

## RUBBISH FACTS

	2012/13	2011/12
Waste disposed of	2,675 (57.8%)	2,844 (61.7%)
Waste recycled/recovered	1717 (37.1%)	1,534 (33.3%)
Waste incinerated	236 (5.1%)	232 (5.0%)
Total	4,628 (100%)	4,610 (100%)

### Waste

- On average, 16% of the money you spend on a product pays for the packaging, which ultimately ends up as rubbish.
- 25% of household waste is packaging.
- In a single day:
  - We produce enough rubbish to fill Trafalgar Square to the height of Nelson's Column.
- In eight months:
  - We could fill the largest lake in Britain with rubbish from the UK.
- Each year:
  - One person in England and Wales produces nearly 500kg of household waste.
  - One person in the UK throws away seven times their body weight in rubbish.
  - We could cover the Manchester United pitch 28,450 times with the volume of waste we produce (300 million square metres).
  - The unreleased energy contained in the average dustbin could power a television for 5,000 hours.
- Up to 60% of the rubbish that ends up in the dustbin could be recycled.
- As much as 50% of waste in the average dustbin could be composted.

### Batteries

- It takes 50 times more energy to make a battery than it gives during its life.
- Each year, over 20,000 tonnes of batteries are sent to landfill site in the UK.

### Cans

- Each year:
  - One person gets through 90 drink cans and 70 food cans.
  - The UK uses about 12 billion cans - enough to stretch to the moon and back.
- Recycling one aluminium can saves enough energy to run a TV for three hours.
- If all cans in the UK were recycled, we would need 14 million fewer dustbins.
- Aluminium cans can be recycled and ready to use in just six weeks.

## **Cars**

- Up to 80% of an average car can be recycled.

## **Carrier bags**

- Each year:
  - Food shops give away enough carrier bags to cover the whole of London with a layer of bags.
  - Supermarkets give away an estimated 17.5 billion plastic bags, which represents over 130,000 tonnes of plastic - enough to cover an area the size of London twice with a layer of bags.

## **Clothing**

Each year:

- 900 million items of clothing are sent to landfill each year.

## **Disposable nappies**

- Each year:
  - Seven million trees are cut down every year just to make disposable nappies.
  - We get through nearly 3 billion disposable nappies each year in the UK.
- Disposable nappies take 500 years to decompose.

## **Food**

- Around one-third of all the food we buy ends up being thrown away. This is not only a waste of money and resources in growing, harvesting, packaging, transporting, storing and retailing but it also contributes to global warming by producing methane.

## **Glass**

- Each day:
  - The largest glass furnace produces over 1 million glass bottles and jars.
- Each year:
  - One person gets through 107 bottles.
  - Each UK family uses an average of 500 glass bottles and jars.
- Five out of six glass bottles are thrown away.
- Glass that is thrown away and ends up in landfills will never decompose.
- Glass is 100% recyclable and can be used again and again.

## **Paper and cardboard**

- Every year:
  - We need a forest the size of Wales to provide all the paper we use in Britain.
  - 12.5 million tonnes of paper and cardboard are used in the UK.

- The average person in the UK gets through 38kg of newspapers.
- The average UK family throws away six trees worth of paper in their household bin a year.
- The total amount of waste paper buried would fill 103,448 double decker buses, which if parked nose to tail, would stretch from London to Milan.
- It takes 24 trees to make one ton of newspaper.
- One ton of paper from recycled pulp saves 17 trees, three cubic yards of landfill space, 7,000 gallons of water, 4200 kWh (enough to heat a home for half a year), 390 gallons of oil, and prevents 60 pounds of air pollutants.
- Recycled paper produces 73% less air pollution than if it was made from raw materials.

## **Plastic**

- Each year:
  - One person gets through 27,545kg of plastic.
  - 275,000 tonnes of plastic are used in the UK: about 15 million bottles per day.
  - Most families throw away about 40kg of plastic, which could otherwise be recycled.
  - The use of plastic in Western Europe grows by about 4%.
- Plastic can take up to 500 years to decompose.
- Recycling just one plastic bottle can save the same amount of energy needed to power a 60watt lightbulb for six hours.