

12 EASY STEPS TO...

**REDUCE
REUSE
RECYCLE**

**A POCKET GUIDE OF USEFUL INFORMATION FOR
MANAGING YOUR HOUSEHOLD WASTE AND
RECYCLING IN COUNTY DONEGAL.**



**Comhairle Contae
Dhún na nGall**
Donegal County Council

INTRODUCTION

Donegal is a unique county that encapsulates everything that makes the Wild Atlantic Way unique.

Sandy Blue Flag beaches, rugged mountains, hills, lakes, rivers, forests and oceans of green.

Scenery that would rival any, an abundance of flora and fauna, a county immersed in culture and heritage.

WHAT'S NOT TO LOVE?

Each one of us has a part to play in making sure our beautiful county is preserved and protected.

This handy pocket guide to Waste Management in Donegal provides useful information on things we can all do to make a difference here at home.



**“Individually, we are one drop.
Together, we are an ocean.”**

Ryunosuke Satoro, Wrtier/Poet

Disclaimer: This is a guidance document only and does not purport to be a legal interpretation of any law, bye-law or regulation. July 2022.

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MANAGING YOUR WASTE

QUICK CHECKLIST ✓

A simple checklist to help maximise how you manage your waste at home.

DO YOU?

- Always use a Permitted Waste Collector?
- Have a waste collection service?
- Have a 2-bin service (general waste and kerbside recycling)?
- Have a 3-bin service (general waste, kerbside recycling and food waste)?
- Use local bring banks for glass bottles/jars, food and drinks cans and aerosols?
- Use local Recycling Centres?
- Home Compost?
- Take back electrical & electronic items to the shop free of charge when making a new purchase?
- Recycle electrical & electronic items at the local Recycling Centre free of charge?
- Take used batteries back to battery retailers for recycling, no purchase necessary (keep an eye out for the Blue Box)?

ARE YOU?

- Familiar with the range of services available at your local Recycling Centre.

STEP 1

WASTE PREVENTION

The best way to manage waste is not to produce it in the first place. Reducing waste means using fewer resources in the first place, by reducing consumption and buying less.

HERE ARE A FEW THINGS WE CAN ALL DO TO PREVENT WASTE.

- Refuse Single Use – use a reusable bottle, use lunchboxes, flasks, reusable cups and reusable bags.
- Check out local businesses offering refill services.
- Choose pre-loved clothes.
- Think Repair – can it be fixed first?
- Avoid Junk Mail – Unsubscribe / put a “No Junk Mail” sticker on your letter box.
- Choose less packaging - choose loose fruit & veg
- Try upcycling – give something old a new lease of life.
- Mywaste have some excellent tips on Green Cleaning, Greener Gardening and Green Home available as guides on their website.



FOR LOTS MORE WASTE PREVENTION IDEAS VISIT:

- » www.mywaste.ie
- » www.repairmystuff.ie
- » www.donegalcoco.ie
- » www.stopfoodwaste.ie
- » www.consciouscup.ie
- » www.refill.ie

FOOD WASTE IS ROBBING YOU BLIND!



AVOID FOOD WASTE

A recent survey has found that the main reason why people waste food is because it has passed its use-by date.

Bread, vegetables, fruit and salad are the most common types of food that are thrown out.

TAKE SMALL SIMPLE STEPS TO REDUCE FOOD WASTE:

1. Make a meal plan.
2. Check your stocks before you go shopping.
3. Write a shopping list.
4. Freeze! Freeze food before it passes its use-by date.

In addition to price promotions, when shopping many people are buying additional food products due to impulse, pester power and poor planning.

**TAKE THE STOP FOOD WASTE
CHALLENGE TO SEE HOW YOU
CAN SAVE FOOD AND MONEY!**



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THE STOP FOOD WASTE CHALLENGE

SAVING YOU FOOD AND MONEY



KNOW YOUR WASTE

To Stop food waste first become aware of what and how much you throw out



1. Separate your food waste

Put your food waste into a separate container to see how much you really waste



2. Record your waste

To remember the food you throw out why not make a note of it



3. Identify the reasons

If you know why you're throwing out food you can work towards stopping it

PLANNING

Good planning makes life easier, saves you money and reduces food waste



1. Know your cupboard

Before you step outside your door, know what you already have!



2. Make your plan

By using meal plans and recipes to suit your needs, you will save money



3. Write your list

A properly planned shopping list will save you time and stop food waste!

SHOPPING

This is one place you waste food before you even buy it.....Buyer beware



1. Before - be prepared

Know what you need before you go and don't shop on an empty stomach!



2. During - be strong!

You have your list, stick to it and beware, bargain buys often go to waste.



3. After - how much have you saved?

Shorter receipts? lighter bins? have a look and see what you have saved.

