

# Waste Solutions



Keeping you up-to-date on your local waste management

## £5 million investment makes it much easier to recycle

**Shanks East London has opened four new Reuse & Recycling Centres (RRCs), previously known as Civic Amenity sites. The RRCs at Jenkins Lane (Barking) Gerpins Lane (Havering) Frizlands Lane (Dagenham) and Chigwell Road (South Woodford) have been redeveloped at a cost of over £5million.**

Several new features make it easier to recycle at an RRC. For example, there are far more recycling bins, for both traditional recyclable materials such as glass and some that you might not expect, such as textiles, CDs and cassettes. New layouts with better traffic management cut down queues. New buildings for general and green waste prevent litter from blowing out and allow staff to recover as much recyclable material as possible. And staff have been trained to help customers get the most out of the RRCs.

Managing Director Allan Barton said: "Overall we are very pleased with our operations at the CA sites and their development into RRCs."

"Safety is improved, as we will be able to keep the public separate from our operational vehicles. This also means the site will be fully operational for longer, as we will not have to shut bays whilst loading vehicles."

Mr Barton also highlighted the performance of the new sites. He added: "The significant

advantage is that we will be able to recycle more materials. We are particularly pleased with the improvement in recycling at the new sites. One site, Chigwell Road, has already recycled over 50% of the incoming waste material."

The sites have shut down on only two occasions, despite the heavy construction activity, during redevelopment.

Shanks East London has produced a series of Reference Guides to help residents get the most out of the RRCs. They contain information on what can be recycled, a map of the site and opening hours. You can get these guides free by asking a member of staff. Alternatively, visit our newly revamped website at [www.shanks.co.uk/eastlondon](http://www.shanks.co.uk/eastlondon), which contains all the information in the leaflets.

Allan wants to encourage everyone to get involved: "We now face the challenge of improving our operations and encouraging the public to help us achieve our goal of transforming the rubbish of East London into a resource."



The new Reuse & Recycling Centre at Jenkins Lane, Barking

### Recycling tips

An informed public is the surest way to recycling success. Please take a few moments to read these helpful recycling hints, and you may find your trips to the RRC become quicker and more convenient:

#### Recycling dos

- DO** separate your rubbish into categories before arriving, e.g. glass, paper and textiles
- DO** ask staff for advice or assistance. They are there to help, and are especially pleased to assist the elderly and disabled
- DO** bring proof of residence in your local borough, such as a council tax or utility bill, if you are in a van
- DO** pick up a free Reference Guide from a member of staff – they include a site map, contact details, opening times and information about recyclable materials
- DO** call Shanks East London on 0800 389 9918 or visit [www.shanks.co.uk/eastlondon](http://www.shanks.co.uk/eastlondon) if you have any further enquiries.

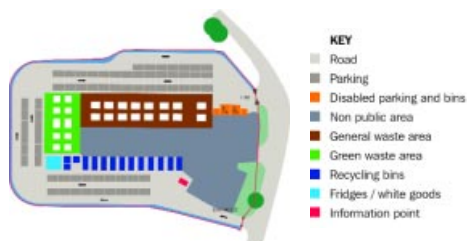
#### Recycling don'ts

- DON'T** attempt to use the steps to the bins or carry your rubbish a long way if you think you may have difficulty – ask a member of staff for help.
- DON'T** attempt to drive through the 5ft 9in height barriers at each site unless you are sure your vehicle will fit under. Ask a member of staff for help
- DON'T** bring a van or tipper if possible – trade waste will be charged for, and there is no area to tip directly into\*
- DON'T** bring hazardous materials or chemicals – please call the Hazardous Waste Collection Service on 020 7332 3433.

\* Chigwell Road RRC does not accept any trade waste.

Shanks ask the public to remain patient as they get used to the new system of separating and sorting rubbish. Several members of our staff have been assaulted in the course of their duties. This is unacceptable, and we will prosecute those who harm or seek to harm our staff.

The map below illustrates the layout of a typical RRC, with many more recycling bins than a traditional "tip". Indeed, you can take many more materials to an RRC, including cardboard, garden waste, fridges, scrap metal, paper, textiles, car batteries, wood, oil, rubble, cans, tins, glass and plastic containers.



