

# Allerdale Recycler



Autumn/Winter 2008

## Managing Your Waste

### Waste Minimisation

The waste hierarchy is a guide on how to best manage our waste, it shows a scale of options for dealing with the waste we all produce.

### The Waste Hierarchy

Preferred Environmental Option



Least preferred Environmental Option

The hierarchy shows that the preferred means of reducing waste is to prevent its production in the first place. This can be done through **reduction** of waste (avoiding buying food that will not be eaten for example) or through **reuse** of items rather than just throwing them away. If these are not possible then **recycling** is the next step.

Although this still uses energy it uses significantly less than making new products from scratch. After recycling the next best option is to recover energy from the waste through Mechanical Biological Treatment (MBT) and incineration, for example to produce electricity. The least preferable environmental option for the disposal of waste is disposal to landfill, with no energy recovery.

### Excess Packaging

With so much emphasis currently placed on recycling and waste minimisation, many people are asking the inevitable question 'what is being done to reduce the amount of packaging used by retailers and suppliers?'

In an Ipsos Mori 2007 survey, 62% of those questioned want retailers to reduce packaging and 67% want them to use more recyclable packaging.



WRAP (the Waste and Resources Action Programme) has identified the problem and taken significant steps to reduce packaging waste.

The main driver for a reduction in unnecessary packaging is the Courtauld Commitment, a voluntary agreement between WRAP and major UK grocery organisations that aims to reduce the amount of packaging and food waste ending up in household bins.

It is a powerful vehicle for change and in 2008 has led to zero growth in packaging despite increases in sales and population.

To deliver this, retailers, brands and their suppliers are working in partnership with WRAP to develop new packaging technologies across the whole UK supply chain.

This includes using innovative types of packaging, reducing the weight of packaging (e.g bottles, cans and boxes), increasing the use of refill and self-dispensing systems and working together on packaging design guidance.

So far over 30 major retailers, brands and suppliers have joined Courtauld since it was launched in July 2005, which represents 92% of the UK grocery supermarkets. They meet annually to review progress, share information and develop future initiatives to bring about real change.



For more information on the Courtauld Commitment go to [www.wrap.org.uk](http://www.wrap.org.uk).

## Christmas Recycling

Having a green Christmas doesn't mean being a scrooge!

At Christmas we all tend to eat and drink more. Inevitably this leads to an increase in the amount of waste we all produce - an estimated 3 million tonnes nationally (Waste Online).

With a bit of thought we can reduce the impact we have whilst still having a great time:

- **Greetings Cards**

It is estimated that up to one billion Christmas cards are sent each year. Don't forget to do your bit, why not use the images from the front of the card to make gift tags for next year? If not, make sure they go in the paper bin.

- **Wrapping Paper**

As much as 83 square kilometres of wrapping paper will be used this year, enough to wrap the island of Guernsey! If you can't reuse yours, make sure it is recycled.

- **Christmas Trees**



If you have a kerbside garden waste collection, your **real** Christmas tree can

be placed out with your garden bin for composting.

Remember, there will be no garden waste collections on weeks commencing 22 and 29 December 2008.

- **Bottles, Jars and Tins**

20 to 30% more glass bottles and jars, plastic bottles and metal cans are used over the Christmas period.



If you have the purple bag recycling scheme, don't be afraid to put those extra wine bottles or beer cans out for collection! If not, put your recyclables to one side and drop them off at the supermarket banks next time you go for supplies.

- **Home Composting**

A third of your kitchen waste can be composted. Fill your kitchen caddy with those Christmas potato peelings, general vegetable and fruit peelings, teabags, paper towels and eggshells and add this good waste to your compost bin.



If you don't already have a home compost bin you can order one by visiting [www.recyclenow.com/compost](http://www.recyclenow.com/compost) or by calling 0845 077 0757, prices start at £8!

## New Year Resolutions

On average every household in the UK throws away 1.2 tonnes of waste every year. This amounts to a staggering 30 million tonnes in total.

A massive 60% of our household waste could be recycled or composted. We need to find ways to not only recycle more, but also to reduce and reuse our waste. We need to focus our efforts and change our habits and what better time than during the Christmas period; a new approach for a New Year.

## Workington Town Centre Recycling Banks

Recently there have been a number of requests for additional communal recycling facilities in Workington town centre.

We are actively looking to provide mini recycling sites, particularly in terraced areas of the town that do not have kerbside recycling collections.



If you would like to see more recycling facilities in your area and can think of a suitable site for recycling banks similar to those shown above, please feel free to get in touch.

For more information and for changes to refuse collections over Christmas visit [www.allerdale.gov.uk](http://www.allerdale.gov.uk).