



**Press release**

**27 April 2011**

## **Operation tackling fly-tipping to help reduce flooding risk**

Fly-tipping Action Wales has launched a clean-up operation around rivers in Llanelli to help reduce flooding risk in vulnerable communities in Carmarthenshire, which reported a total of 1,619 cases of fly-tipping during 2009/10, resulting in a clean-up cost of over £161k.

The operation clearing up illegally dumped waste along the banks of the Rivers Lliedi and Dafan in Llanelli was co-ordinated by Fly-tipping Action Wales and Environment Agency Wales. Around 1 tonne of waste was removed with an estimated clean-up cost of around £1,000. The majority of fly-tipped material included household items such as mattresses, bikes and green waste, believed to have been dumped from nearby homes.

Members of Environment Agency Wales' operations delivery team worked together to remove rubbish swept down-stream in both areas. In the past, fly-tipped waste has blocked culvers and the flow of water resulting in an increased chance of local flooding.

Nearby residents will also receive leaflets from Fly-tipping Action Wales, explaining how fly-tipping can increase flooding risk and to give advice on ways of getting rid of unwanted household waste legally and safely. The crime can lead to those responsible facing imprisonment and a possible fine of up to £50,000.

Emma Davies, South West Wales Co-ordinator for Fly-tipping Action Wales, said: "The joint operation with our partner agencies was a success and we will be looking to carry out other operations across south Wales again this year.

"Fly-tipping of any size is illegal and when cases are found in rivers, there is also a risk to wildlife including fish and birds and water pollution.

“We all have a legal responsibility to get rid of the waste from our homes legally. We urge anyone getting rid of household waste to always ask a registered waste carrier and to check where the waste is going.”

Mark Sabine, Operations Delivery Team Leader for Environment Agency Wales, said: “Fly-tipping is a crime and causes major problems for us, it makes our job of maintaining the area’s flood defences more difficult and can increase the risk of flooding. Fly-tipping is difficult, dangerous and expensive to remove once it ends up in a river.”

In Carmarthenshire the Council reported a total of 1,619 cases of fly-tipping in the county during 2009/10 which resulted in a total clean-up cost of over £161k. In Wales, there were a total of 48,179 fly-tipping incidents in the year 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2010. The annual clean-up costs to tax-payers in Wales is over £2.7m\*\*\*.

For general information visit [www.flytippingactionwales.org](http://www.flytippingactionwales.org)

Ends.

**Captions:**

**Image 1:** Fly-tipped waste at a culvert in Llangennech.

**Image 2:** A flap valve which was blocked open by a fly-tipped tyre causing flooding in Llangennech, Llanelli, in this instance it was lucky that no homes were flooded.

**Image 3:** A blocked trash screen on a Llanelli river, a result of fly-tipped material.

**Notes to editors:**

For further information please contact Helen Newton at Equinox Communications on 02920 764 100 or email [ftaw@equinoxcommunications.co.uk](mailto:ftaw@equinoxcommunications.co.uk)

\*Fly-tipping Action Wales is a Welsh Assembly Government sponsored initiative. The partnership includes a range of key organisations including the 22 Welsh Local Authorities, Environment Agency Wales, Keep Wales Tidy, The Countryside Council for Wales, the three National Park Authorities, The Forestry Commission, Network Rail, Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water, Fire Service and South Wales, North Wales, Gwent and Dyfed Powys Police Forces.

The initiative includes business engagement, education, community action, targeted publicity measures and enforcement.

**About fly-tipping:**

- Fly-tipping is a serious environmental crime which poses a threat to humans and wildlife, damages our environment, and spoils our enjoyment of our towns and countryside. In fly-tipping hot spots it can even reduce property prices, and local businesses may suffer as people stay away.
- One of the best ways the public can help in the fight against fly-tipping is to use an Environment Agency registered waste carrier and ask where your waste is going.