

Press release

15 March 2018

Southwark school children get a cycling boost from local recycling centre



Southwark residents are now helping local school children build their own bikes, learn new skills, travel sustainably and be active just by bringing their old bicycles and cycling equipment to the Veolia Southwark Reuse and Recycling Centre.

Based in Burgess Park and founded by Matt Beale Collins and Stewart Vanns, Community Cycleworks provides opportunities for young people to learn how to build and fix their own bikes on one of their regular build-a-bike courses and bike-fix events. Veolia, working together with Community Reuse, are now collecting and sorting reusable bicycles, bike parts and tools, brought into the centre by Southwark residents, before delivering them to Community Cycleworks to be recycled.

Following a successful DIY bike fix workshop at the Nunhead Green Community Centre on 24 February where 12 residents learnt how to repair and maintain their bikes, Community Cycleworks are now running a free family build-a-bike workshop on 24 March. After spending the day building the bike from recycled parts each resident will take home a bike for free. Places are limited, so residents are encouraged to sign up to the event by contacting info@communitycycleworks.co.uk and specifying their age and height.

General Manager, Fabrice Bouchon from Veolia said: “We are very excited to be able to support this fantastic project and provide school children and Southwark families with the tools and equipment to build, use and repair their own bikes.”

Cllr Ian Wingfield, Cabinet Member for Environment and the Public Realm, said: “Southwark Council runs build a bike sessions at our primary schools for children who don’t have bikes, and we are delighted to see Veolia extend this excellent project to local families in the borough using our Southwark Reuse and Recycling Centre.”

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Notes to the Editor

About Veolia UK

Veolia is committed to protecting the environment and improving the lives of the communities in which it operates. Veolia has been awarded two of the UK's most prestigious business accolades for its role as an environmental and social sustainability leader. It was recognised in 2016 as Business in the Community's Responsible Business of the Year, and in 2014 it was awarded the Queen's Award for Enterprise in Sustainable Development.

Veolia group is the global leader in optimised resource management. With over 163,000 employees worldwide, the Group designs and provides water, waste and energy management solutions that contribute to the sustainable development of communities and industries. Through its three complementary business activities, Veolia helps to develop access to resources, preserve available resources, and to replenish them. In 2016, the Veolia group supplied 100 million people with drinking water and 61 million people with wastewater service, produced 54 million megawatt hours of energy and converted 30 million metric tonnes of waste into new materials and energy. Veolia Environnement (listed on Paris Euronext: VIE) recorded consolidated revenue of €24.39 billion in 2016. www.veolia.com

For more information visit us at www.veolia.co.uk or follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/veoliauk.

About the Southwark Reuse and Recycling Centre

Southwark residents you can dispose of a wide range of unwanted household and garden items at the Reuse and Recycling Centre (RRC) for free. The RRC is located at 43 Devon Street (SE15 1AL) and is open from 8:30am to 4:30pm every day, all year round (except Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day). Residents are required to show proof of residence when on arrival (such as a current UK photo-card driving licence and two of the following: current Council Tax bill, recent utility bill or recent bank statement). Household users using vans to bring waste to the centre will be required to book in advance and will be restricted to four tips per calendar year.

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