

WHY WASTE?

your guide to reducing, reusing, recycling
and saving the world



 **recycle**
for Oxfordshire

 **Oxfordshire
Waste Partnership**

Your local councils working together
to improve your environment

Well OK, you won't be able to save the world single-handed with this booklet!
That was a bold statement to make.

However, everyone's actions have an impact on the planet. We ALL have a responsibility to make that impact as small as possible; unless of course it's a good one, like planting a tree!

This booklet gives information about one of the easiest steps we can take to save the world: reducing waste and recycling.

Think about it: we all produce waste. The important thing is what we do with that waste so our 'environmental footprint' (the amount we affect the planet) is reduced.

We hear a lot about carbon emissions these days but did you know methane from a landfill site is over twenty times more powerful as a greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide?

These pages contain information on reducing and recycling waste for residents who want to make a start and for those that want to do more.

We hope you find them useful.



If you want to know more, visit any of the web pages throughout the booklet, email us at owp@cherwell-dc.gov.uk or call **08450 50 45 50**.

We can also keep you updated with electronic newsletters.

Sign up to receive these at www.oxfordshirewaste.gov.uk

“Recycling one tonne of paper saves enough electricity to run an average three bedroom house for a year!”



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Oxfordshire Waste Partnership

The county and five district councils in Oxfordshire are all working together as Oxfordshire Waste Partnership (OWP) to increase recycling and improve waste management across the county. OWP aims to help residents cut waste, recycle more and landfill less by:

- 🔄 providing information and advice to householders, schools and businesses on reducing waste
- 🔄 working for new waste treatment facilities and collecting more for recycling
- 🔄 providing home composting support and training Master Composter volunteers
- 🔄 supporting Community Action Groups and their waste reduction/reuse activities
- 🔄 working in partnership to cut costs and share best practices
- 🔄 reducing fly-tipping and environmental crimes, and supporting 'clean up' events like local litter picks

To find out more about OWP activities, get advice on waste management issues or sign up for electronic updates visit:

www.oxfordshirewaste.gov.uk

“Recycling one can saves enough energy to power a television for 3 hours.”



Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Recover

reduce:

to produce less or to make smaller

reuse:

to use something again

recycle:

to collect and treat rubbish to produce useful materials which can be used again

recover:

to get back something lost such as energy

The list above (the waste hierarchy) shows **the best way to deal with our waste**. The most important action at the top is to reduce the amount of waste we produce. If we don't make it in the first place then it isn't a problem! For any waste we have, it's important to reuse, repair, recycle and compost as much as possible. However, there will still be a certain amount of material leftover. At the moment we put our non-recyclable waste into landfill (a big hole in the ground), but we cannot keep doing this. Oxfordshire County Council is currently working on an energy from waste project where our non-recyclable waste will be used to **generate electricity**.





Waste Recycling Centres

Oxfordshire County Council provides eight Waste Recycling Centres (WRCs) which accept a wide range of materials for recycling and disposal.


























































Opening times

Monday to Sunday: 8am to 5pm, all year
Late night opening until 8pm on Thursdays
from 1st April to 30th September

-  **Alkerton** – Stratford Road, Alkerton,
Nr Banbury OX15 6HZ
-  **Ardley Fields** – Brackley Road,
Ardley OX27 7PH
-  **Dean** – Grove Lane, Chadlington,
Nr Chipping Norton OX7 3JY
-  **Redbridge** – Old Abingdon Road,
Oxford OX1 4XG
-  **Dix Pit** – Linch Hill, Stanton Harcourt OX29 5BB
-  **Drayton** – Steventon Road, Drayton,
Nr Abingdon OX14 4LA
-  **Oakley Wood** – Henley Road, Crowmarsh,
Nr Wallingford OX10 6PW
-  **Stanford in the Vale** – Faringdon Road,
Stanford in the Vale SN7 8LD

Over the new few years old sites will be closing and new ones opening. For the most up-to-date information visit www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/recyclingcentres or call **08450 50 45 50**.

