

Your Guide to Recycling and Waste Services



reduce

re-use

repair

REPEAT



Reduce



Re-use



Repair



Repeat

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The Greater Cambridge Shared Waste Service is a strategic partnership between Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council

YOUR RECYCLING AND WASTE COLLECTIONS

We collect your recycling one week...



A **blue bin** or clear sacks for all your recycling



A **green bin** or brown paper sacks for your food and garden waste

...and we collect rubbish the next week



A **black bin** or white sacks for your non-recyclable rubbish

Green bins are collected once a month around Christmas to the end of February, and fortnightly from the first Monday in March. Please **check exact dates in council magazines or websites.**

Please **check the bin collections page on our website** to find out your bin day and your collection schedule, including any adjustments for bank holidays.

You can use a kitchen caddy or any container with a lid to collect food waste. Make sure it is lined with either a paper liner or newspaper and not bio-bags/plastic bags, then empty it into your green bin.

Visit our websites for information about kitchen caddies and where you can buy paper liners.

Bin not emptied?

Please report missed bins on our website after 3:30pm on collection day and by 3:30pm the day after your bin day.

Assisted collections

If you are unable to move your bins to the kerbside for collection and there is no-one who can do this for you, please ask us about assisted collections.

On your bin day

Place your containers out at the kerbside or your agreed collection point by 6am on your collection day, and no earlier than 6pm the day before. Bins should be returned to your property as soon as possible after being emptied, and within 24 hours unless you have reported a missed collection.

Please ensure bin lids are fully closed. Excess rubbish left next to your black bin will not be removed.

You can have an **extra blue bin** for recycling free of charge. Please order via our website. If you need an **extra green bin**, you can subscribe to our additional garden waste collection service for a fixed annual cost.

If you only occasionally fill up your blue bin and need extra recycling collected, you can put it out next to your blue bin as follows:

- Break down cardboard to a size which would fit it in the bin (with the lid closed) if there was space. Tie or tape together in **one** bundle. We can not collect wet cardboard, so please don't leave it out in the rain.
- Put other recycling (except glass) in a transparent sack. A maximum of **one** clear sack will be collected. Black or other colours sacks will not be collected.

Collection of bulky items

We can collect bulky items for a charge. Visit our websites for details.



ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT 1990

Please note that failure to comply with the council's requirements for setting out waste and recycling for collection could result in a fixed penalty.

The household duty of care placed on you can be found set out in the Environmental Protection Act 1990 Section 34 (2A) and Section 5 of the Waste Duty of Care: Code of Practice.

What can you recycle through your blue bin?

Yes

- ✓ Clean
- ✓ Empty
- ✓ Don't bag it



No



Cardboard



Paper & magazines



Tins, cans & foil



Aerosol cans



Glass bottles & jars



Cartons



Plastic bottles



Plastic pots, tubs, trays & empty bags

Please put used batteries in a clear plastic bag. Tie the bag shut and place it on top of your blue, green or black bin lid. **Batteries must not be put inside the bin.** Small portable household batteries can be put in the clear bag - e.g. AA, AAA, 9v, D, C and button batteries.

No laptop/phone batteries please - take these to Household Recycling Centres.



- ✗ Black bin bags or rubbish
- ✗ Nappies, tissues, wipes & sanitary waste
- ✗ Polystyrene
- ✗ Glasses, flat glass or glass dishes
- ✗ Mirrors, Pyrex, plates/crockery
- ✗ Foil-lined plastic pouches e.g. from pet food
- ✗ Batteries
Put in a plastic bag and place on top of the bin lid

The following can be recycled elsewhere – check our website.

- ✗ Clothing and textiles 
- ✗ Food, liquid or garden waste
- ✗ Wood, plasterboard & DIY waste
- ✗ Furniture or electricals
- ✗ Scrap metal e.g. pans
- ✗ Hard plastics e.g. bucket
- ✗ Crisp packets

Not sure if it can be recycled?

Check the 'What goes in your bins' page on our website, which has a search function.

What can you compost through your green bin?



