

Why Recycle



Community

This issue focuses on the consultation paper on reforming the UK packaging producer responsibility system by the UK, Welsh and Scottish Government and Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA).

Retailers and producers of packaging will be forced to pay the full cost of collecting and recycling it under the Government new waste strategy. More info on this page.

We will also discuss reducing your waste footprint over Easter. I've got some handy hints on how to have an Easter Eggstravaganza with less plastic waste.

The champions visited Amey Waste Park in February and Anglian Water recycling site in April. Both trips were very educational, interesting and taught us lots about how important it is for us to cut down on our waste. More information inside...

Packaging producers 'Polluter pays'

Retailers and producers of packaging will be forced to pay the full cost of collecting and recycling it under the Government's new waste strategy.

Supermarkets and other retailers could be charged penalties for putting difficult to recycle packaging – such as black plastic trays – on the market as part of the strategy, which aims to make the “polluter pay”. They would be charged lower fees for easy to reuse or recycle packaging.

The aim of the new waste strategy is to:

- Introduce a tax on single use plastic with less than 30% recycled content.
- Consider banning plastic packaging where there are alternatives.
- Legislate to allow government to specify a core set of materials to be collected by all local authorities and waste operators.
- Commit to a deposit return scheme for bottles and cans.
- Ensure all households get food waste collections.

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The Government will put the plans for making producers pay for the net cost of the collection and recycling of their packaging out to consultation shortly. This type of system is already in place in other European countries such as Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands.

The strategy aims to see less of the UK's waste being exported abroad – after China banned the import of plastic waste and other countries started to follow suit.



Sadly black plastic trays, tubs & pots are unrecyclable in Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire.

Meet the Champion - Anna Cappai

My name is Anna Cappai and I am originally from Sardinia, Italy. I moved to Cambridge 14 years ago and many things happened since.



I got deeply interested in recycling and decided to

get involved with the Council as a Recycling Champion back in July 2017.

Volunteering would help me to understand better where everything goes and feedback this knowledge to people in the Cambridge's community.

I care about environmental issues, recycling, zero waste, circular economy and a healthier lifestyle. Somehow they are all connected with each other.

Having taken a slightly different direction from my originally creative field of studies I have been looking at training within the Waste and Management sector.

I joined the Chartered Institution of Wastes Management last July with the intention to break into a new career path.

At the beginning of this year I have also obtained a certificate on Smart-Waste to deepen further the topic of Waste as a resource, its environmental impact, how waste is managed and some legislation around it. I am hoping to take part into more events as a Recycling Champion as it feels good to have a direct contact with people concerned about what to recycle and how, and it is a great opportunity to be able to help and educate them.

I will also be joining the Commercial Waste Team at Greater Cambridge Shared Waste with the aim to build more knowledge on Waste management and contribute practically to a job role that provides tangible services within this field.

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From home to home- The champions visiting Amey Waste Park in February and Chelmsford Water Recycling facility in April.

Its always good to be able to visit Amey Waste Park to remind ourselves of the amount of waste that we produce and how we can try to cut down on the endless mountains of plastic we buy on a daily basis.

Anglian Water recycling plant in Chelmsford was a fascinating visit. We saw a skip load of mainly wipes, and other plastic items such as razors, sanitary pads, condoms, and fats ending up at the plant after causing a lot of blockages in the pipes. (pic below).

Even if wipes say they are flushable/biodegradable it does not mean they won't block the pipes and end up as single use plastic waste. All of the wipes have hidden plastic in them which will inevitably end up either in waterways or at landfill. If you do use wipes please dispose of them in the black bin. There's plenty of alternatives to sanitary products too such as menstrual cups and washable sanitary pads and pants—a much cheaper alternative too!



Only flush the three p's: pee, poo and toilet paper down the loo please.



SPREAD THE WORD!

Do you know of any groups or organisations that would appreciate a talk on household recycling? Please let me 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 these or any other issues or enquiries please

contact: birgitta.laurent@scambsgov.uk

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Egg-tastic Easter ideas

How can you avoid the mountain of plastic from the chocolate Easter eggs this year? *Don't buy one!*

Well, if you do decide to get one, try to recycle the wrapping or make something out of it. Here's some ideas how to have a bit less waste over Easter.

Get creative! Think outside the plastic wrapping box and get your family or friend a home made chocolate treat instead of buying an expensive egg that's probably too big to eat anyway. Make truffles and put them in a used egg carton. Decorate the carton with paint, feathers and ribbons.



Funky green haired eggs can easily be done by filling leftover hardboiled eggshells with soil and sprinkling your desired 'hair' style seeds on top. If you want a perm/afro then opt for cress and a straighter hair do go for wheat grass seeds. Happy hairdressing.



As much as a third of the weight of an Easter egg is still the cardboard and plastic packaging it

comes in, according to research by Which?

Packaging accounts for about 25% of the weight of the most popular eggs. Don't forget that most if not all of it can be recycled in your blue bin.