

Reduce, reuse, recycle A to Z

MATERIAL	REDUCE	REUSE	RECYCLE
A			
Aerosols	A refillable spray bottle is a greener and often cheaper alternative to buying most types of products that come in aerosol cans.		Aerosols can be recycled in your green box or taken to one of the can banks across the area. Please make sure that aerosols are completely empty with the lid and plastic nozzle removed if possible. Never attempt to puncture, crush or burn an aerosol can.
Aluminium cans and foil			Cans and clean foil can be recycled in your green box or taken to one of the can banks across the area. We are unable to accept foiled pouches – please use this link to find out where these can be recycled locally.
Ash			Wood ash can be recycled in a home composter. Ash from a solid fuel fire cannot be recycled or composted and should be disposed of in your general waste bin. Wait until ash has cooled before putting into your bin.
B			
Batteries		Batteries which can be recharged produce less waste because they can be reused many times. They also use less energy because recharging batteries is more energy efficient than the cost and energy of making new batteries.	Household batteries can be recycled in a clear plastic bag placed on top of your green box or at many shops and supermarkets across the area which sell batteries. They can also be recycled in a separate container at the Household Recycling Centres, please ask the site attendants for assistance. Car batteries can also be taken to the Household Recycling Centres, see car batteries for more information. Batteries should never be put in the general waste bin.

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Bras			M&S has launched a recycling campaign for bras and is encouraging customers to deposit their old ones in the in-store 'Shwop boxes. M&S is also running a campaign alongside it to encourage women to have proper fittings, which will result in less bras being thrown away for being ill-fitting.
Bric-a-brac		Unwanted bric-a-brac/reusable items can be donated for reuse at the Household Recycling Centres . Simply present items to a site attendant who will determine what is suitable for the reuse scheme. You can also donate items through the furniture reuse scheme .	
Bedding and blankets			Bedding and blankets can be recycled at the Household Recycling Centres or at any of the textile banks across the area. We are unable to accept duvets and pillows but Dunelm operate a textile take back recycling scheme in most of their stores where they accept clean home textiles including duvets and pillows. Check their Textile Take Back Scheme FAQ page to view a list of participating stores.
Buy in bulk	Buying in bulk or buying larger sizes means buying less often, resulting in less packaging. Choose multi purpose and unisex products.		
Bicycles			Bicycles can be recycled at the Household Recycling Centres. Bicycle tyres and inner tubes can also be recycled with tyres but at no extra cost.

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Books	An E-book is a digitally formatted file that's read on an e-reader. E-books save the environment by reducing carbon footprints and drastically reducing deforestation, pollution, and the use of natural resources.	Borrowing books creates a sharing economy that cuts down on consumption and the waste it causes.	Books can be recycled in the book banks at the Household Recycling Centres no matter what their condition. Damaged books can be recycled by separating the pages from the cover and spine, the pages can be recycled in your blue box and the cardboard cover in your burgundy bin.
Brita water filter cartridges			Brita have placed recycling bins in high street stores where their products are sold such as Argos and Tesco. Please visit the Brita website to locate your nearest recycling point. Other water filter products are available, however not all will be recyclable. Please check with individual manufacturers.
C			
Cans			Aluminium and steel cans can be recycled in your green box or in one of the can banks across the area.
Car batteries			Car batteries can be taken to the Household Recycling Centres where they are collected for recycling.
Cardboard			Cardboard can be recycled in your burgundy bin or at the Household Recycling Centres. We do not accept cardboard containers with a metal base; these will need to go into your general waste bin.
Cards	Send an ecard or a video message instead.	Repurpose greetings cards by making them into gift tags, bookmarks or jigsaws.	Greeting cards can be recycled in your burgundy bin or at the Household Recycling Centres but please remove any parts that contain plastic, glitter, batteries, electronics or any other embellishments before recycling.