STORAGE

Make the most of what you've bought and give your food a good home



1. Store it right

Knowing the right place for the right food is half the battle



2. Use it right

You bought it, make sure you use it. Know your dates, don't get caught out.



3. Make it last

There are many great ways to preserve your food but do you know how?

COOKING

Now to the tastiest part of stopping food waste.
Bon Appetit



1. Proper portions

An overloaded plate leads to an overloaded bin
– know your portions



2. Serving and reuse

Learn the magic art of the loaves and fishes



3. Random Recipes

There are many ways to cook a spud, check out stopfoodwaste.ie



STEP 2

KERBSIDE COLLECTION

A kerbside waste collection service is provided for householders in Donegal by private waste collectors. A waste collector must have a valid waste collection permit to collect waste in Donegal.

Waste collectors in Donegal provide a segregated waste collection system, they collect general waste, mixed dry recycling and food waste.

HOUSEHOLD RECYCLING BIN

- ✓ Paper
- ✓ Cardboard
- ✓ Magazines / Brochures
- ✓ Soft Plastics (Bags / Wrappers etc)
- ✓ Rigid Plastics (Plastic Bottles/Tubs etc)
- ✓ Tetra Pak (Cartons)
- ✓ Food Tins (Steel)
- ✓ Drinks Cans (Aluminium)
- ✓ All Recycling should be Clean, Dry and Loose.
- ✗ **NO GLASS**





GENERAL WASTE BIN

- ✓ Contaminated / dirty packaging or containers
- ✓ Food contaminated packaging
- ✓ Ashes (cold)
- ✓ Toothpaste tubes
- ✓ Sanitary Waste
- ✓ Nappies
- ✓ Ceramics



SEARCH FOR WASTE COLLECTORS AT:

» www.nwcpo.ie

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT WHAT GOES INTO YOUR BINS AT:

» www.mywaste.ie

FOOD WASTE

Household waste collectors are reporting a significant increase in the number of food waste bins that have been provided to their customers throughout the county.

WELL DONE TO EVERYONE TAKING PART!

Capturing this material means that it can be used to produce compost and renewable energy creating opportunities for greater self-sufficiency at a more local level.



FOOD WASTE RECYCLING BIN (BROWN BIN)

- ✓ Uncooked Food Waste
- ✓ Cooked Food Waste
- ✓ Plate scrapings
- ✓ Meat, poultry, fish & bones
- ✓ Dairy products
- ✓ Egg products
- ✓ Coffee grinds & Tea bags
- ✓ Fruit & Vegetables

i Always remember to remove packaging before placing into the food waste bin.

i Use a compostable liner or some paper to keep your kitchen bin clean. Do not use a plastic bag.



SEARCH FOR WASTE COLLECTORS AT:

» www.nwcpc.ie

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT WHAT GOES INTO YOUR BINS AT:

» www.mywaste.ie

STEP 3

BRING BANKS

**DO**

- ✔ Ensure all glass bottles or cans you place in the banks are clean. Glass bottles can now be disposed of in the one bank regardless of colour.

- ✔ Place aluminium cans, steel tins and aerosols together in the can banks.

- ✔ Bring your bags & boxes home to reuse them.

- ✔ Make sure any household textiles are clean before putting them in the textile bank for recycling.

DON'T

- ✘ Place any ceramics, tiles, mirrors or pyrex in the banks.

NEVER

- ✘ Leave rubbish or leave empty boxes or bags behind at the bottle banks, this is considered illegal dumping. The on - the - spot litter fine is currently €150.

TO FIND YOUR NEAREST BRING BANK VISIT:
» www.donegalcoco.ie



STEP 4

RECYCLING CENTRES

Bryson
Recycling

There are six Recycling Centres in Donegal located at Carndonagh, Letterkenny, Milford, Dungloe, Stranorlar and Laghey.

These centres have an extensive free area and have a charged recycling area. Waste items such as glass, cans, textiles, batteries and electrical goods are all accepted free of charge.





RECYCLING CENTRE CHARGES

FREE RECYCLING

- Glass
- Cans
- Aerosols
- Textiles
- Fluorescent Tubes
- Batteries
- Car Batteries
- Small appliances
- Large appliances
- TVs & monitors
- Mobile Phones
- Scrap Metal
- Sewing Machines



RECYCLING CENTRE CHARGES'

There is a range of charges from €1 to €8 for the following items (pre-sort your items before visiting the sites, all packaging for recycling should be clean, dry and loose).

