

A greener Christmas – Reduce, Reuse and Recycle

Reduce

- Making Christmas crackers, from waste card and paper, can be a great family activity, and each one can be personalised with recycled decoration.
- Can you regift? Put aside presents that you won't use and give them to others who will appreciate them, rather than buying new.
- Have you considered buying fewer presents for your friends or family? Some people agree not to buy, or to cap the cost or number of presents. You could even replace them with vouchers for time spent together doing something they'd enjoy.
- Don't buy new wrapping paper until you've thought about quirky alternatives you might already have in the house – children's artwork, newspaper, plain brown paper, colourful magazine pages or fabric?
- Reduce the amount of plastic you buy by looking at alternatives to selection boxes – some are plastic free, or you could buy the products separately and put into a recycled box or bag.
- Do you really need brand new Christmas decorations? Why not use last years, but in different locations in your home? Or go online to find ways to make amazing decorations from materials that were heading for the bin.

Reuse

- Unwraps gifts carefully so that you can reuse some or all of the wrapping paper.
- Gift bags can almost always be used again at least a few times – then remove the handles and recycle.
- Use pinking shears to cut small scenes from Christmas cards and use as gift tags.

Recycle

- Remember you can't recycle wrapping paper and it will need to go in your household waste bin.
- Ribbons, tape and bows can't be recycled either.
- Remember to 'wash n squash' with all your recycling so that you fit more in your boxes and we get more in our lorries.

- Cans and bottles from the festivities can of course be recycled. Keep the metal tops on your bottles as these will be recycled too
- Only recycle gift bags if they are made of plain paper or card - a foil or glittery finish can't be recycled. Sturdy ones can be reused several times.
- Online delivery boxes can also be taken to your nearest bring site - remember to take out any polystyrene and packing tape, and flatten it down as much as possible.
- If you have brown paper from parcels, please include it with your card recycling (not paper).
- Christmas cards - glitter and foil can't be recycled so tear off that part as well as any batteries or badges.
- Aluminium food trays can be recycled, just give them a rinse.
- Those big biscuit tins and sweetie tubs can be added to your recycling.
- The clean foil from your turkey can be put in your black box with cans, or taken to a bring site. Just make sure it's scrunched into a ball so that it doesn't blow away.
- Christmas trees - the most environmentally-friendly option is to reuse an artificial tree, but if you have a real one, cut it up and add it to your brown garden bin for when collections restart in the spring. Or why not buy a living one and move it outside after Christmas?
- Check whether your local supermarket has facilities to recycle 'soft plastics' like crisp wrappers and bread bags.

Food waste

- We all love a proper Christmas feast, but try not to cook more than you need. Visit <https://www.copeland.gov.uk/node/47693> for help with portion control.
- An awful lot of our leftovers can be frozen. Use those saved takeaway containers to get it in the freezer and save some cooking time in the new year.
- If you've been gifted unopened food items, donate them to your local food bank.

Still have too much waste?

- Excess glass, plastics, paper and card can be taken to our community recycling sites. Please don't leave anything by the side of the bins and flatten cardboard to allow as much as possible to go into the bins.
- Cumbria County Council operates the household waste recycling centres in Frizington and Millom - check their seasonal opening times.
- If you leave waste that can't be recycled outside the skips of the bring sites, or outside the gates of the household waste sites, you could be fined.