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Cartons			Food and drink cartons, for example, soup, juice and milk, can be recycled in your burgundy bin or at the Household Recycling Centres.
Carrier bags		Take your own reusable shopping bag with you when you go shopping.	Carrier bags can be taken to some supermarkets for recycling. Please do not put carrier bags in your burgundy bin as we cannot recycle them.
CDs and DVDs			Unwanted CDs and DVDs can be recycled in the British Heart Foundation recycling banks at the Household Recycling Centres.
Christmas Lights			Christmas lights can be presented with your kerbside boxes for recycling.
Clothing	Fast fashion is the term used to describe the mass production and quick turnaround of cheap and low-quality clothes in line with catwalk fashion, enabling consumers to keep up with changing trends at affordable prices. The main problem associated with fast fashion is the creation of such clothing comes at a large environmental cost and encourages over-consumption, meaning items are worn only a few times before they are thrown away.	Love your clothes have put together a handy Donation Generation clothes swap pack containing poster templates and upcycling activity ideas to create your own clothes swap event.	Clean, unwanted clothing can be recycled at the Household Recycling Centres or the textile banks across the area.
Computers			Unwanted computers can be taken to the Household Recycling Centres for recycling. For peace of mind please delete all personal information beforehand.
Ceramics		Unwanted ceramics and china can be donated to local charity shops. Alternatively, broken ceramics and china can be used for drainage in plant pots.	

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Curtains		Curtains can be donated to local charity shops.	Unwanted curtains can be recycled at the Household Recycling Centres or the textile banks across the area.
Christmas trees	Real Christmas trees are always the best and greenest option, as opposed to artificial trees which are made from a combination of materials and therefore cannot be recycled.	If you do opt for an artificial tree, make sure you buy one which can be reused every year to minimise waste and if you decide that you no longer want it, consider donating it to a charity shop.	
Cling film	Beeswax sandwich wraps are a reusable alternative to cling film. They are self-sealing, easy to clean, last for at least a year and can be rewaxed to make them last even longer.		
Coffee pods and capsules			The single-use pods used in many coffee machines can be recycled through a nationwide coffee pod recycling service called Podback set up and funded by the leading coffee pod systems. Podback offers a local drop-off service through Collect + by Yodel, and kerbside collections are available in some local authority areas. Currently, pods from 11 coffee brands including Nespresso, Nescafé Dolce Gusto, Tassimo, L'OR and CRU Kafe can be recycled through Podback. For more information on the service available in your area visit www.podback.org
D			
Drinks		Make fresh, homemade drinks in reusable, re-sealable containers, rather than buying separate cartons, cans and bottles.	
DVDs and CDs			Unwanted DVDs and CDs can be recycled in the British Heart Foundation recycling banks at the Household Recycling Centres

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E			
Egg boxes			Cardboard egg boxes can be recycled in your burgundy bin, in the cardboard skip at the Household Recycling Centres or in your home compost bin. Egg boxes which are made from plastic can be recycled in your burgundy bin but polystyrene eggboxes cannot easily be recycled.
Eggshells			Eggshells can be recycled in your home compost bin or alternatively disposed of in your general waste bin. We do not accept eggshells in the brown bin.
Electrical items	Rent or borrow electrical items that are not used regularly such as power tools and carpet cleaners.	Electrical items which are still in good condition can be donated to our furniture reuse schemes so that they can be reused by someone else.	Large and small electrical appliances can be taken to the Household Recycling Centres for recycling. Small appliances with a plug, cable or batteries can be presented with your kerbside boxes for recycling. The batteries can be recycled in a clear plastic bag placed on top of your green box or at many shops and supermarkets across the area which sell batteries. They can also be recycled in a separate container at the Household Recycling Centres. Batteries should never be put in the general waste bin.
E-books and E-audio	North Lincolnshire libraries have launched BorrowBox, a new free e-book and e-audio service available seven days a week, 24 hours a day. The service can be accessed at the BorrowBox page.		

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Envelopes			Plastic windows and adhesive strips on envelopes contaminate the recycling process. Residents are, therefore, asked not to recycle envelopes in their blue box or the paper banks across the area unless they are willing to remove the sticky adhesive strip and plastic window before recycling the remainder of the envelope.
F			
Foil			Clean aluminium foil can be recycled in your green box or taken to one of the can banks across the area. We are unable to accept foiled pouches – please use this link to find out where these can be recycled locally. recycle now locator tool
Food	Community fridges are where local people can share food, this includes surplus from supermarkets, local food businesses, producers, households and gardens. Fridges are run by community groups in shared spaces such as schools, community centres and shops, their main purpose is saving fresh food from going to waste. By eating food that is past its best before (but not its use by) date, we can reduce food waste and save money. Trust your senses when it comes to best before dates!		Uncooked fruit and vegetable waste including peelings can be placed into your home compost bin. If you are unable to compost at home this waste should be disposed of as general waste and not in your brown bin. Alternatively, you could consider buying a special food waste digester which can compost all garden and kitchen food waste including cooked food, fish, bones and bread.
Fridges and freezers			Fridges and freezers can be taken to the Household Recycling Centres for recycling.