- Paper (keep separate from soft plastics)
- Cardboard (keep separate from Soft Plastics)
- Cartons (keep separate from Cooking Oil)
- Rigid Plastics (keep separate from Engine Oil)

OTHER CHARGES:

- Tyres (€4 per car tyre)
- Gas Bottles (€2 per cylinder)
- Paint (€1 per 5 litre tin)
- Polystyrene (Clean white only, €2 per bag)
- Garden Waste (€2 per bag)
- Food Waste (€1 up to 2kgs, €2 3 -5kg, €4 6- 10kgs, Use a Compostable bag only)
- Household Waste for disposal €5 per bag (for bags weighing no more than 10kgs)
- Bulky Items are also accepted such as mattresses, sofas, timber etc. There are a range of charges in place for these items.



FOR INFORMATION ON RECYCLING CENTRE OPENING HOURS AND MORE DETAILS VISIT:

- » www.donegalcoco.ie
- » www.brysonrecycling.org

STEP 5

RECYCLE FOR FREE

ELECTRICAL & ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT



Give your old & broken electrical items a second chance at life...

Recycle for free!

WEEE IS ANYTHING THAT HAS A PLUG OR BATTERY AND IS AT THE END OF ITS USEFUL LIFE.

- When you purchase a new electrical, electronic or battery operated appliance or piece of equipment the retailer or supplier is required to take back your old appliance or equipment similar to the appliance or equipment you purchased, free of charge on a one-for-one, like-for-like basis.
- You can also recycle batteries, fluorescent tubes and anything electric or electronic (with a plug or battery) at your local Recycling Centre - check out the information on page 15 about **Recycling Centres** in Donegal.
- Every battery you recycle in the blue WEEE Ireland battery boxes helps raise vital funds for LauraLynn, Ireland's Children's Hospice
- Small Things Matter, small items with a plug or battery can be recycled for free too!



FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT: :

» www.wееireland.ie

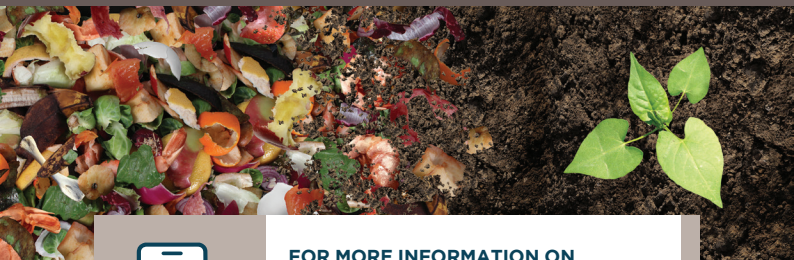
» www.brysonrecycling.org

STEP 6

HOME COMPOSTING

Composting is a natural process of decomposition that turns garden materials and vegetable food scraps into a dark, crumbly and earthy smelling material called compost. Compost is rich in nutrients and full of life and when used in your garden and on your plants, feeds the ecosystem of the soil and slowly releases nutrients that plants can absorb.

Home compost bins are suitable for anyone looking to start composting. Items like fruit, veg, eggshells, teabags and grass cuttings. It is a great way to reduce this type of waste from your bins. You may also be interested in other composting techniques such as compost piles, wormeries and other systems.



FOR MORE INFORMATION ON HOME COMPOSTING SYSTEMS AND TECHNIQUES VISIT:

- » www.mywaste.ie
- » www.donegalcoco.ie

STEP 7

GREEN WASTE

Garden waste is biodegradable garden waste like hedge trimmings, lawn clippings, light branches and leaves which is a valuable resource within your garden. Recycling garden waste within the garden is the natural, sustainable option, reducing our impact on global warming and strengthening the soil's capacity to adapt to climate change.

- Garden waste can be recycled in your compost bin or heap with your uncooked fruit and vegetables as well as some paper and cardboard.
- If you have too much garden waste to compost you can take it to your local Recycling Centre at a cost of €2 per bag.
- Some waste collectors offer a garden waste service, contact your waste collector for further details.

GRASSCYCLING

GrassCycling is the natural recycling of grass by leaving grass clippings on the lawn when mowing. Once on the ground the clippings, which contain 80-85% water, decompose quickly returning valuable nutrients like nitrogen back into the soil.



