

Waterbeach Waste Education Centre

Community Newsletter

SUMMER 2024

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Welcome to the Summer edition of our newsletter!

Located at Waterbeach Waste Management Park, Cambridgeshire County Council work with our service provider, Thalia, to highlight the importance of waste reduction across Cambridgeshire.

We offer presentations on waste educations, reduction, recycling and more. As well as engaging 'hands-on' activities, (including sorting out your recyclables).

We deliver FREE recycling workshops across the county to schools, community groups, businesses and support a wide range of community events throughout the year.



Did you know?

In 2023/24 our Waste Education Officer successfully carried out **over 180 engagements to schools**, community groups across Cambridgeshire where **over 10,000 people attended!**



For more information about our **FREE recycling workshops**, and to book a visit, scan the QR code or go to:

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/waste-and-recycling/waste-education-service



SUMMER FUN!

FREE Summer Family Activity Events

Back by popular demand our Family Events will take place on Wednesday 7th, 14th & 21st of August at Waterbeach between 10am - 12noon. Places will be limited so advance booking is essential.

A host of activities are on offer or include:

- ✓ A chance to view your blue bin waste being sorted
- ✓ Making a tasty treat from sustainably sourced food
- ✓ Do something amazing with plastic
- ✓ Bring a plastic drinks bottle & make a bird feeder
- ✓ PLUS free tea, coffee & refreshments

To register your interest please email: wmt@cambridgeshire.gov.uk and add 'Family Activity Event' to the subject header of the email. We will then send you an acknowledgement and full details of the event nearer the time. We can only accept those registered via email and cannot exceed the 30-person limit per event*.

***Please note children under 6 are not allowed on-site.**



Did you know?

Soil improver is available for **FREE** from our Waterbeach site and at our waste transfer stations in March & Alconbury. You can also purchase it **pre-bagged for £3.50/bag** from any of our nine household recycling sites. For more information visit: cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/waste-and-recycling/what-happens-to-your-waste



Did you know?

Running a **petrol lawnmower for an hour** can create the **same emissions as driving a car for 93 miles!** Reduce your emissions by **switching to an electric** model wherever possible and use a green energy supplier.

For the more energetic a push mower doesn't create any emissions at all and is good for your health!

Closing the circle –

Four ways to be a greener gardener

Thinking about how we use resources and then recovering them for reuse is often referred to as 'the circular economy'. It helps to protect the planet and ensure that today's resources are available for future generations.

There are four main principles in the circular economy: these are called 'the four Rs'. You can use them to make positive changes in the way you garden. A big added benefit of gardening this way is the money you'll save, it's cheaper and more environmentally friendly, so a winner all round.

Reduce

Ask yourself if you really need to do that activity or buy that product. For example, do you really need to buy lots of bags of compost or can you make your own (see our handy guide on composting on page 4 of this newsletter).

Do you need to sow seeds in plastic pots, or could you sow them directly into the ground? Hiring or sharing power tools such as hedge cutters or strimmer's with friends, family or neighbours will save money and help the planet too.

Reuse

- Reuse what's already there in your garden. This could be existing plants that can be rejuvenated rather than replaced or reusing existing features and materials.
- Old paving can be re-used as hardcore for building projects and large branches can be cut into pieces to make log piles to form bug hotels for insects.
- Second-hand tools and materials often give you fantastic value for money and always offer great eco-credentials. Salvage yards, eBay, Facebook Marketplace, and Freecycle are just some of the places you can buy and sell second-hand.
- Try and reuse plastic plant pots as much as possible, if they're broken use this handy search tool on Recycle Now which will tell you where they can be recycled in your area: recyclenow.com/recycle-an-item

Repair

Replacing a handle on an old garden fork or spade can breathe new life into hand tools. Repair Cafes offer a fantastic free service where volunteers can fix most things for **FREE**. Find a Repair Cafe: cambridgecarbonfootprint.org/repair-cafes/

Recycle

Purchase responsibly sourced and recycled products. Peat-free compost is a great example of this as it not only uses recycled materials (such as forestry waste), but it also replaces an environmentally damaging product peat which is associated with carbon emissions and habitat loss. Look for recycled plastic products and Forestry Stewardship Council (FSC) certified timber products, particularly garden furniture.





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.



Did you know?

In addition to garden waste, you can compost your used teabags, coffee grinds and even hair in your home composting bin!

How to set up home 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.

Why compost?

There are lots of good reasons to compost:

- Reduce your impact on the environment.
- Save money and resources.
- Help improve soil quality and condition which your plants and flowers will love!

Research has found that almost half of the food waste found in the average rubbish bin could have been composted. You can do your bit to reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill or other more costly forms of treatment by composting your food and garden waste at home.

