

Lundy Island

The Best Community Recycling Project

“The Micro MRF”



Lundy Island lies 11 miles off the coast of North Devon, where the Atlantic Ocean meets the Bristol Channel, with nothing between it and America on its east coast. It is a National Trust Landmark site, nature reserve, and a place of outstanding natural beauty with tremendous views of England, Wales and the Atlantic.

It is also a popular holiday destination and activities on Lundy range from walking and bird watching to rock climbing and scuba diving in the marine reserve. And of course it is a popular destination for yacht owners.

Accommodation is available in its castle, one of its three lighthouses, or stone cottages, and the island can be reached by helicopter in the summer, or all year round by its own ferry, - the HM Oldenburg.

Balancing the needs of conservation with the resident community and 20,000 annual visitors is the top priority of Lundy's General Manager, Derek Green.

Due to ever increasing transport costs, islands suffer more than most from increasing waste collection and recycling costs. The community was therefore highly motivated to work together to find ways of recycling and re-using waste, and 18 months ago Lundy embarked upon an inclusive programme of waste reduction and recycling.

Derek Green installed a micro-MRF facility inside a disused stone farm building, and householders each received a number of coloured bins to separate cardboard, paper, cans, plastic and glass, from other domestic wastes.

Cardboard, paper, and plastics are now compacted and bailed, cans are sorted for ferrous and non-ferrous and crushed. All are now collected and recycled thus achieving a value rather than incurring a cost of disposal.

Container glass remained a major problem however, especially with news that collection costs from the dockside in Ilfracombe were soon to be increased by 100%, and re-use being difficult due to the safety issues involved with using broken glass. So help was sought from Krysteline, - the glass processing specialists, to identify if cost effective processing could take place on the island.

Krysteline recommended a GP3 glass Imploder. The GP3 is low power processor that transforms "bottle bank" glass into a totally sharp free cullet. The Implosion process does not grind up bottle tops, labels, or corks, enabling them to be easily removed and thus making the end product ideal for use as an aggregate replacement. Screened "fines" can also be used for grit blasting machinery during refurbishment, something required regularly due to the corrosive salt air.

Following a successful trial, the GP3 was installed in October 2006.

The Island has mountain road which provides critical access to its only port, and it is currently undergoing a major repair programme. Shipped in aggregate comes at a cost of more than £140 per tonne, so the Imploded cullet was soon adopted for this the major project.

The GP3 has been an outstanding success and the islands waste glass disposal costs have been completely eliminated, and aggregate purchases have been reduced.

Thus Lundy's overall carbon footprint has been significantly reduced.

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Notes:

The rebuilding of Lundy's port road is soon to be featured in a BBC Television programme, and it has now become the subject of a public appeal, - having already raised £250,000 from the National Trust. A press pack will shortly be available.

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Supporting Websites:

<http://www.lundyisland.co.uk/>

<http://www.lundy.org.uk/>

<http://www.landmarktrust.org.uk/otherOptions/lundy.htm>