

# recycle-more fact sheet



Planning an article on recycling? Use the facts below to really bring the message home. Please credit recycle-more whenever possible!

## General recycling

- Each year in the UK households throw away over 29.1 million tonnes of waste, that's the same weight as 4.85 million male African Elephants! (source: recycle-more.co.uk)
- In the UK we throw away 13 billion steel cans every year, stacked on top of each other, you could make 3 piles of cans that would reach to the moon! (source: www.scrib.org.uk)
- The energy saved by recycling 1 aluminium drink can is enough to run a television for three hours
- The energy saved from recycling 1 glass bottle is enough to power a light bulb for four hours
- Disposable nappies take 500 years to decompose
- Producing steel from recycled material saves 75% of the energy needed if steel were made from virgin material
- Every steel can is 100% recyclable. It can be recycled over and over again into products like bicycles and of course new cans!
- If every Briton purchased one item made from recycled wool a year it would save 371 million gallons of water, 480 tonnes of chemical dyes and 4571 million days of an average family's electricity needs (source: UK Gov)
- Every tonne of paper recycled saves 17 trees

## Waste Electrical recycling

- Electrical goods are the fastest growing waste stream in the UK, growing by 5% each year
- In the UK the amount of electrical waste we create in one year would fill the new Wembley Stadium 6 times! (source: recycle-more.co.uk)
- Each year in the UK we go through over 1.2 million tonnes of electrical waste. That is the equivalent of 150 thousand double decker buses! (source: recycle-more.co.uk)
- 75% of waste electronics end up in landfill sites
- In the lifetime of 1 UK citizen 3.3 tonnes of waste electronics is created! (weeman.org)
- Two million TV sets are discarded every year - most end up in landfill sites (Recycle Now)
- "Over six million electrical items are thrown away every year in the UK. It is estimated that over half of them are still working or could easily be repaired." (ITDG, 2003)
- 15 million mobile phones are upgraded in the UK each year, laid from end-to-end they would reach from John O'Groats to Lands End! (www.sciencemuseum.org.uk)

Visit [www.recycle-more.co.uk](http://www.recycle-more.co.uk) or email [recycle-more@valpak.co.uk](mailto:recycle-more@valpak.co.uk) for further information on recycling

# recycle-more fact sheet



## Packaging

- Ten times more energy goes into the production of the food and goods it contains, than the packaging itself! (source: INCPEN)
- If a household turned down its room heating thermostat by 2 degrees or drove one less mile a day, it would save as much energy as is used to make the packaging for its whole year's supply of goods. (source: INCPEN)
- The energy used to make the packaging for food is just 11% of the energy in the total supply chain (including growing, transport, retail, freezing & cooking). In other words, the energy for all of these other parts of the supply chain combined is 9 times as significant as that of the packaging. (source: INCPEN)
- The energy saved by recycling just 1 aluminium drink can, is enough to run a television for 3 hours!
- The energy content of one day's packaging is equal to one and one quarter miles in the car Source: (The Packaging Federation)
- Household packaging is accountable for only 3% of all waste that goes to landfill
- Glass containers are on average 30% lighter than in 1980's (source: INCPEN)
- In developing countries, a lack of packaging or inadequate packaging cause between 30-50% of foodstuffs to decay before they even reach consumers. (source: Effective Packaging)

## Batteries

- Each year we throw away about 600 million batteries. Laid end to end these batteries would reach from the UK to Australia and back again (source: recycle-more.co.uk)
- Each year about 22,000 tonnes of UK household batteries are sent to landfill. That's the same weight as 3,666 Tyrannosaurus Rex's (source: recycle-more.co.uk)
- