



20 Facts About Waste and Recycling

Did you know that...

1. The UK produces more than 100 million tonnes of waste every year, one tonne is about the weight of a small car. In less than two hours, the waste we produce would fill the Albert Hall in London, every eight months it would fill Lake Windermere, the largest and deepest lake in England!



2. *On average, each person in the UK throws away their own body weight in rubbish every seven weeks.*



3. The average household in the UK produces more than a tonne of waste every year. Put together, this comes to a total of 31 million tonnes per year, equivalent to the weight of three and a half million double-decker buses, a queue of which would go around the world two and a half times.

4. *Every year we produce about 3% more waste than the year before. This might not sound much but, if we carry on at this rate, it means that we will double the amount of waste we produce every 25 years.*

5. The average UK family throws away 6 trees worth of paper in their household bin a year.

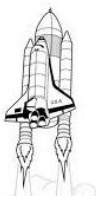
6. *Paper and card make up about a fifth of the typical household dustbin. About half of this consists of newspapers and magazines.*



7. Two-thirds of paper is recycled, making it one of the main materials recycled in the UK.

8. *Each Christmas as much as 83 square kilometers of wrapping paper ends up in UK rubbish bins, enough to cover an area larger than Guernsey, one of the Channel Islands.*

9. It is not known how long glass takes to break down, but it is so long that glass made in the Middle East over 3,000 years ago can still be found today.



10. *Glass milk bottles are used an average of 13 times before recycling.*

11. In 2003, the recycling of glass saved enough energy to launch ten space shuttle missions!

12. *We produce and use twenty times more plastic today than we did 50 years ago.*

13. Most plastic shopping bags are used only once and a plastic bag can take more than 100 years to decompose!

14. *25 two liter pop bottles can be recycled into an adult-size fleece jacket.*



15. We get through 5 billion drinks cans every year. Each one could be recycled back into a new can, saving large amounts of energy, raw materials and waste.

16. *Weight for weight, empty aluminium cans are worth 6 to 20 times more than any other used packaging material. There are more than 30 million pounds worth of empty aluminium drinks cans in the UK just waiting to be collected, cashed in and recycled.*

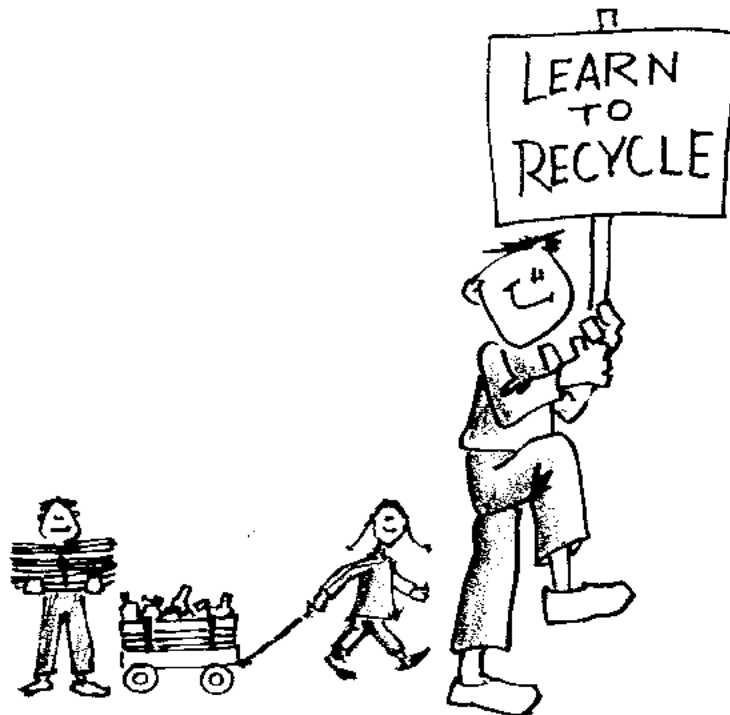
17. UK households throw away between £250 and £400 of potentially edible food every year.



18. *It has been calculated that, before they are toilet trained, the average child goes through 3,796 nappies, most of which end up buried in landfill sites.*

19. It has been estimated that up to 80% of the contents of our dustbins could be easily recycled or composted.

20. *Other countries recycle a lot more than we do in the UK. For example, Switzerland, the Netherlands and Germany recycle around 60% of their waste.*



Did you know....Recycling Quiz

Name: _____

Class: _____

Q1. What is the best way to deal with our rubbish?

- Reduce it
- Reuse it
- Recycle it
- Throw it in bin

Q2. What is the best way to cut back the number of bottles and cartons wasted at school?

- Don't drink anything at school
- Use bottles that can be filled up again and again
- Use bottles that can be recycled
- Use smaller bottles and cartons

Q3. How many trees worth of paper does each person in the UK throw away each year?

- 1 tree
- 6 trees
- 8 trees
- 10 trees

Q4. Which of the following helps to reduce the amount of paper used?

- Putting it in a recycling bin
- Putting in a dustbin
- Writing or printing on both side
- Making papier mache models

Q5. How many times more plastic do we use today compared to 50 years ago?

- 5 times more
- 10 times more
- 15 times more
- 20 times more

Q6. If you collected up all of the empty aluminium drinks cans in the U.K. and took them for recycling, how much money could you make?

- 3 thousand pounds
- 3 million pounds
- 30 million pounds
- 300 million pounds

Q7. For an average child how many disposable nappies get buried at a landfill site?

- 1000
- 2000
- 3000
- More than 3000

Q8. How much of our household waste could be recycled or composted?

- 20 percent
- 40 percent
- 60 percent
- 80 percent

20 More Facts About Waste and Recycling

Did you also know that...

