BDR Waste Treatment Facility
Community Liaison Group Newsletter

July-September 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 year on year are increasing more than expected:

22/23 = 207,700t

23/24 = 209,400t

24/25 = 211,760t

25/26 = 213,000t

2026 to date = 107,036t

A very warm summer hasn't affected the waste much with good processing figures and capture rates. Working conditions have been challenging due to the heat in and out of work

Environmental compliance has been maintained throughout the summer even with >30c degree heat.

Danny Tadd, Contract Director, Biffa

Recycling performance July 2026 to Sept 2026 is at 12.19%. Steady outputs and capture percentages have been maintained and in line with budget.

Ferrybridge FM2 brought their outage forwards meaning FM1 became busy with some queuing but all inputs from the councils were received and processed.

BDR Update

BDR General Update

The Contractor (Biffa formerly 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 (planned but could be delayed) and the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) -now delayed until 2030.

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 including rolling out new services and bins.

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 over the remainder of the contract.

Carl Hewlett – Senior Contract Officer, BDR PFI Waste Team

CELO Updates

Site tours, Education Sessions, and Community Talks

We are still running 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 continuing to deliver our education sessions and community talks this year.

More information on our community outreach activities can be found on the BDR website.

Volunteer hours

Our volunteer hours are open for applications. Groups in Barnsley, Doncaster, and Rotherham can apply for up to 30 hours. Some examples of how volunteer hours have been used in the past:

- Painting walls and varnishing floors in community centres.
- Painting fences and gates of community spaces.
- Moving furniture between community buildings
- Planting community gardens.
- Administration for community group.
- Supporting youth organisation education visits.

More information and application form can be found on the BDR website.

Food Waste Campaign

Since the start of the campaign, we have received 635 responses to our survey about food storage habits of fresh fruits and vegetables and distributed over 500 Kitchen kits.

The survey closed at the end of September. Follow up surveys will continue until the end of December, 118 have been completed to the end of September.

Plastic Free July

In July, we did a campaign to encourage residents to reduce single-use plastics. Throughout the month, social media posts were shared about easy reusable alternatives.

Four giveaways were done throughout the campaign of reusable items relating to different areas of life. Over 400 Entries were received. The winners were as follows:

- Sarah D from Barnsley – Plastic Free Kitchen Bundle
- Belle I from Rotherham – Plastic Free Kids Bundle
- Laura A from Doncaster – Plastic Free Out & About Bundle
- Jane W from Doncaster – Plastic Free beauty & Hygiene Bundle



The different giveaway bundles for Plastic Free July.

Batteries, vapes and BBQs

Throughout the warmer months we promoted messaging about correct disposal of BBQs and gas canisters. With this being a really dry summer and active alerts of wildfires being more prominent, the messaging was adapted as needed.

Vapes and batteries disposal messaging has been shared on our social media platforms as incorrect disposal of these materials means greater risk of fires in bin lorries and at waste treatment facilities. These messages will continue to be shared throughout the year.



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.

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

Second-hand September

In September, we focused our social media on clothes and textiles. This included messaging about Second-hand September – a national campaign by the charity Oxfam to encourage people to shop second-hand and donate to help the planet and raise money for charity.

Abi has written a blog with some tips on shopping at the charity shop. You can find this on the Waste Less South Yorkshire website.

Shop Your Wardrobe

Following on from the second-hand clothing challenge we did last year, we are back with another competition for residents. This time, we have focused on showcasing the clothes already in your wardrobes. We have asked entrants to style an item of clothing 3 ways to show the versatility of the clothes they already own.

The competition will close in October.



Recycle Week

We also took part in the national Recycle Week campaign from the 14th of September. The theme of this year's campaign was rescuing recycling – targeting often forgotten materials such as shampoo bottles, toilet roll tubes, and perfume bottles.

Upcoming campaigns

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

- **International E-waste Day (14th October)** – Annual awareness day highlighting the problems caused by E-waste and the benefits of recycling electricals. The official campaign this year will focus on 'The Great Cable Challenge'. More information can be found on the Recycle Your Electricals Page: https://recycleyourelectricals.org.uk
- **Waste Myth Busting (November) -**We will be focusing our social media messaging on de-bunking common myths about waste and recycling throughout the month of November.
- **Christmas** – Waste increases over the festive period, therefore we will be focusing on our messaging on reduction, reusing and recycling tips throughout December and into January.

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