Site plan - Gerpins Lane Reuse & Recycling Centre in Havering

**INSIDE:** • Pages 2&3 It's 'in the bag' in Havering • Upgrades for Ilford Recycling Centre • Going back to school to promote recycling • Money for old cans • Page 4 Performance on track



# One giant leap for Havering recycling

Shanks East London took over Havering's "in the bag" kerbside recycling scheme in April, and its had a great start.

The main change for residents is that bags are now orange instead of clear. Almost 100,000 rolls of orange bags were delivered in the first quarterly delivery round. Each roll contains 16 bags for 13 weeks, and more can be obtained by visiting your local library, the Town Hall or the Public Advice Services Centre in Romford. Following strong interest from the local press, people have been calling up the Shanks East London freephone number to find out just what all the fuss is about.

The orange bags work in exactly the same way as the clear bags that were handed out before. The normal

rubbish truck collects them with normal refuse bags, so people don't have to worry about several collection days. But the orange bags are 'survival bags', which means they are stronger than normal black sacks and can survive being compacted in the truck without breaking.

When they reach the Materials Recycling Facility, the orange bags are siphoned off and the recyclables sorted and bulked up. In future, the trucks will go to a Shanks East London facility currently under construction in Havering, where the orange colour will allow a laser to detect and automatically

remove the bags for sorting. The rubbish in the refuse sacks will then be shredded, dried and made safe.

Shanks East London's Managing Director, Allan Barton, is excited about the future. He said: "Working with Havering, our team has done a great job of rolling out the orange survival bags on time and informing people about the change. We've had a very positive response from the community. We're hopeful that by bringing kerbside recycling to over 90% of Havering residents, we can make significant progress toward meeting the borough's recycling targets.



"Boroughs like Havering are investing in recycling because landfilling all their rubbish is becoming unsustainable. In future, recycling should provide a better deal for council taxpayers, because landfill tax is being steadily increased."

People interested in orange bags and recycling should call Shanks East London on freephone 0800 389 9918, or visit [www.shanks.co.uk/eastlondon](http://www.shanks.co.uk/eastlondon). Havering's StreetCare department is still responsible for collecting bags – it can be reached on 01708 432563.

## The future arrives in Ilford

Technology marches on, and in April 2004 Shanks East London and Redbridge Council unveiled the latest upgrades to the Ilford Recycling Centre (IRC).

Shanks have ploughed over £400,000 into the Centre, cramming in the latest recycling technology. The IRC processes the recycling collected by Redbridge's Black Box scheme, recently expanded from 50,000 to 80,000 homes. Glass, paper, card, plastic and cans can be put in the boxes.

Councillor Alan Weinberg, one of Redbridge's ELWA members, revealed the results of this investment. They include a brand new sorting facility and new plant and storage areas. The result will be less contamination of recyclable materials thanks to improved sorting systems and a more efficient, cost-effective operation.

Nick Wellington, Shanks' Communications Manager, said: "The IRC is packed with the

latest technology and the staff take a great deal of pride in getting the best quality output possible." He added that everyone had a part to play in raising recycling rates.

Councillor Weinberg was very pleased with the improvements. He said: "We have worked together to expand the coverage of the 'black box' kerbside multi-material recycling scheme to cover all houses, and are looking at methods of increasing recycling in flats."

To get a recycling box or for further information about recycling call Redbridge's Customer Contact Centre on 020 8554 5000 or visit [www.redbridge.gov.uk/housing](http://www.redbridge.gov.uk/housing).



Machinery in operation at Ilford Recycling Centre

## Getting ready for summer

**Shanks East London and ELWA are helping East London get ready for summer with a range of exciting green garden rubbish recycling services.**

All the Reuse & Recycling Centres now have large bays for green garden rubbish. Staff will be happy to help customers dispose of their grass cutting, leaves and even branches.

Some boroughs have gone even further to bring green garden rubbish recycling to the public. Redbridge Council is operating a collection scheme where for just £4 up to 20 bags of green rubbish will be collected from residents' homes! They've also set up Sunday green rubbish collection points around the borough. ELWA composts some of the green rubbish for use in landscape restoration. Call Redbridge on 020 8554 5000 or visit [www.redbridge.gov.uk](http://www.redbridge.gov.uk) for more details, and information

about their newly-expanded door-to-door recycling collection service.

