

## Future Work Projects for the Environment Forum

Following the meeting of the Lancashire Environment Forum at the end of May, key areas of work are now being identified that the Forum can add value to.

A series of workshops, have resulted in the actions from the Lancashire Environment Strategy being prioritised into those that Forum is best placed to deliver. A top priority for action has been agreed: *'Commercial Waste and Recycling'*.

A new sub-group will now be formed to look at ways to move forward and tackle this issue.

This just marks the beginning in a long process to achieving all the targets set out in the Lancashire Environment Strategy.

Additionally, the Environment Forum feel that there is a real need for environmental priorities to be included in the LAA, and that important links can be made between the actions in the Lancashire Environment Strategy and Local Area Agreement (LAA) targets.

The Environment Forum has been identified as the formal environment group in the region following the restructure of the Lancashire Partnership. The Forum should therefore be well placed to have significant input into the LAA refresh in 2008.

The next step for the Forum is to begin to work on identifying the key environmental priorities for Lancashire, and how to integrate these into the LAA.

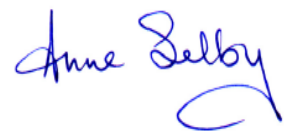
The Forum will continue to monitor developments with the Water Framework Directive and Climate Change, and be consulted on issues as and when necessary.

**Welcome...** to the Summer edition of 'essence', the newsletter for the Lancashire Environment Forum.

It is pleasing to report that the Environment Forum is beginning to identify actions from the Environment Strategy that it can add a real value to. Additionally the outlook is positive for the Forum to have a real input into the next refresh of the LAA.

We will continue to keep members up to date with the progress of the Environment Forum through this newsletter.

As always, we are keen to hear about any environmental or sustainability projects that are taking place in and around Lancashire, so please let us know what your organisation is working on.



**Anne Selby, Chair of the Lancashire Environment Forum**



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## National Updates

### World Environment Day 2007

The theme for this years World Environment Day on June 5<sup>th</sup> is climate Change.

The Environment Agency has been promoting the campaign, and wants people to take part in a huge national survey to challenge people to do one more thing to tackle climate change.

[www.mendoftheworld.org](http://www.mendoftheworld.org)

### English Secondary Schools Climate Change Pack

A resource pack to help teachers and pupils explore and understand the issues surrounding climate change was sent to every secondary school in England this May. The pack, which includes the Al Gore film *An Inconvenient Truth* and a number of other resources, forms part of the Sustainable Schools year of action.

Climate Change and Environment Minister Jim Knight said: *"The commitment and enthusiasm of young people will be essential to meeting the challenge of climate change"*.

[www.defra.gov.uk/news/2007/070502a.htm](http://www.defra.gov.uk/news/2007/070502a.htm)

### Ozone pollution on the rise

Urban levels of ozone have shown a continuing increasing long-term trend since 1992 when regular measurements began according to the government's latest air quality statistics.

The ozone data released is part of the Government's 'air quality indicator for sustainable development'. High ground level ozone levels cause lung irritation as well as damaging crops.

[http://62.128.131.239/news/news\\_story.asp?id=12967&channel=0](http://62.128.131.239/news/news_story.asp?id=12967&channel=0)

## Regional News

### Fly-Tipping costs the North West over £8.7 million a year



Figures released by the Environment Agency show that last year, over 145,000 fly-tipping incidents were reported by local authorities in the North West, and more than £8.7 million was spent cleaning up and disposing of fly-tipping.

The Environment Agency is launching a national campaign, advertising how to manage and dispose of waste.

<http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/news/1774805>

### Looking for Green Heroes

The hunt is on to find the North West's unsung environmental heroes, and to reward them with a share in over £6,000 worth of prize money, as part of the Unilever Dragonfly Awards 2007.

The awards recognise the outstanding voluntary efforts of individuals, young people and organisations towards improving the regions environment, and especially its waters and watersides.

If you wish to nominate a group or individual, please contact Bev Mitchell on 0161 2428212 or email [b.Mitchell@merseybasin.org.uk](mailto:b.Mitchell@merseybasin.org.uk) Alternatively, you can download an application pack from the website: [www.merseybasin.org.uk](http://www.merseybasin.org.uk)

The deadline for entries is September 7<sup>th</sup>.

