



# Shetland Islands Council

## Environmental & Resource Management Unit Newsletter

Date: 00.01.09

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### Christmas Card Recycling

For the third year running, S.I.C. Environment and Resource Management Unit is organising the Woodland Trusts Christmas Card Collection in Shetland. The S.I.C. works in partnership with the Post Offices in Shetland and this year we will also be working with Tesco, which is supporting the scheme nationally.

In the last two years, over 7 tonnes of cards have been collected from across Shetland.

For those who want to take part, please take your Christmas Cards into any local Post Office across the isles, or into the Lerwick branch of Tesco, or into Infrastructure Services Department at Grantfield anytime in January 2009.

### EcoSchools

Shetland schools currently hold 33 EcoSchool awards. Three schools have completed the whole programme – i.e. hold four flags – and are now permanently accredited. A number of schools are about to be assessed for their second flag and still others for their third.

With over half of its schools holding some level of eco accreditation, Shetland is one of the leading local authorities in Scotland in the delivery of this programme, which is viewed as vitally important in shaping the Shetland we wish to see in the future.

The EcoSchools programme is a good way of making sustainable development a vital part of the ethos and life of the school and through it the homes and businesses of Shetland. If you would like further information on how your school is doing with its EcoSchool work please contact us.

### Environmental Business Summit

On the 15<sup>th</sup> of January an Environmental Business Summit was held in partnership with HIE Shetland, SEPA and Synergie Scotland Ltd. at the Town Hall. This aimed to help businesses with the growing impact of environmental management on their operations.

The summit included talks on local and national environmental issues and offered the opportunity for free consultations to help individual businesses tackle a range of resource efficiency issues such as energy and waste. There was also an opportunity for businesses attending the event to signed up to receive free consultancy advice and support from Synergie Scotland Ltd. with three local businesses taking advantage of this limited offer.

### Master Composter Scheme

Shetland is one of 12 areas throughout Scotland running a Master Composter Scheme to promote home composting to the local community in 2009.

In the run up to Green Day 2009 (details below), the Environment and Resource Management Unit will be holding rural Composting Workshops throughout the isles. These workshops will be held from 7.00 - 8.30pm at the following locations:

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February – Dunrossness Hall  
Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> February – Sandwick Carnegie Public Hall  
Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> February – Whiteness Hall  
Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> February – Sound Hall  
Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March – Scalloway Hall  
Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March – South Nesting Hall  
Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March – Aith Hall  
Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March – Walls Hall  
Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March – Symbister Hall  
Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> April – Brae Hall  
Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April – Ollaberry Hall  
Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April – Mid Yell Hall  
Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April – Baltasound Hall

Trained staff will be on hand to provide advice about all stages of the composting process. Member of the public are invited along to find out about getting started, how to produce a good quality compost, problem solving and to share their experiences of composting in Shetland.

If you have any questions about composting or want information on purchasing a range of subsidised compost bins please come along to one of our events or contact our department (contact details can be found at the end of this newsletter).

### Green Day 2009

In 2003, 2005 and 2007 we have organised a very successful environmental and gardening event in Lerwick, and in 2009 it will be bigger than previous years. On May 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> 2009, Green Day will be held in the Clickimin Centre, with stalls from businesses across Shetland.

We will be selling subsidised compost bins and recycling stacking units, as well as providing information and support. A composting advisor from the Waste & Resource Action Programme (WRAP) will also be attending to answer questions and offer advice.

### **Recycling Extension**

In April 2008 the Lerwick kerbside recycling was extended to include newspaper and plastic bottles following a successful trial in Scalloway. Since introduction an average of 9 tonnes of recyclables are collected in the Lerwick and Scalloway areas fortnightly.

New kerbside calendars and bags are to be delivered in April, if extra bags are needed then please contact our office. A copy of the kerbside calendar can be found in the first Shetland Times of the year or on our website:

<http://www.shetland.gov.uk/recycling/KerbsideCollection.asp>

### **School Science Fair**

On the week beginning Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May, a science fair for schools across Shetland will be held in Lerwick. The S.I.C. Environment and Resource Management Unit will have a display at the event.

This display will focus on composting with additional information on other environmental issues. Staff will be on hand throughout the week.

### **Seaside Awards**

2008 was a very successful bathing season that saw four of Shetland's stunning beaches achieve a Seaside Award from Keep Scotland Beautiful. The award winning beaches were West Voe Sands in Virkie, St Ninians Isle in Bigton, The Sands of Breckon in Yell and Tresta Sands in Fetlar. All 4 beaches received Rural Category Seaside Awards which are given to effectively managed beaches that meet 15 criteria including cleanliness and water quality.

The seaside award applications were made possible through Quality of Life funding used for water sampling, information points, lifesaving equipment and regular beach cleans. A lot of community work also went into the award applications, with the area Community Councils coordinating regular cleanups by local groups and taking responsibility for the installation and maintenance of equipment.

Due to the unique and successful management partnership between ERMU and the area Community Councils the awarding body, Keep Scotland Beautiful, asked representatives from the Council and Community Councils to present a

workshop to delegates from around the country at a Beach Managers Conference in August.

### **Tidy Business Standards**

The Tidy Business Standards (TBS) is an annual award scheme, run by Keep Scotland Beautiful. It raises the awareness of businesses to the way that they collect, manage, store and dispose of their waste.

The Tidy Business Standards have been run in Shetland since 2005, and 2008 / 09 sees the highest number of award recipients with fifty-six businesses receiving an award, over thirty of which have achieving a Gold level. Forty-one of these are awardees from last year, with fifteen new premises gaining their first award.

The award is available to all businesses, currently there are numerous types of businesses including garages, cafes, charity shops, and engineering works. If you would like more information or to submit a business please contact the waste prevention staff (details below).

### **Updated Website**

The Waste and Cleansing section of the SIC website is currently being updated.

### **Contacts**

If you have any questions, comments or queries, please contact us using any of the following means:

Write or visit us:

Environment & Building Services  
Infrastructure Services Department  
Grantfield  
Lerwick  
Shetland  
ZE1 0NT

Email:

[recycling@shetland.gov.uk](mailto:recycling@shetland.gov.uk)  
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