

## A Proposal

# WASTE and RESOURCES Strategy and Action Plan for the FALMOUTH and PENRYN Community Network Area

**Area (Towns and Parishes) :** Falmouth, Penryn, Mylor, Perranarworthal, St.Gluevias, Mabe, Constantine, Mawnan and Budock

### The Context:

Climate Change and Resource Depletion; Energy and Food Security; Carbon Emissions and Renewable Energy targets; the need to conserve valuable natural resources; live within our ecological means; reduce reliance on landfill and treat waste as a positive resource

Household Waste Recycling Rates across the South-West 2011-13 show Cornwall at 35%; Devon County at 55%; Dorset and Somerset are both at 50% Oxfordshire is currently one of the leading authorities in the UK with a recycling rate of 60%. Wales has a rate of 52% with a target of zero waste by 2050 while Scotland has set itself a target of 70% of **all** its waste being recycled by 2025.

*(in Cheshire West and Chester the recycling rate is currently at 56% which they calculate is the equivalent of a carbon footprint reduction of 31 million kilograms or taking 20,000 cars off the road)*

### AIM:

**Deliver a Local Waste and Recycling Strategy based on resource conservation with Zero Waste the ultimate goal**

### Method :

- Focus on top three elements of the Waste Hierarchy – **Reduction; Re-Use, and Recycling** - and develop local genuinely renewable energy projects using local waste products
- Raise level of **local awareness** around waste and related issues
- Utilize **findings** of community, parish and neighbourhood plans
- Develop partnership working between local communities and their representatives by setting up a local **Waste and Resources Action Group** to implement a local plan

## Action Required:

- **Precycling : reducing waste at source**

- **Reduction in all packaging across the Community Network Area**

*Action:* approach local retailers/businesses and their representatives; Chambers of Commerce; Federation of Small Businesses; Hotels and Tourism Organizations for support

*Action:* lobby national retailers and companies e.g. supermarkets and convenience stores

- **Phase out PVC and make other plastic packaging uniformly recyclable**

*Action:* lobby Government, M.P s and the Packaging Industry

- **Phase out non-recyclable plastic carrier bags**

*Action:* encourage use of reusable Jute, Cotton and Corn Starch bags instead of plastic across the Community Network Area

*Action:* support introduction of 5p plastic bag levy and encourage all retailers to follow suit

*(there is growing concern based on sound research over the detrimental effect plastics in various forms are having both on land and in the marine environment)*

- **Promote local food producers/retailers and reduce food waste**

*Action:* support local food markets and local farm shops, and buy local produce whenever possible in the Community Network Area

*Action:* produce "Good Food Guide" to local producers and retailers.

- *Action:* support the work of the DCFA (Devon and Cornwall Food Association) – <http://devonandcornwallfoodassociation.org> and other food waste reduction initiatives:-

for example: the local Falmouth/Penryn foodbank -

<http://www.falmouthchurchestogether.org.uk/community/foodbank.html>

*Action:* encourage local retailers and food producers to divert surplus edible food away from landfill towards those in need .....to include in-date edible food left by occupants of holiday lettings

- **Higher Re-Use and Recycling Targets**

### Re-Use Projects

- Promote existing *Furniture Re-Use Projects* run by charitable/community enterprises e.g. Furnish @ Penryn (Cornwall Hospice Care); British Heart Foundation Furniture and Electrical Store in Falmouth.....
- Explore feasibility of *Furniture and Electrical Appliance Repair Centre* for the Network Area (similar to Resource at Bodmin)
- Explore other Re-use and *Repair and Exchange initiatives* e.g. refurbishment of unwanted hand tools (*Tools for Self-Reliance* or similar schemes)

*Action:* support and develop local TFSR initiative – see <http://www.tfsr.org>

*Action:* support and promote Freecycle and Freegle – <http://www.freecycle.org> and/or <http://www.ilovefreegle.org>

...for local group for Falmouth/Penryn area see <http://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/Falmouth-Freegle/info>

### Recycling

*(note: recycling targets for Devon County is 60% by 2015; for Dorset County 65-70% by 2016 and Wales 58% by 2015/16... what are the recycling targets for Cornwall and the Falmouth/Penryn Community Network Area?)*

- **Maximize use of Household Waste Recycling Centre - Carveth Farm, Mabe nr.Longdowns**