## Lancashire Updates

### New Climate Change Group for Lancashire

The first meeting of the Lancashire Climate Change Group took place at the end of April. The aim is to develop a county-wide climate change strategy for Lancashire.

The next meeting of this group will be on the 3<sup>rd</sup> July.

### Green Partnership Awards Celebrate 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

The 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations took place at County Hall, Preston on 28<sup>th</sup> April.

The Green Partnership Awards have since 1997, been assisting community groups and individuals across Lancashire to bring about significant improvements in their local areas.

Over the last 10 years around 1000 projects have been undertaken with assistance from GPA, and grants from GPA have contributed to projects that have drawn more than £1million to the county.



Grants for environmental action in Lancashire

[www.lancashire.gov.uk/environment/grants/gpa/index.asp](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/environment/grants/gpa/index.asp)

# Focus – The River Darwen Litter Trap Project

***In this article, Sarah Whitman Project Co-ordinator at Darwen Action Partnership describes an innovative new mechanism being used to reduce the amount of litter and debris that is washed into the River Darwen.***

The River Darwen needs regular cleaning by volunteers because fly-tipped debris, and litter dropped by litterbugs get washed down the river. The litter ends up snagged on the riverbank, ruining the natural beauty, despite annual clean ups organised by Action Darwen Valley.

Since clean ups began, the River Darwen has brought all kinds of debris downstream – bits of cars, lorries, children's bikes and sit in cars, shopping trolleys, a bed, footballs, pallets, carpets, wool and plastic wrappers.

The River Darwen Litter Trap Project aims to end the River Darwen's water-borne litter problem by a combination of installing groundbreaking technology, and utilising anti-littering and anti-flytipping messages.



*Litter and debris on the banks of the River Darwen*

The project highlights successful partnership working between the local community, business and community sector organisations, and has attracted considerable attention locally.

## ***The Litter Trap***

A litter trap has been installed at Witton Country Park (Blackburn) in the River Darwen, just downstream of its confluence with the River Blakewater. (Most of the floating litter comes from the River Blakewater, which is why the litter trap has been installed where it meets the main River Darwen.)



*The River Darwen Litter Trap*

The idea for the litter trap came from a private landowner in the worst affected part of the river.

As well as support from existing partners, the Action Partnership has secured external funding to make this project happen. Work on the site started in late November 2006, and finished this Spring.

## ***How the Trap Works***

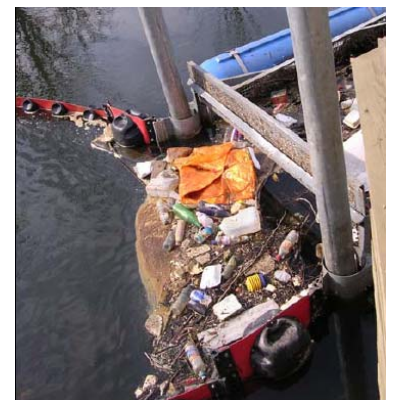
The litter trap consists of a floating boom and a collection basket.

Litter and debris floating on the river are deflected towards the litter trap by the boom, and into the collection basket. This stops the litter from being washed downstream, spoiling the landscape and harming wildlife and habitats.

When the basket needs to be emptied, a trap door comes down to prevent debris in the boom from escaping. There is an access track to enable vehicles to empty waste from the litter trap. When the basket is removed and emptied, much of the waste can be recycled.

The trap is situated close to the main car park at Witton Country Park, which helps to raise awareness of the litter issues. This is an area well used by the public and therefore makes the trap very noticeable to people visiting the Park. The area around the trap also has signs to let the general public know about the type and volume of debris brought out of the river.

Action Darwen Valley intends that this innovative project will mark the beginning of the end for litter in the River Darwen Catchment.



*The floating boom deflects debris in the water to a collection basket in the river*

More detailed information and a clip of the trap working are available on the River Darwen Litter Trap BLOG, and litter trap web page:  
[www.merseybasin.org.uk/darwen\\_valley](http://www.merseybasin.org.uk/darwen_valley)



**Local businesses signed up to the Lancashire Resource Efficiency Club now have access to a new online forum enabling the sharing of best practice and resource efficiency information. Emma Kitchingham, Programme Co-ordinator at Groundwork explains.**

The Lancashire Resource Efficiency Club (REC) was established in January 2006 as part of a nationwide Envirowise Programme to help companies reduce costs through minimising waste and energy usage, whilst at the same time protecting the environment.



