

Friday 22 January 2010

Help stamp out fly-tipping in Wales

The Fly-tipping Action Wales partnership* today (22 January 2010) launched a campaign to help tackle the illegal dumping of waste in Wales in 2010.

In Wales there were a total of 55,300 fly-tipping incidents in the year 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009.

The annual clean-up costs to taxpayers in Wales is £3 million.

The aim of campaign is to highlight the scale of the problem and inform householders and businesses of their legal duty to get rid of their waste responsibly.

Waste from our homes is regularly fly-tipped and Fly-tipping Action Wales is asking the public for their help to reduce the number of incidents.

If you use a builder, plumber, gardener or any other tradesperson to dispose of your household waste, you must make sure that they are registered as a waste carrier with the Environment Agency.

A new website www.flytippingactionwales.org has been created to help this fight against fly-tipping. The website will provide advice to people on where and how to get rid of waste responsibly and how to find a registered waste carrier. Alternatively the public can call the Environment Agency on 08708 506 506.

Forensic techniques and aerial surveillance are increasingly being used to help track down illegal dumpers. A total of 72 prosecutions were made in Wales in 2008-9 with offenders facing fines of up to £50,000 and imprisonment.

Environment Minister Jane Davidson, said: "It is time to finally stamp out fly-tipping in Wales. It is unacceptable and a blight on our communities. It costs councils across Wales millions of pounds each year to clean up. This is money that could be better spent on other local services. Each and every one of us has a role to play to make a difference.

"I am very pleased to help launch this campaign by Fly-tipping Action Wales and I urge individuals and businesses to make the right choice for the disposal of their waste to help clean up our communities in 2010. By accepting fly-tipping as a fact of life, we are letting Wales down."

Helen Jenkins, Fly-tipping Action Wales Coordinator said: "We do not underestimate the scale of the problem in Wales and the difficult task we have to tackle it.

“January is one of the worst months for fly-tipping incidents following Christmas clearouts. We hope that people who are getting rid of their waste will make using a registered waste carrier one of their New Year’s resolutions.

“With events like the Ryder Cup taking place in Newport this year, the spotlight will be firmly on Wales. Wales has a lot to offer locals and visitors alike boasting World Heritage Sites in Blaenavon and the Pontcysyllte. And with a £20million investment in the Valleys Regional Partnership we’re focussed on taking pride in our communities and stamping out fly-tipping.

“Remember your waste is your responsibility, so make sure you ask where your waste is going.”

Throughout the week there will be a series of Fly-tipping Action Days happening across Wales including, Waste Carrier Stop Checks, pollution prevention visits and advice to traders and the public on using a registered waste carrier.

*Fly-tipping Action Wales is a Welsh Assembly Government sponsored initiative. The partnership includes a range of key organisations including the 22 Welsh Local Authorities, Environment Agency Wales, Keep Wales Tidy, The Countryside Council for Wales, the three National Park Authorities, The Forestry Commission, Network Rail, Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water, Fire Service and South Wales, North Wales, Gwent and Dyfed Powys Police Forces. The initiative includes business engagement, education, community action, targeted publicity measures and enforcement.