

News release

RSA press office

RSA

Encouraging enterprise
Moving towards a zero-waste society
Fostering resilient communities
Developing a capable population
Advancing global citizenship

Photocall Opportunity: You are invited to send a film crew / photographer / journalist to the Sustainable Bristol Festival on Saturday 3 and Sunday 4 June. There will be no official photocall, but if you would like to set something up, please telephone Jo Davies/Lynda Wookey on 0117 922 2650.

Help save the planet by visiting Sustainable Bristol – the city’s biggest-ever ‘green’ festival

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The amazing RSA WEEE man – a seven metre tall, 3.3 tonnes giant robotic figure made from old televisions, mobile phones and washing machines – will open to the public on Monday 15 May 2006.

The city’s biggest-ever planet-friendly festival, is taking place in Waterfront Square and Millennium Square, over the weekend of Saturday 3 and Sunday 4 June.

Celebrating the *Bristol Festival of Nature*, the event aims to inform visitors about the environment and explore important issues around sustainable living. Experts will be on hand to encourage individuals to swap their wasteful habits for better ones, like recycling more and using our cars less.

The event has been organised by Bristol City Council, the Bristol Natural History Consortium and a wide range of partner organisations.

The weekend’s programme includes:

- **Waste Smash** – Watch in amazement as the Sofa Project Team tear apart household electrical waste such as cookers, washing machines, and fridges to demonstrate what can be recycled and the amount of environmentally damaging waste contained in these everyday items
- **Big Recycling Roadshow** – Come and meet the Waste Team from Bristol City Council to learn about the 3 R’s – Reduce, Reuse and Recycle. You can take part in a recycling challenge and pick up some great recycled freebies!
- **Children’s Scrapstore Roadshow** – Try out your artistic talents by making junk models and crazy creations from bits and bobs of safe waste supplied by the Children’s Scrapstore.

The Royal Society for the
encouragement of Arts,
Manufactures & Commerce
Founded in 1754
Registered as a charity in
England and Wales no. 212424

- **Weapons of Sound** – This group of musicians make music on recycled junk. Get along to one of their workshops where you can build your own musical instrument from waste and then take part in a musical extravaganza.
- **Bordeaux Quay & Quartier Vert** – A local restaurant and cookery school will be inviting everyone to experience what a Sustainable Kitchen tastes like. Resident chefs will look at issues from reducing the amount of packaging on the food we buy, to how to be more energy efficient in your kitchen. They'll also demonstrate how to make the most of leftovers and explore composting your food waste and recycling.

The *Sustainable Bristol* Festival will take place under the watchful eye of the RSA WEEE man – an amazing seven metre tall, 3.3 tonnes robotic figure made from old televisions, mobile phones and washing machines. The sculpture represents the amount of Waste Electronic and Electrical Equipment (WEEE) that one average person in the UK throws away in their lifetime.

Councillor Gary Hopkins, Executive member for Sustainable Environments and Neighbourhoods, Bristol City Council said,

'This event is a must for anyone who cares about the environment. Thanks to everyone who has worked so hard to put this event together. There is plenty going on over the weekend, and the wide variety of exhibits and activities, are sure to engage visitors of all ages with important issues around waste.

He continued: "There is a serious message behind this event we would like people to take away with them. That is - *We must all take action now, or pay for it later.*'

For more information about the festival and the RSA WEEE man visit www.bristol-city.gov.uk/recycling and follow links to the RSA WEEE Man

ENDS

For more information contact Bristol City Council, Corporate Communications on 0117 922 2650.

Notes to Editors

WEEE Man Exhibition/RSA WEEE Man/RSA:

- **RSA WEEE Man** will be in Waterfront Square, Bristol Harbourside, from 15 May until 19 June. There will be a media launch on Friday 12 May.
- The RSA WEEE Man is part of the RSA's 'moving towards a zero waste society' manifesto challenge and is an environmental awareness

initiative aimed at changing attitudes and behaviour to the disposal of waste electrical and electronic equipment.

- The RSA WEEE Man project was developed and managed by Rob Holdway, Giraffe Innovation Limited, based on an original idea conceived by Hugh Knowles and developed in partnership with Mark Fremantle, both Fellows of the RSA. The RSA WEEE Man has been designed by Paul Bonomini and was produced by Stage One.
- The RSA is an ideas exchange for the 21st Century. Drawing on an influential network of leaders from every field and background, the RSA confronts the complex issues facing today's world with initiatives effecting real and lasting change.
- WEEE disposal facilities in Bristol - Bristol City Council will accept all domestic Waste Electrical & Electronic Equipment (WEEE) at the two main recycling centres in St Philips & Avonmouth.
- Reuse – The council promotes the reuse of domestic WEEE so if it is still working or repairable, please consider giving your items to the Sofa Project or other organisations for refurbishment and resale. Call Sofa Project on 0117 954 3567 to arrange free collection within the Bristol area. After testing and refurbishment these goods will be offered for sale at low prices to low income families.
- There is a complete list of what RSA WEEE Man is made from at www.weeman.org

Festival of Nature:

Whether it's unusual animal encounters, arctic expeditions or delicious food and shopping, *Bristol Festival of Nature* offers a slice of nature to suit everyone. From Aardman animation workshops to urban safaris and eating chocolate to save the planet, the Festival enjoys its most exciting programme to date. Festival Director – Sam Burkey comments: 'Join us during the Festival to explore our changing world in all its forms. Find out why and how our climate is changing and meet some of the people who have travelled around the globe to get close to our planet's most extreme environments and elusive creatures.'

Information Hotline: 0117 915 0178 Website: www.festivalofnature.org or for more information contact: Katie.smith@wildscreen.org.uk or sam.burkey@wildscreen.org.uk

Further information about exhibitors:

Children's Scrapstore is a charity that collects safe waste that would normally go to landfill and reuses it as a creative resource. This waste – paper, card, plastic pots and off cuts, foam, netting and much, much more – is stored in their Bristol warehouse and their 15000 members' group come and collect the resources they need. For more information contact 0117 908 5644.

Weapons of Sounds provide a different and vibrant way of getting people re-engaged with the waste issue, by producing music on recycled junk. Since 1993 the bank have performed over 2000 gigs and led countless workshops entertaining thousands of people with their unique brand of funk-fuelled junk

percussion. For more information contact info@weaponsofsound.com or Phil on 07779 595 008

Waste Facts:

- The UK produces more than 434 million tonnes of waste every year. This rate of rubbish generation would fill the Albert Hall in London in less than 2 hours. (source: Waste Online)
- Every year UK households throw away the equivalent of 3 million double-decker buses (almost 330 million tonnes), a queue of which would stretch from London to Sydney and back. (Source: Waste Online)
- On average, each person in the UK, throws away seven times their body weight (about 500kg) in rubbish every year. (Source: Waste Online)
- The average UK citizen produces 3.3 tonnes of electrical waste every year, equivalent to the weight of 626 Clifton Suspension Bridges. (Source: RSA WEEE Man Project/The Clifton Suspension Bridge Trust)
- The 6 million tonnes of waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEE) disposed in Europe in 1998 consisted of an estimated 3.6 million tonnes of metal, 1.2 million tonnes of plastic, up to 27,000 tonnes of lead and 8 tonnes of mercury. (Source: AEA Technology)
- In the UK there are more than 15 billion electrical and electronic appliances, an average of 25 per householders and, at present, 90% of the electrical waste ends up in landfill sites. (Source: Royal Statistical Association)