

Waste Education Service Newsletter

SPRING 2025

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Welcome to the Spring edition of our newsletter!

We deliver FREE recycling workshops across the county to schools, community groups and businesses. Throughout the year we also support a wide range of community events.

Our workshops can include presentations on waste education, reduction and recycling, plus 'hands-on' activities, (including sorting out your recyclable waste).



For more information about our FREE recycling workshops, and to book, scan the QR code or go to:

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/waste-and-recycling/waste-education-service



Did you know?

In 2023/24 our Waste Education Officer successfully carried out **over 180 engagements to schools** and community groups across Cambridgeshire where **over 10,000 people attended!**



New transport for Waste Education Officer

Waste Education Officer for Cambridgeshire County Council, Jon Crisp, recently took delivery of a new leased van to help him visit local communities across the County. Between April and December 2024, **he engaged with nearly 6,000 residents & attended over 145 engagements.** We work closely with our district partner colleagues and are looking forward to attending more events with them in 2025 with our dedicated vehicle. It will also save money in the longer term as we won't have to keep hiring vehicles, and the vehicle livery will promote the work we do across the county.

If you want us to come and visit you, (and see our new van!) contact: wmt@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

A recent review of our workshops:



Hi Jon,

On behalf of the Sustainable Rampton team and our fellow villagers who attended, thank you very much for coming to Rampton yesterday evening and delivering such an interesting workshop.

I'm sure everyone present took away the message that there is room for improving our use and recycling of food and packaging!

We were wondering if we might get a copy of the presentation? This would be for the use of the team, particularly several of the group who weren't able to make the workshop last night.

*Thank you again and best regards,
Dave*



Eat less – but better

Different foods in your diet have different impacts on the environment. In general, meat and dairy have a greater climate footprint per gram of protein whilst plant-based proteins like lentils, beans and other pulses have a lower impact. To reduce your total emissions therefore you could try eating meat less frequently, (perhaps as a treat) and buying from local farmers. The food carbon emission journey, (below) shows how carbon is emitted from the food on your plate.

Food carbon emission journey

1



Land where we grow our food

This could range from deforestation (removing trees which take carbon out of the atmosphere) to a farmer ploughing a field ready to plant crops (which releases greenhouse gases).

2



Growing foodstuffs

Fertilisers, animal feed, tractors and farming equipment, harvesting, transportation: there's an awful lot of effort, time and resources involved in producing our food, across the world.

3



Food manufacture

For example, turning potatoes into oven chips or wheat into bread, in factories.

4



Transport

Whether you shop online, at the supermarket or your local market: the food you buy has been transported there – most likely from around the world.

5



Cooking at home

Cooking our food also has an impact: fuelling our fridges and freezers, ovens and microwaves.

6



Food waste

When we throw food away, it rots and releases methane, a greenhouse gas, into the atmosphere: whether that's in our compost bin, food caddy or landfill. Methane has more than 80 times the warming power of carbon dioxide.

Long-awaited plans to reform recycling in England have been announced by the government.

After 31st March 2026 local councils will begin to offer weekly food waste collections to households. Provisional dates for district council collections in Cambridgeshire are as follows:

- Fenland and Huntingdonshire District Council start in March 2026
- Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire start in April 2026
- East Cambs District Council starts in mid-2026

The government has given Councils money to spend on:

- new collection vehicles
- new waste containers, (kerbside and indoor caddies)
- information detailing the changes for householders

Over ten million tonnes of food is wasted every year in the UK so separate collections of food waste will be sent to specialist facilities and not to landfill. Taking food waste to these facilities will generate energy to power homes and businesses and cut down the more than 18 million tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions.

How will the new policy work?

- Households will be given separate containers for food waste, and (in some areas) separate bins for paper and cardboard will also be introduced. Councils across Cambridgeshire will continue to collect dry recycling together in one bin.
- This will cut the amount of food waste going to landfill and will ensure smelly waste doesn't sit in bins for weeks.

What else is changing?

- As of March 2025 all businesses have to separate food waste from other waste
- Packaging will have mandatory recyclability labelling
- Manufacturers can include more recycled materials in their packaging

As part of this drive to educate residents about the new service we're running a project with volunteers from across the five district councils, (East Cambridgeshire, Cambridge City, South Cambridgeshire, Fenland and Huntingdonshire) which will start in June 2025.

Sign up to become a food waste volunteer!

By 31 March 2026, food waste will be collected from most households every week, instead of once every two weeks. Food waste will then be collected separately from garden waste.

As well as helping everyone think about the amount of food they purchase, we want food waste to be recycled effectively.

We're looking for volunteers to go out in June, July and September, to talk to householders on their doorsteps, to let them know about the new services.

We'll provide full training, as well as examples of the items that will be delivered by the district councils, to householders.

If you're interested in volunteering, just scan the QR code to sign up.