At the Waste Recycling Centre you can recycle...

	aerosols 		glass bottles & jars 		garden waste 
	food & drink cans 		batteries 		cardboard 
	large tins 		electrical 		paper 
	foil 		large appliances 		hardcore & rubble 
	scrap metal 		small appliances 		soil 
	bikes 		tv's & monitors 		wood & timber 
	car batteries 		telecoms & computers 		plastic bottles 
	used engine oil 		fluorescent tubes 		cartons 
	tyres 		fridges & freezers 		textiles 
	gas bottles 		low energy bulbs 		shoes 
	household & garden chemicals 				

“Recycling one glass bottle saves enough energy to power a computer for 25 minutes.”

Most items can be taken free of charge,

but there are a few exceptions:

Car and motorbike tyres incur a small charge. Only tyres up to 20 inch hub rim diameter are accepted.

DIY waste: You can take up to three items for free. If you take more than three items there is a charge to pay. Please ask one of the site staff.

- ◆ Bath
- ◆ Toilet pan
- ◆ Cistern
- ◆ Radiator
- ◆ Kitchen worktop
- ◆ One kitchen unit
- ◆ Fence panel/post
- ◆ Washbasin/kitchen sink
- ◆ Standard door
- ◆ Shower tray or door
- ◆ Water tank
- ◆ 3m piece of guttering or drain pipe
- ◆ Window frame (no glass)
- ◆ Roll of carpet or roof felt up to 3 meters wide
- ◆ 10 carpet tiles or sections of carpet and/or roof felt smaller than 1.5m x 1.5m
- ◆ One 80 litre sack of DIY waste (i.e. soil, rubble, tiles, inert waste)
- ◆ One 80 litre sack of plasterboard or other gypsum waste (see below)
- ◆ One sheet of plasterboard up to 2m x 1m or other gypsum waste (see below)

Plasterboard, other gypsum waste and cement bonded asbestos can ONLY be disposed of at Redbridge (01865 721464), Ardley (01869 343459) and Dix Pit (01865 880782).

You must telephone in advance.

Vans and Trailers

If you intend to use a van or trailer to take your waste to any of the centres you may need a free permit. Check before you go. For more details use the contact details below.

Trade Waste

Businesses have a legal Duty of Care to dispose of their waste properly and must pay commercial rates. Businesses can take commercial waste to Ardley or Dix Pit for disposal, and to Redbridge for recycling. See page 19 for more information.

www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/recyclingcentres
waste.management@oxfordshire.gov.uk
08450 50 45 50

Electrical and electronic items

New regulations mean any item powered by mains electricity and/or batteries should now be recycled.

Producers, manufacturers and retailers are responsible for refurbishing or recycling their old electrical items and some shops will take your old electrical item for recycling when you buy a new one: ask when you make your purchase.

All Waste Recycling Centres will also take your old electrical item for recycling: look out for the pink labelled containers.

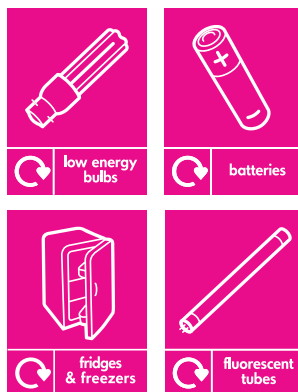
Here are **some examples** of the items we can take for recycling:

- ◆ Clocks and watches
- ◆ Cookers
- ◆ Fluorescent tubes
- ◆ Games consoles
- ◆ Microwaves
- ◆ Vacuum cleaners
- ◆ Shaving equipment
- ◆ Low energy lightbulbs (but not light fittings)
- ◆ Telephones and mobiles
- ◆ Washing machines.
- ◆ Computers and laptops
- ◆ Electric heaters
- ◆ Fridges and freezers
- ◆ Hairdryers
- ◆ Toasters
- ◆ Televisions
- ◆ Stereos and CD/DVD players
- ◆ Irons
- ◆ Monitors
- ◆ Radios

If you can't get larger items such as fridges, freezers and washing machines to your nearest Waste Recycling Centre, **your local district council can collect** them (charges may apply). Please contact your district council (see back page).

Batteries and low energy lightbulbs

There are lots of places across Oxfordshire where these can be recycled. For more details visit www.oxfordshirewaste.gov.uk.



What happens to my recycling?

Oxfordshire councils work hard to make sure your recyclable waste gets turned into something useful again. See what your rubbish can be turned into:



paper

All newsprint in the UK is made from recycled paper. Paper mills can recycle your old paper up to seven times before the fibres break down.



cardboard

Depending on the grade of cardboard it may be turned back into more boxes and packaging, but could be used for stationery or animal bedding.



food &
drink cans

Aluminium cans are recycled into more aluminium cans saving 95% of the energy it would take to make one from scratch.

