

Rehab Recycle's latest survey reveals further rapid improvement among the Irish public in reprocessing their bottles and jars

A record 50,000 tonnes of glass from Irish households has been recycled in the last year - enough bottles and jars when placed end to end to circle the entire globe.

A new survey reveals that the huge deposits - which total 162.5 million individual glass containers - were collected in Rehab Recycle bottle banks around the country in the last 12 months. This marks an increase of 20 per cent on the previous highest deposits recorded in 2004. Rehab Recycle is responsible for 90 per cent of domestic glass recycling in Ireland.

Compiled as part of Repak's National Recycling Week, the study also shows the people of Cork are again the country's best recyclers with deposits of some 50 bottles and jars for each man woman and child in county already in 2005. Next best is Galway with an average of 44 items of glass recycled per person, followed by Leitrim on 43.

The largest increase in glass recycling came in County Cavan - up by 45 per cent to 511 tonnes of glass, followed by Limerick where figures rose by 38 per cent. The bring bank at the Tesco shopping centre in Bray once again claimed the honour of being Ireland's busiest bring site with deposits during the first eight months of the year, totalling a staggering 1,037,000 bottles and jars.

"These returns represent an extraordinary effort to recycle by most Irish people," said Rehab Recycle general manager, Bob Rowat. "Put in perspective, if you laid down all of the bottles and jars we collected over the last 12 months end to end, they would stretch around the world with plenty to spare.

"Over the years there has been plenty of criticism of the public's lack of involvement in recycling and of the unnecessary damage this is causing to the environment. These figures show the tide has well and



Top of the Glass

truly turned. However we must not let up in getting the message across to people in every town and village in the country of the crucial importance of recycling, not just for our own quality of life, but for future generations as well."

Mr. Andrew Hetherington, CEO, Repak, said: "In addition to the huge success of

glass recycling we are on target to meet our 2005 EU recycling target of 50 per cent of all used packaging. The challenge to increase this rate will heavily depend on householders digging deeper into their bins to stop more recyclable packaging going to landfill. During this year's Repak Recycling week we are congratulating established household recyclers and



Area	Jan-Aug 2005	Increase %	Rank	Bottles (000's)	Bottles per head	Rank	Bottles per household	Rank	Busiest Site	Tons	Bottles (000s)
Bray UDC (Wicklow)	330	5		1073					Tesco Bray	319	1037
Cavan	511	45	1	1661	29		91		Tesco Cavan	64	208
Cork	6,949	36	4	22,581	50	1	152	1	Ballincollig Times Square	282	917
Dublin	9,088	18		29,536	26		78		Oscar Traynor Road	245	796
Galway	2,826	23		9,185	44	2	139	2	Westside Shopping Centre	181	588
Kildare	1,641	37	3	5,333	33		106		Tesco Naas	230	748
Kilkenny	950	25		3,088	38	4	121	3	Loughboy Shopping Centre	179	582
Leitrim	339	15		1,102	43	3	121	3	Carrick-on-Shannon	48	156
Limerick City	475	38	2	1,544	29		81		Roxboro Shopping Centre	79	257
Louth	1,033	28		3,357	33		100		Blackrock	79	257
Mayo	992	13		3,224	27		82		Ballina Landfill Site	90	293
Meath	1,169	22		3,799	28		91		Navan Civic Amenity Centre	212	689
Monaghan	480	30	5	1,560	30		93		Monaghan UDC Car Park	72	234
Roscommon	549	17		1,784	33		98		Roscommon Civic Amenity	70	228
Sligo	636	14		2,067	35		105		Grange	52	169
Tipperary	1,541	19		5,008	36	5	107	5	Thurles Parnell Street	113	367



encouraging new recyclers by distributing 50,000 recycling bags in conjunction with Rehab.”

With over 1,800 bring sites nationwide, Rehab Recycle is responsible for 90 per cent of Ireland’s bottle bank network and currently reprocesses over 50,000 tonnes of glass a year – representing 162 million individual bottles and jars. The company, which also recycles large quantities of cans, cardboard, paper, and waste electronic and electrical equipment, is part of a unique integrated employment model and has a workforce of 105 people, 58 of whom are people with disabilities.



RehabCare is planning a major calendar of events under the banner of RC10 to celebrate its tenth anniversary in 2006

Take the passion and make it happen – that’s the new catchphrase of RehabCare as the countdown begins on a spectacular year of activities and celebrations to mark its 10th anniversary in 2006.

And already the Taoiseach Bertie Ahern has been enlisted to share the feeling – by launching RC10 with more than 500 RehabCare service users and staff at a glittering Day of Celebration in the Mansion House on January 24th next.

A nationwide volunteering programme is to be developed by RehabCare as a flagship project of the year-long calendar of events which also seeks to promote the abilities of RehabCare service users and their value to the life of their local community, as well as raising RehabCare’s can-do profile locally and nationally.

A national awards programme will also be established to recognise the work and achievements of RehabCare service users, staff, volunteers and supporters in helping to build the organisation over the last decade and to help make it such a success

In addition, RehabCare will host a major international conference on person centred planning in Dublin early next summer, whilst a plethora of local launches, fundraisers and sports events will also be held around the country throughout the year.

Said RehabCare chief executive, Angela Kerins: “There are many reasons for us wanting to celebrate RehabCare’s tenth birthday and the first is to say a really big thank you to all of the staff, service users and supporters who have shared in our success.

“But as well as marking the achievements, both individual and collective, of the last decade, we want RC10 to help shape how RehabCare will develop over the next ten years and beyond. We deliver community based programmes and we feel it is



What A Feeling!



important to involve communities in our work through a thriving volunteer structure. We also want to showcase the talents and abilities of our service users to show more people the huge contribution they can make to community life."

The volunteer programme aims to encourage a large number of people from all walks of life to get involved in RehabCare centres and activities countrywide. In addition to volunteers with specific skills in areas such as art and drama, RehabCare wants people



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to be involved in support work that helps its clients to participate in the life of their local communities. A host of local and national celebrities are also being approached to join the volunteering effort.

RehabCare is planning a major effort to promote the volunteer programme and to further increase awareness of the work of the organisation in communities throughout the country. To support this, community service managers are to undergo dedicated media training, whilst it is also hoped to run a roadshow to promote volunteerism and to bring the RehabCare message to various parts of the country during 2006.

Meanwhile, the national awards scheme will include separate awards, on both a local and national basis, for the contribution of service users, staff members, businesses or community organisations who have made a contribution to the growth of RehabCare.

Fundraising events are expected to include a national penalty shoot out competition where members of the public can pit their wits against established players from all codes.

And among research projects planned as part of RC10 is a major piece of work to gauge the impact of RehabCare on the lives of the people who use its services.