FOR MORE INFORMATION ON HOME COMPOSTING SYSTEMS AND TECHNIQUES VISIT:

- » www.mywaste.ie
- » www.donegalcoco.ie

ELV'S - END OF LIFE VEHICLES

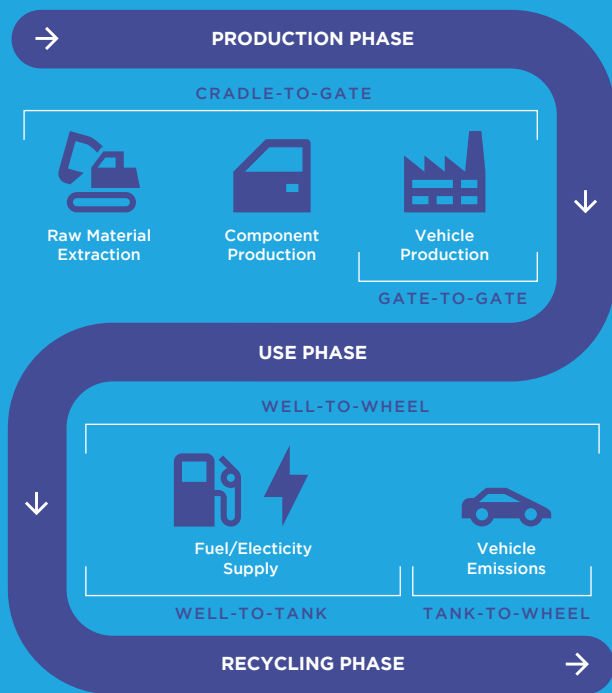
THINKING OF DISPOSING OF AN OLD VEHICLE, TWO THINGS TO CONSIDER

● Have I engaged an authorised end-of-life vehicle operator who can ensure my vehicle is dealt with and disposed of in line with legislation, regulations and in a way that protects the environment?

● Will the operator provide me with a certificate of destruction (COD) for my records so that I can demonstrate that I have met my obligations under the Waste Management Act 1996 as amended as the registered owner of the vehicle? CODs are also required for claiming any motor tax back that you may be eligible for.



CRADLE-TO-GRAVE VEHICLE LIFE CYCLE ASSESSMENT



STEP 9

BACKYARD BURNING

BACKYARD BURNING REFERS TO THE UNCONTROLLED BURNING OF WASTE.

It also refers to the burning of any waste in:

- open fires
- ranges
- other solid fuel appliances or in the open.

**IT IS ILLEGAL TO BURN HOUSEHOLD
OR GARDEN WASTE IN ANY WAY.**





Burning waste in your home or garden can damage your health, as well as that of your children and your neighbours. Such illegal practices lead to the release of toxic dioxins which are a real hazard for people's health and the environment.

If your neighbour or someone else you see is illegally burning waste, then in the interest of your own health and the environment, please report it. Information on how to report on page 27.



**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON
BACKYARD BURNING VISIT:**

- » www.donegalcoco.ie
- » www.epa.ie

STEP 10

UNAUTHORISED WASTE COLLECTORS

- Make sure your waste collector is a genuine waste business with a waste collection permit.
- Permitted collectors take the waste to authorised waste facilities where it can be dealt with appropriately.
- Do not get caught out by people who seem to offer a cheap way to get rid of waste.
- Unauthorised waste activity has the potential to cause serious environmental pollution, impact negatively on the waste industry and create public health issues.
- Your waste is your responsibility, if it ends up dumped, buried or burned enforcement action could lead to litigation.
- If you are having works done that will generate waste e.g. house renovations, you are still responsible for the waste.



**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON PERMITTED
WASTE COLLECTORS VISIT:**

- » www.nwcpo.ie
- » www.mywaste.ie
- » www.donegalcoco.ie

STEP 11**REPORT IT****DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL**

To report unauthorised waste activity call Donegal County Council 074 91 53900 from 9am to 4.30pm Monday to Thursday and 9am to 4pm Friday.

EPA

National Environmental Complaints Line on 1850 365121 EPA's "See it? Say it?" smartphone app. These services operate on a 24-hour basis.

Donegal County Council is committed to thoroughly investigating all reports received.

**YOUR
COUNTY.
YOUR
WASTE?**

Dumping waste is a crime.
Let's all take responsibility.

#StopIllegalDumping



**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON
HOW TO REPORT VISIT:**

- » www.donegalcoco.ie
- » www.epa.ie

STEP 12

CONTACT US

DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

Call: 074 91 53900

Email: info@donegalcoco.ie

Website: www.donegalcoco.ie

FIND MORE RESOURCES:

- Donegal County Council - www.donegalcoco.ie
- My Waste - www.mywaste.ie
- Bryson Recycling - www.brysonrecycling.org
- National Waste Collection Permit Office
- www.nwcpo.ie
- EPA - www.epa.ie
- Irish Statute Book - www.irishstatutebook.ie
- WEEE Ireland - www.weeeireland.ie
- Refill - www.refill.ie
- Stop Food Waste - www.stopfoodwaste.ie
- Conscious Cup Campaign - www.consciouscup.ie

THANK YOU!

Thank you for taking to time to read our Pocket Guide. If you are finished with this guide, please pass it on to someone else or make sure you recycle it!

Please keep an eye on the various websites mentioned in the guidebook for the most up to date information.