Steel cans are recycled into more cans or any other steel product from a nail, to a car part or even a bridge!



plastics

Plastic can be turned into new plastic bottles as well as drain pipes, insulation, flower pots, watering cans, children's toys and even fleece jumpers. It takes 25 two litre pop bottles to make one adult fleece!



glass
bottles & jars

Bottles and jars can be recycled time and time again without losing any quality. Bottles and jars can be turned into more bottles and jars, or even used to make fibreglass or road aggregates.



textiles

Good quality clothes are sent to charities in Africa, Eastern Europe and the Middle East. Tatty or damaged material will be used for rags or insulation.

Home Composting

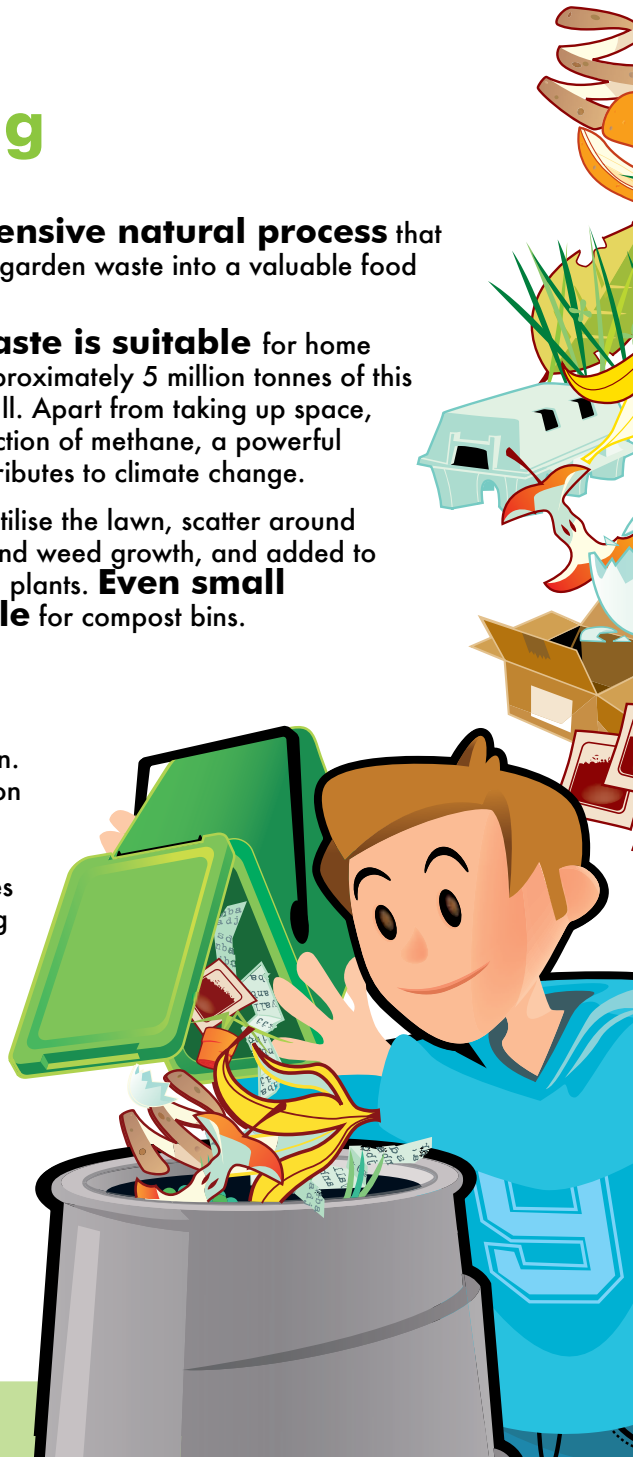
Composting is **an inexpensive natural process** that transforms your kitchen and garden waste into a valuable food for your garden.

Over 30% of our waste is suitable for home composting. Every year approximately 5 million tonnes of this material is dumped in landfill. Apart from taking up space, this also leads to the production of methane, a powerful greenhouse gas which contributes to climate change.

Compost can be used to fertilise the lawn, scatter around plants to reduce watering and weed growth, and added to hanging baskets and potted plants. **Even small gardens are suitable** for compost bins.

