

# Envirolink

INVESTING IN  
englandsnorthwest

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Northwest England has 11,000ha of brownfield land suitable for redevelopment, more than any other English region. Nearly 9,000ha is already vacant or derelict. This presents immense opportunities for use of environmental technologies to remediate the Northwest's industrial legacy and for the companies involved to develop and market their expertise regionally, nationally and globally.

The Northwest Regional Development Agency (NWDA) calculates that it will spend approximately £100 million on soft end use in the next three years, whilst the rise in landfill tax means that the traditional technique of 'dig and dump' is becoming too expensive.

**Northwest England has 11,000ha of brownfield land suitable for redevelopment, more than any other English region. Nearly 9,000ha is already vacant or derelict.**

To ensure the region's companies capitalise on the opportunities this offers, Envirolink Northwest has launched the Northwest Land Remediation Network to share knowledge and encourage best practice across the industry.

The network's aims are focusing on soft and hard end use remediation to:

- share information between the policy, implementation and academic sectors to raise standards across the sector
- co-ordinate activity to take advantage of the opportunities to develop the sector in the Northwest, nationally and internationally
- seek to market the technology and skills of the Northwest soft and hard end use land remediation sector throughout the UK and internationally.

The Northwest Land Remediation Network was officially launched at Warrington Wolves Stadium on 9th October 2007 at which the network's portal was unveiled. This provides users with an opportunity to hold

## New network lands in Northwest

Could you be benefiting from the industrial legacy of England's Northwest?



Land remediation in action at the British Aerospace former Royal Ordnance facility in Chorley

**Membership of the network is open to all organisations and individuals that wish to be involved and will be of particular interest to those already operating within the sector and to local authorities and developers.**

discussions on suggested topics, post documents, work up proposals in a secure environment and access support from Envirolink Northwest. It is envisaged that two events will be held annually to provide further knowledge exchange and networking opportunities.

To ensure that the network remains at the heart of the sector, members of the Advisory Group have been drawn from the private sector, academia and eminent national bodies such as the Environment Agency and the Forestry Commission.

Membership of the network is open to all organisations and individuals

that wish to be involved and will be of particular interest to those already operating within the sector and to local authorities and developers. To access the Northwest Land Remediation Network portal users should either visit the [www.envirolinknorthwest.co.uk](http://www.envirolinknorthwest.co.uk) homepage for the link or click on Land Remediation within the ETS sub-sectors' drop down menu and follow the link to the network.

For further information please contact Mark Whitworth: [m.whitworth@envirolinknorthwest.co.uk](mailto:m.whitworth@envirolinknorthwest.co.uk)

## Knowledge to Innovate supports Northwest businesses

Knowledge to Innovate **k2i**

The NWDA has launched the Knowledge to Innovate (K2i) Programme for small and medium sized enterprises with the potential to grow and develop, especially within the energy and environmental technology sector. It will provide companies with free assistance tailor-made to their particular strengths and weaknesses, and is designed to increase their competitiveness and boost business.

K2i will work with companies across the broad spectrum of their innovation needs including product/service development, approach to market and innovation within their business processes. The process is a collaborative one, and will be unique to each company.

Selected businesses, for example, will learn how to inspire and create a culture of innovation amongst employees to help them deliver new objectives and make the most of opportunities. A K2i expert will identify their needs and discuss how best the programme can help. The managing director of the business, together with an 'innovation champion' will help look at the business in detail and find areas where innovation could make a significant difference – whether by developing new products and services, improving existing ones or identifying better routes to market.

Geoff Birkett, leading the Knowledge to Innovate programme said, "The market place for businesses and professional services is changing beyond recognition. New legislative frameworks are freeing up companies, allowing them to operate in new ways and encouraging innovative approaches to clients and service delivery."

He continued, "The Northwest needs to remain competitive, and K2i can ensure that businesses realise their potential and do not get left behind. If your company has an innovative idea but needs support to see it through, then this is the project that can help."

Innovative SME companies with 20 or more employees, (or smaller companies with definite growth potential), who are keen to expand their business are invited to register with the programme and meet a member of the project team. Companies interested in finding out more about K2i should go to [www.k2i.org.uk](http://www.k2i.org.uk). The programme will finish in March 2009.

# Practising what they preach

Cheshire's new recycling centre is setting the example in Winsford

Winsford's new £1.9m Household Waste Recycling Centre, entirely funded by Buy Recycled Code member Cheshire County Council under the direction of a proactive Waste and Planning Service and Envirolink Northwest, brings together state of the art design and high levels of recycled content within the site.

Envirolink Northwest's Market Development team provided advice on the different types of construction material that could be used to maximise the amount of recycled content in the scheme, actively demonstrating to the residents of Cheshire the benefits to them of recycling their waste. The recycled content products used in the site include 266 metres of plastic kerbing, 1100 plastic 'crates' forming part of the drainage system, over 14 tonnes of steel reinforcement in the 693m<sup>3</sup> of concrete used and significant amounts of 'green' compost produced by the County Council from local residents' green waste. 70% of the materials were supplied by Cheshire-based businesses and nearly 40% of the sub-contracted work was sourced locally.

Located on the Woodford Park Industrial Estate, the centre has extensive recycling facilities including 17 skips and two additional areas for recycling banks and collection of WEEE. The site was officially opened in October by Chairman of Cheshire County Council, Councillor Neville Price and Cheshire's Junior Recycling Officer of the Year, Jessie Rothery.

Councillor Price said, "At a cost of £1.9 million this centre offers local residents a modern site ten times bigger than the old one, encouraging them to recycle more. Throughout construction recycled materials have



Official opening of Winsford's Waste Recycling Centre

**"At a cost of £1.9 million this centre offers local residents a modern site ten times bigger than the old one, encouraging them to recycle more."**

— Councillor Neville Price

been used wherever possible to practise what we preach."

Councillor Price went on to add that, "The construction company, Forkers Ltd, has managed to deliver an excellent facility within budget and more importantly at the right time, which is

an achievement to be commended."

Although the forward thinking Waste and Planning Service would have allowed an increase in capital cost for recycled content materials that would result in long term operational and sustainability benefits, Envirolink Northwest demonstrated that the recycled content of a project such as this could be increased at no extra cost.

Through the Buy Recycled Code, Envirolink Northwest continues to work with the County Council and Forkers Ltd, their contractor, to carry out a more detailed analysis of the scheme to identify the exact quantities of recycled content materials used and other sustainability benefits such as CO<sup>2</sup> saved.

For further details of the Buy Recycled Code, contact James Griffin. [j.griffin@envirolinknorthwest.co.uk](mailto:j.griffin@envirolinknorthwest.co.uk)

## Country profile: Turkey

There is a very large potential market for environmental technology products in the rapidly developing Turkish economy. The accession talks with the European Union have led Turkey to adopt a new environmental law to initiate the harmonization of its environmental regulations with EU standards. This is creating an environmental infrastructure and technologies market that will ultimately be worth €70.5 billion.

