

# GARBOLGY

Issue 4 - October 2018

Welcome to the October issue of our e-newsletter, dedicated to the subject of recycling. We will continue to provide you with seasonal information about recycling in Orkney as well as ideas for reducing your waste and how to reuse and recycle more. [The newsletter will be available on the Council's website here](#) or you can subscribe to have it sent directly to your mailbox by emailing us at [recycling@orkney.gov.uk](mailto:recycling@orkney.gov.uk) with the subject line 'subscribe'. You can also use this address to let us know if there is a particular subject you would like to read or know more about.

## Recycle Week 2018 was our biggest yet!

The team had a super week out and about the county providing information on recycling in Orkney and handing out lots of recycle aware and food waste prevention goodies for Recycle week in September. We spent time in several places in Stromness and Kirkwall as well as a day in St Margaret's Hope and one visiting Dounby and Glaitness Schools to deliver recycling talks to some of the classes, including our first nursery class! It was great to hear so many of you recycling everything you can and getting new ideas on re-using non-recyclable items, and so nice to meet the school children and see how engaged and interested they are in recycling and with so many fantastic questions. We even took Ali Minium out with us to The Pickaquoy Centre for his first outing since the shows where we ran a competition to name him. 2 people both suggested his name; Abbie Gray and Katie Steele.

The focus of this year's recycling week was on one of the most prominent topics worldwide, **plastics** under the theme of '**Recycling. We do. Because it matters.**'

24 to 30 September



It takes seconds  
to recycle  
plastic bottles

✓ **EMPTY**

✓ **RINSE**

✓ **RECYCLE**

**#RecycleWeekScot**



On the first day of Recycle Week, we also conducted the public consultation on the Deposit Return Scheme for Zero Waste Scotland with a great number of people answering the short survey questions to give your thoughts on how the scheme should work. It will be a great way to help increase our recycling rates in Orkney which are much lower that we would like, so do keep recycling everything you can and don't hesitate to check with us if there is anything you are unsure of and keep giving those you know who may not recycle so much a wee nudge.

Hopefully you met us for a chat during Recycle Week, but if not and you are unsure of what you can and cannot recycle here in Orkney, you can find more information on the Waste and Recycling section of the [Council's website here](#). You can also contact us by email at [recycling@orkney.gov.uk](mailto:recycling@orkney.gov.uk) or on our [Facebook page Eco Active Orkney](#), which has continued to gain more likes and followers. However we would love to be able to reach more people with the tips, advice and useful information we share, so if you know anyone who may be interested do pass on our page name or send them an invite.

## Halloween Treats and Decorations

When you head to the shops to buy your Halloween goodies for parties and guisers, why not choose the foil wrapped chocolates rather than all plastic packaged, as foils can all be scrunched up together and put in the metals section of your recycle bins.

The metals we collect are our most valuable recyclate as they can be recycled forever without any loss of quality.



One of the other big waste products at Halloween is pumpkins. Across the UK 15 million pumpkins are binned each Halloween, these are enough to provide a bowl of pumpkin soup to every person in Britain according to Hubbub Foundation who are running a #PumpkinRescue campaign this Halloween. You can use every part of any pumpkin apart from the stalk, that means not only the flesh inside but the skin, seeds and guts can all be used. [Have a look at their website here](#) for recipes and information on how to eat your pumpkin. And don't forget to compost your carved pumpkins after Halloween.

## Christmas Packaging

It's that time again folks, where we start to think about Christmas presents. Many of these are ordered online for delivery, which means lots more cardboard boxes and packaging coming to Orkney. Remember we can recycle cardboard on Orkney at our 5 HWRCs, so you can save it up till you have a few boxes. They do have to be clean and if you remove any tape from them it helps to keep our recycling more valuable. Otherwise, before sending them for recycling why not give them some more life by using them again. If you don't have any need yourself for boxes

you can always post them up for collection on the Merkit Place or another Facebook group, there are always people needing boxes for things like posting and moving.

When you shop for your Christmas wrapping paper and cards this year, have a look at the material first, as not all of these can be recycled.

Anything with glitter cannot be recycled as the glitter is a contaminant and will actually cause problems in the machinery used in the recycling process, so even though some of those cards and wrapping papers look lovely with all their glittery snow scenes, have a quick look about at what else is available without glitter.

