of material collected was recycled or composted in August 2023.
- Garden waste much higher than this time last year due to weather
- Textile bank contract in place with ASTCO who provide monthly tonnages on all of the 25 sites.
- Textile banks take all qualities of materials even scrap it was explained that they preferred bagged and labelled as rags.
- Facts and figures shown for rejected blue bin contamination (food, texts, and black sacks etc). Although the crews do reject bins which contain the wrong material, we still seeing an amount which is rejected at the material recycling facility (MRF).
- The tolerance at the MRF is <7% and unfortunately sampling from the MRF is showing HDC waste is higher than this.
- Those who have repeated bin rejections do trigger a number of stages within our rejection policy and may result in the recycling being removed from the property.

- Any other ideas to target this mission of lowering rejections to be investigated and we'd be happy to receive any thoughts.
- Plea for any opportunities the group has to speak about contamination would be greatly welcomed.

Current Activities

- Poster competition - now on 2 of our collection vehicles – so keep an eye out for these. Pop-up poster display was also held at One Leisure Huntingdon. Posters will also be used on socials. Some of the posters were related to litter which would support litter min.
- [Minsky Learns about recycling](#) – the team supported a younger HDC resident to bring together a great short video about recycling in our area.
- St Ives Litter Min initiative has started. New cigarette ballet boxes for have been installed, posters have been placed in holders on litter bins and ashtray stickers have been applied.
- Litter board is be created by the students at CRC. The a-frame will be available for use at events.
- Communal areas – we've been working with management companies to look at what can be improved in these areas to encourage their residents to recycling correctly. We have been door-knocking, re-stickering bins, providing new signage and sending out letters to some of the worst areas.
- Results: effects are proving fruitful as fewer bins are being rejected for contamination.
- Wire Recycling has been trialled with a number of schools and community groups. We'll have some more feedback soon.
- Fight Food Waste Pledge – residents are encouraged to take the pledge. They will be provided with lots of tips and advice to reduce their food waste. One shopping voucher winner per month. 84 pledges were made in September.
- Freegle – offers local authorities support with promoting reuse and are able to provide localised data of what items have been passed on. The team will be promoting reuse more over the coming months.

Other Activities

- Working with Cambs County Council to look into a mattress recycling scheme
- Disposable vape recycling banks
- Single- use plastic bans – 1 October. More details can be found via [Single-use plastics ban: plates, bowls, trays, containers, cutlery and balloon sticks - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)
- Updated communication material – signage for communal areas and posters for events. If anyone has an opportunity to use these please let us know.

Chargeable Garden Waste

- Town and Parish Council engagement sessions have been scheduled for September/October
- The waste team will be looking at potential initiatives to support residents in reducing their food waste, composting at home and community compost sites
- Advice to be pulled together on home composting, via web and how-to videos
- Lara has a potential site in St Neots

Upcoming events

- St Ives Repair Café- **Sat 30 Sept 23- 1pm to 4pm**
- Huntingdon Repair Café - **Fri 24 Nov 2023**
- Fix Fest, St Neots **March 2024**

Open Discussion

- The waste min team are looking at the possibility of support communities to host a blister pack bin through Terracycle. Once we have more details we will circulate.
- Future talks at these meetings to include – Repair Café, ASTCO textile recycling and setting up a community fridge.
- The Education Centre at Waterbeach is now open for visitors.

Q&A

Can the green bins be used to compost when the charge comes to effect? Residents will be able to keep their green bins for other use. The charge is for the emptying of the bins. There have been examples of residents turning their green bins into home composters/wormeries or using them as storage.

Do you encourage schools to go to Waterbeach? Yes, the education centre is run by county council colleagues who create a newsletter for schools. The Waste Min team will be working with a number of schools and will be at Thorndown Primary 2 Oct.

Are supermarkets not allowed to give food to charity? This does still happen. Katy provided more information on this. Also, most sign up to the Good to Go app, offering food at a reduced rate when it has come the end of the sell by date.

HDC are recruiting a [Senior Ecologist](#) and an [Energy & Sustainability Support Officer](#) – please feel free to share with any of your connections

Next meeting in November (Proposed for Repair Café to be the topic)