How to start

Find a suitable spot in your garden for your compost bin. Ideally the bin needs to sit on bare soil to allow worms to get in and to provide good drainage. If your bin catches the sun at some point during the day even better (compost bins under trees and in the shade will work but just not quite so quickly).



What can be composted?

The perfect compost is an equal mixture of 'green/wet' and 'brown/dry' material:

- 🔄 Grass cuttings
- 🔄 Old flowers
- 🔄 Tea bags
- 🔄 Vegetable peelings
- 🔄 Fruit scraps
- 🔄 Spent bedding plants
- 🔄 Young annual weeds

Greens

- 🔄 Garden prunings
- 🔄 Straw and hay
- 🔄 Crushed egg shells
- 🔄 Cereal and egg boxes
- 🔄 Scrunched up newspaper
- 🔄 Shredded confidential documents
- 🔄 Dry leaves, twigs and hedge clippings
- 🔄 Bedding from vegetarian pets

Browns

What can't be home composted?

- ✗ Meat and fish remains
- ✗ Cooked food
- ✗ Cat/dog faeces
- ✗ General household waste
- ✗ Problem weeds (couch grass, ground elder etc)

When filling your bin, try to **mix 'green' and 'brown'** materials together. Then sit back and wait. You should have useable compost in around nine months time. Unlike sieved compost you buy from a garden centre, your own compost may contain twigs and lumpy bits, but this is perfectly normal.

Master Composters

A team of Master Composter volunteers offer help and expert advice on all things compost. If you would like a Master Composter to attend your event or give a compost talk please call **08450 50 45 50** or visit www.oxfordshirewaste.gov.uk for more information.

For further information on home composting, go to www.recyclenow.com/compost.

Love Food Hate Waste



Did you know the average Oxfordshire family throws away over £50 worth of food every month? Across the UK this adds up to billions of pounds of wasted food: the same as throwing away one in every three bags of shopping.

Follow some simple tips to help reduce food waste and save money:

plan it	Make a meal plan and only buy the ingredients you need. Check the fridge and cupboards before you hit the shops, and be sure to write a list: you'll be less likely to over-purchase. Also beware of special offers you won't be able to use: it's not a bargain if it ends up in the bin!
cool it	Make sure your fridge is between 1 and 5 degrees to make food stay fresher for longer.
measure it	It's easy to cook too much, especially foods like pasta and rice. You'll find a Perfect Portion Planner in the back of this booklet to help you cook the right amount.
freeze it	Bread, milk, vegetables, cheese and even wine are just some of the foods that can be frozen. You can also freeze a range of leftovers, ready to make into another dish.
use it	Whether its dinner from the night before or food left in the fridge or cupboard, a meal made from leftovers can be tasty and timesaving.

A free recipe book with over 150 recipes, including Oxfordshire's best leftovers recipe Tim Gannaway's Chicken Curry, is available for all Oxfordshire residents. To get your copy make a pledge to Love Food Hate Waste on the form at the back of this booklet or at www.oxfordshirewaste.gov.uk.

Smart shopping

Follow these **simple tips** to become a smart shopper, reduce unnecessary waste and even save money.

Reuse carrier bags

We use billions of carrier bags each year in the UK. Most of these end up in landfill sites. We can easily reduce this waste by reusing standard carrier bags, buying a 'bag for life' or using more durable cotton/material shopping bags.

Say no to bags at the till!

Choose less packaging

At first glance this may seem almost impossible, but there really is a choice. Buy fruit and vegetables loose. Why do you need a plastic bag for a bunch of bananas? Most people peel the natural packaging off the banana before they eat it!

Buying one larger packet will save you buying several smaller ones and **reduce your waste**.

Buy recycled/recyclable

Recycled products need not be of lower quality or cost more. Buy recycled toilet roll, tissues, and computer/writing paper and look out for recycled packaging on other groceries.

Choose items that can be more easily recycled.