The Lancashire Resource Efficiency Club is lead by ENWORKS and delivered by Lancashire Business Environment Association (LBEA).

There are currently 32 members throughout Lancashire, across a variety of business sectors. Benefits of Lancashire REC membership include consultancy, free workshops, access to the ENWORKS Online Toolkit to record and manage possible waste and energy cost savings, and the possibility to attend a free Waste Awareness training session.

The new online Forum was borne out of discussions following a feedback event in 2006. The event was held to get Lancashire REC members together to discuss their achievements and share best practice, and ask each other questions.

In addition to a discussion facility, the site allows Lancashire BEA to upload documentation and current news relating to resource efficiency.

Guidance documents are also available via the Forum on issues such as existing legislation, legal changes, and the availability of financial assistance to help implement the projects on site.

The online forum site has been provided for free by the Resource Efficiency Knowledge Transfer Network, who provided support and assistance on developing the site.



If you would like further information on Lancashire Resource Efficiency Club, or the Online Forum, please contact Claire Scott on 01254 669030, or visit:

[www.lancsbea.co.uk/funded-projects/resource-efficiency.htm](http://www.lancsbea.co.uk/funded-projects/resource-efficiency.htm)

## The Prospects Foundation – Job Advert

Development Manager - £28,410 (37 hours per week)

The Prospects Foundation is a community owned Hyndburn charity with a 10-year track record of working for lasting environmental change through an established and effective network of community action groups.

We are looking for an experienced manager to lead the work of the Charity, manage the staff team, and support and advise the Management committee in its overall direction.

The successful candidate will demonstrate a strong commitment to sustainable development.

The post is currently funded until February 2009. An important role of the post will be to help to secure onward funding.

The closing date for applications is Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> July, and interviews will be held the week beginning Monday 9<sup>th</sup> July.

For an application pack, please contact Donna Neely on: 01254 380675

Registered Charity number: 1076541

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## Managing Water Quality in the North West

**Laura Saffery – External Relations officer at the Environment Agency describes the Agency’s role in delivering the Water Framework Directive, and invites comments on the latest consultation: Significant Water Management Issues.**

The Environment Agency wants to meet the requirements of the Water Framework Directive (WFD) by working with everyone who has an interest in making sure the water environment is cleaner and healthier.



The North West River Basin District covers an area over 13,000 km<sup>2</sup>, from Cheshire in the South to the Lake District in the North. It is a district of contrast. On one hand it has 18 per cent of England’s derelict land and a third of the poorest quality rivers in England and Wales. However, on the other hand, it is also a home to many areas of outstanding natural beauty, and many internationally recognised wildlife sites such as Morecambe Bay.

The Environment Agency is working with the North West River Basin District Liaison Panel towards understanding the North West’s water environment, and looking for ways to involve everyone in working together to improve and protect it.

By December 2009, the Environment Agency will have produced the North West River Basin Management Plan, which will bring together the work of everyone who has worked with them on river basin planning.

The Environment Agency and the North West River Basin District Liaison Panel have recently identified what they believe to be the most significant water management issues in the North West River Basin District. These are:

1. Diffuse pollution from rural areas
2. Diffuse pollution from roads and urban areas
3. Pollution caused by discharges from sewerage systems
4. Pollution caused by discharges from industry
5. Physical modification of rivers and coastline

They are now finalising the first draft of the *Significant Water Management Issues* (SWMI) report.

This will be published for a six-month consultation period from the end of July.

The consultation is an opportunity for people to tell the Environment Agency what they think about significant water management issues in the North West.



The Environment Agency will be placing a copy of the SWMI consultation report on their website at:

[www.environment-agency.gov.uk/wfd](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/wfd)

Copies will also be available by emailing:

[northwestRBD@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:northwestRBD@environment-agency.gov.uk)

Those people who have already shown an interest in river basin planning will be told about the consultation.

For more information about the WFD in the North West River Basin District, you can:

- Visit the Environment Agency’s website as shown above
- Email the Environment Agency at the address above
- Contact Sarah Pemberton, WFD Project Manager on: 01925 542192

**If you have any project news or forthcoming events you would like to publicise in *essence* then please contact us by telephone on: 01772 531257 or by email on: [environmentalpolicy@env.lancsc.gov.uk](mailto:environmentalpolicy@env.lancsc.gov.uk)**

### Editorial

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