



WASTE MATTERS!

**A Guide to Managing
Household Waste & Recycling
in County Kildare.**

**KEEP THIS BOOKLET
FOR REFERENCE!**



Introduction

Kildare has a population of nearly 250,000 people and we all produce waste.

This booklet is intended to help households, schools, community groups and businesses to manage waste properly.

While 90% of waste that arises in Kildare is disposed of through collections or at licenced waste facilities, we are still left with nearly 10% of waste in the county being unaccounted for.

We collectively need to do better as some of this waste is either being burnt or dumped illegally.

This has implications for human health and the wider environment as well as impacting on local communities.

It is also a cost on the local authority which can result in less resources being available for other environmental services.

This booklet is supported by the Anti-Dumping Initiative



Checklist

To start with, here is a simple checklist to help you manage waste better.

Do you...



Always use a Permitted Waste Collector?		
Have a waste collection service or use a recycling centre or other permitted facility to manage your waste on an ongoing basis?		
Have a three bin waste service (general waste, kerbside recycling and food waste) or otherwise use a permitted waste facility (civic amenity centre)?		
Use your local bring banks for glass bottles/jars?		
Home compost green (garden) waste?		
Take back batteries & electrical items to the shop free of charge when making a new purchase?		
Use an Authorised Treatment Facility for disposing of old vehicles?		



1. Waste Prevention

The best way to manage waste is not to produce it in the first place. Reducing waste means using fewer resources, reducing consumption and buying less. It also means looking for second hand items instead of buying new- charity shops are great resources for this and there are also vintage clothes shops as well as online trade/exchange websites.

Here are a few things we can all do to prevent waste.

Refuse single use items like straws and stirrers. Reusable bottles, lunchboxes, flasks, cups and reusable bags are a better option.



Use rechargeable batteries, especially for remote controls and other devices that don't use much power.



Check out local businesses offering water refill services.



Choose second-hand items.



Think Repair! can it be fixed first?



Before getting rid of an item see if it can be donated to a charity or even put up for sale.



Avoid junk mail – Unsubscribe / put a “No Junk Mail” sticker on your letter box.



Choose less packaging – opt for loose fruit & veg.



Try upcycling – give something old a new lease of life.



The mywaste.ie website has some excellent tips on Green Cleaning, Greener Gardening and Green Home Hints on their website.



2. Avoid Food Waste

Perhaps the biggest single action to reduce waste in our daily lives is by preventing food waste.

Typically, a 'best before' date is used for food products such as canned, dried, ambient, frozen foods, etc.

Many foods that are past their 'best before' date may be safe to eat, but their quality may have deteriorated.

In the case of foods, which are highly perishable and are therefore likely after a short period to constitute an immediate danger to human health, the date of minimum durability must be replaced by the 'use by' date.

The 'use by' is the date up until which a food may be used safely, i.e. consumed, cooked or processed, once it has been stored correctly. After the 'use by' date, a food is deemed unsafe and cannot be sold.



Take Small Simple Steps To Reduce Food Waste:

Make a weekly meal plan



Check stocks before shopping



Write a shopping list



Freeze food before its use-by date.



3. Three Bin Kerbside Collection

Kerbside waste collection services are provided in Kildare by private waste collectors. They must have a licence and provide a segregated waste collection system to collect general waste, mixed dry recycling and food waste. People living in apartments and other multiple occupancy units are now obliged to segregate waste, so talk to your landlord or property management company if they haven't arranged a three bin system in 2024.

People using shared bins should cooperate in using the bins correctly, flattening cardboard and other waste to save space and to ensure that the bins are used cost effectively. Businesses must also segregate waste into these three streams.

When segregating waste, bear in mind that you should firstly try to reduce the overall amount as previously mentioned (Step 1), and the idea then is to maximise use of the recycling and food waste bins - with only the residue being placed in the general waste bin.

All waste in this bin goes either to incineration or landfill which are the two least best options. It should be noted that different companies have different coloured bins so the "green bin" doesn't necessarily mean it is the recycling bin (some companies have blue bins for recycling and green for residual)- the only bin colour that is guaranteed for a particular waste type is the brown bin for food.