Turkish cities are experiencing severe problems especially in the disposal of Turkey's solid waste. The Turkish central government

is working with the municipalities to keep reducing the organic and recyclable content of solid waste by formalizing some of the recycling and recovery activities. These include the replacement of existing trash dumps with sanitary landfills, experimental recovery of waste from landfills for electricity production, and advanced rehabilitation of old waste dump sites.

Only 20% of domestic and 9% of industrial wastewater is treated in Turkey. Many rivers in urban and industrial areas have become highly polluted and require massive rehabilitation. The few existing

treatment plants suffer from major operating and management problems, particularly in the area of biological treatment.

The main opportunities for Northwest companies are in:

**Recycling and Waste** – The treatment of organic waste, research into hydrogen-generation from biomass originating from organic and industrial wastes and waste recycling equipment are all areas likely to offer opportunities in the future. To generate alternative energy, initial steps are under way in waste-to-energy projects at some of

# Workshops give Allenbuild the edge

## Buy Recycled Code offers a way to address sustainability

Through its membership of Envirolink Northwest's Buy Recycled Code, Allenbuild Northwest is receiving free specialist training on how to incorporate recycled content products and Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) into its projects.

Invitation to Tender documents and Pre-Qualification Questionnaires are increasingly likely to require details of applicants' environmental and sustainability credentials. Wigan-based Allenbuild Northwest engaged the Recycling and Waste market development team at Envirolink Northwest to help it begin to address these issues.

"We are continually being asked by our clients about sustainability, but being such a varied topic knowing where to start can be a problem! After seeing an Envirolink Northwest presentation at a Centre for Construction Innovation workshop we realised that membership of the Buy Recycled Code and including recycled content within our projects offered us tangible and measurable ways in which to start to address this diverse agenda," explained Natalie Hill, Business Development Manager for Allenbuild Northwest.

Natalie continued, "We are now interested in the other service areas Envirolink Northwest offers, notably its expertise in energy efficiency and renewable energy technology. Membership of the Code means we have also engaged with WRAP on office recycling and we are going to have workshops from industry experts on SUDS systems."

Envirolink Northwest has partnered with Charcon Hard Landscaping, manufacturer and supplier of market leading hard landscaping products,



Allenbuild's sustainable development at Wavertree

**"We are continually being asked by our clients about sustainability, but being such a varied topic knowing where to start can be a problem!"**

— Natalie Hill  
Business Development  
Manager, Allenbuild  
Northwest

to deliver this series of workshops to Allenbuild Northwest's project staff. The sessions will cover in detail the concept of 10% recycled content by materials value, how to achieve this through contracts and procurement, tools on how to measure recycled content and how to design in SUDS and their long term benefits.

Envirolink Northwest is working with Allenbuild Northwest to identify a suitable scheme on which to trial some of the techniques that will be covered in the workshops on a live project to produce a case study. Allenbuild Northwest is keen to explore the potential for future workshops on the different energy related technologies available to them from a Northwest supply chain.



For further details on how to differentiate your business through membership of the Buy Recycled Code please contact James Griffin: [j.griffin@envirolinknorthwest.co.uk](mailto:j.griffin@envirolinknorthwest.co.uk)

If you are interested in pursuing overseas trade in Turkey and or require support from Delta-Eco please contact Karl Susol, Envirolink Northwest's International Trade Manager, [k.susol@envirolinknorthwest.co.uk](mailto:k.susol@envirolinknorthwest.co.uk)

**Turkey is adopting a new environmental law to initiate the harmonization of its environmental regulations with EU standards. This is creating an environmental infrastructure and technologies market that will ultimately be worth €70.5 billion.**

the landfill sites in Turkey. There are many opportunities for environmental companies actively engaged in consultancy, engineering or the supply of equipment to the hazardous / medical waste treatment sector in Turkey.

#### **Water and Wastewater –**

Development of municipal water/wastewater treatment is taking place more rapidly than the other areas of environmental protection. Some of the smaller towns may not be able to undertake large projects with international players, but there are still cities with 250,000+ populations

without a treatment facility.

As far as the treatment of industrial wastewater is concerned, a small portion of industry fully complies with the rules and regulations on treatment of the wastewater generated at their own facilities. Foreign consultancy or equipment manufacturers may find business in this area.

Envirolink Northwest, in conjunction with UKTI, has established a liaison office with Delta-Eco in Ankara, Turkey, designed to encourage Northwest ETS companies to gain a competitive advantage in the Turkish market.

The Delta-Eco team, working in

collaboration with UKTI, can help Northwest firms with advice, support and guidance within the market place. UKTI also provides financial assistance through the Passport to Export scheme which helps Northwest firms seeking expansion overseas.

# Partnership wins two major awards

**Birse Civils and St Helens Council take the honours**

Buy Recycled Code members Birse Civils, St Helens Council and Envirolink Northwest scooped the top prize in the Green Civil Engineering Project of the Year category at the inaugural Green Construction Awards at the Hurlingham Club, London, for the A58 Blackbrook Diversion (now known as Stanleybank Way) in St Helens. The project received a further accolade when it was awarded Builder and Engineer Magazine's "Public Project of the Year" in October.

**"Winning the Construction News Green Civil Engineering Project of the Year award is a real achievement for us and for our client, St Helens Council"**

— Tony Dixon, Regional Managing Director, Birse Civils



As reported in the spring issue of Envirolink, sustainability and environmental considerations were at the heart of St Helens Council's and Birse Civils' plans for this new £8.5m, 1.5km single carriageway road. Birse Civils worked closely with Envirolink Northwest and the Centre for Construction Innovation North West and Constructing Excellence to develop its environmental and green procurement policies and ensure that sufficient recycled products and materials were used in order to meet government targets. More than 112,000 tonnes of waste material was diverted from landfill, while the use of

recycled content products led to 3,500 fewer deliveries to site, and a saving of £500,000.

Although Birse Civils has won many environmental awards - one of their most recent being the Sustainable Procurement category at the prestigious 2007 Northwest Business Environment Awards - this is the first time that a joint submission including the three partners on the A58 scheme has won a national award.

"Winning the Construction News Green Civil Engineering Project of the Year award is a real achievement for us and for our client, St Helens Council," explains Tony Dixon, Birse Civils' Regional Managing Director.

"From day one, St Helens Council wanted sustainability and environmental best practice to be embedded into this scheme. With Envirolink Northwest's help the finished product exceeded both St Helens Council's expectations and our own. Winning this national award for St Helens Council, Envirolink Northwest and Birse Civils reflects the business and sustainability benefits that can be reaped from our approach to partnership working."

The project was shortlisted for the Chartered Institute of Waste Management Awards, Construction and Demolition: Site Management award.

## Call for mentors!

The first round of the young professional mentoring scheme has now come to a close. 54 professionals took part in the programme, exceeding the original target of 40 participants. The programme successfully provided support to 27 young graduates seeking professional development through mentoring provided by senior professionals. Those mentored have highlighted a number of benefits gained from participation in the scheme including access to unbiased career advice, the opportunity to develop relationships and build contacts within the sector and help with gaining non-technical vocational training such as presentation skills and



time and project management. The programme will be re-launched in spring.

