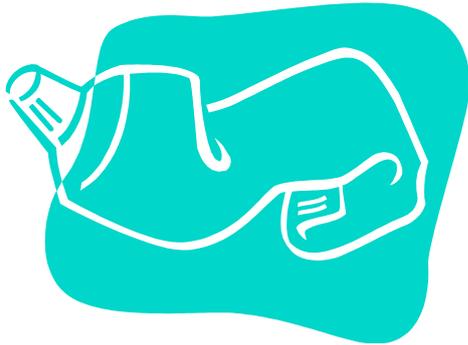




GREEN LIBERAL DEMOCRATS

How Green are you?

Green Waste



Waste

Every year British Households throw away 23.7 million tonnes of waste – that's over a tonne of rubbish per year per household. Just over half of it goes to landfill and 3.6 million tonnes of it is incinerated. The UK's waste problem is mounting, despite falling total volume and rising recycling rates, as the available volume for landfill is rapidly reducing and incineration is not favoured as a disposal option by many communities.

The average household generates the following waste (by weight):

- 21% Garden Waste
- 18% Paper and Board
- 17% Kitchen waste
- 7% Plastics
- 7% Glass bottles and jars
- 8% Metals (including white goods)
- 3% Textiles

19% other

About 78% of this household waste could be recycled or composted and it would save natural resources and reduce the problem of the disposal of waste. However, recycling is not the whole answer as it is important to use natural resources more sparingly and sensibly. Householders can make a significant contribution to minimising their waste in a number of simple ways. Most local authorities have a Waste Minimisation Office or Recycling Officer who can provide advice.

To find any and all recycling facilities in your area, contact:

Recycle-more, Valpak Ltd, Stratford Business Park, Banbury Road, Stratford-Upon-Avon, CV37 7GW

08450 682 572 Fax: 08450 682 532

www.recycle-more.co.uk/

recycle-more@valpak.co.uk

Paper

The production of 'virgin' paper requires the farming of land for trees and the use of vast quantities of water and various chemicals, some of which are harmful if released into the environment.

Action points to save paper

- Save waste paper and deposit it in a local paper bank
- Re-use envelopes, paper, wrappings and egg boxes
- Choose to buy recycled paper products, including greetings cards
- Reduce the amount of junk mail you receive by contacting the Mail Preference Service
- Print only when absolutely necessary, and use both sides of the paper and narrow margins

The Mailing Preference Service (MPS) is a free service to enable consumers to have their names and addresses removed from or added to lists used by the direct mail industry:
FREEPOST 29 LON20771
London W1E 0ZT
0845 703 4599 mps@dma.org.uk
www.mpsonline.org.uk

The Telephone Preference Service (TPS) can filter out unwarranted direct selling of products by telephone:
3rd Floor, DMA House, 70 Margaret Street London W1W 8SS
0845 070707 tps@dma.org.uk
www.tpsonline.org.uk

The Fax Preference Service (FPS) can filter out unwarranted direct selling of products by fax:
3rd Floor, DMA House, 70 Margaret Street London W1W 8SS
0845 070702 fps@dma.org.uk
www.fpsonline.org.uk

Waste Watch is a charity that aims to protect the environment by encouraging the wise use of scarce resources:
Waste Watch, Development House,
56-64 Leonard St, London EC2A 4LT
020 7549 0300
info@wastewatch.org.uk
www.wastewatch.org.uk



Glass

In Britain more than 6 billion glass containers are made every year – that is approximately 100 per person. Glass manufacture requires raw materials and energy to extract Silica, transport it and form it into the product.

Action points to save glass

- Choose returnable bottles, if available
- Drink tap water in pubs and restaurants instead of bottled water
- Recycle glass through household collections or at a bottle bank

Plastic

The UK produces a growing mountain of plastic waste, much of which does not readily biodegrade.

Action points to save plastic

- Opt for low-packaging products, buy fruit and vegetables loose

- Obtain and use hessian or fair trade cotton shopping bags and include a few boxes for your loose fruit and veg
- Buy larger containers, and where possible re-use them for gardening and other household tasks

RECOUP, RECYcling Of Used Plastics Ltd, Tower House, Lucy Tower Street, Lincoln LN1 1XW
01733 390021
enquiry@recoup.org
www.recoup.org



Metal

Metal is a valuable resource that can be readily re-used and recycling saves the mining of natural resources, energy used in mineral processing and land-fill costs. Around 11 billion steel cans and 5.5 billion aluminum cans are manufactured for use in the UK per year. Both types of can may be recycled.

Action points to save metal

- Use local can banks or kerbside collections if available
- Support collections of foil, milk bottle tops etc

- Use aluminum can banks - many local charities/organisations collect cans to raise funds
- Take or arrange for unwanted appliances or other bulky metal items to be deposited at a local authority metal collection/recycling site (N.B. this is now a legal requirement for all electrical equipment)

For details of your nearest steel can recycling centre, contact your local authority or

Steel Can Recycling Information Bureau (SCRiB),
c/o Corus Steel Packaging Recycling
Trostre Works Llanelli
Carmarthenshire SA14 9SD
admin@scrib.org
www.scrib.org

There are hundreds of cash for cans centers nationwide where you can exchange your aluminum cans for cash.

Alupro,
1 Brockhill Court, Brockhill Lane
Redditch, B97 6RB UK
01527 597757 Fax: 01527 594140
www.alupro.org.uk
info@alupro.org.uk

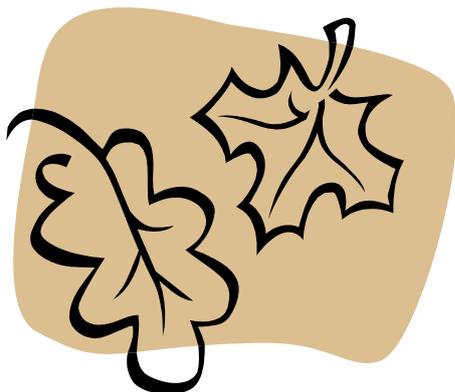
The website offers information about saving valuable resources and raising money for your organisation.

Organic Waste

Approximately 20% of domestic waste comprises organic matter. Disposing of this in landfill takes up valuable space and the organic matter can break down into liquids which, when combined with other waste, may pollute the water table.

Decomposing organic matter can also produce methane which is a greenhouse gas and potentially hazardous. Composting organic matter in gardens can reduce these large scale hazards and produce compost which improves soil fertility – see the Green Gardening leaflet.

If you have space outside, consider a compost bin and use it for all organic matter (avoid meat and fish as they attract rats). Bread can be fed to birds along with seeds and nuts at a bird table. It can also be composted, so long as it is soaked in water to help break it down.



In addition to this leaflet there are six others in the Green Liberal Democrats (GLD) series on *“How Green are you?”*

They are practical guides on how to be more environmentally friendly and cover the following areas:

- Green Gardening
- Green Holidays
- Green Homes
- Green Shopping including Green Personal Finance
- Green Travel
- (Green Waste)
- Green Xmas

These leaflets can also be found on the <http://www.greenlibdems.org.uk/en/>