

# Can Recycling Reduce My Carbon Footprint?

Amazed at the effect they are having on the environment, one of the #HuntsWasteBusters has shared some facts and tips in the hope to inspire others:

Did you know?

- Recycling a single aluminium can will save enough energy to power a TV for up to 3 hours
- Recycling everything you could in your kitchen recycling bins could power a TV for 6 months
- Recycling a single glass bottle saves enough energy to power a laptop for half an hour
- Recycling paper takes 60% less energy to produce than it does to make it from raw materials
- Recycling or composting our food waste could reduce our CO2 emissions by up to 25%

It is reported that British households generate over 26 million tonnes of waste each year, equating to the weight of around 260 large cruise ships. England alone, only recycles around 44% of waste, leaving the bulk to go to landfill, a large contributor to greenhouse gases.

“For every action, there is a reaction”

A few simple changes to our waste routine can have dramatic effects in the form of reducing our individual carbon footprint. Increasing the amount of items you recycle reduces the amount of raw materials required, whilst also reducing the energy needed to physically manufacture the product. This could vastly reduce production costs, driving down the price of everyday items as well as reducing our carbon footprint, assisting greatly in creating a more sustainable environment.

In many cases, certain items that are not accepted within your household recycling bin, used to require a great amount of research and travel to reach specific drop-off points. It is quickly becoming easier and more convenient to recycle, with many supermarkets across Huntingdonshire taking in soft plastics, making it easy to drop off when doing your weekly or monthly shop. Pharmacies have also followed this trend, offering the ability to drop off medicine blister packs and cosmetics, again increasing the convenience of recycling. There has been an increase in many Huntingdonshire residents, utilising food caddy bins to dispose of our food waste, which can be easily emptied into your garden waste bin and taken away for composting.

Over the last few years the ethos of ‘doing your bit’ for society has been installed across the world. It is now time to adopt this ethos for our environment and do what we can, on an individual basis, to reduce waste and increase recycling for the betterment and sustainability of our region, country and world. Making simple changes to your everyday habits can, and will, go a long way in reducing your personal impact on this earth. So why not challenge yourself today, to increase what you recycle and reduce your carbon footprint and play your part in a cleaner and greener future.

If you are concerned about environmental issues surrounding recycling, waste and littering, why not join the Hunts Waste Busters. Meeting virtually once a month to discuss actions can be taken to educate our district on how to minimise waste and increase recycling alongside arranging events and liaising with local groups to encourage change. To find out more, email [WasteMinimisation@huntingdonshire.gov.uk](mailto:WasteMinimisation@huntingdonshire.gov.uk).

\*Statics credit to [www.recyclingbins.co.uk/recycling-facts](http://www.recyclingbins.co.uk/recycling-facts)