A PARTNERSHIP for the FUTURE

Recycling City Sheffield
May 1989

Dinas Ail-Glych
Caerdydd
Mai 1990

Recycling City Cardiff
May 1990
UK 2000 Recycling City is a Friends of the Earth initiative being developed by a partnership involving reclamation and manufacturing industries, local authorities, the voluntary sector and central government.

Friends of the Earth

Friends of the Earth Ltd (FoE) was established in the UK in 1971. Based in London it is backed by over 180,000 supporters and an active national network of 290 local groups. It is funded mainly by voluntary contributions.

FoE campaigns on a wide variety of environmental issues, including: air and water pollution, countryside protection and agriculture, urban development, transport, resources and recycling, toxic wastes, tropical rainforests, overseas aid and trade, energy use, and global warming.

FoE trust is committed to research, information and education.

FoE is politically neutral, and works with all parties and other organisations wherever we find areas of agreement.

FoE Ltd is part of Friends of the Earth International which has member groups in 35 countries.

British Telecom

British Telecom is pleased to sponsor Recycling City as part of a country-wide sponsorship programme which embraces the environment, the arts and disabled people and which is designed to demonstrate our commitment to the community at large.

UK 2000 is an environment network of 6 voluntary organisations who receive part funding from the Department of the Environment.
"Recycling is one of the clearest examples of how practical action on a regular daily basis can be a significant contribution to protecting and preserving our environment. It addresses the issues of resource use, energy consumption, air and water pollution, and destruction of natural habitats, by enabling the individual to make an impact in the vital area of waste minimisation.

There is increasing evidence that the public are ready to play their part in the process of recycling. What is needed are effective systems of collection and reuse, so that materials are circulated between consumer and manufacturer in a continuous way, rather than being one-trip products destined for landfill or incineration.

Currently recycling rates for domestic waste in the UK are significantly lower than in many other European countries. Friends of the Earth initiated the UK 2000 Recycling City project to increase awareness of the environmental imperatives for recycling and to challenge the obstacles hindering higher levels of recycling in this country. By working with both private, public and voluntary sectors Recycling City can test a wide variety of recovery methods and show the benefits of co-ordinated action at a local and national level."

David Gee
Director, Friends of the Earth.

"As Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Wales, I am delighted to lend my support to the launch of Cardiff as UK 2000 Recycling City. The strength of this initiative lies in the partnership between the City Council, local industry and the voluntary sector. The high level of commitment Cardiff has demonstrated to recycling in the past has matured into the most advanced waste disposal strategy in the UK, which looks set to achieve the Government's target to recycle 50% of recyclable household waste before the end of the century."

Ian Grist, MP
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Wales
Recycling City is a national partnership project, sponsored by British Telecom, aiming to develop models of effective recycling practice in 4 cities throughout the UK.

The project was initiated by the Projects Unit at Friends of the Earth and is being developed by a partnership involving reclamation and manufacturing industries, local authorities, the voluntary sector and central government.

Sheffield was launched as the first Recycling City on 22nd May, 1989 and Cardiff as the second on 15th May, 1990. In 1991 two more Recycling Cities will be launched, with the third planned for Scotland.

**ORGANISATION**

The Recycling City project is organised through a series of local and national working parties, with national co-ordination provided by Friends of the Earth and local co-ordination by the City Council in each Recycling City.

**FUNDING**

Sponsorship from British Telecom provides funding for overall co-ordination of the project, and for promotion at a national and local level. Core-funding for new recycling initiatives in each Recycling City is also provided by British Telecom, supplemented by grants from manufacturing and reclamation industries. The Department of the Environment contributes funding through the UK 2000 initiative.

**EVALUATION**

The Recycling City initiative in Sheffield is being fully evaluated over 3 years by a research consortium consisting of Luton College of Higher Education, Midland Environment Ltd and Warren Spring Laboratory. Funding for this evaluation has been provided by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), the Department of the Environment (DoE) and the Industry Council for Packaging and the Environment (INCPEN). The results of the evaluation will be presented at a series of DTI conferences and published in 6-monthly Recycling City monitoring bulletins.
The Recycling City partnership is based on a series of agreed minimum inputs from each sector as follows:

**Local Authorities**
- Allocate suitable sites for fixed collection facilities.
- Encourage recycling collection points to be incorporated in new shopping and housing developments.
- Appoint a Recycling Officer to co-ordinate and develop the project locally.
- Credit recycling schemes with savings made in waste collection and disposal costs.
- Use recycled paper and other reclaimed materials.
- Establish an internal office paper recovery scheme.