Newham Council has also set up several Sunday collection points for green garden rubbish. Call them on 020 8430 2000. Shanks' Operations Manager, Stephen Ray, encourages

everyone to get involved. He said: "Getting stuck into gardening has always been a great way to spend a summer's day, but now it's easier than ever to get rid of garden rubbish and help the environment at the same time." Steve advises people not to tie the bags of green rubbish they take to the RRCs, because it should be emptied loosely into the bays. Staff members are always on hand to assist those who may have difficulty.



## Education Programme reaches almost 8,000 local pupils

The “3 Rs” take on a whole new meaning when Tina Goddard and Tracey Pearson go back to school – Reduce, Reuse and Recycle is the day’s lesson.

Working with the four ELWA boroughs, they’ve brought recycling to almost 8,000 children in your local area. Teaching children to



think about what happens to their rubbish is vital, not only because the recycling habit is easiest to pick up at a young age, but because they will also pester their parents to dispose of rubbish more responsibly.

With children exposed to more product advertising than ever, explaining the ‘waste hierarchy’ needs to be fun and relevant. Tina and Tracey relate rubbish to kids’ everyday lives, explaining that every one of them produces over 10 times their body weight in rubbish every year.

MuRFy, the Shanks mascot made of rubbish, is a hit with pupils who enjoy colouring him in (MRF stands for Materials Recycling Facility). Brainteasing word searches keep minds focused, and the children love finding out which materials in the classroom are magnetic.

Tracey is building up an extensive network of contacts in community groups that want to get stuck into recycling. Tina is taking the lead drawing up a new education pack, stuffed with worksheets, information, games and activities, which will be given free to all pupils taking part in Shanks’ education programme.

Tina visited Trinity Special School in Dagenham twice in May and talked to young people about recycling. She joined in the school environment day, helping students to paint frog-shaped recycling bins made from papier mache. They will be placed in classrooms for collecting paper. Tina also joined the students in watching a fun-filled play about recycling.

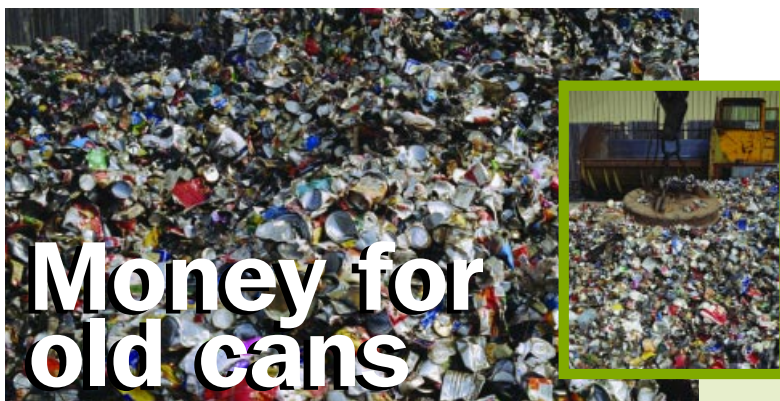
Naturally, Trinity also has Shanks’ free recycling bins. Education goes hand in hand with practice, and Bring Site Manager, Phil Knight, has signed up over 90 schools for free recycling bins so that children can recycle during their school day. Almost as many schools are queuing up for the bins. Schools have been given bins for both paper and mixed materials – such as cans and plastic bottles.



Nelson Primary School in Newham is proactive about recycling – they came second in this year’s London Schools’ Environmental Award and even reused old recycling bins. Tina and Tracey worked with pupils from the school several times, and helped start their Environmental Science Week. In fact, Shanks were so impressed by their attitude that they awarded Nelson Primary £250 in a ceremony attended by Sir Robin Wales, Mayor of Newham. Their Science Co-ordinator, Christine Langdown, said: “I was delighted we got the prize. The children are really excited. It’s good that their hard work has been recognised in this way. The money will be spent on improving the old concrete playground and the nursery garden.

Shanks will award £250 to a school in each of the four boroughs it serves every year, so get your local school involved and call the Education Team today.