The following waste can be put in the recycling bin:



**Paper Cardboard
Magazines/Brochures**



**Soft Plastics
(Bags/Wrappers etc)**



Rigid Plastics (Tubs etc)



Tetra Pak (Cartons)



Food Tins (Steel)

Recycling Bin

All Recycling should be CLEAN, DRY and LOOSE. Many food packaging containers, (once most food is scraped out) can be put in the dishwasher for cleaning. Examples include plastic and metal takeaway food containers. Please make sure NO GLASS is put in the recycling bin. Much of the recycling process is mechanised, but at some point staff in the recycling centres have to manually sort waste and glass is definitely not welcome. This is also why it is important that sanitary waste is not placed in the recycling bin.



The following waste can be put in the brown bin:



Cooked & Uncooked Food Waste



Meat, Poultry, Fish & Bones



Dairy & Egg Products



Coffee Grinds & Tea Bags



Fruit & Vegetables



Kitchen Paper Towels & Other Food Contaminated Paper Products



The following waste can be put in the general waste bin:



Contaminated / dirty packaging or containers



Food contaminated packaging



Ashes (cold)



Toothpaste tubes



Sanitary Waste/ Nappies



Ceramics

Food Waste Bin

From 2024 ALL household and other customers in the county are entitled to a brown bin. The reason for extending this collection is to prevent any food waste going to landfill as it can be problematic to deal with it from odour, rodents etc. and also as it contributes to global heating via the release of methane. Food waste that is composted can be used as a mulch and in general landscaping works.



Some disposable packaging items, such as takeaway cups, are suitable for the brown bin - but only if they have the compostable logo.

General Waste Bin

Although some processing is done to separate this waste, almost all of it ends up in landfill or being sent for incineration- both of these are less favourable than recycling or composting so the aim should be to minimise the overall amount.



4. Recycling Centres

Other than using a waste contractor to dispose of waste and recyclables, the other way of complying with your legal requirements to dispose of waste properly is to bring your waste to an authorised facility- known generally as Civic Amenity Centres or Recycling centres. These facilities can deal with large quantities of waste for recycling and/or safe disposal. The two council Recycling Centres in Kildare are located at Kilcullen and Athy.

They accept the following items:

Glass		Electrical White Goods		Green (Garden) Waste	
Cans		Tvs & Monitors		Food Waste	
Cardboard		Rigid Plastic Packaging		Used Cooking Oil	
Paper		Soft Plastic Packaging		Gas Bottles	
Textiles		Polystyrene (White “Foam”)		Fire Extinguishers	
Batteries		Tetrapak Cartons		Aerosols	
Fluorescent Tubes & CFL Bulbs		Engine Oil		Paints	
Mattresses		Tyres		Solvents	
Bulky Furniture		Gypsum Board		Out Of Date Medicines	

A few things to remember:

Some items may not be accepted, if in doubt please ring in advance.

If you use these facilities instead of a waste collector, keep all receipts as evidence for the council that you are disposing of waste correctly.

Trailer loads **MUST** be covered in netting to prevent littering - it is a condition of using the facility.



Recycling Centres in Kildare

Silliot Hill Recycling Centre, Kilcullen, R56 AC61

Opening hours: 08:00 to 15:45 Monday to Saturday
(Closed on Bank Holidays). Tel: 045 913080

Gallows Hill Recycling Centre, Athy, R14 R762

Opening hours: 09:00 to 15:45 Thursday to Saturday
(closed all other days) Tel: 059 8640657



Wilton Recycling Centre, Naas

Unit M1, Osberstown Industrial Estate,
Caragh Road, Naas, W91 FXP7

info@wilton-recycling.com

www.wilton-recycling.ie

Wilton operates a civic amenity-type recycling facility on site for a range of waste materials.



SCAN FOR DIRECTIONS!

