Did you know that every year in Britain:

- We use over 6 billion glass bottles and jars.
- We need a forest the size of Wales to provide all the paper we use.
- An average person throws away 74kg of organic waste, the equivalent of 1,077 banana skins.
- One million tonnes of nappies are thrown away, that's 8 million nappies every day.
- Every day 80 million food and drinks cans end up in landfill - that's 1 1/2 cans per person.
- We throw away a total of 28 million tonnes of rubbish from our homes - the same weight as 3 1/2 million double-decker buses.
- We fill about 300 million square metres of land with rubbish.
- We use 7 billion plastic carrier bags, more than 300 for every household.
- We use over 6 billion glass bottles and jars.

The Scottish Waste Awareness Group (SWAG) through the Waste Aware Scotland programme is working towards changing current public attitudes and behaviour towards domestic waste. A report entitled ‘Public Attitudes to Reduce, Reuse and Recycle in Scotland’, based upon an extensive public opinion survey, was published in November 2002. It explores current attitudes and behaviour towards reduce, reuse and recycle, and lists not a series of Waste Aware Recommendations on how to best achieve change in individual waste management behaviour.

In the short term the Waste Aware Scotland programme will run campaigns to promote individual waste reduction, reuse and recycling behaviour, in partnership with individual local authorities and waste strategy area groups. The campaigns will run in parallel with the introduction of appropriate measures to support community change.

For more information visit www.wascot.org.uk or e-mail info@wascot.org.uk.

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**National Waste Strategy: Scotland**

**Orkney and Shetland**

Our Waste, Our Problem

We are all increasingly dependent on a culture of convenience and ‘throwaway’ products. As a result of this, we are producing more and more waste each year, from household rubbish to disused cars. A typical UK household produces around a tonne of waste annually, most of which could be reused or recycled rather than going to landfill.

As a nation, Scotland only recycles and composes about 5% of its waste, with the rest going to ‘landfill’.

It’s no surprise, therefore, that we see one of the worst recycling and composting records in Europe.

The majority of your waste is burned to provide district heating in Lerwick, and Orkney & Shetland as a whole recycles, composts and recovers more than any other area in Scotland. However, there is still much to be done: in Orkney, some 70% of our energy comes from burning waste, so we have no choice but to change the way we manage waste.

To date, action towards changing behaviour has yielded a 3% decrease in waste, and a 9% increase in the amount of waste composted.

To obtain a copy of the full Orkney and Shetland Area Waste Plan, Tel: 01 954 6200 or Email: community.nutrition@orh.gov.uk.

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**Waste Aware Scotland**

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**National Waste Plan for Scotland**

Each area waste plan aims to effectively manage waste locally, and will also contribute to the overall National Waste Strategy for Scotland. In turn, it will contribute to the UK government’s response to the requirements of the EU Waste Framework Directive and sustainable development. Although such area waste plan elaborations as action plans, there may be opportunities for collaboration across waste strategy boundaries delivering more cost-effective and practical solutions for you.

For more information: www.scotwaste.gov.uk and www.wascot.org.uk or contact the telephone waste action line.
Orkney & Shetland BPEO
What changes are proposed by the BPEO?
Reduce ➔ Reuse ➔ Recycle

The main changes include:
➔ Efforts will be made to prevent household and commercial waste occurring in the first place by providing practical support and advice to communities and businesses, and promoting home composting
➔ Separate kerbside recycling collections for a variety of wastes will be introduced to the major towns in both island groups
➔ The provision of local recycling facilities in remote areas will be expanded
➔ The existing Lerwick district heating plant will continue to recover energy from the majority of the area’s household and commercial waste
➔ Reduced quantities of residual waste will be disposed of to landfill
➔ There may be further scope to increase the amount recycled and composted but research is firstly required to determine this. The BPEO targets are summarised in the figures opposite.

If current trends continue over the next 20 years the amount of waste we produce will grow by nearly 3% every year.

The Waste Hierarchy

Reduce & Reuse ➔ Recycle ➔ Recovery ➔ Disposal

Reduce & Reuse (Prevention)
How can your waste be prevented in the first place?
➔ Avoid buying products with excessive layers of packaging
➔ Find out if there are more durable, longer-lasting alternatives to the products you normally buy
➔ Preventing waste from occurring in the first place saves money, resources, energy, production and landfill space. This is our top priority!
If you can’t prevent your waste, can it be reused?
➔ Use paper on both sides before throwing it away
➔ Donate unwanted clothing, toys and other useful items to charity shops, and buy from them too
➔ Take your own, long-lasting bags to the supermarket instead of bringing home plastic bags every time you shop
➔ If you can’t prevent or reuse your waste, can it be recycled?
➔ Recycling means using valuable raw materials from packaging, and reusing and reusing and reusing, or breaking down the materials to make them from scratch. There may be facilities near you where you can take glass, metals, plastics, clothes and other materials to have them recycled - if not, then there soon will be.
➔ If you can’t prevent, reuse or recycle your waste, can it be disposed of?
➔ Some form of utility or energy from waste. Composting is an example of this (producing a soil improver) as is burning to produce heat and/or power. The majority of waste produced by households and commercial premises in Orkney and Shetland is and will continue to be recovered for heat, in the form of hot water, at the existing plant in Lerwick.

Recycling & Composting
Your Area Waste Plan
Representation from a variety of public, private and community organisations in Orkney and Shetland have developed what is called the Best Practicable Environmental Option (BPEO) for your area. The BPEO represents the most long-term effective solution to manage the household waste you produce. The solution was developed in collaboration with the local community and is based on a prioritised model of waste management called the Waste Hierarchy. It is our intention to try to order of preference, (Recycle ➔ Reuse ➔ Reduce ➔ Dispose)

Another key factor in developing the Orkney & Shetland BPEO was the need to maintain the function of the existing Lerwick district heating plant.

The BPEO set targets to reduce this amount collected for recycling and composting, particularly in Orkney to reduce the need to export waste to Shetland.

There may be further scope to increase the amount recycled and composted but research is firstly required to determine this. The BPEO targets are summarised in the figures opposite.

The Waste frontend: The front end economy encompasses other processes that recognize some form of utility or energy from waste. Composting (an example of this) is basically a soil improver as it is allowing to produce soil and other uses. The majority of waste produced by households and commercial premises in Orkney and Shetland is and will continue to be recovered for heat, in the form of hot water, at the existing plant in Lerwick.