The re-launch of the student mentoring programme will take place in November. We are now looking for professionals with approximately 5 years' experience to mentor an enthusiastic graduate with aspirations to work within the energy and environmental technologies and

services sector. As a mentor you will be required to commit to 3-4 meetings with your mentee between the launch event and the end of March.

Benefits associated with being a mentor include helping to develop the region's work force, sharing your knowledge and experience, providing an opportunity to identify the Northwest's latest graduate talents and developing links with the region's universities.

For more information about the programme please visit [www.sustainabilitymentoringnw.co.uk](http://www.sustainabilitymentoringnw.co.uk) or contact Amy Glover, Project Manager at [aglover@envirolinknorthwest.co.uk](mailto:aglover@envirolinknorthwest.co.uk)

## NWDA chooses Buy Recycled Code members

Birse Civils and Morrison Construction, both Buy Recycled Code members, have been appointed to the Northwest Regional Development Agency's (NWDA) Regeneration and Development Panel.

The NWDA has recently procured a wide range of consultant panels focusing on regeneration and development work. Collectively, these panels offer services relevant to the delivery of construction-related and consultancy services. Birse Civils and Morrison Construction are panel members on Lot 6: Constructor – Civil Engineering/ Constructor – Remediation.

The NWDA followed an OJEU compliant process including judging criteria covering environmental considerations and sustainability. "We put in place a stringent set of criteria covering many elements, including environmental issues, into our evaluation matrix," said Alan Openshaw, NWDA Head of Procurement. "If companies are able to demonstrate how they are committed to or have achieved greater environmental responsibility, this will have differentiated them from their competitors."

Business Development Director for Birse Civils, Eunan Higgins explains, "As a member of Envirolink Northwest's Buy Recycled Code we have been able to demonstrate to clients that we are not just talking the talk but are actually working towards improving our company's overall sustainability."

Although sustainability and the environment featured in the initial procurement process, when choosing and appointing a contractor the client still has the right to set further contract requirements such as '10% recycled content by materials value' in a construction project.

The panels can be accessed on a call off basis by any public sector organisation in the UK and any organisation receiving Grant Aid from the NWDA. Mini tendering exercises can also be undertaken.

For further details on how to differentiate your business through membership of the Buy Recycled Code please contact James Griffin: [j.griffin@envirolinknorthwest.co.uk](mailto:j.griffin@envirolinknorthwest.co.uk). To learn more about the NWDA panels please contact Chris Williams at [chris.williams@nwda.co.uk](mailto:chris.williams@nwda.co.uk).

# Calling all green heroes

## The Northwest Business Environment Awards 2008 needs you

Today's forward-thinking businesses know all about the importance of looking after the planet. They appreciate that good environmental management can help boost their profit margins and their reputation.

Now the region's most prestigious business event to reward outstanding environmental practice is searching for green heroes to enter the Northwest Business Environment Awards 2008.

Submissions are being sought from large and small-scale companies which are placing the environment at the heart of their business' success. The award categories for 2008 are Best Environmental Practice, Built Environment, Sustainable Procurement, Environmental Innovation and Environmental Champions.

The Northwest Business Environment Awards are a great way to let customers and staff hear about your hard work. Winning an award can help raise your profile and boost your reputation, as well as gaining recognition from the high-profile media and marketing campaign.

Previous finalists have all cited the awards as a great opportunity to demonstrate their green credentials. Last year's winner in the Best Practice Award, Kellogg's, said the event had enabled them to, "display to the outside world that we're an



Are you a green hero?

increasingly green company." Built environment winner, Walker Simpson Architects said, "This recognition will help to show how original and modern architecture is being pioneered in Manchester and the Northwest of Europe."

The awards will take place in March 2008 and are hosted by the Mersey Basin Campaign and the Northwest Regional Development Agency. The awards are supported by ENWORKS, the Royal Institute of British Architects, Envirolink Northwest, Groundwork Northwest, Environment Agency, Environment Connect, Envirowise, Buy Recycled, CBI Northwest, the Institute of Directors, MIDAS and the Institute of Civil Engineers.

To be in with a chance of winning an award and being crowned a green hero for 2008, businesses need to submit their winning entries before 3rd March 2008. Entry forms and advice on how to write a winning entry or book a place at the awards can be found at [www.merseybasin.org.uk](http://www.merseybasin.org.uk). Companies can also call the awards advice hotline run by Environment Connect on freephone 0800 032 0222.

# Glowing relationship for Solar

## Planet Solar joins forces with the University of Bolton



Photovoltaic cells

Preston-based Planet Solar, one of the region's leading solar PV providers, has joined forces with the leading PV research and development department of the University of Bolton, thanks to an introduction by Envirolink Northwest.

The solar cell market is currently dominated by silicon-based solar cell panels, which are expensive and have a lengthy payback period. The collaboration is as a result of research undertaken by Professor Shao's team at the Centre for Materials Innovation at the University of Bolton which, using computer assisted materials design, has investigated novel solar cell structures which do not use silicon. Initial research suggests this is likely to make use of most parts of the solar spectrum for photovoltaic energy conversion, using materials that are environmentally friendly, durable and abundant in resources.

Professor Shao from the University of Bolton commented,

"The collaboration is a very exciting opportunity which will place the Northwest at the forefront of PV development. The advice and support which we have received from within the region particularly that offered by the Joule Centre, the Northwest Regional Development Agency, and of course Envirolink Northwest has been exceptional."

Mark Dickinson, Managing Director of Planet Solar added, "This project sees a partnership combining academic expertise with the world of business. We look forward to working with Professor Shao's team on the commercialisation of this technology, particularly as PV is becoming increasingly recognised as a solution for both consumer and business users wishing to reduce their energy costs.

For further information please contact Mark Dickinson on 0800 011 2006 or visit [www.planetsolar.co.uk](http://www.planetsolar.co.uk)

## Hot off the press!

Envirolink Northwest's Recycling and Waste team's research and development arm has published two reports, the first on **Needs for an Organic Waste Research and Development Centre Executive Summary**, which provides details of a report undertaken by ADAS UK Ltd, on behalf of Envirolink Northwest, to establish the market need for a facility in the Northwest. The second is the **Executive Summary of The Waste Technology Road Mapping study** carried out by C-Tech Innovation on behalf of Envirolink Northwest which identifies priority areas for research and technology development shared by the waste sector across the region over the next five years.

The market development department has also been busy, producing **Smart Planning: Guidance on how to develop and establish supplementary planning documents for sustainable building, construction and waste management** which should prove invaluable to all planning officers.

Finally, the 5th edition of the **Wind Energy Supply Chain Directory** is now available. Containing 162 companies, the directory provides a complete guide to the supply chain available to the sector in the Northwest.