5. Glass Recycling Banks

Kildare has a network of recycling banks for glass bottles and jars. Glass cannot go into the recycling bin at home as it would contaminate the rest of the recycling.

WHAT CAN'T GO INTO THE GLASS BINS...



Helpful things to remember...

Some sites also have textile recycling banks. Please ensure any household textiles are clean before putting them in the textile bank for recycling.

Never leave rubbish or leave empty boxes or bags at the bottle banks, this is illegal dumping with an on-the-spot litter fine is fine is €150.

Check the mywaste.ie map to find your nearest bring bank!



6. Deposit Return Scheme



Ireland will be introducing a Deposit Return Scheme in February 2024, so when you buy a drink in a plastic bottle, aluminium or steel can that features the Re-Turn logo, you pay a small deposit in addition to the price of the drink.

When you return your empty, undamaged container to any retail outlet, you get your deposit back in full. The scheme does not include containers for dairy products or other containers that do not have the logo.

For more information go to www.re-turn.ie



7. Recycle Batteries, Electrical & Electronic Equipment for FREE!

Give your old and broken electrical items a second life. Recycle for free! Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) is anything that has a plug or battery and is at the end of its useful life.



When you purchase a new electrical, electronic or battery operated appliance or piece of equipment the retailer or supplier is required to take back your old appliance or equipment, free of charge on a one-for-one, like-for-like basis.

You can also recycle batteries, fluorescent tubes and anything electric or electronic (with a plug or battery) at your local Recycling Centre

For information on locations to recycle WEEE, batteries and lightbulbs:
www.weeeireland.ie





8. Home Composting

Composting is a natural process that turns garden materials into a dark, crumbly and earthy smelling material called compost.

Compost can be used in your garden. It is a great way to reduce the amount of waste in your bin. You may also be interested in other composting techniques such as compost piles, wormeries and other systems.

See www.compostingireland.ie for information on the various methods of composting. They even run courses for community groups on composting.



Grasscycling

You can cut down on the need to deal with grass clippings by mulching it - also call grasscycling. This is the natural recycling of grass by leaving grass clippings on the lawn when mowing. Many mowers allow this by using a mulching attachment that results in the grass being cut twice.

Once on the ground the clippings, which contain 80-85% water, decompose quickly returning valuable nutrients like nitrogen back into the soil.

9. ELV's – End Of Life Vehicles

Two things to consider when disposing of an old vehicle

Have I used an authorised operator who can ensure my vehicle is dealt with legally and in a way that protects the environment?

Will the operator provide me with a certificate of destruction (COD) for my records so that I can show that I have met my obligations as the registered owner of the vehicle?



Old vehicles must be depolluted before being recycled. This means that oil and fuel, battery, tyres and some other items are removed before the vehicle is further processed to separate metals and plastics for recycling.

To find out where your nearest facility is and get more information on certificate of destruction see www.rsa.ie



10. Don't Burn Backyard Waste!

Backyard burning refers to the uncontrolled burning of waste outdoors or in open fires, ranges, or other solid fuel appliances.

PUT SIMPLY, IT IS ILLEGAL TO BURN HOUSEHOLD, GARDEN OR ANY OTHER WASTE IN ANY WAY. BURNING WASTE IN YOUR HOME OR GARDEN CAN DAMAGE YOUR HEALTH, AS WELL AS THAT OF YOUR CHILDREN AND YOUR NEIGHBOURS.

Burning this waste leads to the release of toxic dioxins which are a real hazard for people's health as they are a known carcinogen.

If you notice someone illegally burning waste, for the benefit of your health and the environment, please report it. Information on how to report on page 17.

For more information on this, visit www.epa.ie

PLEASE NOTE!

You can buy garden incinerators in Ireland but its but is illegal to use them.

11. Beware of unauthorised Waste Collectors

Make sure your waste collector is a genuine waste business with a waste collection permit. Permitted collectors take the waste to authorised waste facilities where it can be dealt with appropriately. Do not get caught out by people who seem to offer a cheap way to get rid of waste- frequently advertised on social media with little information available on the business. Unauthorised waste activity has the potential to cause serious environmental pollution, impact negatively on the waste industry and create public health issues.

