



# Frequently Asked Questions

## Why should I recycle?

### 1. Conserving natural resources

The world's natural resources are finite, and some are in very short supply. At a fundamental level:

- Recycling paper and wood saves trees and forests. Yes, you can plant new trees, but you can't replace virgin rainforest or ancient woodlands once they're lost.
- Recycling plastic means creating less new plastic, which is definitely a good thing, especially as it's usually made from fossil fuel hydrocarbons.
- Recycling metals means there's less need for risky, expensive and damaging mining and extraction of new metal ores.
- Recycling glass reduces the need to use new raw materials like sand – it sounds hard to believe, but supplies of some types of sand are starting to get low around the world.

### 2. Protecting ecosystems and wildlife

Recycling reduces the need to grow, harvest or extract new raw materials from the Earth.

That in turn lessens the harmful disruption and damage being done to the natural world: fewer forests cut down, rivers diverted, wild animals harmed or displaced, and less pollution of water, soil and air.

And of course if our plastic waste isn't safely put in the recycling, it can be blown or washed into rivers and seas and end up hundreds or thousands of miles away, polluting coastlines and waterways and becoming a problem for everyone.



Beach Buddies said washed-up plastic is a growing problem on Manx beaches.



A seal with debris around its neck was photographed by beach cleaning volunteers.

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## 3. Reducing demand for raw materials



As with point 2 above – the world's increasing demand for new stuff has led to more of the poorest and most vulnerable people (for example, those living around forests or river systems) being displaced from their homes, or otherwise exploited. Forest communities can find themselves evicted as a result of the search for cheap timber and rivers can be damned or polluted by manufacturing waste.

It's far better to recycle existing products than to damage someone else's community or land in the search for new raw materials.

## 4. Saving energy



Making products from recycled materials requires less energy than making them from new raw materials. Sometimes it's a huge difference in energy. For example:

- Producing new aluminium from old products (including recycled cans and foil) uses 95% less energy than making it from scratch. For steel it's about a 70% energy saving.
- Making paper from pulped recycled paper uses 40% less energy than making it from virgin wood fibres.
- The amount of energy saved from recycling one glass bottle could power an old 100-watt light bulb for 4 hours and a new low-energy LED equivalent for a lot longer.

## 5. Cutting climate-changing carbon emissions



- Because recycling means you need to use less energy on sourcing and processing new raw materials, it produces lower carbon emissions. It also keeps potentially methane-releasing waste out of landfill sites.
- Reducing carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases being emitted into the atmosphere is vital for stopping disastrous climate change.

## If in doubt, remember those three Rs: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

The truth is we all need to get into the habit of using less stuff in the first place. And the things we do use ought to be reused as much as possible before being recycled, to minimise waste. This would significantly aid the response to the global waste management challenge, which has seen many countries in the Global South unfairly shoulder the responsibility of managing the waste of countries in the Global North. The question of what to do with waste is one that governments cannot ignore.

It's important that we combine our efforts to manage our waste with increased calls for tougher government action on reducing waste.

**Is it true that all the recycling goes to the EFW (Energy from Waste Facility) to be burnt?**



The material that is collected as part of the Kerbside recycling scheme goes to Douglas Borough Councils service centre for bailing and onward processing, it does not end up at the EFW facility.

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Where does the material I put out for recycling go?



**MATERIAL**



**WHERE IS IT SENT?**



**WHAT IS IT MADE IN TO?**

**Aluminium Cans**

Material re-processor,  
North of England

Cans, Aircraft parts &  
Car parts

**Steel Cans**

Metal Merchants  
on Island export

All sorts of products in  
the steel industry

**Plastic-mixed  
bottles**

Material re-processor,  
North of England

Drainage pipes, kitchen bins,  
more bottles

**Glass**

Merchant on  
Island

Crushed into sand and used in  
road surfacing on Island

**Newspapers &  
Magazines**

Paper mill,  
North Wales

More newspaper

**Brown Cardboard**

Material re-processor,  
North of England

More brown cardboard



These pictures show the glass being tipped at a facility on Island to be later crushed and used as eco-sand; this material is re-used on the Island.

