



20 Facts About Waste and Recycling

Did you know that...

1. The UK produces more than 200 million tonnes of waste every year, one tonne (1000Kg) is about the weight of a small car. In less than two hours the waste we produce would fill the Albert Hall in London and 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 approximately a tonne of waste every year, put together, this comes to a total of 26.67 million tonnes per year (DEFRA*). This is the equivalent to the weight of 2.11 million double-decker buses, a queue of which would go over three quarters of the way around the world.

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.

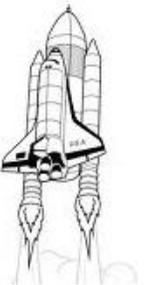
6. *Paper and card make up about a fifth of the typical household dustbin, about half of this consists of newspapers and magazines.*



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. The energy saved through the recycling of glass in 2003 was the equivalent of launching ten space shuttle missions!

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

13. It has been estimated that UK shoppers would go through 43,000 carrier bags in their lifetime (DEFRA) but since the introduction of the 5p charge carrier bag use has reduced between 70-80%.

*DEFRA – Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs

14. *25 two liter plastic 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 up to 95% of the energy needed to make a new one.

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 and recycled.*

17. In 2015 UK households threw away approximately £60 per month in food waste that's £720 of potentially edible food in a 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 74% of the contents of household black bag waste could be easily recycled or composted (WRAP*).

20. *The UK recycling rate for 'waste from households' was 44.3% in 2015 (DEFRA). Overall, the UK recycling rate is 39% but other countries recycle a lot more than we do for example, Germany and Austria recycle over 60% of their waste (EEA**).*

**WRAP – Waste & Resource Action Programme*

***EEA - European Environment Agency*



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. *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.*
20. Incinerating 10,000 tonnes of waste creates 1 job, landfilling the same waste would create 6 jobs, but recycling creates 36 jobs.

Don't Just Waste It!

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





Don't Just Waste It!



Puzzle Fun

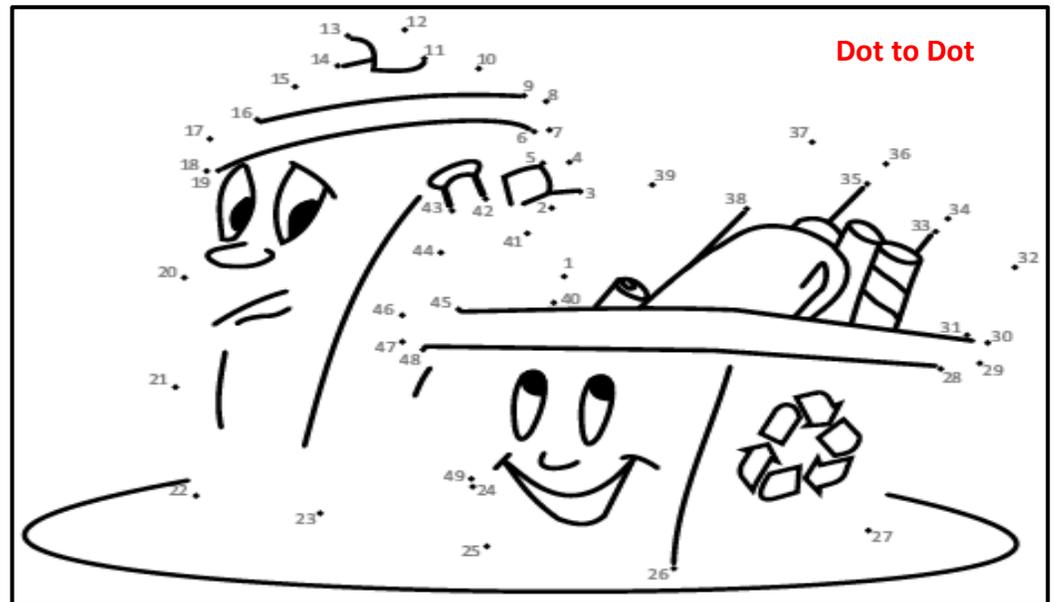
R	E	D	U	C	E	T	V	L	S	M	A	Word Search		
U	T	R	E	U	S	E	Z	K	H	J	X		Reduce	Batteries
B	J	A	F	R	E	C	Y	C	L	E	R		Reuse	Paper
B	M	C	O	A	Y	D	B	L	A	Q	P		Recycle	Soil
I	A	A	B	G	I	N	B	O	T	N	H		Rubbish	Rubble
S	T	R	A	P	L	F	S	T	O	I	S		Cans	Plastic
H	T	P	T	A	B	A	W	H	A	K	W		Books	Green waste
E	R	E	T	P	L	O	S	E	O	M	S		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 _ _ _
 RE _ _ C _ _
 SO _ T _ D
 _ _ B B I _ H

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

- STAPLIC
- REBLUB
- LETMA
- REPPA
- AGSLS



Dot to Dot