These publications are all available as PDF downloads at [www.envirolinknorthwest.co.uk](http://www.envirolinknorthwest.co.uk). Printed versions are available on request.

The latest edition of the **Recycling and Waste Supply Chain Directory** will be available shortly. The teams have now started work on the next editions of the **Energy Efficiency; Water and Wastewater and Land Remediation Supply Chain Directories**. Any company wanting to be included should contact Envirolink Northwest on 01925 813200.

# Whirlwind harnessed to clean pipes

Greater Manchester company creates revolutionary system

Whirlwind Technologies Limited, a Greater Manchester based company, has developed a revolutionary system for clearing and cleaning pipes in the most environmentally friendly way possible. The brainchild of Keith Roscoe, a seasoned mechanical engineer who started his career in the aerospace industry, the new system has been born from his applied knowledge and experience in that industry.

The Whirlwind system is ideal for use in any industrial environment involved in batch processing, such as the food and beverage and toiletries and cosmetics sectors. The system uses blown air in a very controlled way to clear the product from the pipe, without blowing a hole through it.

The product is pushed through to the filling tanks and is then used in the normal way. After clearing, the cleaning system is introduced, where a tiny amount of water is injected into the system as droplets, which are carried in the vortex, or 'whirlwind', to carry out a physical clean of the inner surfaces of the pipe. Crucially, the system is also able to clean pumps, valves, filters and heat exchangers.

**The Whirlwind system is ideal for use in any industrial environment involved in batch processing, such as the food and beverage and toiletries and cosmetics sectors.**



Pipe clearing unit and a lean phase cleaning unit

Not only is the product saved – up to 99 % of which would otherwise go to drain – but also there is a huge reduction in the water used to clean the pipes via conventional methods, and no chemicals are needed. As a direct consequence, the effluent produced is reduced dramatically, typically by 99 %. Unlike conventional methods, there is no need to either heat up water and pump it round the system for typically two hours or more, or indeed to convert it to steam, so consequently there are also energy savings. The financial benefits can be substantial such that capital payback can be achieved quickly.

Envirolink Northwest has worked with Whirlwind to help develop business leads in their key target markets. This included researching extensive contacts for potential customers in the chemicals and food and drink sectors and providing a

platform to discuss the technology at the Envirolink Northwest Industrial Water Management Conference, in September 2006.

In September 2007 Whirlwind exhibited with Envirolink Northwest at the European Water and Wastewater Management Conference in Newcastle, and more recently attended the Industrial Water Management Workshop in Runcorn.

Whirlwind has already established a joint venture with Yorkshire Water and its partners to clean potable water pipes which have become furred and silted up over time, and is now targeting the mainland European market with a joint venture in Germany.

For further information please contact Ray Richardson, Commercial Director of Whirlwind Technologies Ltd – 07876 441330, or [ray.richardson@whirltech.co.uk](mailto:ray.richardson@whirltech.co.uk).

# Reduce the cost of water treatment

UK manufacturers spend up to 7.9 % of turnover on buying water and disposing of wastewater

Envirowise, the Environment Agency and Envirolink Northwest organised a Wastewater Treatment and Effluent Re-use Workshop, in Runcorn in October 2007. This attracted over 80 delegates including more than 30 companies from food and drink, chemicals, petrochemicals, pharmaceuticals and pulp and paper manufacturing sectors.

The workshop, which is the first in a series on industrial water management, covered novel technologies for treating industrial effluent to standards required by current legislation and recovering

material / product from wastewater streams as well as tips and low cost options for achieving water savings.

Stanislav Zizka, Envirolink Northwest's Business Development Manager, commented, "According to 'The IWEX Report – A Study of Water Management in UK Business' (2005), UK manufacturers are typically spending 4.43 % of turnover on buying water and disposing of wastewater/ effluent, and this figure rises to 7.9 % for certain sectors such as the food and brewing industry. DEFRA's 2005 environmental protection expenditure survey found industry spending of

£1.34 billion on water management, which illustrates just what an impact the cost of water treatment and effluent disposal can have on the competitiveness of a business."

He continued, "The excellent response generated by this workshop shows the significance of water management issues at industrial sites and demonstrates there is a real interest in new technology developments and treatment solutions. Many delegates have already indicated that they will be taking action at their own site or will be contacting Envirowise for further

assistance." Presentations were provided by CAP Technology, Colin Woods Associates, the Environment Agency, Industrial Purification Systems, Organica and Envirowise. Future workshop topics will include water efficiency in Cumbria and membrane technologies.

To find out details of the next Industrial Water Management Workshop scheduled for 27th February 2008 please visit [www.envirolinknorthwest.co.uk](http://www.envirolinknorthwest.co.uk) or contact Stanislav Zizka, [s.zizka@envirolinknorthwest.co.uk](mailto:s.zizka@envirolinknorthwest.co.uk).

# Make use of UKTI

# UKTI



Karl Susol

## Together Envirolink Northwest and UKTI help Northwest energy and environmental businesses to realise their international business potential through knowledge transfer and on-going partnership support

by Karl Susol, International Trade Manager

The Northwest's environmental technologies and services sector consists of at least 1,500 companies which employ more than 53,000 people and have a combined annual turnover of £2.8 billion, of which £320m is in exports. (Source: NWDA)

The market for environmental technologies and services is one of the fastest growing in the world and growth is forecast for most sub-sectors. Over 60% of ETS companies already trade internationally, over half of these have overseas sales of 10% or less of their total sales, much of which has been responsive.

As the International Trade Manager seconded from UK Trade and Investment (UKTI), my role at

Envirolink Northwest is to help ETS companies in the Northwest look at export in a more active rather than reactive way and as a viable means to increase turnover. UKTI is the government organisation that helps UK-based companies succeed in an increasingly global economy (and has been described 'as the best kept secret in the former DTI' now known as Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform) with staff and advisers throughout the country and overseas in UK embassies, high commissions, consulates and trade offices.

UKTI has a range of expert services which are tailored to the needs of individual businesses to maximise their international success. It provides

companies with knowledge, advice and practical support.

Together Envirolink Northwest and UKTI help Northwest energy and environmental businesses to realise their international business potential through knowledge transfer, and on-going partnership support.

My aim is to 'enhance the competitiveness of companies in the UK through overseas trade and investment' i.e. help you to trade overseas!

I am here to help regardless of whether you're new or experienced in the export environment. Please contact me regarding any sort of query relating to overseas ETS business opportunities or international environmental events.

## Sustainable Cities Initiative Wuhan delegates visit the Northwest



Envirolink Northwest, in association with UKTI, hosted a senior delegation from Wuhan, China, which visited the region to research opportunities which will help Wuhan develop its plan to build a sustainable city and will secure business for Northwest environmental companies.

The knowledge-sharing visit was organised by UK Trade & Investment (UKTI), which is working with Envirolink Northwest to promote the region's growing capabilities in environmentally sustainable technology. Karl Susol, International Trade Manager, Envirolink Northwest commented, "During the tour, delegates viewed at first hand the expertise and technical innovation which is building the region's reputation as a world leader in environmental technology."

