

New uses for old clothes



Rags to riches: Representatives from ECCO, Harlow Council, LMB and St Elizabeth's Centre with bags of textiles

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A TEXTILE recycling scheme piloted in Church Langley last December is to be rolled out to the rest of Harlow.

The kerbside collection project, funded through a £52,000 Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs grant, proved so popular with the 3,500 people involved in the two-week pilot

that the service is to be expanded.

The project is a joint venture between the Environmental Conservation Co-operative (ECCO), Harlow Council and residents at the St Elizabeth's Centre, Much Hadham, who will be delivering free sacks to homes across the town for people to bag up their unwanted

clothes.

Items for collection include old clothes, shoes, hats, belts, bags, curtains and bed linen.

ECCO director Sean Folan said: "We would like to thank everyone in Church Langley who took part in the pilot. The extension of this project not only has the desired result of diverting a significant amount

of recyclables from landfill, but also that jobs and therapeutic work for socially excluded people have been created."

Clothing collected will go to developing countries in Eastern Europe and Africa, while textiles not suitable for wearing will be recycled into items such as cleaning cloths, car installation and upholstery.