

Working together to improve recycling for Cardiff



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Foreword



Councillor Michael Michael

Cabinet Member for Clean Streets, Recycling and Environment.

Cardiff is Britain's leading major city for recycling; however, we now need to make Cardiff a world-leading city in this vital area of environmental sustainability. Getting everyone involved in recycling is critical if we are to address ongoing climate concerns and support our future generations.

Waste is something we can all do something about – reuse and recycling of the things we use every day will make a significant difference to the waste that pollutes and impacts negatively on our environment. To successfully recycle material needs to be of a good quality and this is an area where we know we need to improve. Just some simple steps and a little additional thought will make a huge difference to the amount of waste that can be recycled here in Wales and the benefits put back into our economy.

I am very proud of the real efforts Cardiff's residents have made so far to improve sustainability across the City and Wales, and I hope that you will continue to support this important agenda.

Signature of Michael Michael

Councillor Michael Michael

Why is recycling important

Recycling is one of the 3 R's – Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

The truth is we all need to improve our habits in using less stuff. The things we do use need to be reused as much as possible before being recycled to minimise waste.

1. Recycling conserves natural resources

- Recycling plastic means creating less new plastic from hydrocarbons
- Recycling metals means less mining and extraction of new metal ores
- Recycling glass reduces the need to use raw materials
- Recycling reduces the need to grow, harvest and extract new raw materials from the planet.
- Recycling keeps waste out of the environment.

2. Recycling saves energy

- Recycling aluminium from old cans and foil uses 95% less energy than making it from scratch.
- The energy saved by recycling of one glass bottle could power a 100-watt light bulb for 1 hour.

3. Recycling cuts climate-changing emissions

- Recycling food removes harmful methane from the atmosphere. Methane is a harmful greenhouse gas that is 25 times more potent than carbon dioxide
- Recycling reduces incineration of waste which generates carbon emissions.

4. Recycling creates jobs

- If the United Kingdom met a 70% recycling target it is calculated to create 50,000 new jobs – 30,000 directly employed in the recycling sector and 20,000 in the supply chain and wider economy.

How good is Cardiff at recycling?

Cardiff is Britain's leading major city for recycling with recycling at 59.19% in 2018/19

Cardiff produced 170,500 Tonnes of waste of which 101,000 Tonnes was recycled

Green bags presented by Cardiff residents are often contaminated causing a loss of 24% of all recycling

Cardiff residents present 40,000 Tonnes of co-mingled recycling but nearly 10,000 Tonnes is rejected as they are the wrong materials. The rejected material ends up going to Energy from Waste rather than being recycled.

Garden waste is a free service available to all

Cardiff collects grass cuttings, leaves & twigs and turns it into compost through a process called open windrow composting. Unfortunately, contamination is a problem here too. Unbelievably, garden gnomes, sheds and even asbestos are presented in with the green waste – these definitely can't be composted.

Residents in Cardiff present 64% recycling at Household Waste Recycling Centres

On average for every 3 bags residents bring only 2 are recycled, the target is to recycle at least 80%

How can we work together to improve recycling?

Wash your recycling

Your recycling should be clean to support improving recycling. Having ketchup or pasta sauce all over paper and card means material become unsuitable for recycling.

We all need to recycle food and absorbent hygiene products

A significant amount of food and nappies are found in both comingled recycling bags and black bins. By using the correct recycling services provided by the Council you will improve recycling performance and your bin will not smell so much. Food waste should only go in your kerbside caddy, nappies can be collected separately but you need to register for this service.

Do not contaminate your recycling – check online

Just because your jumper says it can be recycled it does not mean you can place it in your green recycling bag. This is contamination and may mean other recyclable items are lost in the recycling process.

Separate recyclable items before going to Household Recycling Centres

Separate your recycling before going to the recycling centres and this will make your trip easier. If you bring black bags you will be asked to separate your recycling from other materials.

Managing Contamination of recycling



Cardiff Council website provides information on recycling and contamination.

A new 'Pink Sticker' system will inform residents there is contamination in their recycling and asks them to clean up their waste.

The resident's property will receive correspondence to support education and improving behaviour.

Formal Notice and enforcement only takes place after education.



Separating recycling materials for household recycling centres



Household Recycling Centres are for recycling and not just to dispose of excess waste.

Cardiff Council will require all residents to show they are recycling at the Household Recycling Centres and therefore will not accept black bags.

The recycling centres have a significant range of recycling, from engine oil & car batteries through to paints & carpets.

Improving awareness and behaviour change

Cardiff Council is committed to improving recycling performance by:

- Providing services to residents and businesses to support recycling
- Providing information and guidance to residents and businesses on recycling
- Working with its Partners and Stakeholders to drive a Citywide approach to improving recycling
- Supporting initiatives such as 'No Straw Stand' and 'Refill' that promotes awareness about reuse
- Work with Partners and Stakeholders to support keeping recycling in Wales and the UK and the promotion of a circular economy for recycling in Wales

Did you know?

Food Recycling

Cardiff recycles over 16,000 tonnes of food each year. The Anaerobic Digestion plant in Cardiff generates electricity for 4,000 homes and creates fertilizer for farming & agriculture. The plant can deal with 35,000 Tonnes of food so there is ample capacity to recycle more food.

Garden Waste

Cardiff recycles 18,000 tonnes of garden waste each year. Incoming waste is checked for contamination, shredded, formed into windrows and regularly turned to optimise the natural composting process. The product is screened to a range of grades for agricultural use.

Other Recycling

Cardiff produces a range of materials for recycling with household materials such as cans, glass, paper and plastic having weekly collections. Recycling in the household recycling centres covers a wider range of recycling. To recycle some products such as carpets and paint costs money; however some recyclable material like white milk bottles are sold for income.

Energy from Waste

Cardiff no longer sends residual waste (non-recyclable) to landfill. Cardiff sends 70,000 tonnes of waste to the Cardiff Energy Recovery Facility (ERF). The facility burns 350,000 tonnes of residual (non-recyclable) waste creating 30 Megawatts of electricity, generating enough electricity for over 50,000 homes. Furthermore, the ash from burning is recycled into building products and this is transported by rail to Bristol removing 160,000 road miles each year.

Links for further information

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