*Action:* widely advertise the services of this centre within each town and parish in the Community Network Area – see <http://www.sitacornwall.co.uk> – for materials currently accepted

- Create *additional smaller drop-off points* for certain recyclables and maximize use of existing "bring banks" (collection points at supermarkets and car-parks)

*Action:* new small electrical goods collection points in Falmouth and Penryn

*Action:* lobby for **drinks carton recycling banks** (and/or **kerbside collection** – see below) to serve the Network Area

Examples include:-

Devon County Council – <http://www.devon.gov.uk/recycling> and go to “Recycling Centres”  
Shropshire Council – <http://new.shropshire.gov.uk/recycling-and-rubbish> and go to “Recycling Centres”

*(although drinks cartons represent only a very small percentage of the waste stream there is a strong argument that their recycling encourages more residents to do the “right” thing and recycle more)*

*Action:* organize collection points for plastic milk bottle tops at convenient locations

*Action:* set up more low energy light-bulb recycling collection points

*Action:* more publicity for **ALL** drop-off points across Network Area (see also last page) - including post offices; one-stop shops; large and small stores for items like clothes hangers; print cartridges; unwanted spectacles and spent domestic batteries

- **Improve take-up of kerbside collection services** (*non-perishables*) to at least 65% of households across the Community Network Area

***(Note: latest figures in 2013 show that only 23% of Falmouth and Penryn's household waste was collected for recycling from the kerbside)***

*Action:* conduct **intensive waste awareness campaign** each town and parish across the Network Area (see also last page)

*Action:* lobby for **expansion of kerbside services** to include items not yet collected but which are elsewhere in UK where recycling rates are in excess of 50%...

Examples of good practice include :-

- Central Bedfordshire Council's kerbside scheme which includes **drinks cartons and plastic food packaging**: yoghurt pots, margarine tubs, food trays and plastic wrap – <http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/environment/recycling-rubbish-and-waste/bin-and-bags-collections-recycling-rubbish-waste.aspx>
- Dorset County Council : <http://www.dorsetforyou.com/recycle-for-dorset> and go to “Recycling Collection” which includes **plastic trays, pots and tubs as well as drinks cartons**

*(Note: 89% of UK authorities recycle cartons either at the kerbside or at recycling collection points – see also <http://www.ace-uk.co.uk> for a full list of participating authorities and for information about the new recycling mill now open in the UK )*

- **Support community household battery recycling initiatives,**  
e.g. Cobra – <http://www.batteryrecycling-uk.co.uk>

*Action:* check coverage of battery collection tubes in the area and increase where necessary

- **Explore feasibility of recycling incentive schemes**

*Action:* ask Cornwall Council to look at offering financial incentives to recycle (recycling loyalty points and voucher schemes – e.g. <http://www.greenredeem.co.uk> )

- **Seek to expand recycling services for local businesses and improve awareness**

*Action:* explore feasibility of setting up a building materials reclamation centre for the Community Network Area

- **Seek to ensure that new domestic and commercial developments** have access to adequate recycling facilities both on-site (kerbside) and in the local catchment area (collection points)

*Action:* check new planning applications for evidence of sufficient to meet needs of new residents

*Action:* lobby for more information from rented accommodation sector for tenants; from holiday homes agents and tourist parks for their customers...see also Coast at <http://www.coastproject.co.uk>

*Action:* ask Cornwall Council to consider sending out recycling timetable information with council tax notifications to residents and new occupants

- **Green Garden and Food Waste**

- Encourage more **home composting** in the Community Network area

*Action:* promote Cornwall Council's composting awareness scheme – see <http://www.cornwall.getcomposting.com>

*Action:* promote Love Food Hate Waste Campaign <http://www.lovefoodhatewaste.com>

- Increase recycling of **green garden waste through kerbside collection and use of local HWRC** (Household Waste Recycling Centre) at Carveth Farm, nr. Mabe/Longdowns

*Action:* promote the Cornwall Council's kerbside garden waste collection service in each town and parish and the recycling facility at Longdowns

- Lobby for **food waste kerbside collection service** for both households and the commercial sector (hotels, restaurants, food processing companies, schools and colleges and hospitals) in the Community Network Area