The VIP delegation from Wuhan visited United Utilities' innovative Enzymic Hydrolysis Plant near Preston, which included a demonstration of high rate enzyme hydrolysis, the safest and most environmentally friendly way to treat sewage sludge for agricultural recycling.

Steve Whipp, Standards and Innovation Manager at United Utilities commented, "The visit by the Wuhan delegation was extremely valuable as a technical exchange. The information flowed both ways and I would be confident that the technologies we demonstrated that United Utilities has developed have a strong potential application in China."

The delegation also visited the science-based environmental consultancy APEM Ltd.

## Water opportunities in developing nations

1.1 billion people are still without access to safe drinking water and 2.4 billion are living without adequate sanitation. Significant progress is required for the world to meet Millennium Development Goals that include halving the number of people without access to drinking water and adequate sanitation.

A key to meeting these goals will be the successful application of appropriate technologies and the transfer of new innovations and expert knowledge. Much of this expertise exists within the UK water and wastewater industry, universities and research organisations.

Acknowledging the potential business available to the sector, Envirolink Northwest, in partnership with the Institute for SWIMMER and UKTI, held an event on 7th November 2007 at the Radisson SAS Hotel, Liverpool. This enabled water and wastewater technology and service providers, water industry professionals and researchers to gain a better understanding of the scale and nature of the requirements and the potential business opportunities in aid-related markets. The programme covered a workshop session on Technologies and Services for Short-Term Projects and Disaster Relief which included representatives from UNICEF,



UNHCR and WaterAid. A second session covered Technologies and Services for Long-Term Infrastructure Development, with representatives from WaterAid, the World Bank, Asian Development Bank and EuropeAid.

Following the afternoon's activities delegates joined a broader group of water industry professionals at a CIWEM event exploring the development and application of appropriate technologies for water supply and sanitation in developing nations. Sponsored by Envirolink

Northwest and Liverpool University's SWIMMER Centre, the programme included a presentation from ARUP on Progress towards Millennium Development Goals; Liverpool University on Managing water pollution in Ghana; Mono-Pumps on Applying appropriate technologies; and Clearwater on Developing filtration technology for application in developing nations.

Attendance was free although delegates were invited to make a contribution to WaterAid.

### UKTI information

For information on UKTI projects, presentations or if you are a Northwest company interested in pursuing opportunities in developing nations please contact [k.susol@envirolinknorthwest.co.uk](mailto:k.susol@envirolinknorthwest.co.uk).

# Recycling blooms at the Southport Flower Show

## Centriforce and WRS Composting aiming for local customer base

With over 300 traders, exhibitors and societies plus in excess of 100,000 visitors, the four-day annual floral event, held at Southport's Victoria Park is the largest independent flower show in the country.

This summer, for the first time, Envirolink Northwest hosted local plastic reprocessor Centriforce Products Ltd and compost producer WRS Composting Ltd at the Southport Flower Show.

An array of recycled landscape products were on display including compost, blended topsoil, garden furniture, planters, decking samples and a new recycled plastic home composting unit.

**“A local customer base is a key area of market development for recycled products, particularly bulky products such as composts and topsoil that are expensive to distribute long distances.”**

— Helen Rawlinson,  
Market Development Manager,  
Envirolink Northwest

Centriforce Products Ltd, leading plastic reproducers based in Liverpool, was keen to demonstrate that local plastic recycling collections were leading to the reprocessing and manufacture of quality plastic profiles which in turn are being used by fabricators to produce a wide range of landscape products. Examples include timber-like decking and fencing that requires no annual treatment, is highly durable and costs less over its life span than wood.

Barry Keeling, UK Sales Manager for Centriforce Products Ltd said, “Meeting the Southport MP at the show led to some constructive discussions at local authority level. It is important that we take a closed loop approach to recycling, investigating the potential for recycled products to be used in the districts where the plastics are initially collected.”

Barry added, “We also received some good feedback on our prototype home composting unit, and this will certainly assist us as we start to launch it. We are confident that our commercial customer will achieve additional furniture sales as a direct result of the exhibition.”

The show provided an opportunity for WRS Composting Ltd to promote



its products to local horticultural and landscape businesses together with amateur gardening enthusiasts; resulting in over 20 new customers.

As Helen Rawlinson, Market Development Manager at Envirolink Northwest explained, “A local customer base is a key area of market development for recycled products, particularly bulky products such

as composts and topsoil that are expensive to distribute over long distances.”

Helen added, “Overall we found that visitors to the stand were keen to find out that their plastic and green waste recycling efforts were supporting local business and resulting in high quality products – a clear demonstration of the benefits of recycling.”

# Recycling and waste competitions

**Envirolink Northwest's Recycling and Waste team is inviting entries from companies for four competitions designed to stimulate the sector and inspire innovation. Funding will commence from April 2008.**

## Research and Development in Waste Technology

Envirolink Northwest is offering financial assistance to companies located in England's Northwest to carry out research and development in waste technology. If you have an idea you want to explore or a waste technology you want to develop, then this is your chance to apply. The grant covers 50% of the total cost of the project up to a maximum of £10,000 and the other 50% must be covered by you and your partners, either in cash or in kind.

Contact Hifzi Naji: [h.naji@envirolinknorthwest.co.uk](mailto:h.naji@envirolinknorthwest.co.uk)

## Technology Commercialisation

Businesses involved in the commercialisation of technology can apply for either a capital or revenue grant to help towards the cost of the process. The capital grant is available to help fund the demonstration of novel waste technologies in the region. The demonstration can be based on a novel technology; a new application or an improvement to a known technology; a technology originating

abroad which has yet to be proven or technologies not currently being used in the Northwest, originating from within the UK. Envirolink Northwest will fund 50% of the equipment cost to a maximum value of £10,000.

The revenue grant offers free technical and business support for businesses demonstrating a new waste technology in the Northwest. The free services available include site design, technology appraisal, market research and business plan development.

Contact Lee Allman: [l.allman@envirolinknorthwest.co.uk](mailto:l.allman@envirolinknorthwest.co.uk)

## Sector Development Competition

If you are starting or expanding a recycling and waste collection, treatment or reprocessing operation then you may be eligible to apply for a range of free services provided by Envirolink Northwest. These include advice on site design, technology appraisal, planning and licensing, business planning, market research, marketing strategies, quality standards and collection design. There is no restriction on the size of business

eligible to apply, but the funding is limited.

Contact Lynsey Jeffers: [l.jeffers@envirolinknorthwest.co.uk](mailto:l.jeffers@envirolinknorthwest.co.uk)

## Market Development Competitions

The Market Development team has launched two free technical and business support competitions. There is no size restriction on the businesses which can apply, however funding is limited for both competitions.

