



Issue 3 - July 2018

Welcome back to the first e-newsletter in a while dedicated to the subject of recycling. We will continue to provide you with 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 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.

World Environment Day

We are always pretty busy here in the recycling office, but last month we also took on a campaign for World Environment Day on 5 June. We spent the day in Tesco's foyer providing information on recycling in Orkney as well as promoting this year's World Environment Day theme which was #BeatPlasticPollution. It was a superb day and a big thanks to all of you who visited Jayne and Carol in Tesco, we hope you all left with further positive recycling information to take home and share with others too. It was great to chat to so many people and find out how committed to recycling so many of Orkney's residents are.

To support the beat Plastic Pollution theme, we introduced the idea of a plastic pledge and people were asked to sign up with a pledge to reduce plastic use in some aspect of their lives, to be entered into a prize draw.

#BeatPlasticPollution
If you can't reuse it, refuse it

**BEAT
PLASTIC
POLLUTION**



**WORLD
ENVIRONMENT
DAY**

UN 
environment

www.worldenvironmentday.global

We all know what a big problem our daily plastic use is, especially with single use plastics such as drink bottles, straws, food containers and the like. While we would never expect you all to completely cut out plastic, especially overnight, every little bit helps, so think about starting small by switching to loose fruit and veg rather than packaged, wherever it is reasonable to do so, or wherever you can, or by getting yourself a reusable water bottle and filling it up for on the go rather than buying bottled water. For more ideas keep an eye on the notes section of our Facebook page [Eco Active Orkney](#) where we will keep you updated with new tips from us as well as how everyone is getting on with their pledges made for World Environment Day to inspire you.

We received some good pledges from you which is great to see and our team in the office all made our own too.

Here are a few of the pledges:

- Buy bars of soap and solid shampoo rather than liquid in plastic bottles.
- Buy laundry detergent in cardboard boxes rather than plastic bottles.
- Buy loose fruit and veg to avoid those in plastic packaging.
- Use a bamboo toothbrush and buy them for my family and friends.

- Reduce my use of one use plastic bottles by buying drinks in glass and cans where possible.
- Switch to loose leaf tea rather than tea bags.

The plastic pledge competition was drawn on 26 June and the winner was Katrina Gray who's pledge was:

To try and stop using clingfilm and plastic sandwich/freezer bags, to wear my glasses more instead of my disposable daily contact lenses and to try and limit buying items in plastic bags and bottles.

We will be keeping in touch with Katrina and everyone else to see how your pledges are going and any other changes you've made and we'll let you know what else we give up in the office.

Throughout the past month we have gained lots of new likes and followers on the Facebook page [Eco Active Orkney](#) too which is fantastic, be sure to keep an eye out there for new links and ideas of ways to continue to reduce your waste and increase your reuse and recycling all the while saving you some pennies too!

So why Reduce our plastic use?

Globally we now produce about 300 million tonnes of plastic waste annually. This weight is almost equivalent to the weight of the entire human population. Luckily the plastic we use in Orkney that is placed in a bin does not find its way out to the environment again, which is now such a big problem worldwide. So many images and news stories have been circulating lately about marine mammals dying due to ingestion of so much plastic and even though this problem on the most part begins in other countries where waste management is basic or non-existent, the connecting oceans make it a problem we all see and have to deal with.



Plastic clearly has many great uses and is often a very valuable resource and something we utilise in many forms in our daily lives, however the main culprit is single use plastic, which accounts for half of all plastic produced. Many of these are used for just a few minutes and then discarded in the most convenient bin, therefore there are still single use plastics not getting recycled but ending up in waste bins. We can all continue to do our bit to ensure we Reduce, Reuse and Recycle plastics wherever possible.

The cost of that bottle of water

Bottled water costs around 500 and up to as much as 1000 times more than tap water. That is the equivalent to paying around £1,500* for a pint of beer or glass of wine! Would anyone be willing to pay this? Is there anything else you would be prepared to pay this much extra for?

Estimates show that the average person, over their lifetime of buying plastic bottles water and soft drinks will spend around £25,000*!!! That's a large house deposit or a few years of fantastic holidays right there. *Data source tapwater.org.

There are a variety of different reusable bottles to buy to fill with water or juice and many cafes, restaurants and shops are happy to refill your bottle to keep you going all day. If you fancy a flavour change you can add some diluting juice or a flavour sachet or you can even get bottles with fruit infusers to add your own fresh and healthy flavour (strawberries work beautifully).

So what goes in the plastic section of the recycle bin?

This section is for plastic bottles only and the types of plastic we accept are PET and HDPE, these are numbers 1 and 2 which can usually be found on the bottom of the bottle inside the triangle recycle symbol.

