

**MITIE Good News for Food Waste Recycling**

A leading Scottish Charity today announces a ground breaking partnership with MITIE, the strategic outsourcing and energy-services company to rapidly grow a unique food waste enterprise started by the charity in 2009.

CORE (Cyrenians Organics Waste Recycling), one of Edinburgh Cyrenians social enterprises, pioneered a system for separating and collecting food waste.

MITIE sees significant opportunities to expand CORE's innovative food recycling offering to clients in Scotland and the rest of the UK, due to new legislation set to be introduced in the UK which will mandate the separation of food and other waste.

The Scottish and UK governments are committed to working towards a zero waste economy, with food waste a significant part of its most recent waste review.

Millions of tonnes of food is wasted in Scotland each year and CORE works with commercial organisations throughout Edinburgh and Fife, such as Ikea, Aegon, the Scottish Parliament and Scottish & Southern, to manage and reduce their waste.

CORE started in 2009 as a social enterprise collecting commercial food waste, with part of its business model committed to providing training and jobs for people rebuilding their lives after personal setbacks, such as homelessness.

Chief Executive of Cyrenians, Des Ryan, heralded the deal as a win-win for MITIE and the charity: "We want to see our food waste social enterprise grow to its fullest potential. Both parties are passionate about developing the collection and use of food waste as a resource that will create employment and training opportunities as well as bring climate change benefits and support for the UK low carbon economy."

Ruby McGregor-Smith, Chief Executive of MITIE, said: "We are delighted with this development. CORE will support the growth of our existing waste business. It has a sustainable business model that provides opportunities for people to re-enter the

workforce after homelessness and has an innovative approach to reducing waste in the UK.”

**-ENDS-**

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**Notes for editors**

**What is the Cyrenians charity?**

Edinburgh Cyrenians is a Scottish Charity with social welfare and environmental purposes (number SCO11052) with an outstanding track record in pioneering creative solutions to the contemporary problems faced by people on the margins of society, helping over 3,000 people a year out of homelessness, poverty, deep unemployment, with recovery from addiction and recidivism. In addition to CORE its social enterprises include an organic farm and a surplus food distribution business.

[www.cyrenians.org.uk](http://www.cyrenians.org.uk)

[www.core-cyrenians.org.uk](http://www.core-cyrenians.org.uk)

**What is MITIE?**

We're the strategic outsourcing and energy services company. What does that mean in practice? We manage facilities, energy and properties for our clients across the UK and beyond.

We work with our clients in three ways; some take full advantage of our whole range of expertise, others may only need one aspect of what we do:

- Strategy and consultancy
- + Facilities and energy management
- + Service delivery

Our strategic input can add value at the highest level by helping clients to manage their assets, while our practical management expertise can save customers money and reduce their carbon emissions. We work with a vast number of clients in every industry across both the public and private sectors and deliver the broadest range of services that can be found in one place: from integrated facilities management to engineering maintenance to lifecycle energy management and much more.

There's a lot more to MITIE than you probably think. We're a big company with big ambitions – a leading FTSE 250 support services business, with more than 61,000 people, revenues of £1.9bn, and a reputation for being the best. Visit us at [www.mitie.com](http://www.mitie.com)

## **Food Waste**

The Scottish Government published its Zero Waste Plan in June 2010. It sets out key actions and new targets to tackle the vast amount of waste produced in Scotland every year.

The plan focuses on transforming waste into a valuable resource which can be used to make new products, generate renewable energy, heat and fertiliser with the potential to create over 2,000 jobs.

The Government plans to introduce legislation requiring mandatory food waste collections by 2013, leading to savings for local authorities. This will increase the quality of other waste that can be separated and recycled for value.

Some food waste facts:

- Over £1 billion worth of food is wasted by consumers in Scotland each year – an average of £430 per household
- Scottish households throw away 566,000 tonnes of food every year
- If we stopped this wastage, we could prevent the equivalent of 1.7 million tonnes of carbon dioxide each year in Scotland – the same as taking 1 in 4 cars off the road