

Why Recycle?

Recycling is becoming a part of our everyday lives. By 2010 most households will have to recycle at least two types of materials. Our world resources are running out. We burn fossil fuels every day for our cars and to make packaging. This has been a large contributor to global warming. Global warming is predicted to cause more extreme weather conditions for us and our future generations; global warming can be slowed down if we recycle more, which means we can reduce the amount of fossil fuels we use.

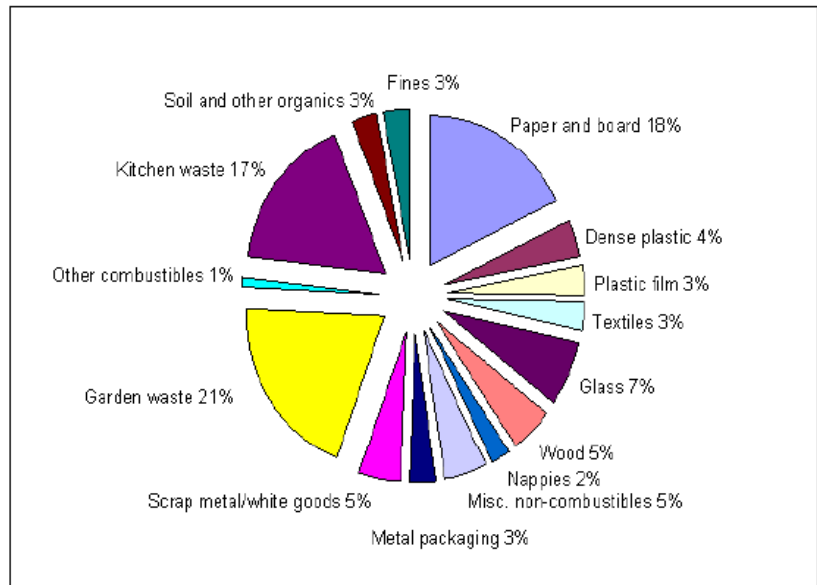
Benefits of buying recycled products.

If recycled materials have a larger demand, the raw materials will be smaller demand, thus reducing world resources being used up. The energy that is needed to produce products from recycled materials is less than is needed to produce products from raw materials. An example of this energy use is: you can make twenty cans from recycled materials using the same amount of energy used up in producing one can from non-recycled materials. CO₂ is one cause of global warming; producing products from recycled materials will reduce the amount of CO₂ released into the atmosphere.

Facts about the rubbish going into our environment.

- The average person throws away 135 carrier bags; most of these could be re-used.
- 8 million nappies are thrown in landfills annually, these are predicted to stay in the ground for 500 years.
- Mobile phones that are in our landfills contain substances which are in the ten most dangerous known to humans.
- Each tonne of paper recycled saves 15 average sized trees.
- The amount of rubbish produced by the UK in one day is enough to fill Trafalgar Square up to the top of Nelson's Column.

The majority of waste produced in the UK is from households. It is important that households recycle as much as they can. To find out what you can recycle see diagram below which shows the typical materials in a bin.



Most of the products above can be recycled. Materials such as nappies can not be recycled but there are more environmentally friendly options to choose from, such as re-usable nappies, or biodegradable ones.

Recycling will reduce the use of landfills and incineration. We are running out of suitable land for landfills and areas which are close to where rubbish is produced. Our current landfills are almost full, recycling will slow this down. Incineration has great environmental impacts from giving off greenhouse gasses. Incineration and landfills will greatly damage the environment if not managed correctly, recycling will reduce the need to use these methods.

Recycling has helped a lot of society problems in Europe. There are approximately 30 million unemployed in Europe, in recent years there has been a boom in the waste industry. The waste industry has created 3.5 million new jobs.