



Guildford Environmental Forum

Waste and Recycling Information Sheet

Why recycle?

We are running out of landfill space, and the material that we waste is only a finite resource- but it is not the material that is 'waste', but our actions that are wasteful.

The European Directive of the Waste Framework Directive introduces the waste hierarchy, requiring strategies to prevent the generation of waste, and to reduce its possible harm to the environment. Where possible, materials should be reduced, reused, recycled or recovered; including as a possible source of energy.

Recycling saves resources and energy;

- A tonne of recycled glass saves over a tonne of raw material.
- Recycling aluminium saves 95% of the energy required to process the raw material.

The Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive sets out to reduce the impact of surplus electrical equipment, with separate collection for recovery, reuse and recycling.

The End of Life Vehicle Directive requires producers to establish systems for collection of end of life vehicles, and their dismantling and recycling

Guildford Borough Council provides an extensive collection service for a range of materials, as well as providing subsidised composters, green cones and wormeries and an optional garden-waste collection service for a small fee. They also provide advice and articles on home composting of organic material.

So what can you do?

Remember the 3R's- Reduce, Reuse and Recycle.

Top tips:

- Grow your own fruit and vegetables- this saves on packaging, trips to the shops, and food miles. www.hdra.org.uk or shop locally www.surreyfoodlinks.co.uk
- Compost your own kitchen and garden material- this recycles nutrients to your garden, and avoids the smells from collection bags and bins; as well as removing materials that would otherwise decompose in landfills, releasing methane, a powerful greenhouse gas. www.surreywaste.info or www.recyclenow.com

- Plan your meals and shopping- this helps avoid surplus food being thrown away. Fresh food is healthy, packed with vitamins and minerals; but it is wasteful to throw away food that maybe could be cooked for another meal.
www.lovefoodhatewaste.com
- Avoid buying packaged products- use your own shopping bags to avoid use-once-and-throw-away supermarket bags.
- Repair damaged clothes and broken household objects.
- Use refillable containers.
- Pass-on surplus items to charity shops, jumble sales, free-cycle.
www.swapitsurrey.org www.charityshops.org.uk www.uk.freecycle.org
www.readitswapit.co.uk
- Join the mailing preference service to reduce unwanted junk mail.
- Avoid disposable nappies
www.guildford.gov.uk/GuildfordWeb/Environment/Recycling/WashableNappies/

Education.

Guildford Borough Council is your first point of call if you are unsure as to what to do with surplus items, if you need replacement bins and boxes, or advice on how to use the recycling services. www.guildford.gov.uk recycling@guildford.gov.uk

Composting advice can be found at www.guildford.gov.uk/GuildfordWeb/Environment/Recycling/GardenWasteRecycling/HomeComposting.htm or email recycling@guildford.gov.uk

Schools educational resources can be obtained from Surrey Waste Management email surrey.waste@sita.co.uk or book a recycling or composting assembly with the womble www.guildford.gov.uk/GuildfordWeb/Environment/Recycling/RecyclingSchools.htm

And if you would like to help spread the word about reducing waste, become a Community Recycler, providing advice, demonstrations and events such as bring-and-takes, chipping days and book swaps recycling@guildford.gov.uk

Don't forget Compost Heaven.

This is an annual event providing free compost*, free bins*, advice, demonstrations, and secateur sharpening, organised by Guildford Community Recyclers in conjunction with Guildford Allotment Society and Guildford Borough Council. Please contact recycling@guildford.gov.uk for details of this year's event. (* Guildford borough residents only, while stocks last.)