Your waste is your responsibility, if it ends up dumped, buried or burned it may result in enforcement action leading to substantial fines. If you are having works done that will generate waste e.g. house renovations, you are still responsible for the waste.



To check if somebody has a valid permit go to www.nwcpo.ie

IF YOU GIVE YOUR WASTE TO AN UNAUTHORISED COLLECTOR... THIS IS THE RESULT



12. Report It

If you come across an environmental problem, the quickest way to fix it is to contact the person or business you think is causing the problem. They may not be aware of the problem or its effects and may be happy to fix it. When contacting them, we suggest that you:



Outline the issue...

- Explain how you would like to see it resolved.
- Ask them to specify a timescale for this to be achieved.
- Ask to be informed when the work has been completed.

Contact the relevant public body

If you do not want to contact the person or business causing the problem, you should make a complaint to your local council or the EPA.

Your **local council** is responsible for dealing with complaints that do not involve a site regulated by the EPA.

If the issue involves an EPA regulated site, the local **authority** will pass on your complaint to the EPA.

If you know that the source of the problem is a site that operates under an EPA licence, permit or authorisation, contact the EPA.

If the issue does not involve an EPA regulated site, they will pass on your complaint to the local authority for a response.

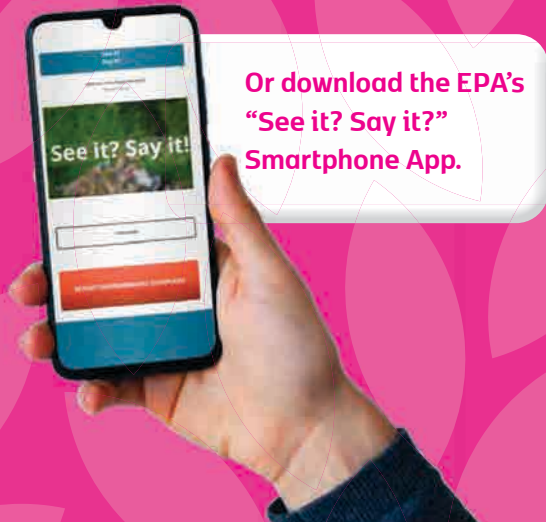
If you don't know who is responsible, contact your local authority as your first port of call.

To report unauthorised waste activity...

Kildare County Council
T: 045 980200
E: environwaste@kildarecoco.ie

**EPA National
Environmental Complaints**
T: 1850 365121

**THESE SERVICES OPERATE
ON A 24-HOUR BASIS!**



**Or download the EPA's
“See it? Say it?”
Smartphone App.**

QR CODES

Scan any of these QR codes with your smartphone to open the relevant website without typing in a web address!



Kildare County Council



Kildare County Council providing information and online services 24 hours seven days a week for the citizens of County Kildare.

Mywaste.ie



Ireland's official guide to managing your waste.

Stopfoodwaste.ie



Stop Food Waste is the national campaign to give you information and tips on how to make the most of your food and avoid food waste.

EPA



The Environmental Protection Agency is responsible for protecting and improving the environment as a valuable asset for the people of Ireland.

Repairmystuff.ie



Ireland's Leading On-Line Repair Directory Service. We will help you find a local professional who can repair your items.

Charity Retail



Charity Retail Ireland is an all island umbrella organisation which provides information, support and networking opportunities for the sector.

Refill.ie



Refill is preventing unnecessary plastic waste in Ireland through a community led movement.

RSA.ie



Everything you need to know about disposing of your vehicle properly to prevent harm to the environment.

Re-turn.ie



Return your empty, undamaged drinks container, featuring the Re-turn logo, to any retailers that sells drinks in plastic and steel/aluminium cans.

WEEIreland.ie



WEEE Ireland promotes recycling household waste batteries, electrical and lighting equipment and supports member producers and retailers.



This booklet is an action under the
Anti-Dumping Initiative supported
by the Eastern-Midlands WERLA Office