

Category 1: Places that work for people – improvements that make a real difference to local residents' quality of life

Cambridgeshire Community RePaint project

Cambridgeshire Community Reuse and Recycling Network (CCORRN) Community RePaint project has been up and running since January 2011 and is a collaborative scheme between CCORRN, Amey and Cambridgeshire County Council to maximise reuse, minimise waste and provide work experience opportunities.



Cambridgeshire launch 2011

Community RePaint is a national project sponsored by Dulux that aims to prevent surplus, usable paint from entering the waste stream and diverting it to those who need it most; charities, community groups, schools, organisations and individuals.



Sale centre in March

CCORRN's repaint scheme is based in March, Cambridgeshire and is regarded as the country's flagship Community RePaint Scheme. In 2014 AkzoNobel selected them from 75 Community Organisations around the country to be the first UK Paint Remanufacturing Hub for social reuse. AkzoNobel provided investment in licenses, research and development consultancy, custom made equipment, marketing support and training to launch CCORRN as their first paint recycling centre.

Cambridgeshire residents can bring their unused paint to one of six household recycling centres in the County. CCORRN collect paint from the sites which is then taken to their base in March where it is segregated and treated. Trained personnel segregate hazardous materials from the waste stream, ensuring where possible that these are reused or if not suitable for reuse, that they are

responsibly treated. This segregation and reuse treatment not only keeps the materials in circulation longer it also reduces the cost of hazardous material treatment.

The scheme provides an accessible route for householders to appropriately deal with what for many councils is a 'problem material'. CCORRN process the paint from the household recycling centres into tins that can be purchased by customers so that the paint is reused. Part tins of paint are filtered, treated and blended into a remanufactured range of colours using the skills learned through their training sponsored by AkzoNobel.

One of the main features of the scheme is that it distributes paint to community and statutory organisations in Cambridgeshire both through a nominal charge basis and through a monthly 'Get Painted' programme of awards. CCORRN is a social enterprise that not only provides low cost paint to the community but it also provides training and work experience opportunities for local residents. Achievements to date include:

- 159 charities, community groups, support workers, schools/preschools accessed paint creating improved environments and facilities for approximately 21,000 people
- Three Social Housing Associations have begun promoting the scheme to their tenants and have supported their tenants to access paint
- Over 3,000 households, mostly on low incomes have accessed paint through the scheme
- Over 70 people have undertaken work experience, volunteering and community payback placements at CCORRN.



Fenland Mencap in March creating amazing wall designs after a paint donation from CCORRN

Through dedication, streamlining operations and increasing distribution and sale of paint CCORRN have been able to reduce the cost of the service to Cambridgeshire County Council by 49% over the last six years.

This award winning project is a successful partnership between business, local authority and social enterprise. The CCORRN RePaint Scheme benefits the local community and moves waste up the waste hierarchy whilst finding efficiencies to reducing the cost of their service.

Tweet Length Summary

@CCORRN is Cambridgeshire's award winning Community RePaint Scheme: an exemplar public, private & voluntary sector initiative that reduces waste, provides work placements & helps the community.