**Reclamation Industries**
- Service collection facilities as necessary.
- Provide market and price for recovered materials.

**Voluntary Sector**
- Adopt collection points to ensure that they are kept tidy and well publicised in return for the income they generate.
- Promote and support community initiatives in recycling.
- Promote the use of recycled products.

**The Partnership**
- Support the development of community businesses or other local agencies to recover and recycle waste.
- Ensure the project is effectively promoted in each Recycling City.

**RECYCLING CITY LTD**
To support the raising of finance, introduction and operation of kerbside collections within the four Recycling City projects, the partnership has established a not-for-profit company. Called Recycling City Ltd, it will be part of the Friends of the Earth Projects Unit in its first year, while aiming to become self financing thereafter. The intention of the company is to offer a service to local authorities and other groups setting up kerbside recycling schemes.
Launched as Recycling City in May 1989, Sheffield has established a variety of schemes, building on experience at home and abroad.

Collection Banks
A network of recycling collection banks and mini-recycling centres has been set up throughout the city. Banks are provided for paper, glass, cans and, for the first time in the UK, plastics. The siting density of these is being steadily increased.

Proceeds from the collection banks support both the administration and the development work of SCRAP (Sheffield Community Recycling Action Programme) and are distributed to local community organisations. SCRAP is also responsible for supporting voluntary recycling collections and promoting Sheffield's recycling collection points. There are 25 voluntary paper collections operated by groups such as scouts, churches etc. (see also cans)

Blue Boxes
In November 1989, the UK's first kerbside collections using the Canadian Blue Box system were launched in the Stocksbridge area of Sheffield. Householders have been issued with separate bins, the Blue Boxes, to store recyclables which are picked up on a regular collection day every week. The paper, glass, cans, plastics and batteries recovered are then separately loaded into compartments on a specially designed collection vehicle loaned to the project by Iveco Ford.

Initially 2,000 households were covered every week, which was expanded to about 3,500 by May 1990. The Blue Box collections have proved very popular, with about 70% of people participating.

In the first 6 months, over 125 tonnes of waste have been collected for recycling.

Plastics Sorting
To enable plastics collected in Sheffield to be sold to industry for recycling, the British Plastics Federation is developing a site, in conjunction with the City Council, which is used for sorting and compacting recovered plastics waste from banks and Blue Boxes.
Office Collections
Sheffield City Council operates internal office paper collections which in the year to May, 1990 collected 12 tonnes of high grade office paper for recycling.

Aluminium Can Collections and Can Vans
The Aluminium Can Recycling Association has organised collections at 40 schools in Sheffield and to January 1990 about 4 tonnes of aluminium cans were collected by schools and charities in addition to 2 tonnes collected for the Blue Peter Baby Life Appeal.

In March 1990, Alcan Aluminium Can Recycling launched a new form of collection for aluminium drinks cans in Sheffield, with special Can Vans visiting supermarkets on regular weekly collection days to purchase the cans, enabling funds to be raised for the Sheffield Children’s Hospital and other causes.

Steel Can Extraction
A magnetic separator at the Council’s incinerator together with the Save-a-Can banks recovered about 90 million tinplated steel cans in 1989/90, which is equivalent to about 80% of all steel cans used in Sheffield.

SHEFFIELD COLLECTION BANKS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Operator</th>
<th>Material</th>
<th>Sites</th>
<th>Banks</th>
<th>Tonnes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cutts Brothers</td>
<td>Newspapers &amp; Magazines</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>1403</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Waste Paper)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheffield City</td>
<td>Glass</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>327</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Council</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Redfearn Glass</td>
<td>Glass</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>1061</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BSDA</td>
<td>Plastics</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BPF</td>
<td>Plastics</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Save-a-Can</td>
<td>Metal Cans</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*53 Sites equipped with bells for white, brown & green glass.
11 Sites equipped with the larger colour segregated bottle banks.
Recycling Past and Present
Cardiff has a long history of recycling and of co-operation between community groups and the City Council, enabling it to evolve a mature approach to recycling, considered not as a peripheral activity, the domain of the committed volunteer, but as the central cog in the wheel of an integrated waste management strategy.