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## Can I visit the processing facility?

The Council offers tours of its Service Centre at Ballacottier, for small or large groups (max 20 people) and even school children; it includes a video presentation of the site and what the Council does with the recycling it collects.

There is also a question and answer session where common recycling myths can be busted.

To enquire please email [recycle@douglas.gov.im](mailto:recycle@douglas.gov.im) or telephone 696445.

## What materials can I recycle through the Kerbside recycling scheme?

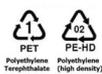


YES PLEASE



Clean empty plastic bottles and containers and cans, including:

- ✓ Soft drinks and milk bottles
- ✓ Shampoo and cosmetic bottles
- ✓ Empty household cleaner bottles
- ✓ Metal cans, tins and aerosols
- ✓ Foil / foil trays



We accept all plastics with these symbols ONLY. Please check carefully.

NO THANKS

- ✗ Carrier bags
- ✗ Magazine plastic wrapping
- ✗ Polystyrene
- ✗ Clingfilm
- ✗ Plastic take away trays
- ✗ Paint tins
- ✗ Yoghurt type pots
- ✗ Other plastics
- ✗ Crockery or ceramics
- ✗ Any sharp or broken items



YES PLEASE



Clean empty glass bottles:

- ✓ Glass bottles and jars (intact)

NO THANKS

- ✗ Any glass other than intact bottles and jars



Recycle bag or box (supplied on request)\*

YES PLEASE



Paper, Grey, white and Brown Card, clean and dry, including:

- ✓ Brown cardboard
- ✓ Newspapers
- ✓ Magazines
- ✓ Soft backed catalogues
- ✓ Phone directories (1 per box)
- ✓ White paper & envelopes
- ✓ Bagged shredded paper
- ✓ White and grey cardboard boxes and food packaging

NO THANKS

- ✗ Brown paper & envelopes
- ✗ Craft / wrapping paper
- ✗ Milk / juice cartons
- ✗ Plastic bags
- ✗ Books
- ✗ Hard backed catalogues
- ✗ Greeting cards
- ✗ Wallpaper
- ✗ Paper towels/tissues
- ✗ Laminated paper
- ✗ Non bagged shredded paper

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## How do I get a box or a bag?

If you require a bag or a replacement box, please email [recycle@douglas.gov.im](mailto:recycle@douglas.gov.im) or telephone 696445.



## Can I have more than one set of boxes?

Yes, the Council encourages residents to recycle as much as possible with the Kerbside scheme so if more than one set of boxes is needed please email [recycle@douglas.gov.im](mailto:recycle@douglas.gov.im) or telephone 696445.



## How do I find out when my recycling gets collected?

The information for collection schedules is available on the links below:-

<http://www.recyclenow.im/when-is-my-pick-up/>

if you click "recycling information reminder option" complete the form and it will provide you with the collection schedule for your address, alternatively you can telephone 696445 and speak to one of the waste team who can assist.



## I notice that you don't accept IOM Creamery square milk cartons – where can I recycle these?

The IOM Creamery milk cartons can be dropped off for recycling at Tesco's car park, or the North, West and Southern Civic sites.

The IOM Creameries are currently investigate the potential for a returns scheme for Milk cartons, please refer to <https://www.isleofmancreamery.com/protecting-our-environment/packaging>

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## What about green waste?

At the current moment the Council doesn't offer a green waste collection service, however we would encourage people to compost their cut grass, leaves and flowers. They can be mixed with fruit, vegetables, tea bags and other cooked foods but not with any cooking oil, dairy or meat and fish.

Compost boxes can be easily made or bought and once broken down it makes great bedding material for new plants, shrubs, etc.

Alternatively the Eastern Civic Amenity Site accepts green garden waste.

At Christmas the Council offers a Christmas tree recycling service, the trees are shredded and used by the Councils parks department within the Borough.



## Who is paying for the Kerbside recycling?

The recycling scheme is being funded through your rate contributions. By diverting material with a financial value as well as an environmental value the Council doesn't pay for the material to be incinerated at a cost of £95.66 (2021 charge) per tonne.



# THINK BEFORE THROWING IT

## REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE

