

City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council

Green waste helps get regeneration
project off the ground



Bradford Council is leading the way in using closed loop recycling to regenerate urban brownfield sites after refining its approach to land regeneration with the help of experts at Yorkshire Water - a project supported by research funding from CO2Sense.

Myra Shay was a colliery site which following closure became an under-used and under-developed recreational area, limited by the existence of an old spoil heap, known locally as 'Black Hill'.

Today, however, Myra Shay is a vibrant recreational site and an important wildlife corridor - a flagship for local authority best practice in waste and land management.

Composting

- Diverted 6,200 tonnes of biodegradable green waste into regeneration markets
- Saved £20,000 saved on the football pitches alone
- Proved the economic and environmental value of closed loop recycling by using locally produced green waste to regenerate a local landscape
- Helped Bradford Council hit central government targets to reduce waste sent to landfill
- Promoted the benefit of recycling to residents and demonstrated a local market.

“This regeneration project is an excellent demonstration of the value of joined up thinking between local authority departments.”

Councillor Anne Hawkeswoth – BRADFORD COUNCIL

Sustainability and limited budgets were issues for the team responsible for the Myra Shay regeneration project, so it called on experts at Yorkshire Water to explore ways in which waste from the locality, and spoil found on the Myra Shay site, could be transformed into topsoil that would add to the site's redevelopment.

Following discussions with Yorkshire Water, Bradford Council committed to using compost produced at Yorkshire Water's Esholt facility as the main material in the site's regeneration.

This closes the recycling loop as the main feedstock for this compost is green waste from Bradford's own household collections.

CO2Sense's regeneration manager, Anthony Walker, is now working with the Culture, Tourism and Sport team at Bradford Council to monitor the long term effectiveness of the compost product and will disseminate knowledge gained through this project with other local authorities in Yorkshire and the Humber.

Within eight years Myra Shay's 22 acres went from being a poor growing medium to fertile and robust soil.

The five schools which back on to the site, and surrounding houses, now benefit from a green space that includes 6,000 trees and planting schemes of flowers and shrubs.



Public footpaths run through Myra Shay, and there are five football pitches in place of the original one pitch, a children's play area, trim trail equipment, plus four Kabbadi Courts - all served by car parking and changing rooms.

Commenting on the successful redevelopment of Myra Shay, Councillor Anne Hawkesworth, Bradford Council's Executive member for environment and culture, said: "This regeneration project is an excellent demonstration of the value of joined up thinking between local authority departments.

"Bradford Council has developed complementary waste and land management systems that are sustainable and economical by taking an innovative approach to resources within the borough."

CO2Sense was established by Yorkshire Forward to help businesses in the region to prosper in the low carbon economy. We provide expertise and funding to help environmental companies to grow. We work with partners to help all organisations to fund and develop initiatives that reduce their carbon emissions.