



# Rehab Smashes Glass Recycling Records

A survey conducted for Repak Recycling Week in October proves how Irish households are dedicated to the cause of glass recycling.

**A RECORD 46,000 TONNES** of glass from Irish households were recycled by Rehab Recycle in the first eight months of this year, according to a survey conducted for Repak Recycling Week in October. That's enough bottles and jars to fill Croke Park, Ireland's largest sporting stadium, 41 feet high.

The survey revealed that almost 150 million bottles and jars were deposited in the country's bring banks – enough bottles to stretch over 44,659 kms – during the period.

The people of Cork were once again the country's best recyclers with deposits of 74 bottles for every man, woman and child in the county. Galway and Leitrim were the next

best recyclers with an average of 64 and 63 items of glass recycled per person respectively.

The greatest increase in glass recycling came in Mayo once more, up by 22 per cent to 1,802 tonnes of glass, followed by Leitrim where figures rose by 19 per cent compared with the same period last year. After a battle of the Superquinnns, the title of Ireland's busiest bring site was won by Superquinn Knocklyon, just edging out Superquinn Lucan, with 274 tonnes of glass deposited, representing 899,000 bottles and jars.

Commenting to *Rehab News*, Bob Rowat, General Manager, Rehab Recycle, says, "In the past seven years, deposits at Rehab Recycle bring centres nationwide have more

than doubled from 30,000 tonnes of waste glass to in excess of 69,000 tonnes last year.

"The results of the survey clearly show the great efforts of Irish people to recycle. However, we need to continue our efforts and encourage people to bring their glass to recycling banks where it is separated at source, thereby minimising contamination from other types of glass and recyclables. This also maximises the benefit to the environment as the glass recycled by Rehab is eventually made into glass once again."

Andrew Hetherington, CEO, Repak, said, "Ireland's glass recycling continues to go from strength to strength and is one of our star performers. However, Ireland's overall

packaging recycling targets have increased this year to 750,000, up 100,000 tonnes on last year. This is a huge leap and we need everybody to recycle more packaging than before. We are encouraging everyone to look

at every room in their house and every type of packaging and consider can they put it into their current recycling collection systems. If we all do this, we can grow our recycling rates of other materials to match those of glass."

### Repak Recycling Awards

Rehab Recycle sponsored two awards at the 7th Annual Repak Recycling Awards in October which recognise environmental best practices. Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, John Gormley TD, was special guest at the event which saw Glenlo Abbey win the Repak Best Practice Award 2008 – Hospitality, and Fingal Abbey win the 2008 Local Authority of the Year.

Glenlo Abbey was honoured for its ongoing work on minimising the use of packaging and improving recycling rates. The five-star family-run boutique hotel in Bushypark, Co. Galway, now has clearly-marked recycling bins in each guest room and one particularly innovative scheme is its "packaging free breakfast" whereby all food items are ordered in bulk to cut down on packaging and eliminate the need for individually-wrapped butter sachets and jam jars. The hotel now works in conjunction with Galway County Council in order to tutor other businesses in the locality on their waste management methods.

Fingal County Council was recognised for its all-round good performance in terms of availability of local collection facilities for the general public. The Council serves an area encompassing 88,000 households and a local population of approximately 240,000 people. In 2007, the bring collection system yielded 11 per cent more recycled tonnage than the previous year and all households within Fingal are serviced by kerbside collections for dry recyclables, residual waste and compost. ■



### Some Glass Recycling Facts:

- Glass will never decompose. Archaeologists are still finding glass used during Roman times.
- Just one recycled glass bottle saves enough energy to power a computer for 25 minutes.
- Nearly three million gallons of fuel is saved each year in Ireland purely through the recycling of glass.
- The glass recycling process is a closed-loop system, creating no additional waste or by-products.
- It would take 3,200 forty-foot trucks to transport at once all of the glass collected annually by Rehab Recycle. That's a 33-mile queue of trucks!