

# Recycling With Honours

## Why Recycle?

- ♻️ Recycling uses less 'virgin materials' therefore less drilling for oil, chopping down trees and mining and extracting metal from ores.
- ♻️ It reduces the amount of waste that is incinerated.
- ♻️ It also reduces the amount of waste which goes into landfill. (Space issue and also some toxic chemicals e.g. from batteries)
- ♻️ It is often more energy efficient to use recycled materials in manufacture.
- ♻️ It is cheaper than the equivalent refuse collection and this price discrepancy is likely to increase year on year as landfill tax increases. Currently a weekly collection costs £8.50 +VAT for a co-mingled 1100L bin (capacity of approx 250kg or 17 bags whereas the cost for a refuse collection of the same capacity costs £13.05 + VAT.



## Some examples:

### Paper:

- ♻️ Recycling 1 tonne of paper saves approximately 20 trees, 7000 gallons of water and 3.5 cubic metres of landfill space.
- ♻️ Using recycled materials in paper production uses 70% less energy and causes 74% less air pollution and 35% less water pollution than using virgin materials.

### Aluminium:

- ♻️ Recycling 1 tonne of aluminium saves 8 tonnes of bauxite (aluminium ore), 4 tonnes of chemical products and 14000 KWh of electricity.
- ♻️ The energy saved by recycling 1 aluminium drink can is enough to run a television for three hours.

### Glass:

- ♻️ Recycling 1 tonne of glass (into new glass containers) saves 345 KWh of energy, saves 225 kg of CO<sub>2</sub> from being produced and saves 1.2 tonnes of raw materials being quarried.
- ♻️ The energy saved from recycling 1 glass bottle is enough to power a light bulb for four hours.
- ♻️ More green glass is sent for recycling in the UK than is used to create new glass containers but this 'excess' can still be used for:
  - water filtration
  - reflective beads for road sign paint
  - insulation

### Plastics:

- ♻️ Recycling 1 tonne (equivalent to 20000 bottles) of plastic saves over 6 cubic metres of landfill space and 1.5 tonnes of carbon.
- ♻️ Recycling one plastic bottle saves enough energy to power a light bulb for 6 hours.

## Our Campaign

- ♻️ Our aim is to improve recycling standards across Oxford colleges.
- ♻️ We plan to do this by carrying out assessments of current recycling provisions at all the colleges using the list of criteria (below).
- ♻️ The information obtained from this will be used to reward / name and shame colleges based on the standard of their recycling.
- ♻️ Colleges will be awarded Gold (first), Silver (2.i/2.ii), or Bronze (third) and this will be published in the OUSU alternative prospectus and student press.
- ♻️ Advice and support materials on how to improve recycling provision will be offered to colleges and Environment reps. We aim to tailor make such materials for colleges keen to improve based on weaknesses identified by the assessment.

### The Criteria:

*To achieve a certain standard colleges must complete all or all but two of the applicable criteria for that level (except for Bronze standard where all but one criteria must be met) and all of the applicable criteria for levels beneath that level.*

#### **Gold Standard (first)**

To achieve this level colleges must:

- Have collection of mixed recycling from student rooms at least weekly or when recycling bins are full
- Ensure any printers have double sided printing capacity
- Actively identify areas for waste reduction annually and administer programs annually to reduce identified waste issues
- Have a full waste management strategy
- Have at least some recycling provision in all bedrooms rooms in annexes

#### **Silver Standard (2:1/2:2)**

To achieve this level colleges must:

- Have paper recycling facility in the post room
- Have recycling facilities in the JCR/MCR
- Promote and publicise available recycling facilities in college
- Recycling collections from corridors / staircases
- An elected post in MCRs of Environment officer or similar where applicable
- At least one recyclable item collected from rooms (e.g. Paper box)
- Any sauces condiments or jams that are free with the meal (i.e. don't pay per portion) not done in individual sachets
- Corridor/staircase recycling in all annexes
- End of year schemes for recycling unwanted belongings

#### **Bronze Standard (third)**

To achieve this level colleges must:

- Have recycling facilities for paper, cardboard, plastics, cans, and glass
- Have an elected post in JCRs of Environment Officer or similar where applicable
- Have facilities for recycling of batteries, printer cartridges
- Provide can and Glass Recycling in bars and butteries
- Paper recycling bins in photocopying and printing facilities

## How to Help

Here are a few ideas of ways to improve recycling and reduce waste that you can do in college:

- ♻️ Encourage your bursar to adopt the council's new comingled recycling service if they haven't done already. As of last summer Oxford City Council now offers comingled recycling of glass, cardboard and paper, metal tins, cans and foil, most plastic packaging and drinks cartons (Tetra Paks).
- ♻️ Put your name down as a 'guide' for our campaign. This would involve letting us into college at a time convenient for you and showing us relevant areas round college so we can carry out an assessment.
- ♻️ Lobby your bursar to get recycling collections from student rooms if you don't have them already. The easier and more convenient recycling for students the more likely they are to do it.
- ♻️ Publicise the recycling facilities available in your college so that people know where they can recycle. If nobody knows where you can go to recycle what then they won't do it.
- ♻️ Take a box of printer cartridge recycling bags and put these in your post room or JCR if you don't have them already.
- ♻️ Organise end of term charity collections for clothes/foodstuffs/furniture etc. that people don't want anymore. Charity shops such as Helen and Douglas House are always keen to receive clothing donations, unopened foodstuffs can be given to charities such as the Oxford Community Emergency Foodbank, bikes to Oxford Greencycle. Items which are unsuitable for donation can be taken to Redbridge Waste Recycling Centre.
- ♻️ Set up a battery recycling point.
- ♻️ Any issues you have dealing with apathetic JCRs or unsympathetic bursars contact us at [eerecycling@gmail.com](mailto:eerecycling@gmail.com). We are here to help!