From 1986, C.SAWS (Community Support Anti Waste Scheme), a nationally acclaimed community business, carried out a furniture renovation scheme, an innovative education programme and a city-wide monthly door-to-door collection, mainly of newspaper and magazines and rags. Unfortunately C.SAWS were forced to wind up these operations due to financial difficulties following the end of the Community Programme scheme. However, the monthly collections were taken over by Cardiff City Council, and expanded to include plastic bags.

A Recycling Strategy for the Future
Earlier this year Cardiff City Council launched their Environmental Strategy for the 1990's, in which waste management and recycling play a central role. Cardiff will be the first local authority to give full acknowledgement of both their collection and disposal costs, identifying the savings to be made by removing recyclable materials from the waste stream. This cost benefit approach is a major step forward for the funding of recovery collections, which are commonly undervalued in comparison to conventional disposal methods.

A Recycling City Voluntary Development Worker will be appointed, part-funded by UK 2000 Cymru, to complement the Council's educational outreach work.

50% Recycling of total domestic waste - in five years
With the following systems in place Cardiff should become the first city in the UK to recycle at least 50% of its total domestic waste.
AN INTEGRATED APPROACH TO WASTE RECYCLING

MINI-RECYCLING CENTRES
The first stage of Recycling City developments in Cardiff will be to establish a network of 20 landscaped mini-recycling centres throughout the city, with collection banks for paper and glass, and cans too at 6 sites.

CITY-WIDE BLUE BOXES
The second stage will be to build on the door-to-door collections already operating in Cardiff. By 1993 Cardiff intends to establish a city-wide Blue Box scheme covering 110,000 households.

The Blue Box collections launched in November 1989 in Sheffield have proved the most successful recycling collection method currently operating in the UK and are on their way to achieving the Government's target of recovering 50% of recyclable waste.

ANAEROBIC DIGESTION
Cardiff City Council are also planning to commission an anaerobic digester within 2 years. Anaerobic digestion is a natural process whereby the organic elements of domestic waste are broken down at a much faster rate and more safely than would be achieved in landfill. The digester harnesses this process to produce a biogas and a rich humus.

Biogas has a number of uses including local heating, electricity generation and powering vehicles. The humus can be used as a soil conditioner or for landscaping purposes. Organic kitchen waste accounts for around 30% of total domestic refuse.

The digestor will also incorporate a magnetic separator to recover steel cans which make up about 7% of domestic waste.

Industrial Waste
The City Council are fully aware of the problems that some industrial/commercial waste presents. The Council's Recycling Strategy makes provision for investigation into the possibility of recycling builders' waste and rubble, together with tyres and hospital clinical waste.
THE RECYCLING CITY PARTNERS

Aluminium Can Recycling Association (ACRA)
British Glass
British Plastics Federation (BPF)
British Soft Drinks Association (BSDA)
British Steel Tinplate
Cheshire Recycling Limited
Department of the Environment (DoE)
Department of Trade and Industry (DTI)
Friends of the Earth
Independent Waste Paper Processors Association (IWPPA)
Industry Council for Packaging and the Environment (INCPEN)
Local Authority Recycling Advisory Committee (LARAC)
The Reclamation Association
Save-a-Can

SHEFFIELD

partners also include:
Alcan Aluminium Can Recycling
Cutts Brothers Ltd (Waste Paper)
PLM Redfearn (Glass)
Sheffield Community Recycling Action Programme (SCRAP)
Sheffield City Council
Rayovac Vidor Ltd (Batteries)

CARDIFF

partners also include:
ALCOA (Aluminium Company of America)
Cardiff City Council
Clarfield Waste Paper
Friends of the Earth Cymru
Rockware Glass
UK 2000 Cymru
CONTACTS FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
NATIONAL AND MEDIA ENQUIRIES

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Judith Warrender/Nicola Gilbert,
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PUBLICATIONS
Available from Publications
Despatch, Friends of the Earth,
26-28 Underwood St,
London N1 7JQ
- Recycling City launch manual
  May 1989 (£2.50)
- Blue Box information pack
  (£2.00)
- Sheffield Recycling City
  monitoring bulletins (£3)
- Finding sponsors for
  community projects (£7.95)
- Recycling - the way forward:
  information pack (£1.75)

- Market barriers to paper
  recycling (£6)
- Paperchase - a guide to office
  paper recycling (£1.50)
- Recycling - leaflet (50p)
Available from local Recycling
City offices:
- Recycling A-Z guide to
  Sheffield (£1.00)
- Recycling A-Z guide to Cardiff
  (£1.00)