



**An Roinn Coimirce Sóisialaí
Department of Social Protection**

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**Minister Burton presents certificates to trainees from
Liberties Recycling Training and Development**

"Training and personal development offers a chance for personal success, a sense of satisfaction, greater independence and, in many cases, employment"
- Burton

Joan Burton, Minister for Social Protection, today (*Wednesday 20th April 2011*) presented certificates to trainees from Liberties Recycling Training and Development Community Employment project, who have completed a variety of FETAC certified courses.

Congratulating the trainees at Liberties Recycling premises in Bluebell Industrial Estate, Minister Burton said: "Well done to you all for your hard work, determination and dedication in achieving your goals and obtaining FETAC qualifications. Training and personal development offers a chance for personal success, a sense of satisfaction, greater independence and, in many cases, employment."

The participants receiving their certificates today completed training in several different FETAC certified courses including communications, computer literacy, computer applications, as well as forklift training and Liberty Recycling's in-house rehabilitation programme. Liberties Recycling Training and Development has 46 FÁS Community Employment trainees and employs 65 people in total.

"The policy for FÁS functions in relation to employment and community employment services transferred to the Department of Social Protection on 1st January this year", said Minister Burton. "As part of the National Drugs Strategy 2009-2016, FÁS is committed to providing 1,000 places on projects such as this one. Addiction, and in particular drug addiction, is one of society's most persistent problems and it is my intention to ensure the continuation of these projects."

The idea of Liberties Recycling Training and Development, a community based recycling and training programme, emerged out of the need to provide skills for unemployed people from the area. Many of the trainees who initially attended the project were affected by drug use in their families and neighbourhoods.

Liberties Recycling collects, sorts, grades and packs used clothing and footwear for reuse in clothes markets in developing countries and for reprocessing into other products. The project provides a combination of practical work



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experience and certified training courses with on-going rehabilitation supports in order to prepare people for mainstream employment, education or further training.

Minister Burton, who was being 'shadowed' throughout the day by Austin Lynch as part of National Job Shadow Day, concluded proceedings by congratulating the participants once again and wishing them well in their future endeavors.

NOTES FOR EDITORS:

Liberties Recycling

Background

Liberties Recycling, which recycles used clothing, is a FÁS sponsored Community Employment rehabilitation project for people affected by drug use. The project was established in 1999. The project provides a combination of practical work experience and certified training courses with on-going rehabilitation supports in order to prepare people for mainstream employment, education or further training. Liberties Recycling currently employs 64 people.

Liberties Recycling collects, sorts, grades and packs used clothing and footwear for reuse in clothes markets in developing countries and for reprocessing into products including mattresses and insulation. Surplus cotton material is cut and baled into cleaning wipes for local customers including Dublin Bus, motor factors and cleaning companies.

Training

Liberties Recycling is a FETAC accredited training centre. Training takes the form of practical on the job instruction and work experience and formal accredited training including:

Recycling Skills (recently accredited by FETAC), Administration Skills, FETAC Computer Literacy, Computer Applications, Communications, Personal and Interpersonal Skills, Maths, Preparation for Work, Office Procedures, Literacy classes, Forklift Training, Driving theory test, Heavy Goods Vehicle (HGV) driver training, Manual Handling.

Some Facts



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- Liberties Recycling aims to progress people drug free into mainstream opportunities. Over the past 5 years 59 people have moved into employment and another 14 into further education and training.
- The project is a registered charity and FAS sponsored Community Employment Scheme employing over 65 people.
- Liberties Recycling offers a unique combination of practical work experience, certified training and rehabilitation to those affected by drugs.
- Each year Liberties Participants gain over 100 certified training awards in subjects as diverse as forklift driving, Fetac Computer Applications and Maths, Sage Payroll and ECDL.
- Liberties Recycling provides nearly €500,000 in income to its charity suppliers such as Saint Vincent de Paul and the Irish Cancer Society each year.
- The project exports used clothing directly to developing countries and also distributes clothing and blankets to local charities.
- Liberties Recycling is the only organisation in the Republic of Ireland that collects and processes used clothing thereby providing valuable local employment.
- Over 2000 tonnes of used clothing are recycled each year.

National Job Shadow Day

Job Shadow Day is an opportunity for People with Disabilities to shadow a workplace mentor (company employee) as they go about their daily work. This year Job Shadow Day is Wednesday 20th April and during the day, people with disabilities throughout Ireland get the opportunity to spend time discovering and learning about the skills and education required to complete, succeed and develop in the work place. The Job Shadow Initiative is organised by the Irish Association of Supported Employment (IASE).

PRESS RELEASE ENDS