

For immediate release

Press Release

South East Business Sustainable Success

The Remade South East team were delighted to host a recent multi-site visit for Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Communities and Local Government, Baroness Hanham C.B.E., on Thursday 10th November 2011. The visits provided a showcase to demonstrate how investment from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) is helping businesses in the South East of England improve their environmental performance.

Baroness Hanham visited three locations:

- South Lodge Hotel, Horsham to learn more about the hotel's state-of-the-art food waste composting scheme. ERDF funding has enabled the hotel to trial a 'Rocket' in-vessel composting system to convert food waste scraps into compost which is used in the kitchen garden.
- The Neighbourhood Furniture Store, Sittingbourne to meet the volunteers at this not-for-profit community project which provides an environmentally friendly furniture recycling and redistribution service across Swale, Medway and Maidstone. ERDF funding has enabled the project to increase services by 30% to collect furniture from the Medway area.
- Countrystyle Group, Ridham to see the various reprocessing techniques used to divert waste from landfill. The baroness viewed technologies which transform waste wood, plasterboard and food waste from waste materials into new products. ERDF funding has enabled the company to expand the waste materials collected for recycling including trials for mattresses, carpets and bulky plastic items.

After the visit Baroness Hanham commented:

“Remade acts as lead partner in three European Regional Development Fund projects and is managing £2.2 million of European Regional Development Fund funding over a 5-year period. This funding has also benefited delivery partner organisations and Small and Medium Enterprises across the South East that would otherwise lack the resources to access the funding themselves. Through this work, to date over 400 businesses and local authorities have been engaged in waste and recycling improvement schemes, demonstration trials, networking sessions and awareness raising events.”



ENDS



NOTES TO EDITORS

Remade South East is a not-for-profit company which helps to divert valuable waste away from landfill into new products and end-uses by implementing re-use and recycling schemes. Remade works with businesses, public organisations and community groups in the South East region to find practical solutions to challenging waste issues. Working with a range of local, national and regional partners, Remade seeks to minimise the region's environmental footprint by saving natural resources and reducing CO2 emissions.

South Lodge Hotel was built in 1883 and is set amongst 93 acres of woodland and parkland. Already one of the finest luxury hotels in England, South Lodge Hotel has enjoyed a stylish investment programme, lifting it to new heights in five-star country house hotel luxury which includes reviewing and trialling ways to improve their systems and reduce their carbon footprint.

The Neighbourhood Furniture Store is a re-use project operating throughout the Borough of Swale and surrounding areas. They offer good quality furniture and electrical appliances at affordable prices to help people create more comfortable homes for their families. They collect between 8 and 10 tonnes of furniture every month for redistribution to people on low incomes. To date (April-11) the store has diverted 623 tonnes of household furniture away from incineration and landfill sites.

Countrystyle Group is one of the fastest growing private waste management and recycling companies, offering cost-effective, long term solutions to the ongoing problems of handling waste without damaging the environment. From providing a skip hire service to one-off domestic customers to dealing with complete waste streams from large multinational companies, the capabilities of the Group are constantly expanding throughout the public and private sector.

FOOD WASTE FACTS

- Of the estimated 325,000 tonnes of food waste produced by business in the South East each year 315,000 tonnes is sent to landfill
- WRAP (Waste and Resources Action Programme) has revealed that British shoppers are



throwing away £12bn worth of food a year

- Research by Sainsbury's supermarket show that the average British person thinks they bin almost 10% of their weekly shop, with 8% wasting up to a quarter of the food they regularly buy



BULKY WASTE FACTS

- Project funding has enabled collaborative working with Medway Council, the neighbouring local authority to Neighbourhood Furniture Store (NFS)
- Since 2009 project funding has resulted in over 1800 items of furniture being saved from landfill and collected from Medway residents' homes by NFS. This scheme has been supported by Medway Council
- A third of the furniture collections made by NFS come from the Medway area

CONSTRUCTION WASTE FACTS

- The construction industry is responsible for producing an estimated 120 million tonnes of construction, demolition and excavation waste every year – around one third of all waste in the UK. More than 25 million tonnes of this is sent straight to landfill without any form of recovery or re-use.
- An average 8 cubic yard skip costs around £150, the average cost of what is actually thrown away in that skip is over £1,200
- The construction industry produces the equivalent of 1.45 tonnes of waste for every person in the UK per year

For more information please contact David Trice, Project Manager on 01732 876614 or email d.trice@remade-southeast.co.uk.

