BDR Waste Treatment Facility Community Liaison Group Newsletter

April-June 2026

Please see below updates from the BDR team.

Contact details for Council waste services can be found on the last page.

Biffa update

Council inputs YoY are increasing more than expected:

22/23 = 207,700t

23/24 = 209,400t

24/25 = 211,760t

25/26 = 213,000t

Recycling performance April 2026 to June 2026 is at 13.96%. Steady outputs and capture percentages have been maintained and are in line with budget.

Ferrybridge FM1 outage in May proved to be challenging but all inputs from the councils were received and processed.

Preparation for summer operations have been put into practice. The recent (and looks like continuing) heatwave has meant operatives taking extra breaks where possible elongating some engineering activities but, overall, the team has ploughed on during some very hot days.

There has been a petition and news article raised by a local resident, regarding flies, who we have engaged with. We have engaged with the Environment Agency and Environmental Health representative too on the matter. All controls remain in place and ramped up in line with conditions, weather and the conditions fortnightly residual waste collections pose.

Danny Tadd, Contract Director

BDR update

BDR General Update

The Contractor (Biffa formally Renewi) continues to manage the project well with minimal issues reported, the BDR team continue to monitor their performance and raise any issues as needed.

There have been no issues with contract waste deliveries over the last several months, all waste has been accepted and processed as required by the contract.

The BDR team continue to work with the Contractor on updates and changes to the facility to meet contractual requirements and environmental permits. These include work on the anaerobic digestion pasteurisation, ammonia scrubbing system, reduction in emissions, enhanced fly management/suppression, and infrastructure improvement/repair work.

Legislation Changes

As previously advised the government has announced new waste initiatives and changes to its environmental policies. They are introducing Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) -now live, Simpler Recycling -March 2026 for households, a Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) - October 2027 and the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) -2028.

Simpler Recycling

As previously stated, all councils have an exemption to separately collect food waste due to the Bolton Road waste treatment facility meeting the aims of the policy by diverting waste from landfill and into a compost like output while also generating electricity to be used on site.

All councils meet or are working towards being compliant with the policy requirements for recycling collections.

As with most councils nationally, the BDR councils have expanded the range of materials to be collected from commercial premises this year (commenced 2025, a year before the Household Requirements).

DRS / ETS / EPR

The BDR team is working closely with the Contractor, along with external contractors, to monitor, forecast, and ensure that the contract meets the requirements of these policies when they are implemented.

Carl Hewlett – Senior Contract Officer, BDR PFI Waste Team

CELO update

Site tours

This year, we are running a public site tour every month. These are on different days of the week and at different times throughout the year to allow as many people as possible to join us. We are also doing two Saturday site tour dates.

More information and how to book onto the tours is available via the BDR online website.

Recipe Videos

We have commissioned more recipe videos to use on our social media to encourage food waste reduction. These focus on batch cooking, cooking on a budget, and cooking using commonly wasted items of food. The recipes will be shared on our social media feeds throughout the year and will be available to view on our YouTube channel.

Here is a behind the scenes photo from one of the production days with chef Clover Hunter (@cloverfoodandevents)

Food Waste Campaign

Since the start of the campaign, we have received nearly 450 responses to our survey about food storage habits of fresh fruits and vegetables and distributed over 300 Kitchen kits. The follow up surveys are currently being sent out to participants, and 35 responses have been received so far.

The campaign will continue to the end of September.

Education Sessions and Community Talks

So far, we have done five sessions to 523 young people. These include sessions on the 3Rs and an assembly about the site on Earth Day.

We are continuing to deliver our community talks this year. Abi has delivered talks about Love Food Hate Waste and Love Your Clothes to local groups.

If you have any enquires about our education sessions or community talks, please use the booking forms on the BDR online website.

International Compost Awareness Week

In May, we celebrated International Compost Awareness Week. Posts were shared on social media encouraging residents to compost at home as well as showcasing the benefits.

As part of this we ran a giveaway to win a Hotbin mini composter. We received just over 400 entries.

The winner was Georgina H from Barnsley.

Volunteer hours

Last year, our Community Environment Fund supported several environmental projects across Barnsley, Doncaster, and Rotherham.

One of the successful recipients was the charity Kids Plant Trees, which delivered a project in Bolton-upon-Dearne to engage local schools and the wider community in creating a new wildlife space.

As part of the project, a community orchard and a wildflower meadow were established on the playing fields near Lacewood Primary School, creating a valuable habitat for wildlife and a green space for the local community to enjoy. We got a chance to visit and see the prepping and planting of the wildflower patches.

Carfield Primary school planting day in June

Community planting day in June

Recent photo of the wildflowers in full bloom!

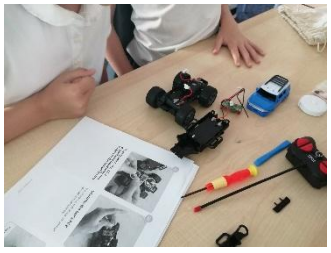
We have more volunteer hours available for community groups this year. Find out more and apply here

Team repair

We are working with Team Repair to deliver free green skills workshops to schools. Workshops are aimed at students aged 10-14, letting them take apart gadgets and repair them, fostering both a repair mindset and STEM engagement.

So far six sessions have been delivered with five scheduled to take place next academic year.

To express interest and request a repair workshop schools can email edu@team.repair with the school's name and location.



We recently saw one of the repair workshops in action at Milefield school in Barnsley. The students were tasked with fixing a broken remote-controlled car. The workshop was engaging and looked at different repair tools and techniques.

Upcoming campaigns

Keep an eye out for some more of our campaigns that will be happening:

- **Plastic Free July** – encouraging residents to reduce single-use plastics through easy reusable swaps. We are running giveaways throughout the month on our social media platforms.
- **Second Hand Styling Challenge** – a competition to ask residents to showcase how they style clothes they already own.
- **Recycle Week** – the annual national recycling campaign will run from the 14th to 20th of September 2026.

Rebecca Wilson – Assistant Community Education Liaison Officer, Biffa

Where to find out more:

Council

For individual Council Waste and Recycling information e.g. HWRCs, collection dates and materials:

- Barnsley Council: www.barnsley.gov.uk/services/bins-rubbish-and-recycling
- City of Doncaster Council: www.doncaster.gov.uk/services/bins-recycling-waste
- Rotherham Council: www.rotherham.gov.uk/environment

Biffa BDR

- For information on site, site tours, and education sessions visit the BDR Online website: www.bdronline.co.uk
- For enquires relating to site, please contact BDR.Enquires@biffa.co.uk

Waste Less South Yorkshire

- Website: www.wasteless-sy.co.uk
- Facebook: www.facebook.com/WLSYorks
- Instagram: www.instagram.com/wastelesssouthyorkshire
- TikTok: www.tiktok.com/@wastelesssy