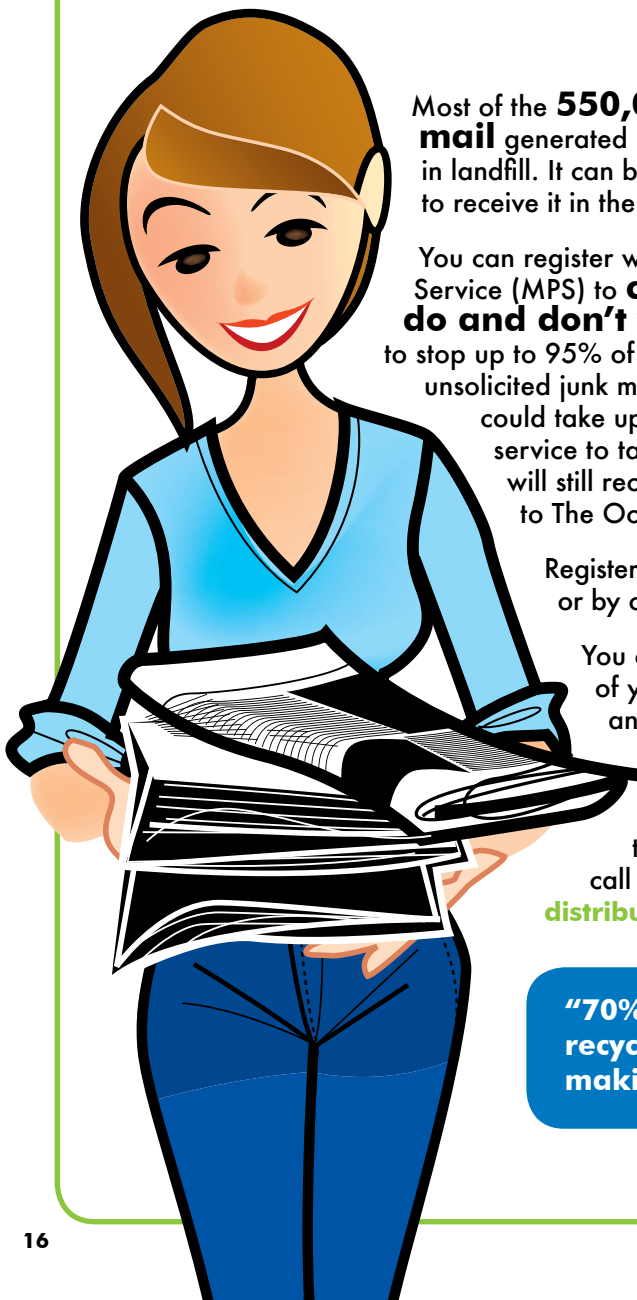
Refill and Reuse

Choose the refillable option, where appropriate. Some products even come 'naked' with no packaging at all!

Avoid disposable items

If you can, buy more durable options such as reusable plates and cutlery for a party or rechargeable batteries for your gadgets.

Junk mail



Most of the **550,000 tonnes of junk mail** generated in the UK every year end up in landfill. It can be recycled, but it's better not to receive it in the first place.

You can register with the Mailing Preference Service (MPS) to **choose the mail you do and don't want**. This is designed to stop up to 95% of personally addressed, unsolicited junk mail. Please note that it could take up to four months for the service to take full effect, and you will still receive mailings addressed to The Occupier.

Register at www.mpsonline.org.uk or by calling **0845 703 4599**.

You can also cancel delivery of your telephone directory and look online instead.

To cancel Yellow Pages, call Freephone **0800 671 444**. To cancel the Thomson Local Directory, call **01252 555 555** or email distribution@thomsonlocal.com

"70% less energy is required to recycle paper compared with making it from raw materials."

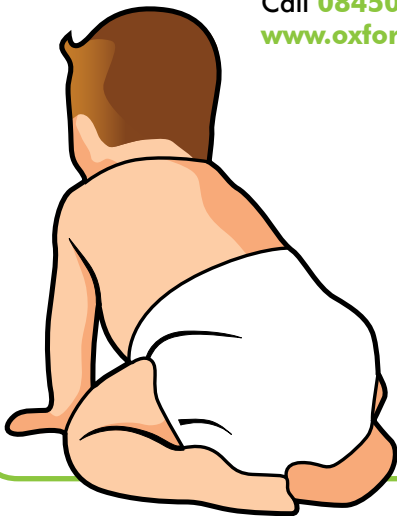
Real nappies

Every year, nearly three billion nappies are put into landfill sites across the UK costing around £40 million.

There is an answer to this: modern real nappies.

