Craving a Compost?

Spring is slowly heading our way and whilst you throw all those chocolate egg wrappings in your recycle bin, why don’t you also throw some real egg shells on your compost heap? Or make little growing containers of them like these? Just put some soil in an empty eggshell and place a couple of seeds in and there you go.

Get composting this springtime when the days grow longer and you have more opportunities to get out in the garden, why not join the army of composters in the city whose gardens are benefitting from a home compost heap?

Compost Awareness Week takes place from 7 to 13th May. This could be an appropriate time of year to add a compost heap to your garden in order to improve or maintain the quality of your soil and help you grow healthy plants, reduce the use of fertiliser and improve water retention in your garden.

There are loads of things you could put on your compost:
Garden waste - like leaves, grass cuttings, young weeds, hedge clippings, old bedding plants, straw

Kitchen waste – such as tea bags and leaves, coffee grounds, uncooked fruit and vegetable peelings, egg shells and other items like hair and nail clippings, bedding from herbivore pets (e.g. rabbits), paper towels, used tissues, shredded paper, toilet roll tubes and cardboard egg boxes, wood ash and natural fibres (cotton and wool).
To get a composting bin please visit: www.getcomposting.com and to find out more about composting visit: www.recap.co.uk
Recycling for Businesses

Cambridge City Council and South Cambs offer a trade waste service for a business or an organisation. Commercial waste is rubbish from premises used for the purpose of business, trade, education, sport, recreation or entertainment. Schools, shops, health centres, public houses, clubs, hotels, village halls and residential homes should all have their waste collected under contract.

The trade waste service collects food waste, mixed recycling and general waste and can be tailored to meet your individual requirements.

If you know of any new or old businesses in need of recycling their waste then please contact either city on: trade@cambridge.gov.uk, 01223 458282 or south cambs on: trade@scambs.gov.uk, 01954 713496

Changes to bin collection days at Easter

Don’t forget that the new day your bin is usually collected will also change over the Easter period in mid-April. Bin collections which would normally take place on Good Friday (14 April) will be carried out on Tuesday 18 April instead.

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<th>New Usual Collection Day</th>
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Bins should also be placed out a day later than usual in the week following the two Bank holidays in May – Monday 1 May and Monday 29 May.

Meet the Champion- Ida Diaz-Patel

My name is Ida Diaz-Patel and I enjoy my role as a community champion for recycling in our lovely city of Cambridge.

Basically I volunteer to do whatever I can contribute to promote reducing, reusing and recycling waste. I take this commitment seriously because it is satisfying to make a difference for good through this worthwhile cause in our society. Over the years I have enjoyed encouraging and educating people of all ages during local events, schools or city-wide, to promote recycling and reduce waste. We have had a fun time throughout at fairs, carnivals and fetes where we’ve had a stall.

The champions meet regularly keep abreast with all matters of this scheme. So come on- what are you waiting for? Join us!
Bin Day Changes

New bin collections are finally in full swing. On the 27th February the shared waste collection service for South Cambridgeshire and Cambridge City started a new collection round.

In order to make savings of £700,000 over the next three years we now have a shared waste collection service for South Cambridgeshire and Cambridge City.

New bin collection rounds have been drawn up which will work across the City and South Cambs boundary. This means bin lorries will travel about 20,000 fewer miles each year – not only saving taxpayers money but also reducing traffic and emissions. The new rounds mean that we need to make changes to collection days for most properties.

Go figure the figures…

In Cambridge City and South Cambs:

34 vehicles and 98 council officers collect waste every day across both districts

Every week we collect: 1,924 tonnes of waste

Every week our vehicles drive 2,000 miles

Every week we empty around 165k bins

Time credits

Don’t forget that for every hour you volunteer you receive a time credit voucher which you can you can use at various locations in Cambridge as well as Nationwide. Why not visit the Light cinema during the day for a couple of credits, or maybe Parkside pool for a nice swim? Or perhaps you fancy some live music at the Junction? For more ideas where to spend your time credits please visit the link below.

How to get Arty Farty this Easter

These Easter bunnies are easy to make and they look great too. Instead of recycling that sock where your toe sticks out why don’t you try and make a bunny? All you need is love - and the following:

An old worn sock
String
Any dried grains, such as rice or peas
A needle and some yarn for the mouth
Buttons for the eyes if you like

Fill your sock with about a cup of peas depending on the size of your sock.

Tie a string to make a head and another sting to make the body.

Cut the top of the sock in half to create ears on the bunny. Snip off the corners to make the ears slightly rounded. Sew small buttons for the eyes or just a few stitches for the mouth your bunny is ready to hop...

Don’t forget you can recycle all of your Easter egg wrapping in the blue bin. All the plastic, aluminium and cardboard waste can be recycled.

We have booked a stall for the following events in June. Please email me if you would like to help out on the day and receive a credit voucher for every hour you volunteer.

- 3rd June Strawberry Fair
- 10th June Arbury Carnival
- 17th June Chesterton Festival
- 24th June Fen Festival, Cottenham

And finally... If you know of any groups or organisations that would appreciate a talk or presentation on household recycling, please either let us know or ask them to get in touch. Also if you know of any local events where we could have a recycling stall it would be great to hear about them. For this or any other recycling champion related issues or enquiries please contact Birgitta Laurent on 01223 458 240 or email: birgitta.laurent@cambridge.gov.uk