

# GARBOLGY

## Newsletter - June 2017

Welcome to our first e-newsletter dedicated to the subject of recycling. You will find information about recycling in Orkney but also information about recycling generally and hints and tips for minimising your waste and how to recycle more stuff. The newsletter will be available on a quarterly basis and will be available on the Council's website or you can opt to have it sent direct to your mailbox. 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)

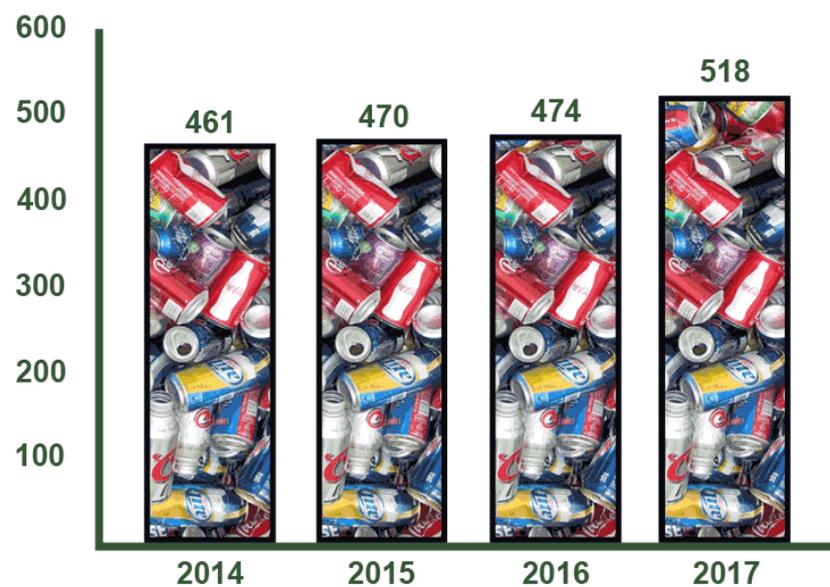
### Recycling in Orkney – How are we doing?

Recycling in Orkney seems to be bucking a national trend where recycling levels are either staying the same or even slightly decreasing elsewhere. So we are recycling a little more in Orkney, but there is much more we can be recycling and a long way to go before we catch up and match up to other areas. The following chart shows how many tonnes were collected for recycling in the January to March quarter over the last four years. This shows that tonnages have been creeping up slowly.

### Recyclates collected in Orkney

Tonnage of recyclates collected between January and March from 2014 to 2017.

Rubbish is too good to waste!



### So why do we need to Recycle anyway?

There are many good reasons to recycle. Everything that we use must come from somewhere and must go somewhere once we have finished with it. Each Scottish household produces on average a tonne of waste every year but a huge proportion of that could be recycled to help

create a cleaner and greener Scotland. Some waste like certain types of plastic, never disappear and you may have seen some interesting stories in the news and on social media about the plastics in our seas and oceans and the devastating impact that it is having on marine life and indeed our whole eco system.

By making smart decisions about what we buy in the first place can help to reduce the waste we generate, and also by reusing items ourselves or sending them for reuse elsewhere, means something we have purchased might get a longer and useful life with someone else. However, when it is finally time to throw something out, then the best option is to recycle wherever possible.

Another reason to recycle is because raw materials are becoming more scarce and therefore costs to both manufacturers and then the consumer increase. There are also significant environmental benefits to using recycled materials to make new products. Mining for metals used in electronics production for instance generates a lot of waste. To extract one ounce of gold generates approximately 80 tonnes of waste. It is reported that 14 critical raw materials used in the production of high tech products such as laptops and mobile phones are in danger of shortage and there is a call for increased recycling of products that contain these critical materials.

Using materials that have been recycled means we are not as dependent on sourcing raw materials. Also the energy used in the manufacture of products from recycled materials is far less than the energy consumed when manufacturing the same product using raw materials.

## It Saves Money!

Recycling is stupidly simple. It saves money. Who can argue with that! So, we know it saves our planet, but it also saves a lot of money. When the council ships general waste to Shetland for incineration it costs the Council approximately £150 per tonne. Not all of Orkney's general refuse is incinerated though. Some has to be landfilled. Approximately 19% of Orkney's general refuse is landfilled. Landfills are essentially smelly mountains of rubbish that produce poisonous gases and liquids and the government is introducing even stricter controls in the near future reducing even further, the amount of waste the council can landfill and this will present a real challenge. So the more waste you can recycle the better.