- 🔄 Shaped and as easy to use as a disposables with Velcro or popper fastenings.
- 🔄 No need to soak or boil, just wash at 40-60 degrees, or use a nappy laundry service that will collect from home and deliver clean ones back.
- 🔄 No chemicals or gels against your baby's skin; just natural, breathable material.
- 🔄 Nappies always to hand so no need to rush to the shops.
- 🔄 Hundreds of pounds cheaper than disposable nappies.

Parents wanting to find out more, can try a **FREE trial kit** with different types of real nappies.
Call **08450 50 45 50** or for more details visit www.oxfordshirewaste.gov.uk/realnappies.



“Did you know if Queen Victoria had worn disposable nappies, they would probably still be rotting in a landfill site today!”

Recycle at school

The Wild Waste Show is an educational project run by the Northmoor Trust and supported by OWP.

It's their job to teach 'rubbish'!

The Wild Waste Show goes to schools and community events across the county offering **fun interactive workshops, assemblies and advice** on waste and recycling issues.

The Trust also runs 'Energy Busters' to reduce CO₂ emissions from school buildings by 18% by 2012.

The project engages primary and secondary school children and staff with exciting workshops and a new energy bus.

If you think your local school or community group would benefit from this free support please visit —

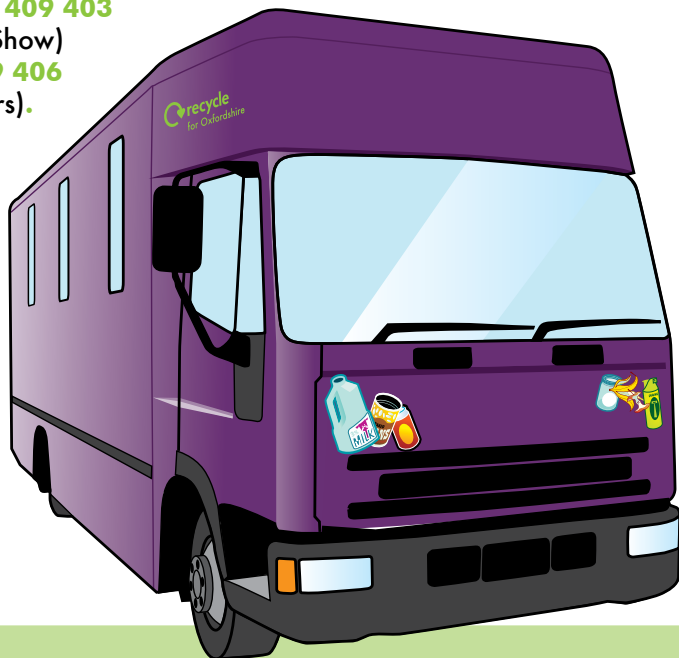
www.oxfordshirewaste.gov.uk

or call **01865 409 403**

(Wild Waste Show)

or **01865 409 406**

(Energy Busters).



Recycle at work

The cost of waste affects every business regardless of its size. UK businesses produce 75 million tonnes of waste each year, over half of which is sent to landfill. With increasing landfill costs businesses need to rethink their waste disposal options.

A business recycling directory is available to help workplaces recycle more of their waste. By looking at recycling with other energy saving measures **businesses can help the environment and save money.**



A free online materials exchange retrader.org.uk is available to all Oxfordshire businesses.

Retrader enables organisations to pass on materials they no longer need and get pre-used materials from other businesses.

Over 1000 businesses in Oxfordshire have already reduced waste and saved money after receiving a waste audit. This helps identify ways to cut waste and highlights how much money could be saved. To find out more about an audit or the business waste recycling directory visit www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/commercialwaste or call **08450 50 45 50**.



“Recycling one plastic bottle saves enough energy to power a 60-watt light bulb for three hours.”



CAG OXFORDSHIRE

COMMUNITY ACTION GROUPS

Community Action Groups or CAGs are **volunteer groups** working to increase awareness of waste issues, carbon reduction, energy use, local food and sustainable transport.

The groups help and **advise people** to be better stewards of natural resources and work with people to live a **more sustainable life**.

The CAG project provides support for groups to run community events and initiatives that help to reduce waste.

