

BIG ON BRUCK

A newsletter from the Strategic Waste Team at
Orkney Islands Council



Let's cut egg-cessive waste this Easter!



As we come closer to Easter, people will be starting to think about the Easter eggs that they are going to buy and looking forward to hot cross buns too.

Did you know that **225** extra tonnes of waste is expected to be produced from Easter eggs sold in Scotland this year, weighing the equivalent of 190,000 Easter bunnies?

Easter can traditionally be quite a wasteful time, but by buying Easter eggs with less packaging or choosing homemade alternatives, we can reduce the amount of packaging we throw out. Recycling where possible, or even re-using some of the packaging, can help capture the value of the materials.

Over the Easter weekend many of us will be celebrating with friends and families and it's easy to buy too much and end up wasting food. Planning meals in advance and making use of the leftovers can help save money and reduce our impact on the environment.



IDEAS FOR LEFTOVER EASTER TREATS

Easter is the time for baby animals, hot cross buns, chocolate, more chocolate..... and a little bit more chocolate!

If you find yourself left with a mountain of easter eggs or other Easter leftovers, Love Food Hate Waste have 13 ideas on how to use them up rather than throwing them in the rubbish.

You can find these 13 ideas by clicking [here](#).



TIPS FOR A WASTE FREE



EASTER



- When you're choosing Easter eggs, think about how much packaging they have and check if the packaging can be recycled before you buy.
- Consider a homemade alternative to Easter eggs, such as chocolate nests or brownies – you might even be able to use up some ingredients lurking at the back of your cupboard.
- Make sure packaging is recycled where possible – you can check the on-pack labelling to find out if it can be recycled. www.recycleforscotland.com has a handy postcode finder to show you where you can recycle it. Or why not keep colourful foil for arts and crafts? The plastic shell for your Easter egg can be kept and used as a mould for next year.
- If you're making an Easter meal, make sure you check the cupboards and make a list before shopping – this will stop you buying more than you need. Leftover ingredients can be used again the next day – why not make stock from your chicken bones or hash browns from excess potatoes?

Kid's Craft Corner

MINI EASTER BASKETS USING RECYCLED YOGURT CUPS

1. Paint yogurt cups and use pipe cleaners as handles.
2. Stuff with recycled newspaper or scraps of paper.
3. Decorate as you wish.

You can put Easter eggs or sweets inside!



Aluminium foil wrappers from your Easter treats are egg-stremely recyclable!

  

Hunt for less packaging

Up to **40%** of the weight of the best-selling Easter eggs is packaging

TOP TIP
Look for eggs that use paper-based packaging instead of plastic, as well as less packaging overall





Organic Recycling and Composting

Composting is an inexpensive, natural process that transforms your kitchen and garden waste into a valuable and nutrient rich food for your garden. It's easy to make and use.

All residents can still purchase a reduced price Green Johanna, so please don't lose heart.

Orkney residents can save £69.80 if they purchase a Green Johanna with a winter jacket together. The Green Johanna can be purchased at £76 rather than £119.99 and the winter jacket can be bought for £39.99 instead of £65.80. Please check the link to Greater Green Systems [here](#).

Why compost?

Environmental reasons

Do your bit to reduce the amount of waste sent for incineration. Even for households that are already composting, new research has found that almost half of the food waste in their rubbish bins could have been composted. Did you know, composting at home for just one year can save global warming gases equivalent to all the CO₂ your kettle produces annually, or your washing machine produces in three months?

Benefits for your garden

Your compost is a nutrient-rich food product for your garden and will help improve soil structure, maintain moisture levels, and keep your soil's pH balance in check while helping to suppress plant disease. It will have everything your plants need including nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium and it will help buffer soils that are very acidic or alkaline. Compost improves your soil's condition and your plants and flowers will love it!

Financial Benefits

The average UK family is wasting nearly £60 a month by throwing away almost an entire meal a day, according to a report by WRAP that revealed the scale of the ongoing challenge to reduce household food waste. One-fifth of what households buy ends up as waste, and around 60% of that could have been eaten.

Did you know, each ton of waste shipped to Shetland for incineration costs the Council approximately £150. Therefore by removing waste from your grey bin saves on the cost of disposing of your waste. This means money can be invested in other important service.

**Don't bin them,
recycle your old
electricals**



Across the nation we're holding onto 527 million small old electricals – the equivalent of nearly 20 items per household.

But many of these electricals can be reused. Give your electricals a second life!

Drop off at Restart Orkney's shop in Kirkwall or the Hatston Recycling Centre. Collections also available, book via the link below.

www.xsresources.org/orkney-electricals-collections

Alternatively any broken items can be dropped off at your local recycling centre.

Search 'Recycle Your Electrics' for more information. Don't bin them, pass on your old electricals!



GET IN TOUCH WITH US

Do you have waste stories or tips to share?

Get this newsletter sent straight to you, send an email with **SUBSCRIBE** in the subject and we will add you to our list of subscribers!



recycling@orkney.gov.uk



[@OrkneyReduceReuseRecycle](https://www.facebook.com/OrkneyReduceReuseRecycle)



HWRC Usage Reminder

With 4 out of 5 of the HWRCs in Orkney now open to the public, we thought it would be helpful to give some tips on how best to use your local tip.

- Please check what materials are being accepted at your HWRC, you can check online at:
www.orkney.gov.uk/Council/C/coronavirus-covid-19-waste-and-recycling.htm
- Skips on site are clearly marked showing what material should be put in them. Please do not put the wrong things in the skips. If you find a skip is full and you had planned to deposit the same material, please take this home with you. Please store it until your next visit, rather than leaving materials in the wrong skip or on the ground on site.
- Please remember that when skips are full and being changed over, sites will need to be closed for a short period of time. We thank you for your patience.
- Physical distancing requirements affect lorry driver availability, meaning skip changes can take slightly longer. Also these same measures impact on how much traffic is allowed onto site at one time.
- Please remember that we are still under a stay at home order in Scotland, where all travel should be for essential purposes only. So we request that, where possible, you please store any materials you intend to take to a HWRC until measures are eased.