Please don't put things like fruit punnets and yoghurt pot in your plastics bin as these are a different grade or type of plastic, you can re-use these things though for a variety of things including seed planting or craft projects.

The lids should also be removed from the bottles after rinsing and put into your waste bin.



Recycling in Orkney – How are we doing?

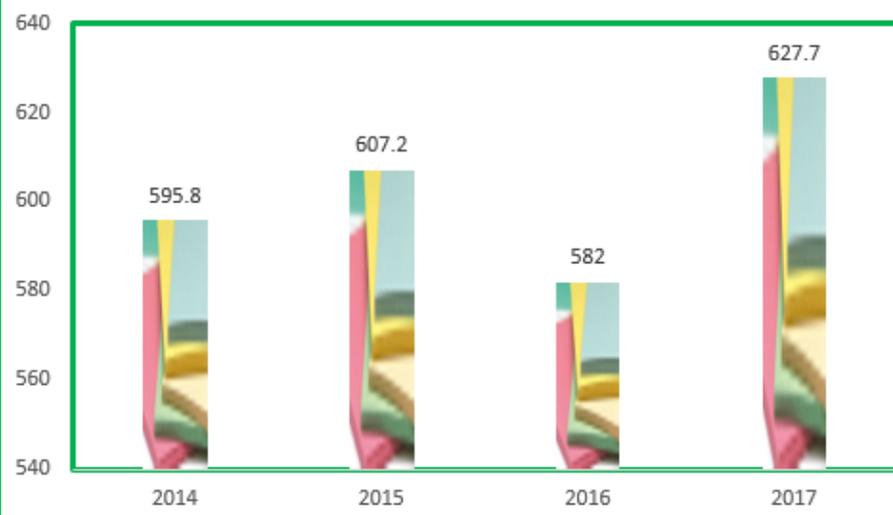
We are slowly increasing our recycling rates here in Orkney, which is great to see and the contamination that can occur through recyclates not being rinsed/cleaned or incorrect items added is low, so we can be pretty proud of our quality. There is always more we can remember to recycle though, and where we can't recycle, we can re-use or choose to refuse to buy the product. If more of us vote with our wallets against excess and non-recyclable packaging the big companies have to listen. We are behind most of Scotland with our level of recycling, however if we all continue to help and encourage each other we will continue to improve.

Please do remember to rinse out your recyclates as they are more valuable to us clean, tin foil and aluminium trays clean up easily if you leave then soaking a while or if you have a dishwasher simply pop the trays in with everything else.

The following chart shows how many tonnes of paper and thin card were collected for recycling each year over the last four years. This shows that although we did have a bit of a dip in 2016, we bounced back in 2017 and achieved the highest tonnage, so there is a general upwards trend which is great to see.

Recyclates collected in Orkney

Tonnage of recyclates collected annually from 2014 to 2017



Composting

Now that summer is in full swing and we have been enjoying all these long hot days, it's time to think about composting all that green garden waste. If you don't have a compost bin, a Green Johanna is a great investment as it provides a handy place to put your garden cuttings as well as kitchen waste and later provides you with some lovely nutritious homemade compost to use in your garden. To read more on the benefits of composting or [to purchase a Green Johanna please see our website](#). Remember you also can take garden waste to the 5 Household Waste Recycling Centres which all have a designated skip. We then turn this into compost for you which can be collected free of charge at the same sites when available.



Did You Know?

- Cans can be recycled and made into a can again in just 60 days, or they could be made into a whole variety of other things including cars, computers and aeroplanes!
- Recycling one can saves enough energy to power a television for 3 hours!
- Recycling one plastic bottle saves enough energy to power a 60W light bulb for 6 hours!
- Hot drink takeaway cups can be recycled with Tetra Pak cartons in the designated bins at the following recycle points in Orkney:

Hatston (Kirkwall), Garson (Stromness), Bossack (Tankerness), St Margaret's Hope and Cursiter (Firth) Household Waste Recycling Centres and at the recycle point in Lidl's car park.

Service Updates

We now have a cardboard recycling skip in place at Cursiter HWRC, so please do remember to separate out your cardboard from your other recycling and waste, flatten it and pop it in the signed skip. Remember it's corrugated cardboard that goes in here like moving and delivery boxes, thin card goes in with your paper in that skip and all nice and clean and contaminant free please as our recycling is worth more when it's clean.

There have been a few incidences lately where some HWRC's have had to close early at weekends due to skips being full.

We do realise this is an inconvenience to you and we try to avoid this happening by having staff in extra hours over weekends to remove full skips wherever possible, so we do ask you to please be patient while we are working on this. Please also remember to be respectful to our staff members who are doing the best they can within the situation. Any abuse against staff is obviously unacceptable, as is any form of fly tipping when waste cannot be deposited into the appropriate skip.