



brag news

RECYCLE * REUSE * REPAIR * REDUCE

Brentford Recycling Action Group

Autumn 2004

Editorial

Hi braggers!

This issue is about PLASTIC RECYCLING (or the lack of it in Hounslow) it's defiantly the subject that gets most people excited. brag understands your frustration - we take our PLASTIC to the Ealing Council's collection point next to Waitrose, West Ealing, and have found a huge reduction in the size of our weekly black waste bag. So we've ask Hounslow Council to explain their position (overleaf) If you join us at our AGM in November (details below) you'll have a chance to talk to Council Recycling Officers - and it would be great to see you.

by Paul Richens; Vice-Chair

PLASTIC FACTS - you might not want to know

1. Only 5% of plastics are recycled.
2. Plastics are made from oil. Oil is a fossil fuel so is a non-renewable resource. It took millions of years to form under great pressure under the ground, from dead plants and will probably run out in the next half century.
3. An average Household throws away 45 kg of plastic a year - in volume about the size of two family saloon cars.
4. It produces poisonous gases (dioxins) when burnt in incinerators.
5. Plastic does not rot (it's not biodegradable) stays in the ground forever.
6. 36% of plastics are used in packaging - which we throw away.
7. There are six main types of plastic which are difficult to sort for recycling. They can be sorted by the number printed on them or by X-ray machines which measure the chlorine content.
8. If you recycle just one plastic bottle can save the same amount of energy needed to power a 60 watt light bulb for 6 hours!
9. "Lightweighting" of plastic products has reduced the amount of material used and made them easier to crush e.g. Carrier bags reduced from 47mm to 25mm Yogurt pots from 12g to 5g
10. New types include biodegradable and photo degradable plastics. There is even research into genetically modified plants producing biodegradable plastic! These will have a limited use - think of the problems of plastic which breaks down in the light.
11. Many products can be made from recycled plastic e.g. bin liners, carrier bags.



NOW RECYCLING IN YOUR GREEN BOX



**YELLOW PAGES
& TELEPHONE
DIRECTORIES**

NEWS FLASH

Dumping for free

THE NUISANCE of abandoned vehicles on borough streets is being eased by a scheme that allows residents to dispose of old cars for free.

The service is run by Hounslow Council and available to anyone who lives in Hounslow, and whose car is registered in the borough.

Residents must provide a photocopy of the registration document or other proof of ownership.

Visit our web site for more information about brag events and local recycling issues
bragonline.org.uk

Hounslow Council & Plastic Recycling

Brentford asks the council recycling team 'Where can I recycle my plastics?'

This is the most frequently asked question that the Recycling Team at Hounslow gets asked and its lack causes us much frustration. However the situation is improving, we've started to collect plastic bottles at Space Way and it's working successfully.

Although plastic recycling is becoming more commonplace it is still a struggle, plastics have to be taken a long way for re-processing. Also these Plants are very selective and only really want plastic bottles. Even some of Ealing's mixed plastics (mainly the plastic wrapping) have to go to Landfill as no one can presently recycle it.

Over the next year Hounslow is planning to refurbish some of their glass containers to collect plastic bottles, which will be in place at supermarket sites, including Somerfield in Brentford.

But our main point is that plastic isn't the big bad evil destroyer of our environment but it's actually all the biodegradable waste we thrown away; not just fruit and vegetables but all the paper, card and textiles as well. All this material breaks down in landfill giving off Methane as a by-product and contributing to the Greenhouse Effect that affects our weather.

Please don't get disheartened; most of your waste is actually recyclable.

So before you start worrying about plastic recycling make sure you and everyone you know is composting. There is no excuse - we even give you a free Compost Bin.

Natasha Epstein, Senior Community Recycling Officer,
London Borough of Hounslow

What's on

brag meetings: first Tuesday in the month, 7.00 at Grand Union office (191 High Street, opposite Autowise). All welcome.

2 October - come and meet us at the **brag** stall in Somerfields car park, starts at 11.00am until 3.00pm

9 October - Farmers Market - Brentford Health Centre car park, opposite Brentford Station

9 November - **brag** AGM - 191 High Street, Brentford - 7.00pm all welcome.

Topical tips

*Plan for a Green Christmas - send off for some catalogues hot on recycled prezzies -visit www.naturalcollection.com for presents from wine glasses to briquettes from newspapers

*www.cat.org.uk the centre for alternative technology

*www.recycledproducts.org.uk office products including nice hand made paper

*Buy a loved one a wormery @ www.wigglywiggles.co.uk

*Sort your compost bin before lower temperatures slows the composting process.

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brag is :

- a local waste action group made up of local residents
- facilitated and supported by Hounslow Council
- working to raise awareness and advance education in the reduction, reuse and recycling of waste materials of all kinds
- set up to promote activities and facilities which seek to improve the local environment (Brentford) for the benefit of the community.

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