



FACT SHEET

WASTE IN NORTHERN IRELAND

Did you know?

- We produce enough waste every year to fill the whole country!
- Every fortnight we throw away enough waste to fill the Waterfront hall!
- Everyday we throw way a quarter of a million plastic bottles!
- We are running out of space in our landfill sites!

What's it all about?

Waste management remains a high profile issue in Northern Ireland. The way the Council manages waste has become more complex over recent years with the scale and pace of change required to meet European Union and Government imposed waste diversion targets showing no sign of abating. Landfill capacity has become severely restricted with landfill costs expected to significantly increase over the coming years. The focus of waste management must therefore shift to more sustainable alternatives.

Councils in Northern Ireland have been set challenging waste diversion targets to reduce the amount of waste being sent to landfill and encourage a more sustainable way of living. There must not only be greater efforts to **reduce** waste but a substantial increase in **re-use, recycling and composting**.

Councils must not only recycle or compost at least 25% of household waste by 2005, 30% by 2010 and 33% by 2015 but will be restricted in the amount of waste they can landfill in any given year. Councils that exceed their annual landfill allowance will face the prospect of substantial punitive fines being imposed upon them.

What is Castlereagh Borough Council doing?

The Council, together with 10 other Councils from the Eastern Region of NI, continues to work within a partnership known as ARC21 to address these important issues.

The Tri-Cycle Scheme, upgraded Household Recycling Centres, increased number of Bring Sites (Community Recycling Points), promoted home composting and greater provided education and awareness to form the backbone of the Council's strategy to meet these challenges.

What can you do to help?

Remember the 3 R's **REDUCE, RE-USE, RECYCLE**

REDUCE

The reduction of waste is defined as 'not initially producing waste'. People don't realise how simple and economic this can be. There are various ways you can reduce your waste:

- Buy re-usable shopping bags, that are available at most large supermarkets, it will save you using more plastic bags than necessary, or when you buy small items in the shop, refuse to take a bag.
- Don't buy products with lots of packaging; you could buy loose fruit and veg or larger packs less often. Why not visit your local butcher? Remember, YOUR waste, YOUR choice!
- Use Tupperware containers for lunches, storage of food and leftovers, instead of sandwich bags or throwaway plastic containers.
- Try to avoid take-away foods when possible as they produce a lot of excess packaging. For example: Why don't you ask for your bags of chips to be wrapped together instead of separate?
- Use both sides of your paper to write on.
- Repair things if they break.
- Stop junk mail coming to your home by signing up to the mailing preference service or placing a sign on your door. The Mailing Preference Service Tel: 020 72913300 or www.mpsonline.org.uk.
- Consider switching to re-usable nappies. It might even save you money!!
- Look out for the EU Eco-Label which is the guarantee that a product has a reduced impact on the environment.

RE-USE

A lot of the things we currently throw away could be re-used again and again with just a little thought and imagination, for example;

- Keep old plastic bags to take with you on your next shopping trip, or you could use them as bin bags.
- Send unwanted but still good quality clothes to charity shops and cut old clothes up to use as dusters.
- Stick a label over old envelopes and use them again.
- Use rechargeable batteries instead of single use ones.
- Decorate old boxes and glass bottles to use for storage.
- Old furniture and household appliances can be refurbished or fixed and given to community groups or charities.
- Share magazines with friends and pass them on to the doctor, dentist or local hospitals for their waiting room areas.

RECYCLE

- If you are on the Tri-Cycle Scheme make full use of your Bryson House Kerbie and brown bin. Alternatively, take your waste to the nearest recycling centre. Council Household Recycling Centres now recycle a wide range of wastes, so why not make your contribution count!
- You can also use a compost bin to recycle your garden waste and kitchen scraps into a soil conditioner that you can use in your garden.
- DON'T FORGET - buy recycled products. They are of good quality and support the markets for recycled materials.

Recycling Facilities in Castlereagh

You can recycle your waste at the following locations:

	Paper	Cardboard	Glass	Cans	Plastic bottles	Textiles
HRC, Cregagh Rd *	X	X	X	X	X	X
HRC, Comber Rd, Carryduff *	X	X	X	X	X	X
Cregagh Youth & Community Centre			X	X	X	
Carryduff Shopping Centre			X	X	X	X
The Auld House, Moneyreagh			X	X		X
Braniel Community Centre			X	X	X	
Comber Road, Dundonald			X	X		
Safeways, Dundonald			X	X		
Kings Rd Shopping Centre, Gilnahirk						X

* Green Waste, Mixed Scrap Metals, White Goods, Oils (Cooking & Engine), Batteries (Household & Car), Fluorescent Tubes, Aerosols and Rubble can all be recycled at Council Household Recycling Centres. Wood can be recycled at Carryduff HRC.

Household Recycling Centre Opening Hours

April – September

Monday to Friday 9am – 8pm

Saturday 9am – 5pm

October - March

Monday to Friday 9am – 5pm

Saturday 9am – 5pm

Did you know?

All materials that are recycled do have a purpose or use;

- Recycled plastic can be made into fleeces, duvet filling, and “plastic wood” to make pencils and rulers and even park benches;
- Recycled aluminium can be made into cans, cars and bikes;
- Recycled glass can make the sand in golf bunkers or converted back into glass packaging and used in road surfacing;
- Recycled paper can be used for newspaper, notebook and file paper;
- By home composting you can make great natural compost that is readily available for you garden or plants around your home.

Where can I find out more?

For more information contact the Council’s Technical Services on:

General Enquiries: 028 9049 4600

Email: recycle@castlereagh.gov.uk

Tri-cycle Scheme Enquiries: Freephone 0800 013 0897

Or why not visit the Council’s Website at www.castlereagh.gov.uk

Other sources of useful information:

Eastern Region Waste Management Group, ARC21 www.arc21.com

DoE, Environment & Heritage Service www.wakeuptowaste.org or www.ehsni.gov.uk,

Bryson House Recycling www.rubbish2resource.com



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