

Reusing and Recycling

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This is a summary of the information that the local Sustainability Club has gathered over the last few months. It keeps evolving so watch this space.

Repairing Equipment

Why throw away when you can repair? Getting more life from products we already own helps reduce waste as well as demand for new products, which require resources and energy to produce them. It's great for the environment and can help you save money. We have a few local repair cafes where volunteers can help fix your broken items – from toasters, lamps, hair dryers, clothes and toys to musical instruments, electronic devices, bikes and more.

Tring: High Street Baptist Church Hall, 89 High St, Tring HP23 4AB

3rd Saturday of every month, 10.30 am to 1.00 pm

<https://www.tringintransition.org.uk/repaircafe>

Berkhamsted: 1st Saturday of the month at Open Door,

<https://www.opendoorberkhamsted.co.uk/repair-cafe.htm>

There are also repair cafes in Chesham and Aston Clinton.

What goes in the Blue-lidded Bin?

It's not always easy to know what goes in the blue-lidded recycling bin. Unfortunately this means that 84% of UK households are contaminating their recycling bins through well-intentioned "wish-cycling". "Wish-cycling" is when we try to recycle items that should not go in the recycling bin in an effort to do our bit – such as foil pouches, plastic film and tissues and paper towels. According to WRAP UK, contaminants affect the quality of the recycling, its value and in extreme cases mean that the recycling has to be disposed of rather than recycled. At the same time, 80% of households are missing out on recycling common items such as plastic cleaning and toiletries bottles, foil and aerosols.

In general, you can add household packaging materials, including plastic bottles, pots, tubs and trays, paper, cardboard, glass bottles and jars, tins and cans and foil into your blue-lidded bin. You can check individual items at

<http://www.dacorum.gov.uk/home/environment-street-care/recycling-refuse-waste/household-waste-recycling> and at <https://www.recyclenow.com/>

Soft, flexible plastics such as old plastic bags, film wrapping, cellophane, crisp packets, pet food pouches etc cannot go in your blue-lidded bin, but most of the larger local supermarkets now have recycling bins for these.

Food Waste and Compostable Plastics

UK households create 6.6 million tonnes of food waste every year, while at the same time 1 in 5 of the UK's population is struggling to get enough to eat.

Check out Olio, which is an app for offering or requesting any food or household items. The more local people join the better it is. See olioex.com.

We also have a sharing table for excess produce in the allotments. It's the wooden structure on the left of the track before you get to the playground, and you're free to take produce for a small donation (most produce is available from spring onwards).

Dacorum council also offers a food waste collection service which accepts all food waste (uncooked and cooked). However, while they can accept any compostable or standard plastic bags as caddy liners, surprisingly they can't accept any "compostable" or "biodegradable" plastics that are put into the bin as waste. These "compostable" plastics

also cannot go into the blue-lidded bin, so must go in your black bin unless you can compost them in your home compost heap.

Other Recycling and Reusing

Many other items can be recycled at local council recycling centres, including the Berkhamsted recycling centre, Northbridge Road, HP4 1EF.

Dacorum Council also has reuse shops at some of its waste centres – our nearest ones to buy items are Waterdale (Garston) or Harpenden, but you can drop items off at any Dacorum recycling centre.

We have now put a small container for battery recycling inside the village shop, and you can also drop off old shoes in the bins outside.

Contact lenses and their containers can be recycled at Boots opticians and old spectacles at Berkhamsted Eyecare.

Pharmacies will take old inhalers for recycling as well as unused medication. Blister packs can be recycled at Superdrug stores (nearest in Hemel Hempstead).

Dunelm (nearest branch is in Apsley) has recycling for bedding, including duvets and pillows, and other household fabrics. You can also recycle old electrical equipment there, if you have bought a replacement from them in the previous 28 days.

You can find out how to recycle almost any item at <https://www.recyclenow.com/>.

See our village 'hub': <https://www.aldburyvillage.org/reduce-waste> for more

Contact aldburywastereduction@gmail.com with any queries.

March 2023