## Recycled Product Manufacturers

The first competition is for companies involved in the development of recycled products in the Northwest. The competition is designed to encourage sustainable, high value and practical uses for recycled materials produced in the region. Applications should seek to expand or develop new markets for glass, plastics, paper, card, wood or aggregates, although other materials will also be considered. Successful applicants will receive assistance from technical consultants on product and process design, product standards and testing, feasibility studies, business

planning, technology appraisals, market appraisals and drafting funding applications.

Contact David Taylor: [d.taylor@envirolinknorthwest.co.uk](mailto:d.taylor@envirolinknorthwest.co.uk)

## Compost Trials

The second competition is for companies interested in trialling quality compost in landscaping, horticulture, agriculture or sports turf applications. Applications should seek to expand or develop new markets for compost produced in the Northwest region. Successful applicants will receive assistance in designing and monitoring a suitable trial or demonstration project. Help towards the cost of purchasing locally produced compost and arranging soil laboratory tests for the trial is included.

Contact Helen Rawlinson: [h.rawlinson@envirolinknorthwest.co.uk](mailto:h.rawlinson@envirolinknorthwest.co.uk)

For general information please visit [www.envirolinknorthwest.co.uk](http://www.envirolinknorthwest.co.uk)

# Sustainable building

## Moylan Homes and Time & Tide Properties

Private developers Moylan Homes and Time & Tide Properties are making the most of their Buy Recycled Code membership by utilising Envirolink Northwest's services to deliver sustainable buildings.

Stockport-based Moylan Homes, the first house builder to sign up to Envirolink Northwest's Buy Recycled Code, has already stated in planning applications that the company intends to maximise its use of recycled content whilst minimising the carbon footprint of its latest building development in Manchester, both during and after construction, and comply with stringent Code for Sustainable Homes standards, which are not yet mandatory.

Together with its construction arm Longlane Construction, Moylan Homes is keen to pursue many elements of sustainable construction including renewable energy, energy efficiency and sustainable transport options.

Envirolink Northwest's Market Development team has set a target of 10% recycled content by materials value on the project and the Energy team is advising on suitable technologies that can be incorporated into the build to minimise energy use and even generate onsite renewable energy. The team has also secured the services of a Carbon Trust consultant to highlight ways of improving energy efficiency within the building's structure. Envirolink Northwest's Integrated Land and Water team is investigating the possibility of including rain or grey water harvesting technologies.

**"We are a sustainable company and are offering buildings that have a minimal or even positive impact on the local environment"**

— Martin Moylan,  
Managing Director of  
Moylan Homes

"We want to achieve two main aims. Our developments will offer the quality design and finish you would expect from a company twice awarded the title Manchester House Builder of the Year, but also of increasing importance, we want to demonstrate that we are a sustainable company and are offering buildings that have a minimal or even positive impact on the local environment," said Martin Moylan, Managing Director of Moylan Homes. "We already know how to achieve our first goal, and by working with Envirolink Northwest and our



100% recycled content bricks

membership of the Buy Recycled Code, we are well on the way to demonstrating we can achieve our second objective to our customers and the planners."

In Halton, Lancaster, "The Green" development, a new business incubator development, by Buy Recycled Code member Time & Tide Properties will provide a new opportunity for businesses wanting to improve their environmental performance. Planning permission was only granted by Lancaster City Council on the grounds that the building was of a high environmental standard during construction and after the building was completed.

Promoting sustainable local economic growth, the new development will meet the Building Research Establishment's Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM) 'Very Good' standard. Time & Tide Properties has committed to spending at least 10% of the materials budget on recycled content products and source as much locally as possible. The design has employed water saving systems and will have a rainwater harvesting unit projected to supply over 30% of the building's water needs. Much of the building's heating requirements will be met by a solar powered water heating installation.

The building's 'green roof' will drastically reduce its energy demand for heating and cooling - actively keeping the building cool in summer and warm in winter. These measures, coupled with air source heat pumps, high standards of insulation and the use of passive solar gain, will ensure that the building will require no conventional air conditioning equipment.

**Time & Tide Properties has committed to spending at least 10% of the materials budget on recycled content products and source as much locally as possible. The design has employed water saving systems and will have a rainwater harvesting unit projected to supply over 30% of the building's water needs.**

Time & Tide's environmental planning goes beyond construction. Travel plan measures such as the use of car hire company Whiz Go and on-site showers for cyclists will help businesses reduce their carbon footprint.

"Envirolink Northwest is helping us to ensure that the conditions of planning approval are met and demonstrate to our stakeholders that we are delivering on our Sustainability Policy goals," states Time & Tide Managing Director John Asplin. "Not only are we committed to delivering a building of excellent environmental credentials, this development provides the opportunity for small start-up businesses in the Lancaster area to rent affordable office space, even on short term leases, without compromising their own business ethics or policies on the environment".

## Events for your diary Dec 2007— Mar 2008

### PAVE – Waste Management and Recycling

4-5 December  
Euro Info Centre, Berlin, Germany

### The Composting Association - Biowastes and the Carbon Economy Annual Conference and Exhibition

5-6 December  
International Centre, Telford

### Envirolink Northwest / CIWEM – Catchment Management – theory and practice

5 December  
Lancaster Environment Centre, Lancaster

### EISU Seminar Mission to Taiwan (Contaminated Land)

13-18 January 2008

### UKTI Water Sector Trade Mission to Saudi Arabia

1-7 February 2008

### Envirolink Northwest / Environment Agency / Envirowise – Water Efficiency in Cumbria

27th February, Penrith

### Envirolink Northwest - Soils in the Developed Landscape Event and Exhibition

10-11 March 2008  
Aintree Racecourse, Liverpool

### easyFairs Industrial Environment

11-12 March 2008  
NEC Birmingham

For full details of these and other events visit:

[www.envirolinknorthwest.co.uk](http://www.envirolinknorthwest.co.uk)

## New numbers for Sovereign Star

The summer issue of Envirolink included an article on Sovereign Star Finance. The company runs a programme to give UK exporters the ability to meet ad hoc demands from customers, normally in emerging markets, for a medium term finance option, in collaboration with the UK's official export credit agency, Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD), which underwrites the scheme.

Since publication Sovereign Star Finance has introduced two new contact numbers:

Birmingham office - 0845 417 8434  
London office - 0207 581 4925

# Waste Initiatives Network

**The Waste Initiatives Network (WIN) was launched by Envirolink Northwest to assist skip hire companies and those who operate transfer stations.**

The WIN is an active resource which provides information on the industry, legal updates and topical guidance on current and future trends.

The network encourages recycling and diversion from landfill by offering practical advice on quality protocols for recycled material and the technology available to assist with this. It can champion the success of your business through promotional case studies and can advertise its services through its supply chain directory and website. The team is currently offering to cover the cost of consultancy fees for a business plan or feasibility study for those with new ideas/diversification plans.