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Furniture		<p>Furniture which is still in good condition please see our furniture reuse schemes page for information on how it can be reused by someone else. If damaged, you could repair and upcycle your furniture or it can be taken to the Household Recycling Centres for disposal or recycling or collected by our bulky collection service.</p> <p>Ikea has launched a furniture buy-back and re-sale scheme, in an attempt to reduce the number of products going to landfill. Customers will get vouchers to spend in-store if items they no longer need are returned in good condition.</p>	
Freegle			
Fruit			<p>Uncooked fruit waste, including peelings, can be placed into your home compost bin. If you are unable to compost at home this waste should be disposed of as general waste and not in your brown bin. Alternatively, you could consider buying a special food waste digester which can compost all garden and kitchen food waste including cooked food, fish, bones and bread.</p>

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Fast fashion	Fast fashion is the term used to describe the mass production and quick turnaround of cheap and low-quality clothes in line with catwalk fashion, enabling consumers to keep up with changing trends at affordable prices. This comes at a large environmental cost and encourages over-consumption, meaning items are worn only a few times before they are thrown away. we can all do our bit by ncreasing the number of times we wear our clothes and repairing existing items of clothing. Always buy quality over quantity and only buy clothes that are made out of eco-friendly materials.	Renting, donating and shoppingpre-loved are allways to save moneyand resources. Love your clothes have put together a handy Donation Generation clothes swap pack containing poster templatesand upcycling activity ideas to create your own clothes swap event.	Clean, unwanted clothing can be recycled at the Household Recycling Centres or the textile banks across the area.
Fluorescent tubes			Under legislation fluorescent tubes are now classed as hazardous waste. These, and energy saving light bulbs, can be recycled at any of the Household Recycling Centres.
G			
Go local	Shopping locally boosts the local economy, supports jobs and is also good for the whole planet as it helps the environment and supports the fight against climate change by reducing food miles.		
Garden waste		Garden waste can be composted in your home composter creating a valuable usable product, whilst reducing disposal costs.	Garden waste can be recycled in your brown bin or at the Household Recycling Centres.

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Glass			Glass bottles and jars can be recycled in your green box or in one of the glass banks across the area. You can leave the cap on glass bottles such as wine, spirits and olive oil when recycling. Sheet glass cannot be recycled at the kerbside, sheet or window glass can be taken to the Household Recycling Centres.
H			
I			
Inkjet cartridges		Check if your toner cartridges can be returned to the manufacturer for refilling and reuse or refill them yourself.	
Inhalers			Used inhalers should be returned to a pharmacy to be disposed of safely. They can be disposed of by the pharmacist with other drugs waste, this is then thermally treated to destroy the greenhouse gases. This environmentally safe disposal route is available at all pharmacies and is paid for by NHS England.
J			
Junk mail	Stop unsolicited mail and help the environment by reducing paper waste. The Mailing Preference Service (MPS) is a free service which enables customers to have their names and home addresses, in the UK, removed from mailing lists used by the industry. To register visit www.mpsonline.org.uk or telephone 0845 7034599 .		Junk mail can be placed in your blue box for recycling or in one of the paper banks across the area.
K			
Keys and locks			Keys and locks can be recycled as scrap metal at the Household Recycling Centres.

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Kitchen and toilet roll tubes			Kitchen and toilet roll tubes can be recycled in your burgundy bin, at the Household Recycling Centres or in your home compost bin.
Kitchen waste			Uncooked fruit and vegetable waste including peelings can be placed into your home compost bin. If you are unable to compost at home this waste should be disposed of as general waste and not in your brown bin. Alternatively, you could consider buying a special food waste digester which can compost all garden and kitchen food waste including cooked food, fish, bones and bread.
L			
Light bulbs	Buy long-lasting, low energy light bulbs which are more energy efficient and last longer.		Energy saving light bulbs can be recycled at the Household Recycling Centres. Standard household light bulbs cannot be recycled because of the glass they are made from.
M			
Milk	Glass milk bottles are a greener alternative because glass is 100% recyclable and can be recycled endlessly into new glass bottles or jars.		
Makeup	Choose products that use less packaging, buy in bulk which means buying less often and look for multi purpose and unisex products.		
Magazines			Unwanted magazines can be recycled in your blue box or in one of the paper banks across the area.