Any personal data you submit will be kept in strict confidence in accordance with the data protection policies of the organisations involved.



Vape recycling update:



From 1 June 2025, it will be illegal for businesses to sell or supply, offer to sell or supply, or have in their possession for sale or supply all single-use or 'disposable' vapes. This applies to:

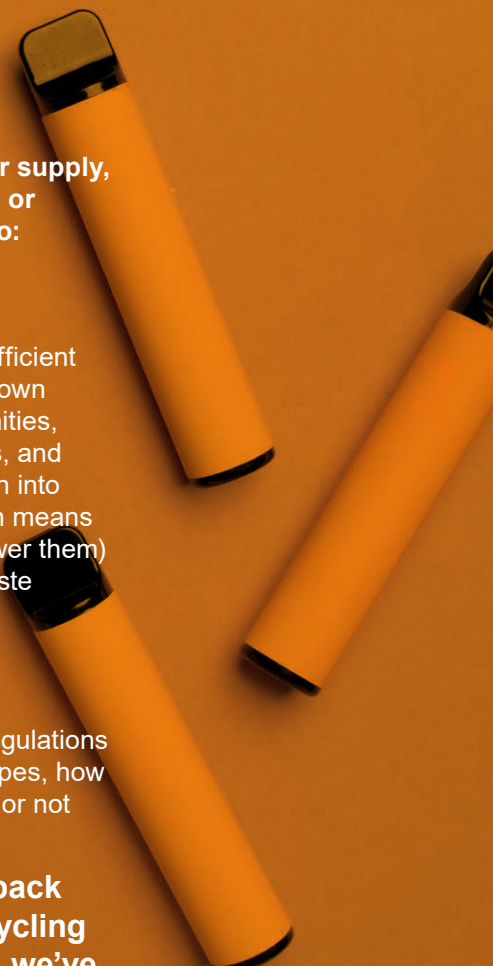
- sales online and in shops
- all vapes, whether (or not) they contain nicotine

Single use vapes (also known as disposable vapes) are an inefficient use of critical resources and are often discarded as litter or thrown into residual (non-recycled) waste. Littering spoils our communities, introduces harmful substances into the soil, rivers and streams, and causes harm to biodiversity. When single use vapes are thrown into black bins they often end up in landfill or are incinerated, which means critical resources are lost. When the lithium batteries, (that power them) are damaged this can cause fires, which risks the safety of waste management workers, firefighters and the public.

Defra has published guidance for businesses on Gov.uk: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/single-use-vapes-ban>

The guidance explains how businesses can comply with the regulations and includes the definition for both single-use and reusable vapes, how to check whether a vape is compliant with the new regulations or not and actions to take ahead of the ban coming in.

Vapes can be recycled by returning them either back to a vape shop, or any of the nine household recycling centres across Cambridgeshire; since April 2024 we've collected over 40,000 for recycling!



It's summertime at the HRC's

Don't forget our sites move to summer opening hours from the 1 April.

Check www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/hrc for changes at your local site or for further information about HRC's.

! Sort before you go

Remember to sort your waste before coming to site so we can re-use or recycle as much as possible. This will make your visit quicker and easier.

HRC Summer opening hours 1st April - 30th September

	Weekdays	Weekends
Alconbury	8am - 5pm	8am - 5pm
Bluntisham	8am - 5pm	8am - 5pm
March	8am - 4pm	Saturday 8am - 4pm Sunday 9am - 4pm
Milton	9am - 8pm	9am - 6pm
St Neots	8am - 6pm	9am - 6pm
Thriplow	8am - 5pm	9am - 5pm
Whittlesey	9am - 5pm	9am - 4pm
Wisbech	8am - 5pm	9am - 5pm
Witchford	9am - 5pm	9am - 6pm
	Wednesday 9am - 7pm	

Entrance gates shut 10 minutes before closing times on all sites. On bank holidays all sites are open
Sunday opening hours

Hidden batteries cause fires



Residents across Cambridgeshire are reminded to dispose of batteries safely and responsibly – after fires involving collection vehicles. Lithium-ion batteries found in mobile phones, vapes, and power packs on electric bikes or scooters have all caused fires in the back of bin lorries which disrupts collection rounds whilst putting crews and the public in danger.

When batteries are put into a wheeled bin, (which is then emptied into a collection vehicle), they can go on to get crushed or damaged, (within the compacting process in the vehicle) which can cause explosions and trigger fires. Whenever a fire breaks out in the back of one of these vehicles, collection crews are put in danger as they must rapidly find a safe place to unload the recycling or waste to stop the fire engulfing the lorry.

Any member of the public around the vehicle is of course also put at risk. Whilst Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue can deal with the fires batteries can cause, they must be recycled properly.

Cambridgeshire County Council are now reminding residents to ensure they dispose of batteries correctly.