Envirolink Northwest's Recycling and Waste sector development team is responsible for the facilitation of the network, however it is directed by its members. Skip hire companies and transfer stations are a significant link between the general public and large demolition/construction companies and have the potential to take an active role in improving the flow of waste materials away from landfill. There appears to be a gap in



government assistance offered to this type of business as skip hire and transfer station operators tend to be smaller businesses dealing with complex waste streams. WIN hopes to fill this gap and recognises that these businesses are integral to waste management issues and despite being smaller they deal with large volumes of complex waste. The diversity of the materials which flow through such businesses is vast and notoriously challenging, since some materials are valuable and others are not and separating them is difficult.

It is, however, possible to make a profit given the right connections and

relevant technology. WIN can facilitate connections with grant search bodies and potentially assist with funding searches and the writing of tenders. The network disseminates information on up and coming business opportunities and offers links with businesses which promote these connections such as the BRE Smart Waste Tool.

Two workshops have already been held to promote opportunities in the construction sector through Site Waste Management Plans (SWMP) - offering advice from government bodies and construction companies on improving the service provision in line with the SWMP requirement due in April 2008. Subsequent events in October promoted materials recycling, focusing on soils, compost and wood amongst others and the quality

protocols which enable a company to identify where a waste can become a product. All the workshops have featured key speakers from the industry and key organisations which potentially offer support to the industry. The events are about educating the industry on better operation and sourcing the support which is available to them such as the WRAP Equip scheme and Envirowise resource efficiency advisory visits.

WIN is directed by the needs of the sector and seeks to encourage the industry to discuss the barriers hindering business as well as sharing the successes. It will demonstrate best practice and promote those who actively recycle whilst supporting those who need more direction by identifying opportunities.

To join the network, suggest an event, promote a technology and develop case studies which may generate best practice and attract further funding contact Ruth Burgin: [r.burgin@envirolinknorthwest.co.uk](mailto:r.burgin@envirolinknorthwest.co.uk)

## Company Profile Highwood

**Highwood's synthetic wood products are used in many internal and external installations on domestic, commercial and industrial premises.**



Highwood's synthetic wood

When Highwood decided to expand its operations in the Northwest of England, Envirolink Northwest was approached to provide assistance on site selection, sourcing raw materials including waste polystyrene, finding strategic partners and the formation of a network of local contacts.

Highwood turns waste polystyrene into synthetic timber profiles with properties similar or superior to natural wood. The polystyrene can come from sources which are often costly to dispose of, such as CD cases, cake trays, coat hangers, fish boxes and post consumer packaging. Highwood has carried out many years of research and development on manufacturing processes and

end-uses for its profiles and has developed a range of synthetic wood products, which can be cut, drilled, sawn, screwed and nailed - just like real wood - and may be glued and welded for additional strength.

Highwood's synthetic wood products are used in many internal and external installations on domestic, commercial and industrial premises, from outdoor applications including fencing, decking, sheds and gates to shop fittings for the major retailers and cladding on luxury hot tub spas where outstanding performance and natural appearance are essential.

Envirolink Northwest's Recycling and Waste team provided Highwood with a short-list of potential sites - from

which Highwood selected to remain in Warrington - and advice on planning requirements for the area. Highwood has been introduced to new business contacts via networking meetings including a Northwest company whose waste streams contain large amounts of polystyrene. A partnership is being developed to manage the polystyrene-containing waste, and to generate a valuable raw material source for Highwood.

In excess of 30 new jobs will be created with the expansion of Highwood's operations into the Northwest whilst six jobs have been safeguarded. Polystyrene waste is being diverted from landfill and turned into a useful product and use of the

synthetic wood is preventing the felling of a substantial number of trees.

Keith Parrott, Managing Director of Highwood Consultants Ltd commented, "Envirolink Northwest's Recycling and Waste team has been incredibly helpful throughout the process of establishing ourselves in the Northwest. This help has come in many forms from providing assistance in identifying suitable sites to view for our new operation and advising us of potential suppliers of waste material to directing product customers to us with interesting enquiries."

[www.highwood.uk.com](http://www.highwood.uk.com)

# Comment

## Centre for Construction Innovation, Operations Director, Professor Andrew Thomas explains why public sector procurement in the region is putting the spotlight on sustainable construction

UK Government has devoted much attention to environmental issues over the past year and this is helping to formulate current and future governmental policy for sustainable construction. Much of this is being passed down to the UK Parliament through EC Directives, but the universal clamour over global warming and resource issues means that the time for radical action cannot be far away.

The construction industry in the UK uses over 420 million tonnes of natural resources each year and the energy used in constructing, occupying and operating buildings, represents approximately 50% of 'greenhouse gas' emissions in the UK each year. Obviously the Government sees the construction industry as an 'easy' target to help achieve their sustainable development goals and, as the "Draft Strategy for Sustainable Construction" (a Government consultation paper released in July 2007) declared, "We have to change the way we build".

Whilst central government dictates what we can and cannot do through legislation and taxes, it is government policy on public sector spending that will have a major impact on the construction industry: the public sector procures about 40% of non-domestic construction in the UK and the government will use this to influence the drive for sustainable construction. This is already being seen in the Northwest where public sector clients are procuring construction projects based on whole life value, placing confidence in the construction industry to be innovative in the delivery of sustainable development solutions.

The Northwest Regional Development Agency (NWRDA), the Government-sponsored public body that leads the economic development and regeneration of England's Northwest, is already leading the way with its commitment to delivering sustainable construction projects which address the 'triple bottom line' of sustainability. This is at the very heart of their Sustainable Buildings Policy that has now been approved for new build and refurbishment projects funded through themselves. Given that it is estimated that the NWRDA influences £1 billion of construction spend per annum, both directly and indirectly through other public sector organisations, then we can start to see how the construction industry is being forced to change the way we build and to do it very quickly.

Many in the industry see sustainable construction as a threat – it will cost more, take longer to achieve and introduces new risks in working in unfamiliar ways. Others, myself included, look at sustainable



**It is government policy on public sector spending that will have a major impact on the construction industry: the public sector procures about 40% of non-domestic construction in the UK and the government will use this to influence the drive for sustainable construction.**

— Professor Andrew Thomas

construction as a huge opportunity for the industry to move forward and help the public sector to meet its goals.

Already CCI is seeing how forward thinking public authorities, such as St Helens Council, are embracing the sustainability agenda and working with partners such as Envirolink Northwest and ourselves to create

sustainable projects – projects that are both environmentally and socially sustainable. It goes without saying that authorities like St Helens are looking to work with like minded contractors and it is these innovative contractors who are winning more work through meeting their clients' expectations and working in partnership to help them drive their

sustainability goals. The impressive A58 Blackbrook Diversion scheme is an ideal example of a partnership between St Helens Council and contractor Birse Civils that has recently been awarded Green Civil Engineering Project of the Year at the Green Construction Awards 2007.

This project set out from day one to enhance the local environment and, with input from Envirolink Northwest and CCI, it has been able to hit such giddy heights as using 89% of recycled elements within the finished product and a level of local employment of 71%.

Given the current level of public sector spending in the Northwest there are huge prospects for companies who embrace sustainable construction and work with partners to reduce waste, increase the amount of resources that are recycled, minimise carbon emissions, create sustainable communities, etc. The Northwest is at the forefront of this and organisations such as Envirolink Northwest and CCI are here to help the industry to help itself and ensure that the construction industry in the region is environmentally and socially sustainable.