Follow examples of:-

- Central Bedfordshire who collect food waste for a Biogen Biowaste Digester - see <http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/environment/recycling-rubbish-and-waste/bin-and-bags-collections-recycling-rubbish-waste.aspx> and go to "food waste"
- Dorset Waste Partnership – see <http://www.dorsetforyou.com/dorset-waste-partnership>
- Oxfordshire – see <http://www.oxfordshirewaste.gov.uk> and go to "food waste"
- Somerset Waste Partnership who have commissioned an AD plant to commence 2014 – see <http://www.somersetwaste.gov.uk/about/ad>

*Action:* introduce a **comprehensive food waste strategy** – which includes reduction of waste at source; diversion of surplus edible food to those in need; home composting and the introduction of **anaerobic digestion facilities** to take unwanted food waste to create local and genuinely renewable energy (biogas) and a bio-fertiliser for local use.

- **Development of Local Renewable Energy Projects using Farm and Food Waste**

- Local combined heat and power **biomass plant** for the area (using farm waste, sawmill, woodland waste, and other waste wood products)
- **Anaerobic digestion plant:** another example is in Wales where Biogen is "working with local authorities on three AD projects which will recycle food waste collected from local households and from commercial customers to generate renewable electricity for the grid and a valuable bio-fertiliser for use on local farmland" - see <http://www.biogen.co.uk/biogen-wales.asp>

*Action:* work with partners to follow example of above authorities for introduction of AD technology to benefit the Network Area and beyond as appropriate

- **Promote local manufacture and sale of products made from recyclable material**

*Action:* approach CUC Environment and Sustainability Institute (ESI) to research the making of a wider range of goods and packaging from recyclable or reusable materials e.g. crisps packets, toothpaste tubes..... and work with local businesses to introduce wider range of recycled products for sale

- **Waste Reduction Education and Practices in Schools and Colleges**

*Action:* check local schools and colleges' commitment to waste reduction and recycling activities in context of climate change and resource conservation and help support their work

- **Combined Universities in Cornwall – Falmouth and Exeter**

*Action:* encourage both the University of Falmouth and Exeter University (Penryn Campus) to take a pro-active role in supporting sustainable living in our local communities and lead by example – particularly in the areas of waste reduction and recycling; renewable energy projects and local food sourcing

*Action:* forge links with the Environment and Sustainability Institute (ESI), the Academy for Innovation and Research (AIR), Energy Policy Unit and the Falmouth/Penryn Students' Union FXU

*Action:* support and encourage the work of the ESI in their research projects and encourage holding waste reduction and renewable energy workshops for local communities

- **Local Partnership Working to deliver Strategy and Action Plan**

*Action:* set up **Waste and Resources Action Group** for the Community Network area.

*Action:* invite representatives of Town and Parish Councils; Cornwall Council; Combined Universities; Schools/Colleges; the business community and voluntary sector organisations groups – to be chaired by a local Cornwall Councillor

*Action:* set up "**Recycling Champion**" Scheme -Cornwall Council to invite each town and parish to nominate a recycling "champion" to promote and advise on aspects of waste reduction locally

**Key Action: launch intensive waste and recycling awareness campaign across network area**

*Action:* produce local "**Too Good to Waste**" **Guide** to reduction, re-use, recycling and composting (based on the Edinburgh and Lothians publication – see <http://www.changeworks.org.uk> and go to "publications" ) - one for every household in each town and parish plus online version

*Action:* articles for local press and community newsletters ; promotional material for One Stop Shops, Post Offices and Libraries ; "Think Waste" events in towns and parishes and targeted door-stepping; involvement in local events

*Action:* analyse and implement findings of local Community and Parish Plans regarding waste; renewable energy; and local food production and explore ways of improving community and neighbourhood support to deliver these plans

Action: support relevant **anti-litter campaigns**

e.g. SAS Return to Offender scheme – <http://www.sas.org.uk/campaign/return-to-offender/>

and Keep Britain Tidy group initiatives – <http://www.keepbritaintidy.org/>

and support Clean Cornwall Campaign – <http://www.cleancornwall.org> and explore relevance of North Hill model (6 parishes) to the Network Area

*Prepared by **Transition Falmouth** – <http://transitionfalmouth.org.uk> : engaging the community in designing a vibrant low energy and zero waste future for Falmouth, Penryn and the surrounding parishes to face the twin challenges posed by Peak Oil and Climate Change.*

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