1. Recycling one aluminium can saves enough energy to run a TV for 3 hours?
2. *On average each primary school generates around 45kg of waste per pupil per academic year and each secondary school pupil produces around 22 kg? Of this, 53 to 59% is card and paper.*
3. Around 1/3 of all the food we buy ends up being thrown away. This is not only a waste of money and resources in growing, harvesting, packaging, transporting, storing and retailing but it also contributes to global warming by producing methane.
4. *A worm can eat half of its bodyweight in waste each day?*
5. Most of the world's waste is produced by people from the 'developed' world (which includes Britain), even though these people only make up about 5% of the world's population.
6. *We get through nearly 3 billion disposable nappies each year in the UK. Disposable nappies take 500 years to decompose.*
7. Over 20,000 tonnes of batteries are sent to landfill site in the UK each year. It takes 50 times more energy to make a battery than it gives during its life.
8. *Each day, we produce enough rubbish to fill Trafalgar Square to the height of Nelson's Column.*
9. Each year, one person gets through 90 drink cans, 70 food cans, 107 bottles and jars and 45kg of plastic.
10. Every year an estimated 17.5 billion plastic bags are given away by supermarkets. This represents over 130,000 tonnes of plastic - enough to cover an area the size of London twice with a layer of bags. *The UK uses about 12 billion cans each year - that's enough to stretch to the moon and back!*
11. On average each person in England and Wales produces nearly 500kg of household waste a year.
12. *7 million trees are cut down every year just to make disposable nappies.*
13. *25% of household waste is packaging and we throw £36 million worth of aluminium into landfill sites.*
14. Five out of six glass bottles are thrown away.
15. *Up to 80% of an average car can be recycled*
16. If all cans in the UK were recycled, we would need 14 million fewer dustbins.
17. *Aluminium cans can be recycled and ready to use in just 6 weeks.*
18. The largest glass furnace produces over 1 million glass bottles and jars per day.
19. *Recycled paper produces 73% less air pollution than if it was made from raw materials.*

Quiz and Puzzle Answers

Did you know...Recycling Quiz

- Q1 (1) Reduce it
 Q2 (2) Use bottles that can be filled up again and again
 Q3 (2) 6 trees
 Q4 (3) Writing or printing on both sides
 Q5 (4) 20 times more
 Q6 (3) 30 million pounds
 Q7 (4) More than 3000
 Q8 (4) 80 percent

Don't Just Waste It – Word Puzzle Fun

	<p>Can you find all these words?</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Reduce</td> <td>Batteries</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Reuse</td> <td>Paper</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Recycle</td> <td>Soil</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rubbish</td> <td>Rubble</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cans</td> <td>Plastic</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Books</td> <td>Green waste</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Shoes</td> <td>Cardboard</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Glass</td> <td>Sorted</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bottle</td> <td>Metal</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mattress</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Carpet</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Reduce	Batteries	Reuse	Paper	Recycle	Soil	Rubbish	Rubble	Cans	Plastic	Books	Green waste	Shoes	Cardboard	Glass	Sorted	Bottle	Metal	Mattress		Carpet	
Reduce	Batteries																						
Reuse	Paper																						
Recycle	Soil																						
Rubbish	Rubble																						
Cans	Plastic																						
Books	Green waste																						
Shoes	Cardboard																						
Glass	Sorted																						
Bottle	Metal																						
Mattress																							
Carpet																							

Missing Letters

R E D U C E R E U S E R E C Y C L E S O R T E D R U B B I S H

Scrambled Words

P L A S T I C B O T T L E S C A N S C A R P E T R U B B L E

M A T T R E S S S H O E S M E T A L P A P E R B O O K S



What Can We Recycle?



Plastic & Polystyrene



Wood & Chipboard

Soil & Rubble



Metals

Glass Bottles & Plate Glass



Batteries

Green Waste

Paper & Cardboard



Books

Clothes



Electrical Appliances

Plasterboard

Cans



Fluorescent tubes

Ink Cartridges

Carpet

Mattresses





Don't Just Waste It!



Word Puzzle Fun

R	E	D	U	C	E	T	V	L	S	M	A	Can you find all these words?		
U	T	R	E	U	S	E	Z	K	H	J	X		Reduce	Batteries
B	J	A	F	R	E	C	Y	C	L	E	R		Reuse	Paper
B	M	C	O	A	Y	D	B	L	A	Q	P		Recycle	Soil
I	A	A	B	G	I	N	B	O	T	N	H		Rubbish	Rubble
S	T	R	A	P	L	F	S	T	O	I	S		Cans	Plastic
H	T	P	T	A	B	A	W	H	A	K	W		Books	Green waste
E	R	E	T	P	L	O	S	E	O	M	S		Shoes	Cardboard
Y	E	T	E	E	P	P	T	S	Q	E	Z		Glass	Sorted
W	S	Y	R	R	U	L	I	T	T	R	S		Bottle	Metal
R	S	X	I	G	D	K	A	L	L	I	O		Mattress	
U	G	R	E	E	N	W	A	S	T	E	I		Carpet	
B	E	C	S	O	R	T	E	D	T	G	L			
B	C	A	R	D	B	O	A	R	D	I	H			
L	G	Y	L	U	W	J	R	F	T	K	C			
E	R	P	I	M	E	T	A	L	N	I	O			

Fill in the missing letters to make words to do with recycling

RE__E RE__E RE__C__ SO_T_D __BBI_H

Unscramble the letters to find some things we can reduce, reuse or recycle

STAPLIC STELBOT NACS PETRAC REBLUB

RATTMESS OSHES LETMA REPPA SKOOB

