

Moray Waste Busters



at the HWRC recycling centre Forres, Moray.

A vibrant community re-use organisation which could be a model for other rural towns and villages.

- 1) What we do & key features
 - a. A re-use organisation
 - b. Based in the rural county of Moray – population of 94,000.
 - c. At a household waste & recycling centre just outside the small town of Forres, pop.12,500
 - d. Directly adjacent to the recycling skips and transfer station are MWB's 2 poly tunnels, 6 storage containers and 2 vans
 - e. A drop off area right next to the recycling skips, a cash desk and a big car park.
 - f. The 2 fundamental mechanics that make MWB successful are –
 - a. At the 'top end' - making it as easy as possible for anybody who comes to the HWRC to throwing stuff away to give their materials to us. Intervention at the point of disposal.
 - b. At the 'bottom end' – maximising the value of money for our customers. We price materials so that they will go straight out of the shop.
 - g. MWB includes a furniture polytunnel, clothes, bicycles (reconditioned by us), books, videos and computer games sheds, small electrical goods (all PAT tested and guaranteed working), gardening and DIY and building materials, clothes, materials, hobby craft and bric-a-brac.

- 2) The numbers

- a. 29 employees all on the real living wage or above, 10 volunteers, FTE 20
 - b. Open 360 days a year
 - c. Forecast £730,000 revenue in 24/25
 - d. Revenue per day of over £2,000
 - e. Average growth rate of 32% per annum over the last 4 years.
 - f. Approximately
 - i. 400 visitors per day,
 - ii. 200 sales transactions per day (roughly a sale every 2 minutes)
 - iii. 275,000 items sold in 2024, average 763 per day
 - iv. Average price of an item £2.25
 - v. >80,000 books per annum,
 - g. Upto 300 tonnes of materials diverted from recycling and waste stream per annum equivalent to 1,227 tonnes of CO2e saved (CCS estimate for re-use)
- 3) Public Benefit
- a. 300 tonnes of re-use diversion per annum
 - b. Hyper-local: almost all materials sourced from within a 12 mile radius
 - c. Local wealth building as 90% of revenues go to local wages or local suppliers
 - d. We participate in a range of employment schemes to assist people getting on the employment ladder and our staff thrive in the supportive environment.
 - e. Materials and goods, currently to the value of about £2K per month, given free to assist 74 local community groups
 - f. Schools programme – we have a dedicated part time education officer (qualified teacher) who goes out to primary schools around the county and teaches a re-use and circular environment class
- 4) Challenges and opportunity
- a. For MWB
 - i. Constrained by site, small, difficult access, poor display areas leading to growth slowing. No shortage of supply of materials or demand.
 - ii. Reasonable potential for MWB to take over an unused building on a local enterprise park. With the potential to triple revenues and employment.
 - iii. Highland Council are now preparing their Nairn HWRC site along the lines of MWB following a visit by a senior management team (particularly interested in the levels of employment at MWB)
 - b. For Rural Policy Committee
 - i. There are many very worthwhile re-use, charity and salvage activities around the country focussing on sourcing from HWRCs.
 - ii. The social enterprise model developed in Moray seems to be exceptional in its levels of public engagement, cash generation, employment and derived public good.
 - iii. The model could be replicated across Scottish HWRCs however it requires government and councils to recognise the opportunity and potential return based on a modest initial investment.