Some waste reduction initiatives include:

- 🔄 Holding swap shops
- 🔄 Collecting paint for reuse
- 🔄 Promoting sensible shopping
- 🔄 Campaigning to reduce packaging
- 🔄 Sharing produce from orchards and allotments
- 🔄 Having eco-detergent refilling stations
- 🔄 Holding bicycle events to swap and repair

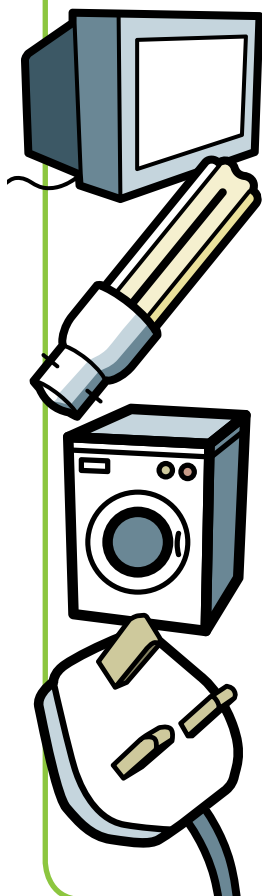
Visit www.cagoxfordshire.org.uk to find a group near you or call the CAG project on **07793 647190** to see how you can get involved or even start your own group.



What's next?

So you've sorted your rubbish out, what's the next step in saving the world?

Well, there are some other simple ways you can reduce your 'environmental footprint' like being more energy efficient and less wasteful with water. Here are a few easy tips that will also save you money.



- 🔄 Turn off the lights when you leave a room.
- 🔄 Switch off electrical items when not in use: this includes switching the TV off not leaving it on stand by and turning off mobile phone chargers when not in use.
- 🔄 Turn your thermostat down by just 1 degree. This could cut your heating bill by up to 10% saving around £40 per year.
- 🔄 Only boil as much water as you need in the kettle.
- 🔄 Fit energy saving light bulbs. They use 75-80% less electricity than an old fashioned bulb.
- 🔄 Buy energy efficient products. Look out for the A-G ratings on new electrical products.
- 🔄 Make sure your washing machine is full before putting a load on. Also, use lower temperature washes and short wash cycles if clothes aren't visibly dirty.
- 🔄 Don't leave the tap running while you brush your teeth.
- 🔄 Fit a water saving flush to your toilet.
- 🔄 Water your garden with rainwater collected for free in a water butt.

Useful contacts

"25 plastic pop bottles can be recycled into one fleece jacket."

Recycle Now Campaign

www.recyclenow.com

The Environment Agency

www.environment-agency.gov.uk

08708 506 506

Garden Organic

The organic gardening charity.

www.gardenorganic.org.uk

024 7630 3517

Real Nappy Information

www.goreal.org.uk

0845 850 0606

Love Food Hate Waste

www.lovefoodhatewaste.com

Recipes, tips and tools to help you reduce food waste and save money

Reuse websites

www.retrader.org.uk

www.freecycle.org.uk

www.freegle.org.uk

www.oxorinoco.org

Energy/Water Saving Advice

www.est.org.uk (0800 512 012)

www.nef.org.uk

www.thameswater.co.uk

www.waterwise.org.uk

www.energysavingsecrets.co.uk

www.carbontrust.co.uk

"If all cans in the UK were recycled, we would need 14 million fewer dustbins."