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Menstrual products		<p>Conventional menstrual pads contain a significant amount of plastic. Scientists say that a regular nonorganic menstrual pad can take 500 to 800 years to break down. There are several eco-friendly menstrual products available including menstrual cups, period underwear and reusable menstrual pads. Eco-friendly menstrual products may seem expensive at first but investing in reusable products ends up being cheaper than repeatedly buying boxes of tampons or menstrual pads.</p>	
Mirrors		<p>If in one-piece, unwanted mirrors can be donated to a local charity shop.</p>	
Musical Instruments		<p>Musical instruments can't be recycled but can be donated to your local charity shop, advertised for sale, or offered free to a good home. Oxfam is one charity shop that has a network of specialist music shops. which will accept donations of unwanted musical instruments and sheet music. Alternatively these could be recycled along with the reusable items at the Household Recycling Centres</p>	
Metal			<p>Metal tins and cans can be recycled in your green box or in one of the can banks across the area. Household scrap metal can be taken to the Household Recycling Centres for recycling.</p>

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Mobile phones			Mobile phones can be presented with your kerbside boxes for recycling.
N			
Nappies		Reusable nappies are a much more cost effective and environmentally friendly option than disposable nappies. They're also more likely to be made of natural soft fibres, which may be better for your baby's skin and, including the cost of water and electricity for washing them, they still work out cheaper than disposable nappies.	
Newspapers	The online library service allows free access to over 7,000 newspapers and magazines – many with audio, translate and caption features, and some with back copies available.		Newspapers can be recycled in your blue box or in one of the paper banks across the area.
O			
Oil	Not all methods of cooking use oil, try alternatives to frying – grill, bake, steam, poach or slow cook instead. Measure out how much cooking oil you use rather than pouring liberally into the pan, some foods release fat when they cook so start by adding a small amount and only add more if you need to.		
P			
Paper	Go Paperless – opt out of junk mail lists, sign up for e-statements, pay bills online, digitalize your documents, use a tablet or phone for notes, digitalize your signature, and don't print anything unnecessarily such as tickets.		Paper can be recycled in your blue box or in one of the paper banks across the area. Shredded paper can be placed in a carrier bag or wrapped in newspaper and

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Paint	Make sure you know how many metres you are going to be painting and check the information on the paint pot to see how much coverage it will give. Remember to close the lid properly to help keep your paint in good condition for longer.	Donate any unused paint to a Community Re-Paint scheme or local group if they need it.	
Plastic	Avoid single use plastic – these products should be avoided wherever possible – use reusable drinks bottles, flasks, coffee cups, cutlery, straws and stirrers.		Plastic bottles, pots, tubs & trays can be recycled in your burgundy bin or in the plastic banks across the area. Hard plastics are not accepted in the burgundy bin or in the plastic banks.
Packaging	Consider the packaging that foods are contained in. Buy loose fruit and vegetables, rather than pre packaged ones and buy long lasting items like washing powder, pasta, cereal and biscuits in bulk to minimise packaging waste.		
Polystyrene			We currently do not have any arrangements for recycling polystyrene, this should be disposed of in your general waste bin or at the Household Recycling Centres. There is a company in Scunthorpe – Moulded Foams Ltd that will accept small amounts of polystyrene from members of the public for recycling. Moulded Foams, 8/9 Abbey Court, Menasha Way, Queensway Industrial Estate, Brigg Road, DN16 3RT or call Moulded Foams on 01724 868153.

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Printer cartridges			Cartridges can be taken for recycling at some supermarkets across the area. Some charities will also accept used printer cartridges for recycling, ask in your local charity shop if they accept them. You can also take your empty printer cartridges to the Household Recycling Centres, please return your cartridge where possible with its packaging (this will help reduce damage to the cartridge).
Q			
Quilts		Quilts can be donated to your local charity shop or animal shelter.	Quilts cannot be recycled in the textile banks across the area.
R			
Razors	While not quite 'single' use plastic, the average disposable razor only stays sharp for 6-9 shaves, which means if you use one to shave daily, you'll be throwing away 40-50 razors a year.	Safety razor handles, typically made from durable materials like brass, stainless steel or bamboo, can last for 10 years or more. Only the blades need to be replaced and these can be recycled.	Terracycle has partnered with Gillette to recycle all brands of disposable plastic razors and razor blade heads at no cost to the consumer.
S			
Scrap metal			Household scrap metal can be taken to the Household Recycling Centres for recycling or you may wish to take scrap metal directly to a scrap merchant for recycling.
Shoes			Shoes should be tied in pairs and can be recycled at the Household Recycling Centres or the textile banks across the area.
Spectacles		All of our Household Recycling Centres can accept spectacles in their cases for reuse. We have teamed up with Vision Aid, a charity dedicated to eye care for developing countries to reuse spectacles.	