How to start composting

1. **Find the right site** - ideally site your bin in a reasonably sunny place on bare soil. Choose somewhere you can easily add ingredients to the bin and remove the compost, (when ready).
2. **Gather the right ingredients** - save everything from vegetable and fruit peelings to teabags, toilet roll tubes, cereal boxes, and eggshells to go in your compost bin. Never compost cooked food, meat, or fish at home. This can go into mixed food and garden waste collections where offered.
3. **Fill it up** - Place these items along with your garden waste into your compost bin. A 50/50 mix of greens and browns is the perfect recipe for good mix of compost.
4. **Wait a while** - it takes between nine to twelve months for your compost to become ready for use. Keep on adding greens and browns to top up your compost.
5. **Check if it is ready** - once your compost has turned into a crumbly, dark material, resembling thick, moist soil and gives off an earthy, fresh aroma, you know it's ready to use.
6. **Remove the compost** - lift the bin slightly or open the hatch at the bottom and scoop out the fresh compost with a garden fork, spade, or trowel.
7. **Get spreading** - don't worry if your compost looks a little lumpy with twigs and bits of eggshell, this is perfectly normal. Use it to enrich borders and vegetable patches, plant up patio containers or feed the lawn.



Waste Prevention Education Free Workshops

To book a **visit to your school or organisation** and for more information please contact wmt@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

FREE workshops at any location across the County include:

- Tailored educational workshops for **school, community and adult groups**.
- Learning what waste is and what we can do to **prevent, reuse, repair and recycle it**, sort it for recycling or make something from waste material.
- Videos showing the **processes** involved in **sorting and recycling waste**.
- A discussion around **climate change** and an explanation of what an **individuals carbon footprint** looks like.
- Lessons are ideal for **classroom settings** and pupils work in **groups on a variety of tasks**.
- A typical lesson lasts around **60 minutes**. We can deliver up to **three lessons per day** and can visit a school for **two days if required**.

We offer outreach visits on weekdays, in the evenings and at weekends.

Contact us if you have an upcoming event in Cambridgeshire you would like us to support.



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CambridgeshireCC](https://www.facebook.com/CambridgeshireCC)



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Thalia
Waste Management



Working in partnership with
**Cambridgeshire
County Council**

RECYCLING IS GOOD. BUT WE CAN DO BETTER...



New ways to communicate waste prevention.

Keep Britain Tidy (KBT) has unveiled a new version of the waste hierarchy (pictured left) to help the waste & recycling sector communicate “effectively and consistently” about waste prevention and accelerate the UK’s transition to a circular economy. The newly designed hierarchy, has been informed by user-tested research insights, emphasises the importance of mindful consumption and has been shown to better educate the public about waste prevention.

Its research report, which was funded by organisations including CIWM & SUEZ Recycling and Recovery UK, indicates the public still largely defaults to recycling and lacks understanding that it is only the third best option (behind reduce and reuse) in the waste hierarchies currently in use. **It suggests there is confusion surrounding the commonly used terms ‘Reduce, Reuse, Recycle’, with almost a third of people (30%) feeling the terms are interchangeable.**

According to KBT, after seeing the new hierarchy, **71% of research participants said it was clear** what it was asking them to do, **58% recognised better ways to minimise their environmental footprint beyond recycling** and **51% felt motivated to protect the planet.**

Source: keepbritaintidy.org/news/keep-britain-tidy-unveils-new-waste-hierarchy-encourage-reduce-and-reuse-behaviours

Seven bin lorry fires caused by batteries in bins

We are urging individuals to dispose of batteries carefully. In recent weeks seven bin lorry fires were caused by batteries being thrown away with everyday household waste.

When batteries are put into wheeled bins they can get crushed or damaged when emptied into the collection vehicle, leading to explosions and fires.

Lithium-ion batteries in mobile phones, vapes and power packs for electric bikes or scooters had caused fires in seven lorries since January this year.

Over the past year batteries placed in the recycling bin have been the cause a further 24 fires at the Material Recovery Facility located at Waterbeach waste management park.

Residents living in flats with communal bins should take batteries to a recycling centre or local collection point.



Batteries, of all kinds, whether loose or hidden in our electricals – should never be binned, always recycled. If possible, remove batteries from electricals and recycle the batteries and electricals separately at your local recycling centre, supermarket or other battery recycling point.

If you can't remove the batteries, then always recycle your electricals at your nearest electrical recycling point. You can find your nearest electrical and battery recycling point via the Recycle Your Electricals Postcode Locator:

recycleyourelectricals.org.uk/electrical-recycling-near-me/

Calling all schools and community groups in Cambridgeshire!

Did you know that Cambridgeshire County Council offer **FREE Waste & Recycling Workshops**, either at our Education Centre in Waterbeach, or we can visit you!

Contact us below to book now



For more information about our **FREE recycling workshops**, and to book a visit, scan the QR code or go to:

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/waste-and-recycling/waste-education-service

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 **Thalia**
Waste Management

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