Welcome to the Autumn Ezine

Find out about the success of our Give and Take days, the latest news on improvements to Recycling Centres and our new 'How To' guides to help you waste less and save more for Suffolk!

Success at Ipswich Give and Take days

Life’s all about a bit of give and take - and a series of recent swap events in Ipswich have provided an opportunity for residents to do just that! Around 140 people brought along their unwanted items for re-use and recycling, or simply came along on the day to take something away for free.

Even the most unusual items found a new home, including a Santa outfit, vintage typewriter and a set of oars, alongside the usual toasters, bread makers, fan heaters and lamps! All electrical items are PAT safety checked on the day.

On top of the environmental benefits gained from keeping household items in circulation instead of disposing of them, there are social benefits for the communities involved, as the events provide an opportunity for people to help each other. An item no longer needed by one household might be just the thing someone else is looking for! All unclaimed items are taken away by local charities to raise further funds for their organisation at the end of the day.

It’s great fun looking through all the interesting items that turn up, so come along and have a rummage at our next events in October and January.

Back to school? Back to Recycling!

Our Suffolk Schools Recycling website is jam-packed with resources for teachers, parents and children to help with learning about reducing, reusing and recycling your waste at school and home!

Teachers can find a range of lesson plans, information on visits to see first-hand what happens to waste in Suffolk, as well as many practical things to do in and around the classroom to reduce waste and increase recycling. You could borrow our life size waste family for half a term as well as books and items made from recycled materials, which all make for a great display! This term they are visiting Sybil Andrews Academy in Bury St Edmunds and Thetford Primary school. Find all this and more on the Teachers area of our site.

In the Kids area there are lots of fun recycling resources such as games, quizzes and making.
activities to get stuck into for children and parents alike. And if you’ve got any rubbish or recycling questions just Ask Us. We promise not to send a rubbish answer!

It isn’t too late in the year to start composting at school either. Find out how to get started, choose the right compost bin or arrange a visit from one of our Suffolk Master Composter volunteers who can offer expert advice to help you on your way.

Improvements at Foxhall and Mildenhall Recycling Centres

If you’ve visited Foxhall Recycling Centre since the end of August you will have noticed that we have made changes to improve the layout. The double-sided arrangement has now been replaced with a single open area, to make the site easy to use and allow for full containers to be serviced without the need for temporary closures during the day. Feedback so far from public and staff has been very positive.

This month also sees the start of work to expand Mildenhall Recycling Centre. The work will take a couple of months, but the site will remain in operation throughout that time except for an essential 3-day closure later in November. We will let you know the exact dates once they are confirmed and you can always keep an eye on Twitter @SuffolkHWRC

Remember winter opening hours begin on 1 October and all sites are closed every Wednesday.

Winter opening hours: Monday – Sunday 9am-4pm (CLOSED Weds). Find your nearest site here

Have you visited the Foxhall Re-use shop yet? It’s open seven days a week (including Weds).

How to Guides

If you haven’t already seen our updated Reduce and Reuse webpages, they are definitely worth a look. They are chockfull of information to help you reuse your electrical waste, shop smart and love your clothes. Every year an estimated £140 million worth (around 350,000 tonnes) of used clothing is thrown away in the UK, which is a terrible environmental, not to mention financial, waste!

Check out the new How to guides for advice on organising your own Give and Take day, setting up a Swishing Party and making the most of online selling and car boot sales. With all that information – you may never need to throw anything away ever again!

Carry on Composting this Autumn

During the summer months your compost bin is working its hardest under the heat of the sun, with the whole decomposition process working faster. As the days start to shorten again and the supply of plant debris, grass clippings & hedge trimmings begins to slow down so does your compost bin - but it doesn’t stop. And neither should you!

If you think there might be compost ready at the bottom of your home compost bin and you want to start some more, you can empty your bin and store the compost in plastic sacks until you are ready to use it in early spring. Alternatively, you could leave your readymade compost in the bin and invest in a new one, taking advantage of our
current knockdown prices (starting at £8.99) available through the Suffolk Waste Partnership!

Make sure you carry on composting throughout autumn and winter - keep adding those ‘greens’; veg and fruit scraps, teabags, coffee grounds, egg shells and mix with a liberal amount of ‘browns’; cardboard, paper (shredded or otherwise), egg boxes and any prunings - all year round. A 50:50 mix will produce great compost for next year!

You can follow us on twitter @suffolkrecycle or contact us at waste.management@suffolk.gov.uk. Try our A-Z for everything you need to know about recycling.