

SNU

WASTE
MANAGEMENT
AND
RECYCLING



Consultancy
services

About SNU

Our mission

SNU is a not for profit consultancy organisation working to improve the quality of local environments especially in disadvantaged areas.

An independent charity and company limited by guarantee, SNU has been at the forefront of neighbourhood development for more than 20 years working to change the way neighbourhoods are managed, resourced and made secure.

Our principal aim is to make neighbourhoods places where people want to live and work and where they feel they have some control over their lives.

Our services

SNU offers consultancy and research services for residents' organisations, local authorities, regeneration schemes, housing associations and government departments in the following fields:

- Evaluating neighbourhood renewal and other local regeneration initiatives.
- Developing participation and stock transfer initiatives with social housing tenants.
- Assessing community safety and crime prevention projects in disadvantaged areas.
- Planning environmental improvements and developing waste recycling systems in so-called 'difficult-to-reach' areas.
- Training courses and practical guides for residents and professionals working to improve local environments.



The focus of our waste management and recycling consultancy

SNU's focus on disadvantaged areas is reflected in our waste management consultancy. Much of our work has been to develop and to evaluate recycling initiatives, including food waste collections, in so-called 'hard-to-reach' areas, including:

- blocks of flats,
- high density housing estates,
- low income areas,
- other neighbourhoods where design and demography militate against achieving environmental targets.

SNU is also involved in highlighting good practice through case studies and tool kits, and in training waste management and recycling professionals to improve the quality of recycling initiatives and programmes.

What we offer

Planning recycling services

- Carrying out waste composition studies.
- Preparing proposals for recycling services, tailored to the design and demography of residential areas.

Assessing recycling services

- Surveying residents on attitudes to waste and recycling.
- Carrying out participation studies.
- Evaluating recycling services.

Promoting best practice

- Developing toolkits and guides.
- Developing training courses.
- Carrying out strategy reviews.

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Planning recycling services in blocks of flats

Our approach is to prepare photographic reports with recommendations and specifications for recycling services for flats based on the following stages:

- Assessing residual waste management arrangements in the flats. These can include door-to-door collections, chutes discharging into bulk bins, ground level bulk bring bins and ground level individual bins.
- Calculating the refuse capacity per block per week based on number and size of households.
- Estimating the volume per dwelling per week of the materials in the waste stream to be targeted for recycling (eg paper, card, glass, cans).
- Determining the collection infrastructure requirements to provide sufficient volume to collect the targeted materials, taking account of materials to be targeted, available finance, logistics options, space and land use considerations, provision of services by landlords or managing agents etc.
- Preparing options for recycling services: door-to-door recycling collections, chute system adaptations, ground level recycling bins close to block entrances or alongside existing residual refuse arrangements etc.

Principle commissions

SNU has developed recycling scheme options in:

- LB Tower Hamlets (2003-4 and 2007)
- LB Redbridge (2004)
- Brighton & Hove (2005)
- Elmbridge (2005)
- South Oxfordshire (2005)
- Nottingham (2005)
- Wirral (2006)
- Essex District Councils (2006)



Assessing the effectiveness of household recycling schemes

We offer a range of assessment tools for recycling initiatives including:

- Waste composition studies using standardised methods to allow the calculation of waste diversion rates, capture rates, contamination rates etc.
- Participation studies.
- Questionnaire surveys and interviews about waste and recycling – including design, sampling, analysis and reports.

SNU provides personal protective clothing and full health and safety risk assessments for staff engaged in these initiatives

Principle commissions

- **Northamptonshire County Council (2006)**
Waste composition study across seven district council, leading to detailed reports assessing the efficacy of weekly, alternate weekly, commingled, kerbside sorted, wheeled bin refuse, black bag refuse etc.
- **London Borough of Hackney (2006-2007)**
Waste composition analysis and questionnaire surveys to examine the performance of a pioneering food waste collection scheme in blocks of flats.
- **City of London (2006-2007)**
Assessment of the performance of intensive door-to-door recycling collections in blocks of flats, including food waste.
- **London Borough of Tower Hamlets (2007)**
Supporting London Remade in planning improvements to Tower Hamlets' flats recycling initiatives.
- **WRAP (2007 and 2010 ongoing)**
Fieldwork and calculations based on observations of recycling collection operations in four local authorities across England in support of updates to the Kerbside Analysis Tool (KAT).

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Promoting best practice in recycling schemes

SNU has carried out a range of projects aimed at promoting good practice in recycling. This has included:

- developing toolkits and guides to recycling, with a particular focus on flats;
- developing training courses to raise awareness of recycling and promote good practice.

Principle commissions

Waste recycling toolkits

- **Recycling for flats** (2006)
Commissioned by DEFRA, and co-authored by WasteWatch and SNU, the guide offers practical advice and case studies on flats recycling in the UK and in Europe.

Waste Information Network reports that *“This excellent document provides an update on the 2004 report and is the most comprehensive report available on recycling in flats. As such it is imperative reading for all those involved in service operation and development.”*

Downloadable from: http://www.wrap.org.uk/downloads/8_Estates-based_recycling_in_the_UK.11a2d907.6856.pdf

Training courses

- **Schools recycling schemes: improving performance** (formerly *Recycling in Schools*) (2007 to date)
SNU develops and delivers this WRAP training course.

“This course aims to enable delegates to:

- *establish the performance of current recycling collection schemes for schools;*
- *review the scheme, plan and implement improvements; and,*
- *sustain the improved performance of the scheme by planned communication with the schools” – WRAP*

See

http://www.wrap.org.uk/local_authorities/training_events/index.html

Strategic reviews

- **Mayor of London’s waste management strategy**
SNU acted as consultants to the London Assembly in their scrutiny of the Mayor’s first waste management strategy.

SNU

The Safe Neighbourhoods Unit (SNU) was originally established as a London-based organisation in 1982 but became independent in 1990 and, since then, has developed a national service in the fields of environmental management, neighbourhood renewal, resident democracy and community safety.

Our key staff

David Birley MSc (Econ)

David Birley directs SNU's environmental work. Having developed pioneering kerbside recycling initiatives with Friends of the Earth in the early 1990s, David Birley has advised numerous local authorities on effective waste recycling schemes specialising in hard-to-reach areas. He led SNU's successful bids to achieve call-off contractor status with DEFRA WIP LASU and WRAP Rotate.

Associate consultants

SNU also works with a network of associate consultants engaged for specific assignments in the waste recycling field.

Contact us

For more information about our waste management consultancy services, please contact:

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Our company

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Providing research, training and management consultancy services for residents' organisations, local authorities, regeneration schemes, registered social landlords and central government departments.

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