

06 December 2023 – Hunts Waste Busters

Attendees and Introduction

Heidi – Waste Minimisation Officer HDC
Auriane – Waste Minimisation Support Officer
Chris– Huntingdon
Councillor S Taylor – St Neots
Councillor I Taylor – St Neots
Beccy – St Ives
Sally – St Ives
Councillor N J Hunt - Huntingdon
Liz– Wyton
Mary – St Ives
Caroline – St Ives

Apologies

Alan - Southoe and Midloe Parish Council
Councillor L Davenport-Ray - St Neots
Councillor A Bulat – Cambridge
H Taylor - Clerk to Yaxley Parish Council

Data and Trends

- The waste min team use data on recycling bin rejections to influence communications.
- The main reasons for recycling bins being rejected are still black sacks, food, textiles and polystyrene.
- 61% of materials collected is either recycled or composted in October 2023.

Current Key Strategies

- Using the waste hierarchy, the team are working on encouraging waste reduction, promoting reuse and enabling recycling.

Wrap up 2023

- Over 5100 combines followers on social media (Facebook and Instagram)
- Over 3250 letters sent to residents.
- We spoke to well over 1 000 childrens so far in this school year.
- About 300 emails sent to property managers
- 150+ pledge takers to reduce food waste50 free wet wipes package given to residents
- 21 new WEEE bins installed
- 14 households are now using reusable nappies
- 3 culinary clinics with 150+ total attendees (online and in-person)
- 1 repair café confirmed.

Upcoming work:

- Review of the Waste Minimisation Strategy
- Looking for volunteers for the repair café happening on the 17th Feb
- Review of the refuse and recycling guide - Feedback received by attendees

Upcoming Events:

- Sat 17 Feb 2024, 11:00am - 2:00pm – St Neots Repair Café (Man Cave)
- Sat 24 Feb 2024, 1:00pm – 4:00pm - St Ives Repair Café (St Ives Methodist Church)
- June 2024 - Great Big Green Week 2024 in St Neots
-

A presentation was provided to the group on the St Ives Repair Café and gave a good insight in what is involved, and lessons learnt.

Comments from attendees:

- **Clothes Banks.** Questions regarding the ASTCO clothes banks (recycling or repurposing methods used), as well as an update regarding the location of one of our bins not included on ASTCO's map. **ACTION** from waste min team to get it updated.
- **Blister Packs.** Comments about the lack of options and general disappointment in Aldi's recent decision to stop offering the envelope recycling methods. Comment that Boots in London has a recycling bin.
- **WEEE bins.** Proposition from attendees to offer them at St Neots' fire station.

Next Waste Busters / Waste Minimisation Meeting

- End of February / March 2024.