

**SYMPHONY ENVIRONMENTAL HELP CLEAN THE RIVER THAMES**

Symphony Environmental Technologies Plc, the specialists in degradable plastics helped on Saturday August 14<sup>th</sup> 2010 in Thames21's fifth 'Cleaner Thames Challenge', an annual four-day pan-London volunteering event to help improve London's greatest natural asset: the River Thames.

Symphony's staff are enthusiastic about this work because Symphony has developed a special additive - d<sub>2</sub>w – which turns ordinary plastic at the end of its useful life into a material with a completely different molecular structure. At that stage it is no longer a plastic and has become a material which can be bio-assimilated in the open environment in the same way as a leaf. It will degrade automatically without any human intervention on land or water, without any harmful residues. It can also be re-used and recycled like ordinary plastics.



A team of volunteers from Symphony got (literally) stuck in and helped to remove plastic bottles, crisp packets, pieces of metal junk, scrap tyres and all manner of other items which are commonly found on the foreshores of the Thames in London. Championing cleaner rivers and canals is at the heart of Thames21's work and they rely on more than 8,000 volunteers every year to improve London's 400 mile network of waterways.



**Chris Coode**, River Programmes Manager, Thames21, said

*"We're extremely grateful for the support shown by Symphony Environmental Technologies Plc. These waterside environments are often seen as abandoned spaces that damage some of London's greatest views, instead of the unique and fascinating open spaces London has to offer. The support from London's business community is vital in keeping the Thames clean and litter-free."*

#### **NOTE TO EDITORS:**

Symphony is a British company listed on the AIM market of the London Stock Exchange. It has a diverse and growing customer-base and has established itself as an international business. Products made with d<sub>2</sub>w plastic technology are now being sold by 59 Distributors in more than 90 countries around the world and in many different product applications. The technology is branded d<sub>2</sub>w<sup>®</sup> and appears as a droplet logo on many thousands of tonnes of plastic packaging and other plastic products.

Symphony is a member of the Oxo-biodegradable Plastics Association ([www.biodeg.org](http://www.biodeg.org)), the Society for the Chemical Industry (UK), and the American Standards Organisation (ASTM). Symphony is also a member of the European Organisation for Packaging & the Environment (Europen), the US Save the Plastic Bag Coalition, and the British Brands Group. Symphony actively participates in the work of the British Standards Institute (BSI), the European Standards Organisation (CEN), and the International Standards Organisation (ISO)

To see d<sub>2</sub>w plastic degrading go to: <http://youtube.com/watch?v=i3TGqcpWJTM>

For information about Oxo- biodegradable plastic generally see [www.biodeg.org](http://www.biodeg.org)

#### **For further information, contact:**

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- **Thames21** is an environmental charity (registered number 1103997) working to bring London's waterways to life. Dirty rivers and canals reduce the quality of life for all, harm and kill wildlife, damage the environment and drive people away from vital open spaces. London's rivers and canals are precious natural resources providing green spaces for urban communities and habitats for wildlife. Each year, with the help of around 8,000 volunteers, Thames21 removes over 1,000 tonnes of harmful litter from the River Thames, its tributaries and the canal network. [www.thames21.org.uk](http://www.thames21.org.uk)
- **Thames21** is supported by, and works closely with, the Port of London Authority, Thames Water, Environment Agency, Corporation of London, Keep Britain Tidy and British Waterways.
- Follow Thames21's updates on **Twitter** – [www.twitter.com/thames21](http://www.twitter.com/thames21)

