

## **Thorntons Recycling is named Repak Recovery Operator of the Year 2008**

*Friday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2008:* Thorntons Recycling, one of Ireland's most progressive and successful recycling companies, has been named Recovery Operator of the Year at the annual Repak Recycling Awards 2008, held last night in Dublin.

These awards acknowledge outstanding performance in the area of packaging minimisation and recycling and winners of the Recovery Operator of the Year title must demonstrate excellence in every area of waste management.

This is the second major award for Thorntons Recycling this year. Earlier this year, Kilmainhamwood Compost, Thorntons Recycling composting operation, was named Ireland's Best Composting Facility in the Cré Compost Industry Awards 2008. These awards recognise excellence, impact and innovation in the composting industry.

Thorntons Recycling, which employs over 250 people at its operations in Dublin, Kildare and Meath was established by Carmel and Padraig Thornton in 1979. One of the longest established recycling companies in Ireland and operating the largest recycling centre in Dublin, Thorntons Recycling has invested more than €25 million in expanding its operations in the last 3 years. This investment includes investment in new plant at its Dublin recycling centre, the development of an End of Life Vehicle (ELV) facility to recycle old/abandoned cars/vans, a new composting facility in Co. Meath and a new security shredding facility in Dublin.

Gary Brady, Managing Director said, "Our operations span the entire spectrum of recycling and waste recovery. Through investment in plant and machinery we are diverting more than 80% of the waste received from landfill. The addition of our composting facility means we are now diverting 20,000 tonnes of material from landfill and producing 5,000 tonnes of commercial grade compost from this material. We are continuously reinvesting in our business to increase the amount and quality of material recovered and recycled. Our success in this regard is benefiting our business, our customers and the environment".

Differentiating itself from its competitors, during the past year Thorntons Recycling has undertaken a number of projects designed to increase efficiency and improve services including;

- doubling the domestic green bin service to customers at no extra cost
- upgrading its web-site to provide on-line skip ordering for the public
- upgrading the fleet of vehicles to increase efficiency of collections
- providing a pilot brown bin (organic) to a sample of its domestic customers in Meath and Kildare with a view to providing a brown bin service in 2009
- hosting a number of educational days for commercial customers to ensure they are aware of their waste management obligations
- Investment of €3m in a secure document shredding facility
- carrying out a number of waste characterisation studies on behalf of local authorities to assist them in their environmental awareness campaigns
- active engagement with local communities and undertaking education awareness programmes with local schools.

In a continued expansion of operations, Thorntons Recycling will be introducing a brown bin collection service for customers in Meath and Kildare in the next few months. "Our new

brown bin service will enable organic waste to be collected for composting at our Kilmainhamwood Compost facility. The Brown Bin service will be of great benefit to the environment as organic waste is the main cause of the more undesirable effects of landfill, methane gas and leachate liquid", said Brady. "The current trial is being well received by householders and we expect to introduce the new service to all our customers in the New Year".

"We are delighted to receive this award from Repak which recognises our exceptional standards in recovery and recycling. It is a wonderful acknowledgement for staff at each of our facilities who are constantly seeking to develop innovative solutions in recovery and recycling and are committed to best practise in every operation", added Brady.

Commenting Dr Andrew Hetherington, CEO Repak said "We are delighted to see the range and quality of initiatives undertaken by Irish business and schools increase this year. Over the last number of years we have implemented a number of programmes to help increase recycling rates and also to improve packaging prevention measures which have resulted in financial and environmental gains for these companies. In order for Ireland to meeting its ever increasing recycling rates we need to be innovative in all areas of packaging development, usage, design, manufacture, reduction and recycling."

*Thorntons Recycling is a fully integrated waste management and recycling company with a proven track record in delivering efficient, legal and economical waste management, recovery and recycling solutions for customers.*

*Thorntons Recycling has invested heavily in its processing infrastructure to enable recovery and recycling of materials from paper, cardboard, newspaper and magazines to wood, metal, soil and stone as well as plastics and organic materials. All group facilities are EPA licensed and fully compliant with government legislation.*

**Ends**

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