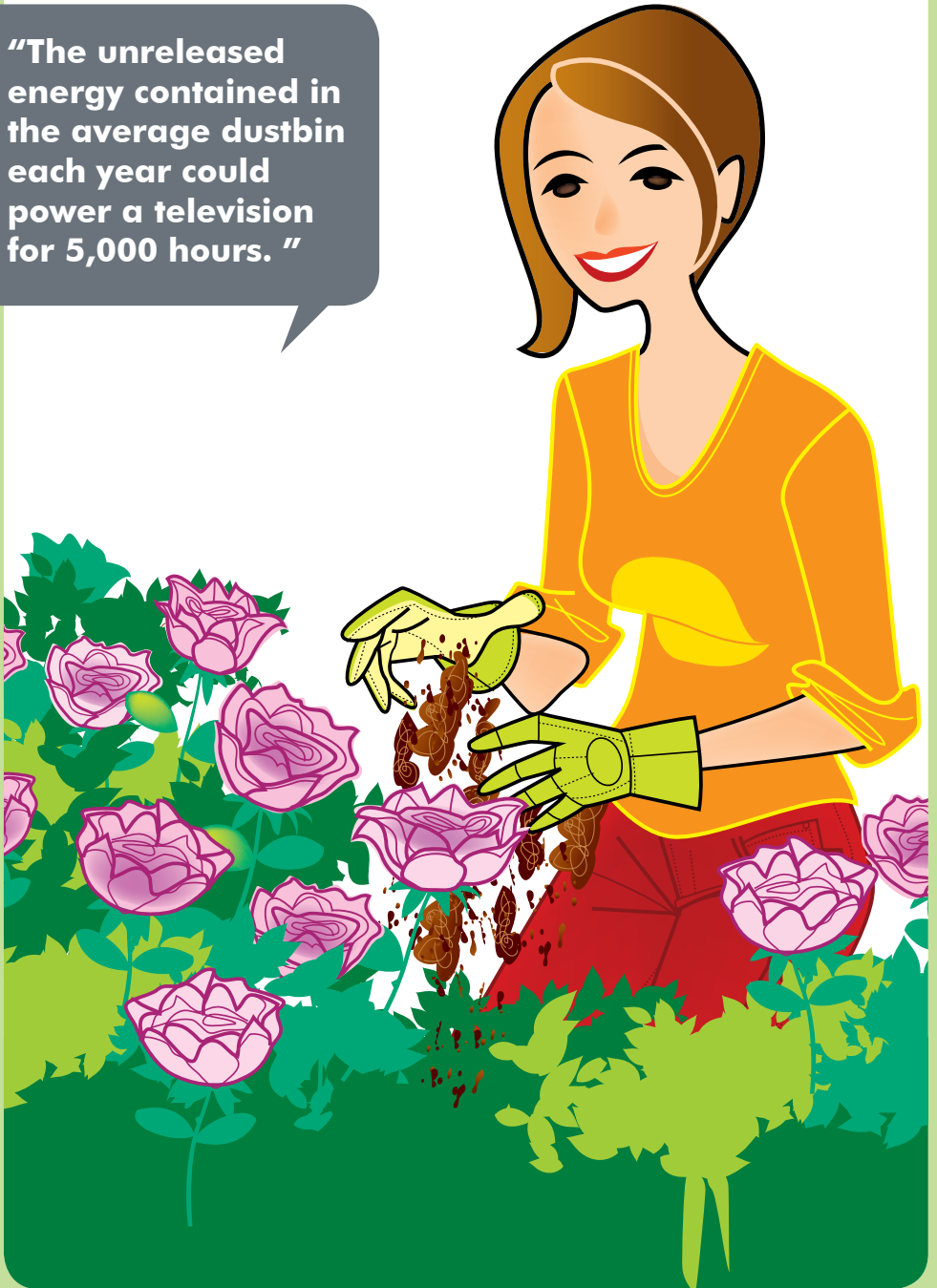


When you have finished with this leaflet please recycle it

100% recycled

This leaflet is printed on 100% recycled paper and card

"The unreleased energy contained in the average dustbin each year could power a television for 5,000 hours."



Your local councils are working together to improve your environment

Cherwell District Council 01295 221 940

www.cherwell.gov.uk/recycling
customer.service@cherwell-dc.gov.uk

Oxford City Council 01865 252 900

www.oxford.gov.uk/recycling
recycling@oxford.gov.uk

Oxfordshire County Council 08450 50 45 50

www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/waste
waste.management@oxfordshire.gov.uk

South Oxfordshire

District Council 03000 610 610

www.southoxon.gov.uk/recycling
admin.southoxford@verdant-group.co.uk

Vale of White Horse

District Council 03000 610 610

www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk
admin.vale@verdant-group.co.uk


West Oxfordshire

District Council 01993 861 020

www.westoxon.gov.uk/recycling
env.services@westoxon.gov.uk

Oxfordshire Waste Partnership

www.oxfordshirewaste.gov.uk
owp@cherwell-dc.gov.uk

 Oxfordshire Waste Partnership

Your local councils working together to improve your environment


Cherwell
DISTRICT COUNCIL
WEST OXFORDSHIRE


OXFORD
CITY
COUNCIL


OXFORDSHIRE
COUNTY COUNCIL
www.oxfordshire.gov.uk
Working for you


South Oxfordshire
District Council


Vale
of White Horse
District Council


WEST OXFORDSHIRE
DISTRICT COUNCIL