### Some more recycling contacts:

**Oxford Cycle Workshop:** *Bicycle fixing service, and recycling of old bicycles.*  
39 Magdalen Road, OX4 1RB  
01865 204799

**Emmaus Oxford Furniture Store:** *Collection of furniture and electrical goods in good condition to pass to people on low incomes.* 01865 763698  
[furniture@emmausoxford.org](mailto:furniture@emmausoxford.org)

**Oxford Freecycle:** *Post a message on this website to advertise your unwanted items, which must be free.*

**Orinoco - The Oxfordshire Scrapstore:** *Takes old garden hand tools, scraps suitable for craft projects, good quality paint, to pass to residents and community groups.*

*Bullington Community Centre, Peat Moors (off The Slade), Headington, OX3 7HS*  
01865 761113 or 07960 661748  
[oxorinoco@gmail.com](mailto:oxorinoco@gmail.com)

**Redbridge Waste Recycling Centre:** *Open Monday-Sunday 8am-5pm, Thursday late night opening until 8pm from 1 April to 30 September. Behind the Park & Ride on the Abingdon Road, OX1 4XG 01865 721464*

### **Charity Shops:**

*You can donate unwanted goods to charity shops who always need good quality used goods; particularly clothes, CDs and books. You can also donate furniture - including sofas and upholstered chairs (which must comply with Flammability Regulations) - wardrobes, tables, chairs, book cases and coffee tables etc.*

### **Oxfam**

**Barnardo's**  
**Helen and Douglas House**  
**Age Concern**  
**Marie Curie Cancer Care**  
**Scope**  
**British Heart Foundation**

## **Tackling Bursars**

Here are a few sample 'excuses' you might come across and some ways in which you can get around them:

*Statement: Collecting recycling from students' rooms would require changes to staff contracts.*

*Response: The collection of recycling from students' rooms could be done on an alternate day basis with regular waste collected on days on which recycling is not collected (This scheme is in place at colleges such as St. Edmund's Hall and University College). In this case no major change would have to be made to the contracts, there would be no additional work, just a different collection made each day.*

*Statement: Having bins full of waste to be recycled would be an additional fire hazard.*

*Response: The greater the frequency of recycling collections, the lower the fire hazard. Having recycling bins in rooms should not cause a problem as all furniture produced after the Furniture and Furnishings (Fire Safety) Regulations 1988 must comply with these regulations. If you wish for any additional assistance with risk assessments associated with recycling bins in students' rooms the OUSU E&E committee recycling campaign group would be more than happy to work with you on the matter (email: eerecycling@gmail.com).*

*Statement: It is too expensive to purchase additional bins for every student's room.*

*Response: With recycling bins in students' rooms recycling would become more routine for the students. More waste would be put for recycling if it was made more convenient for students and this would save money (recycling collections cheaper than landfill collections Oxford City Council charges £8.50 +VAT for a co-mingled 1100L bin whereas the cost for a refuse collection of the same capacity costs £13.05 + VAT). At St. Hilda's the JCR helped by half funding the purchase of recycling bins.*

*Statement: The use of cotton roller towels in place of recycled paper towels would lead to a greater environmental burden due to transport and laundry.*

*Response: The recycled paper towels once used cannot be recycled and therefore will end up being incinerated or will end up in landfill which is something we obviously want to avoid wherever possible. While paper towels are discarded after use, cotton towels can be washed and reused about 100 times. At the end of their service life as towels, they have a final use in most cases as cleaning cloths. This means even the discarded towels continue to be useful.*

*Compared with paper products, cotton roll systems:*

- use up to 63% less energy*
- generate up to 48% less greenhouse gases*
- generate up to 79% less waste*

*Water use is the only aspect in which cotton rolls perform less well. In the most unfavourable case, water use is nearly 40% higher than that of the paper towel system. This is due to the water needed to irrigate cotton crops. In contrast, the water necessary for washing the towels only accounts for 16% of the total use.*

*Statement: Students tend to contaminate the recycling bins with non recyclable material.*

*Response: Although contamination is an issue it is no longer common that a 'load' of recycling is made 'unrecyclable' due to contamination due to advances in sorting technology at recycling processing units. We are keen that colleges improve the levels of publicity about recycling facilities in college and are happy to help produce materials to do this so that students are more likely to know what they can and can't recycle and therefore contamination issues are less likely to arise.*