

Climate Action Stokesley & Villages

Dealt with by: Tracey Flint
Waste & Street Scene
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Dear Caryn

Please find detailed below my response to the questions and comments I received on Tuesday 19th November:-

- When I explained that plastic bags can't be recycled on our kerbside collection I was referring to plastic bags in our blue lidded bins. Plastic bags can be put into the black general waste bins as this waste on the whole is not recycled except for a very small percentage which is extracted at Allerton Park for recycling. Anything which can't be recycled in our blue lidded bins can be placed in the black general waste bins or taken to your local Household Waste Recycling Centre.
- A suggestion about using polystyrene to make Hay Boxes sounds interesting although I have limited equestrian knowledge so should maybe be included in your waste minimisation action plan.
- Plastic sports drink bottles with a thick cellophane wrap are recyclable. Don't worry about removing the wrap or lid. All your plastic drinks bottles, pots and trays from the home can be recycled providing they aren't black.
- As a Council we are limited as to how much lobbying we are able to do, we do support campaigns led by The Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP). Your group is in a very strong position to influence your local businesses. Suggestions from one of your members includes asking the co-op to provide facilities for plastic bags recycling; crisp packet recycling; sell loose fruit and vegetable at uninflated prices; removing plastic wrapping from multi buys. If you wish to set up your own crisp packet recycling initiative the company is called terracycle: www.terracycle.com
- There were several questions relating to plant pot recycling, we aren't able to accept these in our blue lidded recycling bins. Again I would suggest consumer power should be used to

encourage garden centres to accept plant pots back in store. Alternatively re use or donate to charities who may be willing to take them.

- All plastic shampoo bottles can be recycled even the ones which are more like tubes, just empty and replace lid.
- All cartons can be recycled in your blue lidded bins including milk and fruit juice, although they are a mix of material including a plastic lid, card, foil and plastic we have an arrangement that cartons will be accepted and recycled as thoroughly as possible.
- Train tickets can be recycled in your blue lidded bin.
- Nails and screws can't be recycling in your blue lidded bin but can be taken to the metal skips at the Household Waste Recycling Centres.
- Biodegradable plant pots do exist and can be disposed of in home compost bins.
- One suggestion was to buy large sized containers of cleaning products such as toilet cleaners, soap dispensers, washing up liquid etc. and refill your smaller containers. This could potentially save the disposal of multiple small containers but this has to be weighed against the disposal of large containers.
- A good suggestion is to use reusable fabric bags for your loose fruit and veg, these can be purchased in Lakeland, Lidl and Sainsbury's or you can make your own.
- One member had heard on Radio 4 Science Hour that it takes as much energy to recycle plastics as to make it in the first place. In my slide I stated that around 95% less energy is used to make a product from recycled materials than using raw materials. This is for recycling as a whole. According to Recycle Now, which is the national recycling campaign for England, it takes 75% less energy to make a plastic bottle from recycled plastic compared with using virgin materials. This figure is obviously variable depending on distance to reprocessing facilities and sorting facilities but this has to be weighed against the distances travelled for virgin materials which include oil extracted from the earth, transported, processed into pellets and then transported to the factory to be made into plastic bottles, this process can often involve different countries and continents.

A few suggestions I would make to your group for waste reduction would be as follows:-

- Grow your own if possible
- Buy locally
- Buy native in season products.
- When shopping consider if you need that product, and is that product recyclable
- Don't be lured into buying unnecessary products with Buy One Get One Free offers or meal deals etc.
- Use buy, sell, swap sites on the internet such as Facebook, Gumtree, EBay.
- Don't buy take-away coffee cups, sit in and relax, take your own coffee cup.
- Say no to plastic cutlery and disposable plates etc.
- Consider having your milk delivered by a milkman.
- Take your own container to the supermarket, most deli counters will now put your fish, meat, cheese into your own container.
- Use your local fruit and vegetable shops or market stalls.
- Use plastic free shops.

Christmas is coming

Wrapping Paper:-

- Wrapping paper can be recycled in your blue lidded bin but you need to do the scrunch test. Scrunch the paper in your hand and if it doesn't spring back it's non foil and can be recycled. If it springs back then it's foil and can't be recycled.
- Save your wrapping paper and reuse it next year.
- Use brown paper for wrapping, newspaper, or gift bags which can be used repeatedly.
- Ribbons and bows can't be recycled but can be re-used.
- Make your own tags by cutting up old Christmas cards.

Christmas Cards:-

- Do you really need to send a card?
- Christmas cards can be recycled if they aren't glittery or plastic.
- Only send Christmas cards that are unembellished and can be recycled.
- Recycle your envelopes.

Decorations:-

- Baubles, tinsel, artificial wreaths etc. can't be recycled. Just reuse all your decorations year after year, and make your own natural wreaths.

The ways in which you can reduce waste and recycle are endless, I would be happy to try to support your group with any further questions you may have.

Tracey Flint
Recycling Officer

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