

What's the problem?

Currently Hertfordshire residents produce over **half a million tonnes of household waste each year**. This costs Hertfordshire over £40 million a year to collect and dispose. What a waste! This is a staggering amount of waste that could exceed **1 million tonnes within the next 25 years**.

It can't go on!

The majority of Hertfordshire's waste is currently disposed of in landfill sites but not only is this a waste of some useful resources, it also physically can't continue as space is rapidly running out. The Landfill Directive means that we have to significantly reduce the amount of biodegradable waste sent to landfill. The landfill tax also makes it an increasingly expensive option to landfill waste.



Are people really bothered by this?

Well, in a recent Mori survey it was revealed that over four in five of Hertfordshire residents were concerned about the levels of household waste produced.

Working together...

We are all consumers. We all generate waste and we can all play a part in it's management.

Hertfordshire's County, District and Borough Councils, as part of the WasteAware Partnership, are working to improve the recycling facilities on offer but ultimately we rely on you to use them.

It's never been easier to separate your waste for recycling in Hertfordshire; whether through the increasing kerbside collections, at community recycling points, or at Household Waste Recycling Centres. Once you know *what* can be recycled and *where*, it's surprising how easy it is to get in the habit.

Think again

Is recycling really the only solution? You can take some simple steps to **reduce** the amount of waste you produce in the first place.

If you, a neighbour, a member of your family or community would like this leaflet produced in another language or format please call **08457 425000**

For example

- Cutting down on junk mail by registering with the Mailing Preference Service. Contact WasteAware for details.
- Many items can be re-used, for example carrier bags, and envelopes or magazines can be passed onto friends.
- Use re-chargeable batteries.
- Choose cotton re-useable nappies instead of disposables. Contact WasteAware for details of any incentive schemes.
- Take unwanted items, of good quality, to charity shops or furniture projects for re-use.

Similarly, it is important to buy products made from recycled materials, such as writing paper and toilet paper. It will only be worth collecting materials for recycling if they are made into products - which you buy.



WHAT DO YOU SEE?



A LOAD OF RUBBISH OR...

FIND OUT MORE

For information on reducing waste, re-using items, special offers, how to compost, and what and where to recycle: log on to www.wasteaware.org.uk or ring the WasteAware Helpline on **08457 425000** or contact your local council for details.



...valuable materials that can be made into new products?

Green Garden Waste

Over 30% by weight of the contents of the average bin is food and garden waste. **You can turn this into compost at home** by using one of the subsidised composters offered to Hertfordshire residents.



Paper

There are many grades of paper, each suited for recycling into different products. Much of the paper collected in Hertfordshire is pulped and then made into newsprint which is why newspapers, magazines and junk mail are readily accepted. **Each tonne of paper recycled saves approximately 11 trees from being felled.**



Plastic

Yes - fleeces can be made from recycled plastic bottles!

Plastic packaging only makes up 7% by weight of the average bin but takes up a lot of space. Currently only plastic bottles are collected because bottles are usually made from just three types of plastic which are more readily sorted for recycling.

There are many more items, which are collected for recycling in Hertfordshire - for more information please use the contact details below.



Glass

Glass, which has been collected as separate colours, is melted and re-formed to make new bottles and jars. Glass, which is collected as a mix of colours, is currently used as an aggregate in road construction.



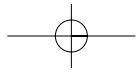
Steel/Aluminium

Made from either **steel or aluminium**, cans and foil are collected as a mix and later separated using industrial magnets. Cans only need rinsing for collection - there is no need to remove labels. Recycling steel and aluminium saves 75% and 95% respectively of the energy used to make a can from the basic raw material.

These metals can be recycled indefinitely into new cans, foil, cars, fridges - the possibilities are endless!

Printed on recycled paper, April 2005

This leaflet was funded through the Landfill Tax Credit Scheme by Edwards Waste Management Ltd



FOLD

FOLD

CUTTER

