

**Did you know.....**

There were **81** fly tipping incidents in Moray from January 2009 to April 2009

**740** people took part in **14** Community Litter Picks throughout Moray during the month of April.

There are **1295** litter and lay by bins along the roads and streets of Moray.

There are **250** dog bins, which are emptied at least once a week.

Last year the council gave out **300,000** dog bags; it looks like this figure will rise to ½ million bags this year.

**Look out for us at the following events.....**

Elgin Library ‘Going Green’ Event:	Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> July - am
Forres Library ‘Going Green’ Event :	Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> July - am
Lossie Library ‘Going Green’ Event:	Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> July - pm
Portgordon Raft Race	Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup> July
Mosstodloch Fair –Speymouth Hall	Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup> August
Milnorduff Flower Show	Saturday 22 <sup>nd</sup> August
WDCS Spey Bay	Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup> August



**The Moray Council**



**Reduce Reuse Recycle**  
towards zero waste

Welcome to the first Waste and Recycling Newsletter; which we aim to produce every quarter. It is hoped that the information provided will encourage even more people to increase their recycling rate and so help the council achieve the targets that have been set by the Scottish Government.

Since the introduction of the kerbside recycling boxes and brown bins to the area, almost five years ago, the recycling rates have risen from 11% in 2003 to over 43% in 2008: exceeding the targets set for us, back in 2002. This has been achieved by the Council’s commitment to make it as easy as possible for everyone to participate in the recycling programme – introducing many local recycling points as well as the kerbside collections – and also by the attitude of the general public who have taken the 3Rs message on board. Whilst we can all be commended for doing ‘our bit’ there is still further work to do and we are consistently reminded that ‘just recycling’ is not enough: we need to reduce the amount of waste produced in the first place.

Looking at the amount of food waste that goes into the bins is a good place to start, as it is estimated that the average household throws away approximately a third of its food every week – this works out at approximately £410 a year. For more information you can contact [www.scottishwasteaware.co.uk](http://www.scottishwasteaware.co.uk) where there are lots of hints and tips on how to reduce the amount of food waste, along with tasty recipe ideas for using up leftovers.

Last year, in partnership with the Scottish Women's Rural Institute, the council produced and promoted a small cookery book. The recipes were tried and tested by members of the SWRI and were aimed at helping people who wanted to try and use up leftover food instead of putting it in the bin. Although the original copies of the book have all been given out we can still print off the recipes for anyone who is interested. Please contact Deborah Hockney on 01343 557079 if you would like a copy.

### **PLASTIC RECYCLING**

Over the past year we have seen more and more people take advantage of the plastic recycling skips which are located at the four main recycling centres at Elgin, Buckie, Keith and Forres. These skips are only for **plastic bottles** with the symbols PET 1 and HDPE 2 and no other plastic items can be recycled with them. Unfortunately some of the keener recycling residents among us do add margarine and yoghurt pots etc., but these only contaminate each load and we then run the risk of having the reprocessor reject the whole lot. At this point in time Scotland has limited recycling options for plastics. Indeed much of this will end up being exported to the Far East where it will be made into fleeces, garden furniture car park posts or numerous other smaller items.

### **LITTER CONFERENCE**

On Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May several Moray schools took part in our Litter Conference at Elgin Town Hall which encouraged pupils to look at different ways of combating litter in and around the school premises and to highlight the problems associated with the dropping of litter. Workshops were led by Community Wardens, Speyside Rangers and WDCS along with the Waste Management Team who ran the event.

As part of their Eco Schools Awards every school is challenged to combat any litter problems at their school and it is the only compulsory topic that has to be covered at each level. Both pupils and staff found the day enjoyable and informative and it is hoped that the schools who attended will find it easier to promote litter awareness back at their individual locations.

### **SPRING CLEAN MONTH**

During the month of April, KSB (Keep Scotland Beautiful) launched their Spring Clean Month, encouraging residents and local authorities in Scotland to promote community litter picks and look at tidying up local areas. In Moray 742 residents took part in 14 registered community litter picks, organised by a variety of groups.

Some individuals and organisations maintain regular litter picks throughout the year if you would like to be involved, or even set up a new group, please contact the Waste Aware Team on 01343 557045 or email [waste@moray.gov.uk](mailto:waste@moray.gov.uk) for help and advice.