

Hazards in the Home

Merseyside produces 670,000 tonnes of household waste every year. 95% is currently buried in landfill sites with the remaining 5% being recycled.

Much of what we throw away are precious resources. In a recent local survey, 89% said they would be willing to sort their household rubbish for kerbside collection in a recycling scheme.*

You may think life is busy enough without bothering with different containers for batteries, glass, cans etc. Yet run properly, kerbside recycling schemes have proved very popular and easy to use, such as in Ealing, west London.

Eight million tonnes of packaging are sold in the UK each year. Of every £50 you spend on your weekly shopping, £8 is spent on packaging.¹

Why is Waste a Health & Safety issue?

- Packaging, much of it plastic, can release toxins into food.
- Proper disposal of waste means less rats in backyards and entries.
- Kitchen "waste" like veg peelings, tea bags and egg shells are a valuable resource to make compost, which is a safe and effective fertiliser for gardens and allotments, removing the need for harmful chemicals in the soil.
- "Green waste" thrown into landfill sites emits methane, a "greenhouse gas", and other materials leach toxins into the water table.
- Batteries contain poisons such as mercury, cadmium and zinc, so safe separate disposal is vital.
- Incinerating waste poisons local communities with dioxins and other deadly emissions.

Practical things you can do

- Use recycled paper when available. Manufacture of recycled paper reduces water consumption by nearly 60% and energy by 40%. Air and water pollution are decreased by 74% and 35% respectively.²
- Take newspapers, cans and bottles to your nearest "bottle bank".
- Ask the council to set up kerbside collections of separated waste.
- Buy goods with less packaging.
- If you haven't got a garden or allotment, offer your green waste to someone who has, for their compost heap. They might swap it for some veg!
- Try to cut down on batteries. Don't use rechargeable batteries in smoke alarms because they lose their charge very suddenly. Keep fit - put away the remote control!

Contacts

- **Bulky Bobs:** will collect your old furniture, fridge etc. to be reconditioned and sold on. 706 0000 or Liverpool Direct on 233 3000
- Community groups wanting more information about setting up recycling schemes can contact:
- **Energywise Recycling, 707 7717**
- **Furniture Resource Centre,** Recondition and make furniture. 330 4341
- **Motor Waste,** training on motor vehicle recycling, Toxteth Town Hall (address below), 727 1627
- For **Paint and Batteries:** National Household Hazardous Waste Forum, 74 Kirkgate, Leeds LS2 7DJ. 0113-246 7584, www.nhhwf.org.uk

*Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority

Reduce! - Re-use! - Recycle!

Sources of Information

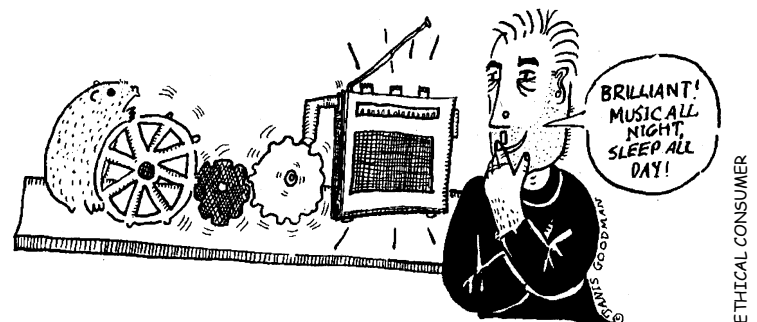
1. Mark Sydenham (1996) *Green Home Handbook*, Friends of the Earth Scotland
2. Ethical Consumer Magazine. www.ethicalconsumer.org/issues 49&46)

Recycling



Even cats can recycle

Since 1994, UK consumers have been able to buy NiCad batteries so toxic that they are labelled as not to be disposed of in household waste.² Liverpool City Council doesn't yet have a facility for their separate disposal.



An alternative to batteries?

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