Fancy foil type wrapping papers are not recyclable either, the only foil that can be recycled is tin foil or foil lids and wrappers which stay in a ball when you scrunch them up, so with any foil, if you're not sure do the scrunch test. Coated and foil wrapping papers are not suitable for paper recycling either. So do look for basic paper with nice Christmas scenes printed on, or why not have a go at wrapping presents in one of the many alternatives; old newspapers, pages from old magazines and even material. There are many tutorials online showing how to make your own reusable material wrapping which looks like a gift in itself, and can make your presents so much more personal, while encouraging others to re-use the material for future gifts themselves.

## So what goes in the metals section of the recycle bin?

Last year we launched our Metals Matter campaign when we started accepting more metals in our recycle collection.

You can put the following into this section of your bin:

- Drinks cans.
- Food tins.
- Kitchen and other household Foil.
- Foil food trays.
- Metal bottle tops.
- Metal jar lids.
- Empty Aerosols.



These metals are infinitely recyclable and a valuable resource, which can be turned into a huge variety of other things, however they are more valuable when they are clean so be sure to give them a rinse out or quick wash (sink or dishwasher!) and pop them in the metals section of your bins.

These recycled metals can then be made into a huge variety of other items including computers, kettles, toasters, mobile phones, cars and drink cans. Plus a drinks can, can be recycled and back on the shelf as another drink can ready to sell in just 60 days!

## The Reuse and Swap Hub

You may have seen on Facebook on our page [Eco Active Orkney](#) or on [Orcadians Going Green](#), that a community group has been set up to apply for funding to open up a reuse facility beside Hatston HWRC. The idea of this would be to help save more useable or fixable items from going into the waste stream and giving them new and extended life.

In Orkney we ship our residual waste to Shetland's EfW (Energy from Waste) plant for incineration. This costs us £150 per tonne which equates to about £1.4 million each year. Anything we can rescue from or save going into the waste stream, either to go for recycling or better, to be given extended life can save money as well as helping to reduce our combined carbon footprint.

The Management Committee is formed, and the next meeting is on 6 November at 5.15pm, however we are still looking for more people to join the Committee. For more information on the Reuse Hub or the funding application please email [OrcadiansGoingGreen@gmail.com](mailto:OrcadiansGoingGreen@gmail.com). We are particularly interested in recruiting someone into the role of treasurer.

## Did You Know?

- Each UK Household uses 380 drinks cans, 182 foil trays, 144 metres of household foil and 27 aerosols every week. These are all infinitely recyclable.
- In Orkney 128 tonnes of recyclable plastic bottles end up in the waste bin each year, this costs us £19,000 annually.
- Walkers are starting the first crisp packet recycling process in the UK, from December all crisp packets sent to TerraCycle for recycling will be turned into a variety of items including park benches!
- Scientists have confirmed human bodies are becoming polluted with plastic, through use of plastic bottles and packaging as well as consuming foods already contaminated by microplastics.

## Reducing Waste

There are many simple things we can all do to reduce our waste, that won't cost the Earth! Packaging, mostly plastic, is one of the biggest waste products we regularly bring home. This doesn't have to be the case though, there is a good variety of fruit and veg available without packaging, both in supermarkets and local shops. We can also reduce meat packaging by taking our own reusable containers to the butchers. Supporting our local shops in this way also helps not only a small business owner but reduces 'food miles' when we buy local bred, grown and made produce. When you do make meals, why not double up the portions and freeze the leftovers, providing you with an easy lunch to take to work or a healthier, homemade, package free and much cheaper ready meal.

Bathroom bottles can be reduced through buying soap and shampoo bars, which your purse will thank you for as these products last much longer than liquids so save you money over time.

Other easy changes include buying reusable products rather than single use, such as having a water bottle to keep with you and fill up on the go rather than always buying juice/water bottles and reusable food wraps such as beeswax wraps or lunch boxes rather than cling film. If you have your own reusable coffee/tea cup this can give you the added bonus of discounts in some café's here in Orkney for refilling your cup rather than using disposable ones. There are a huge variety of products available online and instructions for how to make things yourself too.

