

# GARBBOLOGY

## Issue 2 - October 2017

Welcome to the second issue of our e-newsletter dedicated to the subject of recycling and waste reduction. In this issue, we are concentrating on our new Metal Matters Campaign, The European Week for Waste Reduction (EWWR) in November, a post write up of Recycle Week and a focus on one of our very own Zerowaste Heroines – Kate Fereday Eshete. If you are a new subscriber to the newsletter – just to let you know it is available on a quarterly basis and is also available on the Council's website. If you would like to be added to our mailing list, simply send an e-mail to [recycling@orkney.gov.uk](mailto:recycling@orkney.gov.uk), and put "subscribe" in the subject line. If there is a particular subject you would like to see covered, please let us know by emailing [recycling@orkney.gov.uk](mailto:recycling@orkney.gov.uk).

## Recycle Week 2017 – How did we do?

We reported in the first issue of our newsletter how well we were doing in Orkney regards our recycling efforts since 2014 and whilst Orkney appears to be bucking a national trend, there is still an awful lot of work to do to help raise our game. Recycle Week is a UK wide event in the waste calendar and provides us with a very good opportunity to promote recycling, working with Zero Waste Scotland and Recycle for Scotland. Staff were available to speak to at several locations around the County including Tesco, Warehouse buildings, Stromness, the bus station, Kirkwall, the Pickaquoy Centre, Hatston and St Margaret's Hope Recycling Centres. Lessons were presented in four of Orkney's primary schools, presenting to approximately 100 children, we visited North Walls in Hoy, Papdale, Firth and Papa Westray. We also managed to get out on the streets and place some new bin stickers on folks bins letting you know what you can recycle at the kerbside. We will continue with this work post Recycle Week or you can ask for a sticker to be sent out to you by emailing the address mentioned above. As well as being out and about, we also made the best use of social media including our new for 2017 Facebook page. Orkney – reduce, reuse, recycle was used throughout the week to share messages about the benefits of recycling.



## Metal Matters comes to Orkney

Since 2012, MetalMatters campaigns have run in 81 local authorities, directly targeting over 5.3 million households. The campaign is part funded by the metal packaging (such as Tata Steel and Novelis) and recycling industry and leading brand owners. It is supported by the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) and managed by Alupro.

We launched this campaign during Recycle Week (25 September - 1 October) teaming up with the metal packaging manufacturing and recycling industry to reach all 11,312 households across the County. Households in Orkney will now be able to recycle aerosols, kitchen foil and foil tray products as part of the fortnightly green bin collections. Or if Alternate Weekly Collections of recyclates are not in place where you live, you can still participate by taking these additional items to your nearest recycling collection point.

Current figures suggest that Orkney households use over 12 million cans, foil trays and aerosols per year. The council have launched this new campaign to make sure every last one of those items makes it into a green recycling bin or communal recycling bank.

If all of the metal packaging used in Orkney's homes each year was collected for recycling it would save around 324 tonnes of carbon dioxide, the equivalent to taking nearly 70 cars off local roads for a year!

Used metal packaging can be recycled into new products at a far lower cost to the environment than making them from raw materials. Making drinks cans from recycled metal saves up to 95% of the energy, and greenhouse gas emissions, needed to make both aluminium and steel from raw materials. What's more, every time metal passes through the recycling loop the benefits are repeated, again and again and again and the quality of the original product is never reduced.

Please make sure you recycle all your metals, they are too good to waste!

## European Week for Waste Reduction



Are you ready to take part in the EWWR 2017? You can register your action, become an Action Developer, and take part in the biggest awareness-raising campaign on waste reduction in Europe.

If you are a public authority, association, NGO, business, educational establishment or an individual that believes 477 kg of waste produced per person yearly in the EU are 477 kg too many, why not organise an action focusing on the "3Rs": Reduce, Reuse and Recycle, and contribute to the change? All kinds of actions are welcome, conferences, contests, exhibitions or information campaigns, as long as it aims at raising awareness on waste reduction.

