

How to make the most of your blue bin?



Newspapers
& magazines



Card &
cardboard



Catalogues/
phone books



Printed
paper



Plastic food
containers



Tetra
paks/juice
cartons



Empty
aerosols



Envelopes –
no windows



Plastic
bottles with
screw tops



Food &
drinks cans



Junk mail
paper – no
plastic



Phone
books &
catalogues

In 2004 Ballymoney Borough Council introduced an alternate week collection. This means that blue bins are collected one week and black bins collected the next week. This is to facilitate recycling at home. The scheme is proving successful and in the last 12 months, you have helped recycle approximately:

950 tonnes of newspapers and magazines
250 tonnes of cardboard
225 tonnes of plastic containers
95 tonnes of cans

From May 2010 you can now recycle even more through your blue bin, making this a much more useful recycling option at home .

By diverting waste from landfill, you are providing raw materials for other processes and products. This means we use less resources for manufacturing, especially fossil fuels. At our current rate, many predict that within 50 years, we may actually run out of coal, oil and gas. The next generations will have to rethink so many things we now take for granted.

The term 'climate change' is often talked about in terms, which leave many confused. Basically, our actions and consumption mean that we need more resources to keep our lifestyles going. These resources depend on fossil fuels and as we burn these, we help contribute to many gases in the atmosphere, which damage the ozone layer and are certainly a factor in global warming. This in turn leads to the term, 'carbon footprint', in other words, how much it takes to sustain your lifestyle. By reducing the amount of carbon you need for your lifestyle, you can reduce your impact on the earth and the people you share it with.

What happens your waste?

Many children have stood at windows and watched in wonder as Council bin lorries empty wheelie bins on a daily basis. This waste, whether from blue, brown or black bins, is all managed as part of a plan to reduce the amount of waste we bury. Each tonne of waste, buried in the ground, costs ratepayers a significant amount of money.

Brown bin contents are processed locally with black bin waste going for disposal to a site near Cookstown. Your blue bin contents are stored temporarily at Crosstagherty before leaving Ballymoney for a processing plant in Toomebridge. The following pictures give an indication of how your waste is managed.

The waste journey begins



All blue bin materials are collected and brought to our waste transfer station at Burnquarter Road outside Ballymoney.



Here the materials are stored until transported to a **Materials Recycling Facility** for processing manually and mechanically.



Once processed at the facility they then are used for:



Newspapers are made into new newspapers generally while other mixed papers are used to make egg cartons and low grade cardboard.

In an average 12 months, people in Ballymoney recycle almost 1000 tonnes of paper through blue bins, saving 16,000 trees from being cut down to make new paper.



Plastic bottles are processed all over the world and used to make everything from fleeces to carpet to new plastic products.

25 two litre plastic bottles make one adult fleece. In Ballymoney, we recycle 4 million plastic containers each year, or one per household per day!



Cardboard is processed in England and used to make new cardboard.

Your cardboard is used to make everything from egg cartons to cardboard boxes to loft insulation.



Cans are processed in England and made into a variety of aluminium products. A can, recycled in Ballymoney, can be back on a supermarket shelf in the Borough within 6 weeks!

Recycling all the aluminium cans in Ballymoney would raise up to £27,000 for local charity Can Can Recycling!



Aerosols are melted down and used to make various aluminium products. Please ensure these are always empty before you place them in your blue bin.



Plastic food containers are recycled as mixed plastic and can become anything from industrial carpet to clothing to new plastic containers. Please ensure they are rinsed to prevent smells and contamination.



Tetra Paks are paper based and can be used to make padded envelopes and other paper related products. The majority of Tetra Paks are manufactured from sustainable timber.



Envelopes and junk mail are processed locally and made into low grade paper products such as egg cartons .



Office paper is processed locally and used to make new office paper. Please do not include any plastic sleeves or other materials.