At the North West Construction Awards 2007, the most hotly contested category was that of sustainability. Whilst the judges were impressed by the technical solutions to deliver sustainability, what was clear was that these projects were expressions, not only of technical expertise, but commitment from clients and their delivery teams to work together to deliver sustainability as something more than a 'bolt-on'. Sustainability issues were at the heart of these projects from their inception; with teams working together to make their aspirations a reality and so deliver not only great projects, but something that considers the needs of future generations.

**"Given the current level of public sector spending in the Northwest there are huge prospects for companies who embrace sustainable construction"**



Winsford Household Waste Recycling Centre under construction



# Inside track

## Nick Storer Chief Executive, Envirolink Northwest

We've been spending time over the last few months reviewing our strategy for support of the environmental technologies and services (ETS) sector here in England's Northwest. This work is leading to the development of a strategy for the next decade, and a specific action plan for the next three years, for our work in supporting your

sector, which we hope will be funded by the Northwest Regional Development Agency.

One important development arising from our strategy review has been the realisation that we need to strengthen our support of the ETS sector in the Northwest through gathering and disseminating market intelligence. This includes information regarding market demand for innovation, business opportunities (regional, national and international) and market growth, in particular in international markets. Our new strategy and action plan will reflect these needs through the development of new and improved services to businesses in the region's ETS sector.

Joe Dwek retires from the position

of Chairman of our board of directors in December this year. Joe has played an active role in supporting the development of Envirolink Northwest over the past three years, in particular restructuring and strengthening our board membership and championing our cause at a regional and national level. I want to thank Joe, on behalf of the board and staff of Envirolink Northwest, for all his support.

I am delighted to announce that Mr Peter Jones, External Relations Director of Biffa Waste Services, will be joining our board of directors as Chairman, taking over from Joe, in December. Many of you will know, or know of, Peter; he is a tireless advocate for Biffa, the waste management

industry in general and environmental protection. Peter has close links with the Northwest, particularly with his current work for Biffa in the region. Peter contributes to national policy making in the environmental area through his work with DEFRA's New Technologies Working Group and Waste Data Advisory Panel, BERR's Environmental Innovation Advisory Group and the Government's Sustainable Consumption and Production Task Force. He also contributes to the innovation agenda for the sector through his role as Chair of the Resource Efficiency Knowledge Transfer Network. He is an ambassador for both the WWF and Global Action Plan and a trustee of Waste Watch.

## Team Updates

### Recycling and Waste

The Recycling and Waste team has continued to provide a high quality support service to the region's recycling and waste sector. Since the project began 547 companies have been assisted, 137 of these are new businesses which have been assisted in this quarter alone. The team has also managed to divert 493,000 tonnes of waste from landfill and safeguarded 149 jobs.

An R&D Active Network Portal has been launched by the research and development team which aims to aid collaboration between business and universities and act as a conduit to exchange useful information. To register for the portal please visit [www.envirolinknorthwest.co.uk](http://www.envirolinknorthwest.co.uk).

The technology commercialisation team organised the highly acclaimed 'New Municipal Waste Technology' event in July which showcased some of the region's leading suppliers of waste and recycling technology.

The sector development team launched the WIN (Waste Initiatives Network) in September. The network is designed to share best practice, encourage recycling and support

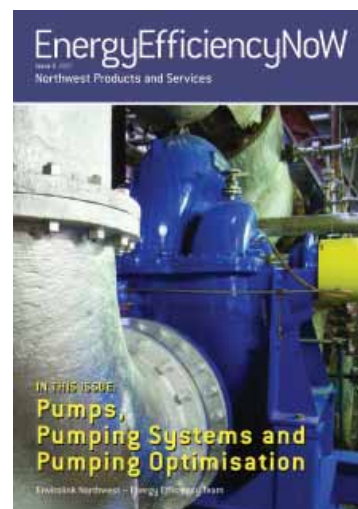
business growth. The 'Have you got the bottle?' campaign to encourage pubs and clubs to recycle their glass has also been extended to cover over 7000 licensed premises, throughout the region, with 13 glass collectors offering their services.

A study of Northwest manufacturers of construction and packaging products has been commissioned by the market development team, to research opportunities for or barriers to the inclusion of recycled content. This will be completed in early December 2007. The Buy Recycled Code has now attracted 141 members in the Northwest region.

### Energy

The last few months have been a busy time for the Energy team. We exhibited at BWEA 29 in Glasgow, taking five Northwest companies, and at Energy Solutions Expo in London, where we shared the stand with ten key Northwest suppliers. Both exhibitions generated great interest for the attending companies.

The Energy team, in conjunction with Renewables East and the BWEA, has commissioned a report on the second round of offshore wind turbines. Envirolink Northwest has sponsored



a report by the BWEA called 'Moving up a gear', which provides an update on the 2006 'Wind at a crossroads' report. The report includes responses from developers and the supply chain, the opportunities and threats to the UK wind sector.

The fifth edition of Energy Efficiency NoW was published in October focusing on pumps and pumping systems.

### Integrated Land and Water

The team held a joint event with CL:AIRE and the IPM-Net on Solutions for Problem Contaminants in the Northwest Land Remediation Sector. This was well received and generated further areas of interest which were expanded upon during the launch of the Northwest Land Remediation Network in October. A number of events have been held covering issues relating to the water sector including a joint event held with Sheffield University covered Mapping Underground Assets, which provided a review of the key research projects and technologies for assessing the condition of utility underground infrastructure and its failure potential.

A Wastewater Treatment and Effluent Re-use event, was held at The Heath, Runcorn in partnership with Envirowise and the Environment Agency. Work has begun on the next editions of the Water and Wastewater Supply Chain Directory and the Land Remediation Supply Chain Directory. Please let us know if you wish to be listed in either directory. Inclusion in the directories is free and your company will benefit from regional, national and international exposure.

**Envirolink Northwest**  
Spencer House,  
91 Dewhurst Road,  
Birchwood, Warrington  
WA3 7PG

Tel: **01925 813200**  
Fax: **01925 819031**

**info@envirolinknorthwest.co.uk**  
**www.envirolinknorthwest.co.uk**

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Supported by



### Contacts:

**Nick Storer** Chief Executive

#### Energy Team

**Ian Sibbick** Head of Energy  
[i.sibbick@envirolinknorthwest.co.uk](mailto:i.sibbick@envirolinknorthwest.co.uk)

#### Integrated Land and Water Team

**Pia Wagner** Head of Integrated Land and Water  
[p.wagner@envirolinknorthwest.co.uk](mailto:p.wagner@envirolinknorthwest.co.uk)

#### Recycling and Waste Team

**Dr Martin Andrews** Head of Recycling and Waste  
[m.andrews@envirolinknorthwest.co.uk](mailto:m.andrews@envirolinknorthwest.co.uk)