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Steel cans			Steel and aluminium cans can be recycled in your green box or in one of the can banks across the area.
Soap and shampoo	Hand/body wash and shampoo can be replaced with bar soap and shampoo bars, eliminating the need for a disposable plastic bottle and the non-recyclable pump that comes with it.		
Sweet wrappers			Sweet wrappers are often thought to be made of foil, however, the majority of sweet wrappers are plastic coated and cannot be recycled. Some chocolates are wrapped in foil that is not plastic coated and this material can be recycled in your green box or in one of the can banks across the area.
T			
Tea lights			Tea lights can be recycled in your green box or in one of the can banks around North Lincolnshire, please remove any traces of wax.
Tetrapak			See cartons.
Toys		Used toys can be donated to charity shops, sold, or given away. Alternatively, host a swapping event with friends, family and neighbours, as often toys are in perfectly good condition, but children are bored with them.	
Tins			Tins can be recycled in your green box or in one of the can banks across the area.
Tissues	Use handkerchiefs rather than throwaway tissues.		Although tissues are made of paper they are made of very short fibres which are not high enough quality to be recycled and therefore should be placed in the general waste bin.

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Toner cartridges			Cartridges can be taken for recycling at some supermarkets across the area. Some charities will also accept used printer cartridges for recycling, ask in your local charity shop if they accept them. You can also take your empty printer cartridges to the Household Recycling Centres, please return your cartridge where possible with its packaging (this will help reduce damage to the cartridge).
U			
V			
Vegetable peelings			Uncooked vegetable waste, including peelings, can be placed into your home compost bin. If you are unable to compost at home this waste should be disposed of as general waste and not in your brown bin. Alternatively, you could consider buying a special food waste digester which can compost all garden and kitchen food waste including cooked food, fish, bones and bread.
W			
Walking aids		If these are on loan, please return to the hospital or surgery. If you have purchased these, take to the Household Recycling Centre and show it to a site attendant who will decide if it is suitable for the reuse scheme. If it is not suitable you will be able to leave it at the site for disposal.	

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Wheelchairs		If these are on loan, please return to the hospital or surgery. If you have purchased these, take to the Household Recycling Centre and show it to a site attendant who will decide if it is suitable for the reuse scheme. If it is not suitable you will be able to leave it at the site for disposal.	
Waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE)	Rent or borrow electrical items that are not used regularly such as power tools and carpet cleaners.	Electrical items which are still in good condition can be donated to our furniture reuse schemes so that they can be reused by someone else.	Large and small electrical appliances can be taken to the Household Recycling Centres for recycling. Small appliances with a plug, cable or batteries can be presented with your kerbside boxes for recycling. The batteries can be recycled in a clear plastic bag placed on top of your green box or at many shops and supermarkets across the area which sell batteries. They can also be recycled in a separate container at the Household Recycling Centres. Batteries should never be put in the general waste bin.
Wipes	Wipes can be replaced by reusable, washable cloths.		
Wrapping paper	Wrapping paper – buy presents that don't need to be wrapped, such as vouchers and experience gifts. Preferably, don't use paper at all, put it in a box or gift bag which can be used again and again. If you must use paper, plan the amount of paper you need and make sure it can be recycled in your blue box. Avoid paper that is made from plastic or aluminium and paper with glitter which is almost impossible to remove in the recycling process. If in doubt do the 'scrunch' test – if it stays scrunched, it can be recycled.	Preferably, don't use paper at all, put it in a box or gift bag which can be used again and again.	Wrapping paper can be recycled in your blue box if it passes the scrunch test (if it stays scrunched it can be recycled). Any paper with glitter will need to be disposed of in the general waste bin, along with any sticky tape.
X			

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Y			
Yogurt pots		Yoghurt pots can be reused as plant pots, children's paint pots or for school projects.	
Z			
Zips		Unwanted zips and sewing accessories can be donated to your local charity shop.	
Zero Waste Shops	Zero waste shops enable customers to live a more zero waste lifestyle through eliminating packaging and encouraging the use of containers from home to fill and refill with bulk wholefoods, natural beauty and cleaning products and more.		