



**WALES
ENVIRONMENT
TRUST** | Creating markets
for recycle

Solway Recycling Helps Welsh Farmers to Recycle

Who's involved?

The **Wales Environment Trust** and **Solway recycling**.

Background.

Farmers in Wales are able to dispose of their agricultural waste safely without harming the environment thanks to an Assembly grant that has been awarded to a specialist agricultural recycling company.

With the help of the **Wales Environment Trust**, **Solway Recycling** was awarded a £28,000 Assembly Investment Grant to promote collection and recycling of agricultural waste for Welsh farmers.

Working with the Trust.

Solway Recycling used the grant to purchase a lorry which collects both contaminated and non-hazardous waste and takes it away to be recycled. The company has been operating in Wales since the beginning of 2005 and currently deals with over 70 farmers across the country.

The award of the grant was particularly timely as from September 2005 Welsh farmers had to comply with the Waste Framework Directive, which means that the disposal of waste on all farms in Wales is strictly controlled. The new legislation means that farmers will only be able to transfer their waste to a registered waste carrier and will no longer be permitted to burn or bury farm waste.

As marketing manager, Chris Hartshorne, explains, Solway Recycling can help Welsh farmers deal with the problems that will arise from the new legislation.

'This grant will make a real difference to farmers as they will no longer be able to burn or bury their plastic wastes. When buried, plastic stays in the ground for ever and when burned, it emits all sorts of harmful gases.

'While the mainstream plastics recyclers do not tend to be very keen to collect contaminated silage film we specialise in the collection of this waste. We are also able to offer a one-stop recycling service for farmers and take care of all their non-organic farm waste.

'We encourage the use of our unique bin and liner system which controls contamination levels, keeps farms tidy and makes recycling easier. We also use the Bin and Liner system to collect used bulk feed and fertiliser bags and used plastic drums and containers from farms.

'We would never have been able to access this grant were it not for the help we have received from the Wales Environment Trust. Their advice and support about the Welsh marketplace has been invaluable.'

Commenting on the grant, Richard Carter, Business Development Executive at the **Wales Environment Trust**, said: 'We are delighted to have been able to help Solway Recycling access this funding from the Assembly. As they were based in Scotland, they relied on us to provide general advice on the market opportunities within Wales and on the funding that was available to them.

Achievements.

- Reducing the amount of agricultural plastic being buried
- Reducing the amount of agricultural plastic waste being burnt
- Reducing harmful gas emissions entering the atmosphere.
- With the guidance of the Wales Environment Trust, £28,000 AIG grant obtained.
- Coverage gained in the Local/National Press as well as trade publications and websites with the help of the **Trust's FREE marketing assistance.**

Contact details:

Wales Environment Trust: Richard Carter. 01633 811875