- Vapes should be taken back to vape shops or to the network of Household Recycling Centres, (across the county) for recycling.
- Larger batteries – such as those from e-bike or e-scooters, those from a mobile phone, laptop batteries or those that are attached to a device – must also be taken to a Household Recycling Centre.
- Small household batteries can be taken to a local supermarket for recycling

Visit [recyclenow.com](https://www.recyclenow.com) to see all locations.

TAKE CHARGE
Recycle Batteries Responsibly



Batteries SHOULD NOT go in any bin as damaged batteries can cause fires!



Old and unwanted electrical items can contain lithium-ion batteries, which are used in mobile phones, tablets, toothbrushes, laptops, scooters and even e-cigarettes and can easily catch fire if damaged. They are the leading cause of an increasing number of fires at waste management facilities so please DON'T throw them in any bin as this can be extremely dangerous.

RECYCLE BATTERIES RESPONSIBLY BY USING BATTERY RECYCLING POINTS IN SHOPS OR TAKE THEM TO YOUR NEAREST HOUSEHOLD RECYCLING CENTRE!

Use the postcode finder to find convenient battery recycling points near where you live:

<https://www.recyclenow.com/recycle-an-item/batteries#locator>

Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) update

The Government has pledged to end the throwaway society and clean up Britain, as it implements legislation for the deposit return scheme for drinks containers in England and Northern Ireland.

Once the scheme launches in October 2027, consumers will have a financial incentive to return empty plastic bottles and cans to a collection point, such as at their local supermarket, so that they can be recycled.

Countries such as Germany, Sweden and the Republic of Ireland have successfully implemented schemes, ensuring valuable materials are collected, recycled and made back into new drinks containers – a truly circular approach easily grasped by the public. The average return rate for European countries with a DRS is 90%, according to global eNGO Reloop, with Germany showing the best results at 98%.

Across England, Northern Ireland and Scotland, consumers buy an estimated **30 billion single-use drinks containers each year** – including **12 billion plastic drinks bottles and 13 billion drinks cans**. An estimated **6.5 billion single-use drinks bottles and cans per year go to waste** rather than being recycled, with many ending up littered. Research from the Marine Conservation Society shows **97% of surveyed beaches were polluted with drinks-related items in 2023**.

The amount of **plastic waste collected on beaches rose by 9.5% in 2024**, compared with 2023, according to evidence from the **State of our Beaches report** by the Marine Conservation Society. Find out more at www.mcsuk.org

Encouraging everyone to get involved in recycling, the DRS will be introduced in October 2027, with 150ml to three-litre single-use drinks containers made from plastic and metal included in the scheme.



Environmental impact of food waste



Food waste is not only damaging to your pocket, but also bad for the environment.

Producing, moving, storing and cooking food uses energy, fuel and water. Each of which produce greenhouse gases contributing to climate change.

Think of a packet of cheese and all the resources that go into making it:

- raising the cows
- producing and transporting the cheese
- fuel used to drive to the shop to buy it

That's a lot of wasted effort if it's just thrown away at the end of the week. **In the UK we throw away the equivalent of more than 3 million slices of cheese a day!**

Food requires a lot of water to grow and produce it. By wasting food, we are wasting precious water supplies. It takes:

- **100 buckets of water to produce just one loaf of bread**
- **54 buckets of water to rear one chicken breast**
- **6 buckets of water to grow one potato**
- **one bucket of water to grow one tomato**

It's also worth considering the amount of land required to produce food and drink. **The estimated area of land required to produce food thrown away by UK households is 19,000 square kilometres, that's an area 6 times the size of Cambridgeshire!**



(Source Derbyshire County Council website)

Calling all schools, community and adult groups in Cambridgeshire!

Waste Prevention Education Free Workshops

To book a visit to your school or organisation and for more information please contact wmt@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

FREE workshops at any location across the County include:

- Tailored educational workshops for **school, community and adult groups**.
- Learning what waste is and what we can do to **prevent, reuse, repair and recycle** it, sort it for recycling or make something from waste material.
- Videos showing the **processes** involved in **sorting and recycling waste**.
- A discussion around **climate change** and an explanation of what an **individuals carbon footprint** looks like.
- Workshops are ideal for **classroom settings** and pupils work in **groups on a variety of tasks**.
- A typical workshop lasts around **60 minutes**. We can deliver up to **three workshops per day** and can visit a school for **two days if required**.

We offer outreach visits on weekdays, in the evenings and at weekends.

Contact us if you have an upcoming event in Cambridgeshire you would like us to support.



For more information about our **FREE recycling workshops**, and to **book**, scan the QR code or go to:

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/waste-and-recycling/waste-education-service

 www.facebook.com/CambridgeshireCC

 www.twitter.com/CambsCC

 www.linkedin.com/company/cambridgeshire-county-council

 **Thalia**
Waste Management

Working in partnership with
 **Cambridgeshire County Council**

