

## 5 COMMUNITY BASED WASTE MANAGEMENT

### 5.1 INTRODUCTION

Community based waste management initiatives are slowly evolving in Ireland. Many of these are serving to increase employment and minimise social exclusion. To date we have several case studies of small-scale projects that have got off the ground due to partnerships with Local Authorities, FÁS or through central government funding. There are bound to be many more examples happening throughout the country but due to limited funds for advertising, media or production of annual reports information is not readily available or accessible.

The new Waste Management Plans for Ireland need to address the role the community/voluntary sector can play in reducing the quantity of waste consigned to landfill. Excellent kerbside recycling schemes have been rolled out the length and breadth of the country, however there is still a need for householders to think twice before they put electrical goods, bulky waste (e.g. furniture), books, scrap metal/parts, toys, clothes etc in the rubbish bin. This 'trash' can be another mans treasure.

Community groups/partnerships and Not for Profit groups are in an ideal position to set up small-scale facilities to receive this waste. The opportunities for repair and resale are great and will go a long way towards diverting waste from landfill and improving the local environment. It is also an effective way of developing social inclusion, and strong sense of identity and community spirit.

The 2001 Plan included objectives to promote community partnerships and initiatives through each Local Authority developing Waste Working Groups with members of the community. Below are four examples of successful community recycling/recovery initiatives within the Region.

#### 5.1.1 Adopt a Bank Scheme

In County Limerick and County Kerry local community groups are taking responsibility for their local bring banks through the 'Adopt a bank scheme'. A total of 37 bring banks in the two counties have now been 'adopted' by a local community group. Each participating community group is paid an annual fee of €400 in return for maintaining the banks to a high standard and advising the council if servicing is not adequate. The scheme has proved highly successful, particularly in more rural areas of the County and the Council analysis found that recycling rates at adopted banks in general tends to be higher with lower contamination of the recycled waste.

#### 5.1.2 Moyross Development Company

Moyross Development Company, with their partner Limerick City Council, successfully applied for funding for a Waste Awareness Project based in the Moyross area of Limerick City, with the aim of training Applied Leaving Certificate Students and Jobs Initiative Workers on matters relating to waste.

The project included a locally organised information campaign which aspired to promote information and awareness on waste related issues, including waste collections, using permitted waste collectors and how to use dry recyclables collection. Information was circulated on the City Council's freephone line, and at the Moyross Race Against Waste Open Day. All participants of the initiative received communications training on waste issues and they proceeded to design and produce the "Moyross Race Against Waste Leaflet", which was subsequently delivered to 1,100 households in the area, followed by door to door community visits to explain and discuss the information contained in their leaflet.

The "Moyross Race Against Waste Open Day", organised as part of the National Recycling Week, was hosted by the participants and provided information on different aspects of household waste, organised demonstrations of the use of 'real nappies' and provided a forum for community members to meet the main permitted waste collectors – who were on hand to speak directly with householders. Discounted home compost bins were available for purchase and the Brothers of Charity,

Fairgreen displayed items that they make from reused glass and wool.

### **5.1.3 Limerick and Kerry Leader Groups**

Limerick and Kerry County Councils supported Leader Groups in developing a community business programme using action training to create enterprises in the recycled goods sector. Leader Groups will use the blueprint to encourage the growth of community based recycling projects in line with the Regional Waste Management Plan.

### **5.1.4 Dromad Recycling Project South Kerry**

Dromad is a small Gaeltacht area in South Kerry, located on one of the main tourist routes. Traditionally there would have been a poor waste management structure in the area, and it remains an area without a waste collection service. With the aid of Agenda 21/Environmental Funding the local community group set up a pilot recycling project at the community centre which dealt with glass, cans, plastic bottles, paper and magazines. The local response has been enthusiastic and has reduced illegal dumping and burning activity in the area. The project will be funded for a three year period and will then be taken on by the local community group through sponsorship or by charging for the service. The Dromod project is a good example of local community initiative in providing a recycling facility in an area with no waste collection.



Compost Doctors – Co. Clare