Materials that are recycled by you at home and either collected from your kerbside or through the household waste recycling centres are shipped south to the Scottish Mainland to a variety of companies called re-processors. These specialise in re-processing recycled materials. Whilst there are shipping costs involved which are not insignificant, the materials shipped have a value which can cover the cost of shipping and sometimes, subject to market value of recyclates, provide a small income to offset the costs of collection and disposal.

## How To Recycle in Orkney

Here is a small reminder on how to recycle better in Orkney. At home, make good use of your two recycling bins. With the caddies you have four different compartments. Recycle metal food tins and pet food tins plus drinks cans together in one, glass bottles and jars in another, plastic bottles in another and paper and THIN card in the fourth compartment. Here is a table to remind you what we accept in the recycling bins you have at home with some examples from each room in your house. Key words to remember are '**empty**' and '**clean**'. I bet you didn't realise just how much you could recycle! Please recycle all you can – it makes sense and it is very easy to do. If you would like advice on how to minimise your waste and recycle more please email [recycling@orkney.gov.uk](mailto:recycling@orkney.gov.uk). You can also get some free stickers for your bins with pictures

on to help you remember what can and can't go into the bins. If you would like some stickers sending to your home please email [recycling@orkney.gov.uk](mailto:recycling@orkney.gov.uk).

Living Room	Kitchen	Bathroom	Bedroom
<p>Newspapers. Empty tissue boxes. Magazines.</p>	<p>Food tins like soup, beans, tomatoes, tuna etc. Drinks cans – beer, cola, lemonade etc. Empty Washing up liquid bottles. Empty bleach bottles. Empty trigger sprays e.g. Dettol spray. Glass food jars – pickle jars, pasta sauce jars, jam, honey, marmalade etc. Glass bottles – beer, wine, spirits. Empty kitchen roll card tubes. Empty plastic milk bottles – please empty any 'off milk' out first and rinse! Empty cereal boxes.</p>	<p>Empty shampoo and conditioner bottles. Empty soap dispensers. Empty toothpaste boxes. Toilet Roll Tubes. Empty shower gel bottles.</p>	<p>Empty tissue boxes. Magazines. Empty and washed out moisturiser containers – like Aveeno or Dove – so long as they are plastic and cleaned.</p>

## Where does my recycling go? I thought it went to Shetland?

There does appear to be a myth circulating, that there is no point in recycling in Orkney because it all goes to Shetland anyway. This simply isn't the case. There would be little point in investing in specialist recycling vehicles, separate collection rounds and separate bins if the materials were going to be taken to Shetland. The Council has to offer a recycling collection service by law. Local businesses are also required to separate their waste for recycling by law and in particular, glass, metals, paper and card. The Council has to collect data on the amounts it collects by type and then has to report on all their destinations nationally through a database called waste data flow.



The table below shows where your recycled materials go.

Material	OIC processes	Destination	Final use
Paper.	Baled and shipped.	Sold to Market (Central belt Scotland).	Manufacture of products – more paper/boxes through paper mills.
Card.	Baled and shipped.	Sold to Market (Central belt Scotland).	Manufacture of products.
Cans.	Separated into aluminium and steel using a magnet, then baled and shipped.	Steel sold to Market (locally). Aluminium sold direct to aluminium producer.	Manufacture of products.
Glass.	Crushed and sold (e.g. to form sand or shotblast-like product).	Cursiter, Orkney.	Aggregate replacement (Concrete and other products).
Plastic Bottles.	Baled and shipped.	Sold to Market (Central belt Scotland).	Manufacture of products.
Electrical goods	Packaged and shipped	Central belt Scotland in line with WEEE directive requirements.	Manufacture of products.
Engine Oil.	Packaged and shipped.	Sold to market (Central belt Scotland).	Refined into lubricant or heating fuel.
Textiles.	Packaged and shipped.	Salvation Army.	Re-use or recycled (UK and abroad).

## Did You Know?

- Glass can be recycled within 6 weeks to make new glass jars and bottles.
- Plastic can be recycled within 4 weeks to make new items like toys, carrier bags, fleece clothing and garden chairs.
- A lot of rubbish at landfills takes hundreds of years to break down and crumble or rot away into the soil. Some things like glass and plastic, can take longer still – even millions of years or never.
- Nearly 80% of everything you throw away can be recycled?

## Facebook

Orkney Reduce, Reuse and Recycling now has a dedicated Facebook page, where you will find up-to-the-minute updates and information, and where you can share ideas on reducing, reusing and recycling your waste. We look forward to hearing from you!

<https://www.facebook.com/OrkneyReduceReuseRecycle/>