Why not give them a call to find out what they can do for your school or community group? They’re available on 01708 527120, or contact them via the website on [www.shanks.co.uk/eastlondon](http://www.shanks.co.uk/eastlondon)



Redbridge Council, Shanks and Alcan Aluminium Can Recycling are giving out free money – to the winners of their ludicrously easy recycling competition.

From May and right through the summer, Redbridge residents who use their black boxes are automatically in with a chance to win £50. Addresses are picked at random by computer, and those with glass, paper, plastic and cans in their boxes receive a certificate and £50.

One winner said: “Obviously we are very grateful to have received the £50. I think recycling is very important and we need to do as much as we can. It’s just a shame that shops continue to use so much packaging on purchases.”

Alcan estimates that Redbridge’s door-to-door recycling programme could generate

16.2 million aluminium drink cans for recycling each year. If all of these cans were placed end to end, they would reach from Redbridge Town Hall to the London Eye and back 60 times!

Redbridge’s cans are taken to Shanks’ newly upgraded Ilford Recycling Centre (see page 2), where they are crushed and baled, ready for reprocessing. Alcan operates Europe’s only dedicated aluminium drink can recycling plant, in Warrington, Cheshire. Here aluminium drink cans collected from Redbridge and around the UK are recycled into ingots that are used to make new drink cans.

The Alcan plant could recycle every aluminium drink can sold in the UK – over 5 billion cans per year. If all were recycled, there might be 14 million fewer dustbins, a lot less litter and less pressure on landfill.

Recycling aluminium drink cans saves up to 95% of the energy used in primary production and conserves natural resources.

The competition has been so popular that Redbridge, Alcan and Shanks are already thinking of running a similar promotion in the autumn.

## University challenge

**Dreaming spires met heaps of rubbish in April when the University of East London teamed up with Shanks East London to recycle rubbish from its Stratford and Docklands campuses. Recycling bins for materials including glass, cans and paper were installed, and are making a big impact on attitudes.**

Shanks’ Nick Wellington said: “Our partnership with the University is of real pride to us. We can contribute to keeping these marvellous new facilities clean and tidy whilst helping to raise recycling rates in the area. We hope that this is only the beginning of a productive relationship with UEL to spread the recycling message.”

UEL Facilities Manager, Angela Marriott, said: “We all produce waste, but reduction and recycling are effective ways of minimising the amount of rubbish that ends up in landfill

sites. In a large university like UEL, this can mean several tonnes every year, including more than 8 million pages of printed paper alone. We are delighted to be working with Shanks East London and, by raising awareness of environmental issues among staff and students, we can make a real difference.”

Shanks and UEL want to install recycling bins at halls of residence, making recycling more convenient for students. The Students’ Union agreed to recycle 100% of its paper and glass waste.



# Jenkins Lane chosen as site for prestigious car advertisement

**A sprinkling of film industry glamour descended on Jenkins Lane in early April. For several days it was 'lights, camera, action!' at the Reuse & Recycling Centre as Vauxhall used it as the setting for a TV advertisement.**

The star was a heavily modified version of Vauxhall's VX220 sports car. Despite having only a 1.3 litre diesel engine, the Eco Speedster concept is capable of reaching 150mph (240kp/h) with remarkable fuel consumption of 120 mpg.

Vauxhall's aim in the advertisements was to show that technology is improving vehicle efficiency, even if improvements have still to be made on the practicality front.

The Jenkins Lane shoot, masterminded by Peter Cattaneo (who directed *The Full Monty*) showed a stream of conventional

vehicles pulling up at the RRC to disgorge large quantities of rubbish, whilst the driver of the Eco Speedster could find room in his hi-tech vehicle for nothing larger than a toaster.

As always with film projects, the actual shoot was surrounded by a considerable amount of effort that will go unnoticed by the television audience. Shanks' Communications Co-ordinator Robert Freedman showed film location manager Christian McWilliams around the site during the search for a suitable location. Operations Manager Stephen Ray decided on how they could use the site and, together with

Communications Manager Nick Wellington, negotiated the contract with the film company. Dennis Jane, the site manager, provided technical assistance to the film crew regarding the layout of the site

Shanks employee Bobby Brown was effectively seconded to the film crew for several days, helping them with health and safety and

liaising between the crew and other members of staff on site. He also helped ensure that there were adequate supplies of various items of rubbish, such as fridges, on site for use as props. Bobby even took time off from preparations for his daughter's wedding to pop into the site to ensure that everything was running smoothly.