Do you have some fresh ideas on what could make a positive change? Then follow this link <http://www.ewwr.eu/register>, complete your registration, get access to all the EWWR

Communication tools and start planning your action. **The EWWR will take place from 18 – 26 November 2017.**

**“Give it a new life”** is in the spotlight this year, which encourages reusing and repairing rather than throwing away.

For further information visit the EWWR website. Also we are curious to hear about all your initiatives planned for November so don't forget to let us know if you are making plans and we could help you with some support and promotion. And talking of waste reduction, this leads us on nicely to a chance meeting with an inspirational Orkney lady living a zero waste lifestyle on the Island of Shapinsay.

## Focus On... Our Own Zero Waste Heroine

### Living Without Plastic On Shapinsay

Kate Fereday Eshete was raised in Orkney but lived in Ethiopia for many years and has made a lifestyle commitment to leading a Zerowaste existence as far as possible. Here Kate provides a personal glimpse of her life and how she contributes to reducing the impact humans have on the planet. An inspiring and thought provoking read:

“For many years I lived in the remote Ethiopian Highlands where there was no refuse collection service. All household waste was dealt with at home and split four ways: anything organic was composted, light plastics were burnt well away from living areas (the ash went into the compost), metal and glass containers were re-used (where possible), and hard plastics and anything else were placed in a pit (again, away from living areas) to be covered with earth later.

In Ethiopia composting is done in heaps. Some dynamic communities organise themselves so that all local organic matter – even urine! - is collected for communal composting. Superb compost can be produced in four months. Ethiopia has far less of a problem with plastic pollution because relatively little plastic exists in the country compared to more developed countries like Britain.

In Orkney I try to live without plastic as much as possible because of the harm it does to the environment, wildlife, marine life and livestock and domestic animals and because our descendants for thousands of years to come will no doubt be unhappy about the mountains of plastic litter we're short-sightedly bequeathing them. I compost all organic matter in my back garden using heaps – garden cuttings, vegetable and fruit peelings, screwed-up newspaper, hand-shredded cardboard (including toilet roll centres).

I have little of any other waste to deal with because I choose not to buy foodstuffs in plastic or metal packaging. (And, as much as possible, I always find a non-plastic version of something I need. For example, I have a stainless-steel washing-up bowl and a wicker laundry basket.) I don't own a fridge; instead I buy only what I need, cook only what I need and always look for fresh produce. I use the cupboard on the north side of the house as a larder because it is a cool, dry place to store fruit and vegetables.

In consequence of my lifestyle, my weekly household waste comprises a small amount of burnable plastics that I pop in a public bin when I'm in Kirkwall. In Balfour Village there are communal recycling skips for metal, glass and paper, and I use these when I need to (for example, for glossy paper, which is no good for composting but can be recycled). As a consequence there is no need for me to use the council's refuse collection service”.



Do you have ideas/hints/tips you want to share with us? Would you like to feature in an issue of Garbology? Please email us at [recycling@orkney.gov.uk](mailto:recycling@orkney.gov.uk).

## Scotland plans deposit return scheme for bottles and cans

Under the programme, based on schemes in Scandinavia, customers would pay a surcharge that would be reimbursed when they return to the shop. The Scottish government has been consulting Zero Waste Scotland on the design of the deposit return scheme, which the organisation estimates could save local authorities between £3m and £6m on litter clearance alone.

Zero Waste Scotland reviewed schemes in Sweden, Denmark and Norway as part of the consultation.

A Scottish government spokesperson said: “We have already confirmed that we are looking at new ways to ensure we keep as many valuable materials in circulation for as long as possible and deposit return is one of those options. We have asked Zero Waste Scotland to model a deposit return system to help us assess impacts and benefits.”

Zero Waste Scotland received 63 responses in its call for evidence on deposit return scheme design, including those from Coca-Cola, major supermarkets and Scottish environment groups.

An opinion poll conducted by the Association for the Protection of Rural Scotland revealed that 78% of the Scottish public is in favour of the scheme, but some major drinks companies disagree.

What do you think? We would be interested to hear your views. Please send them to [recycling@orkney.gov.uk](mailto:recycling@orkney.gov.uk).