Yes



Cooked/uncooked food waste (including meat, fish and dairy)

Use either paper liners or newspaper to wrap your food



Untreated wood and sawdust



Garden waste

No

X Plastic & plastic bags (including biodegradable/corn starch)

X Loose ash

X Non-compostable items

X Nappies

X Soil or stones

X Painted or treated wood

X Cat or dog waste

X Plant pots and seedling trays

What rubbish can go in your black bin?



Yes

General rubbish that cannot be recycled or composted including:

✓ nappies,
polystyrene,
crisp packets,
pet food pouches /
drinks pouches

Find out how to reduce the rubbish in your black bin on the next page

No

X Rubble/bricks

X Soil

X Very heavy items

X Electrical items

X Batteries

X Loose ash

You can take these items to tips near Thriplow or Milton.

Before you recycle...



Reduce

We throw away the equivalent of 8 meals every week! **The Kitche app** helps you track and reduce the amount of food you throw away. **The Olio app** lets you pass on or pick up surplus food locally. Get more help to save money and food from www.lovefoodhatewaste.com



Re-use

More and more people are choosing reusable nappies, wipes and period products. You can get a discount on these through our scheme – check our websites for details. Take a reusable bottle or cup and shopping bag with you when you go out.



Repair

Find local Repair Cafés where you can take household items at www.cambridgecarbonfootprint.org/repair-cafes. There is lots of advice on mending clothes at www.loveyourclothes.org.uk, and help with fixing tech at www.ifixit.com.



Re-home

Re-home your unwanted items through charities like Cambridge Re-Use, British Heart Foundation or Emmaus; websites like Freegle, Gumtree, Facebook marketplace; or apps like Olio or Vinted. Re-home other people's items by buying from these places!



Refill

Choose loose fruit and veg and bars of soap, or refill containers with cleaning products or dry foods at local Refill Shops – find a list of local ones on our websites.



Rot

Home composting is a great way to turn food and garden waste into compost for your plants at home. Buy bargain compost bins at www.getcomposting.com



Repeat!

Find out even more ways to reduce your waste before you recycle on our websites, including ideas for community groups.

Places to recycle more

Recycling Points

There are recycling banks around the Greater Cambridge area for shoes, clothing and textiles (clean and dry, but can be worn out); batteries; light bulbs; and small electrical appliances.

See our websites or www.recyclenow.com for details and locations.

Household Recycling Centres

The large Recycling Centres near Milton and Thriplow are managed by Cambridgeshire County Council.

You can recycle a range of items including large appliances, wood, scrap metal and car batteries, as well as dispose of bulky items.

For more information and opening times visit www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Specialist recycling schemes

Many items such as crisp packets or toothpaste tubes which cannot be recycled through your blue bin can now be taken to special collection points at shops or community hubs to be recycled.

Our Recycling Directories on the 'What goes in your bins?' pages of our websites link to more information





Recycling reduces carbon emissions... right?

The average person in the UK has a carbon footprint* of 10 tonnes of CO₂e**. In a recent poll***, most people selected 'Recycling as much as possible' as the top thing they could do to combat climate change.

Let's see how recycling stacks up against some other actions:

CO₂e saved

Going car-free

2.4 tonnes

Getting rid of your car and walking, cycling, taking public transport, taxis, sharing lifts and only using pool or hire cars occasionally is one of the most impactful actions you can take to reduce your personal carbon footprint.

Avoid one long-haul flight

1.6 tonnes

Choosing to holiday closer to home or finding alternative ways to visit family abroad like travelling by train or boat will really take a bite out of your carbon footprint.

Buy energy only from renewable sources

1.5 tonnes

Switching your energy tariff to a 100% renewable one makes a big impact.

Recycling as much as possible

0.2 tonne

Reducing the amount of waste and recycling we create by repairing, refilling and choosing reusable items should always come before recycling - check out pages 5 and 6 for ways to do this. It's still important to keep recycling as much as possible - it keeps resources in use and out of landfill. BUT all of us need to back this up with other actions too in order to avoid the worst impacts of climate change.

Find out your carbon footprint and track your progress to reduce it in a fun way with Giki Zero: <https://zero.giki.earth>

*the amount of carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere as a result of the activities of a particular person.

**Carbon dioxide equivalent. This takes into account different greenhouse gases, for example methane, released by different activities.

***Perils Of Perception, Ipsos 2021.



www.scamb.gov.uk
www.cambridge.gov.uk