

# WASTE AND RECYCLING news

Quarterly ezine from the Suffolk Waste Partnership

Spring 2017

## Welcome to Spring Ezine

Spring is in the air and that means clearing out cupboards, gardens and even our neighbourhoods. Find out about composting, where to take items you no longer need so they can be used again or getting involved in a local spring clean event and more ...



### 3 Ways to Get Composting!

At last it's that time of year when things are bursting into life in the garden and there are already lawns to mow and beds to dig! Here is a timely reminder to renew your subscription to your [local district waste garden waste collection scheme](#) or even sign up for the first time!

If you fancy having a go at doing it yourself, you could benefit from one of our great [composting bin offers](#). This time next year you could be benefitting from your own home-made nutrient-rich black gold!

Last but not least, there are still a few remaining places for keen gardeners and composters to join our fabulous Master Composter volunteer training course on the [19 and 20/21 March](#). Run in partnership with Garden Organic, come along and learn all about making great compost and how to spread the word about putting Suffolk's food waste to good use. Worms guaranteed!

### Donate & Buy for Re-use at Recycling Centres

This month celebrates the 1st birthday of the [Foxhall Re-use Shop](#), which is open to the public every day (including Wednesdays when sites are normally closed). The shop is run by [the Benjamin Foundation](#) and funds raised this year have been used to help establish accommodation schemes for 16/17 year olds in Ipswich and Stowmarket.

If you haven't visited yet, just pop along and grab yourself a bargain at this Aladdin's Cave! Since opening in March 2016 the shop has rescued around 300 tonnes of items, including 2000 Bikes, 1200 dining chairs and over 3000 TVs, which would otherwise have been thrown away.

If the change in the weather has inspired you to have a clear out, please think about donating your good quality items for re-use, either directly to [charity](#) or at any of the [11 Recycling Centres in Suffolk](#). Each of our sites has a designated area for re-use. All you need to do is ask site staff whether your items are suitable and they will direct you to the right place! Look out for the bright orange containers and purple bike signs coming soon!



A full list of all the charities that benefit from the re-sale of donated items from our Recycling Centres can be seen [here](#).



## Summer Opening Hours

Summer opening hours at [Suffolk Recycling Centres](#) begin 1 April, so sites will soon be open for an extra hour every day.

Sites will be open from 9am – 5pm every day apart from Wednesdays when all sites are closed.

Late night opening on Thursdays until 7pm, run from May - August, providing an opportunity for members of the public to use the sites outside of normal working hours. We'll send you a reminder nearer the time!

Last year, 77% of everything taken to Suffolk Recycling Centres was recycled, thanks to well-prepared visitors and site staff making sure that the right materials go in the right containers on site. If you can pre-sort before you go, it will make things easier when you get there and will probably speed things up too!

## The big Suffolk Spring Clean

With more than 70 community litter picking events happening around the county this month alone, why not join in the fun and help do your bit to tidy up your local environment and keep Suffolk looking beautiful. Our handy [calendar of events](#) lets you see if there is a litter pick happening near you. Or you can contact your local district officer who can provide the kit you need to have an event of your own. Don't forget to [send us](#) your photos for our online gallery too!



## RECYCLE YOUR ELECTRICAL WASTE



### Bring Banks for Small Electricals

New electrical recycling banks for small items are already appearing in [Ipswich](#) and [Suffolk Coastal](#) districts, with more to follow soon. They work in exactly the same way as glass banks, except that they are a convenient way of correctly disposing of your unwanted small electrical items a bit closer to home. Items from the banks will be either re-used if suitable or sent on for recycling.

Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (officially known as WEEE!) should not be put into dustbins or recycling bins, as items contain precious/heavy metals and hazardous materials that should be processed by a licensed company.

You can also donate electrical items in good working order to a [charity shop](#) or at your local [Recycling Centre](#). Broken items not suitable for re-use can be recycled via Recycling Centres or bring banks.

## Stopping Fly tipping

Did you know that fly-tipping is a criminal offence, punishable by a hefty fine and up to five years' imprisonment on conviction? Not only that, it defaces the countryside and roads of Suffolk and can seriously pollute watercourses and contaminate land.

Every year, it costs around £300,000 to clear waste dumped illegally on public land in Suffolk. When rubbish is fly-tipped on public land, local district and borough Councils are obliged to clear the waste at Council Tax Payers' expense and private landowners have to clear it at their own expense. This is taken very seriously in Suffolk and has resulted in several successful prosecutions this year, with fines and costs of up to £2000 being imposed by the courts.

We all have a legal obligation, or Duty of Care, to ensure that all waste from our household or business is disposed of correctly. So the first line of defence against fly-tipping is to make sure that only people who will dispose of the waste responsibly are allowed to take your waste away. [Find out more about what questions you should be asking.](#)

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



The Suffolk Waste Partnership represents the county, district and borough councils working together to improve waste management services

