

## MEDIA INFORMATION



To: News Editors

Date: 21 June, 2007

### **Paint Available for Charities, Community and Voluntary Groups**

Community RePaint is an award winning paint reuse project<sup>1</sup> which collects leftover paint from householders and end of line paint from retailers, through a network of over sixty two schemes<sup>2</sup> across the UK. These schemes donate the collected paint to community groups and projects, charitable bodies, voluntary groups, housing associations and schools, refugees and the former homeless and others in social need<sup>3</sup>. The paint is given free of charge or for a small donation.

Vicky Wren, Community RePaint Development Worker said, "Between August 2004 and July 2005, 240,000 litres of paint were collected by the network's 62 schemes, an increase of 45,000 litres on the previous year. As our paint collections have increased over the last year we are now calling for more charities and community projects to use the paint<sup>4</sup>". Organisations wishing to obtain free paint can look up their nearest scheme at [www.communityrepaint.org.uk](http://www.communityrepaint.org.uk). Alternatively they can email Vicky on [vicky.wren@resourcefutures.co.uk](mailto:vicky.wren@resourcefutures.co.uk) or ring Resource Futures (formerly SWAP), the co-ordinators of the project, on 0113 200 3959 for more information.

Community RePaint is a simple idea which has enjoyed great success to date. The project has attracted funding from ICI Paints and the CRED Programme<sup>5</sup>. It grew out of the Waste Wagon research project in 1992 which investigated household hazardous wastes stored by Leeds householders. The results identified that a substantial amount of reusable paint was stored, for which there was a considerable demand from charities and voluntary groups.

ENDS

For more information on the Community RePaint National Network contact:

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Web: [www.communityrepaint.org.uk](http://www.communityrepaint.org.uk)

### **Notes to Editor**

1. Community RePaint won two awards at the Biffaward Awards 2000. Prizes for Best Waste Minimisation Project and Overall Project Winner were presented by the Right Honourable Michael Meacher MP.

2. There are presently 62 Community RePaint schemes throughout the UK operating in: Barnet; Basingstoke; Belfast; Berwickshire; Black Country (Wolverhampton); Bradford; Brentwood; Bridgend; Bury; Cardiff and the Vale; Castle Morpeth; Cheltenham; Chester-le-Street; Christchurch; Colchester; Conwy; Cornwall (Redruth); Derby; Doncaster; Ealing; East Kent (Hersden); East London; Edinburgh; Ellon (Aberdeenshire); Falmouth; Fermanagh (N. Ireland); Fleetwood; Hackney; Harlow; Highlands; Lambeth; Leeds; Leicestershire; Moray; Morecambe, Lancaster and District; Newark; Newbury; Newtown; Norfolk; North Allerdale (Cumbria); Oxford; Perth; Richmond Upon Thames; Rookhope; Rotherham; Sandwell & Soho; Sevenoaks; Shetland; Sittingbourne; Southampton (Millbrook); Southampton (Thornhill); Stoke-on-Trent; Swansea and Gower; Swansea District; Swindon; Tendring; Thurrock; Warrington and Widnes; West Devon; Wirral; Worcester; Wrexham; and Wye (Kent).

3. Paint distributed through Community RePaint schemes has been used for a wide range of projects such as decorating the following: a women's refuge; new housing projects for homeless people; murals at children's community centres; community centres; youth training schemes; a youth hostel coffee bar; day centres for homeless people in Glasgow. Paint has even been used for a mural promoting a "Car-free Day" and to decorate an orphanage in Jamaica!

4. Statistics quoted from the Community RePaint survey 2005, published by Resource Futures, 74 Kirkgate, Leeds LS2 7DJ.

5. The Community RePaint project has been awarded £196,000 by the Community Recycling and Economic Development (CRED) Programme, through the Big Lottery Fund's Transforming Waste initiative. The CRED Programme is managed by the Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts (RSWT) and nine consortium partners. The Programme will award £36.5 million of Big Lottery Fund money in grants of between £50,000 to £300,000 to community based recycling, reuse and composting initiatives in England before the end of 2007.