RRC supervisors Tony Coyne and Darrant Brown also assisted the crew and found themselves roped in as 'extras'. HGV driver Fred Cox operated a water-spraying vehicle, creating a 'just rained' effect.

Location manager Christian McWilliams praised the team, adding that Jenkins Lane "was the perfect venue for our latest series of Vauxhall advertisements."

## Performance on track

Results at some of the individual RRCs have been astonishing. In one week in April, Chigwell Road RRC sent over 50% of the material it received for recycling. Operations Manager Stephen Ray congratulated the staff, saying: "New facilities are great, but without staff commitment we wouldn't have been able to encourage the public to sort and separate their rubbish. Staff at the other RRCs are also pushing very hard toward 50%. On behalf of the management at Shanks East London, I'd like to thank all those involved for a job well done."

Shanks is on track to deliver several new waste management facilities, as reported in the last issue of *Waste Solutions*.

New MRFs and Bio MRFs will help Shanks to extract more recyclable material from East London's waste than ever before. With new investment and public support, there's every reason to be optimistic that East London will hit the target of recycling a third of its rubbish by 2016.

**December 2002**  
Shanks East London formed as joint venture between Shanks Group plc and the East London Waste Authority. Assumes responsibility for waste disposal facilities in East London

**October 2003**  
Redevelopment of four Civic Amenity sites into Reuse & Recycling Centres begins, at a cost of £5m

**March 2004**  
Reuse & Recycling Centres completed

**June 2004**  
"First Dig" at Frog Island, Rainham, in preparation for construction of Bio MRF and a special MRF to process mixed waste from the RRCs. Foundations, roads and infrastructure built in preparation for construction of plants

**July 2004**  
Construction of RRC MRF at Frog Island begins

**February 2005**  
Construction of RRC MRF at Frog Island complete

**February 2005**  
Construction of Bio MRF at Frog Island begins

**June 2005**  
Construction of Bio MRF at Jenkins Lane begins

**September 2006**  
Construction of Bio MRF at Frog Island complete

**October 2006**  
Construction of "Survival Bag" MRF at Jenkins Lane, designed to process rubbish from orange bags, begins

**January 2007**  
Construction of Bio MRF at Jenkins Lane complete

**April 2007**  
Construction of "Survival Bag" MRF at Jenkins Lane complete

Monday - Friday  
9.00am - 5.00pm

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## Fast Facts Did you know that...

- Enough paper was collected for recycling at Chigwell Road in 2003 to save the equivalent of almost 2,000 trees.
- People produce 10 times their body weight in rubbish every year.
- Enough glass was collected for recycling at Jenkins Lane RRC in 2003 to save the equivalent energy needed to boil water for over 5 million pots of tea.
- Recycling one plastic bottle saves enough energy to power a 60-watt lightbulb for six hours.
- Recycled plastic bottles can be turned into fleece jackets.
- You can stop junk mail by contacting the Mailing Preference Service on 0845 703 4599 or by visiting <http://www.tpsonline.org.uk/mpsr>
- Many supermarkets now offer more durable carrier bags, some of which can be replaced at no charge when worn out if presented back at the store for recycling.
- Textiles, CDs, mobile phones and books are all accepted at Shanks East London's RRCs, and are sent for either reuse or recycling.
- It takes 500 years for a plastic carrier bag to rot in a landfill. We use over 8 million of them in this country every year!
- You can find out more information about recycling in London at [www.recycleforlondon.com](http://www.recycleforlondon.com) - including the location of your nearest recycling bins.
- It can take as little as six weeks for a can placed in a recycling bank, box or bag to be recycled and back on the supermarket shelf, ready for the process to start again!

This newspaper is published jointly by Shanks East London and ELWA

To contact Shanks East London, please call freephone 0800 389 9918. Alternatively, visit [www.shanks.co.uk/eastlondon](http://www.shanks.co.uk/eastlondon). Both sources can advise you about your local RRC and help with general recycling enquiries.



Visit [www.eastlondonwaste.gov.uk](http://www.eastlondonwaste.gov.uk) for information on ELWA, the organisation that contracts Shanks East London to dispose of East London's waste.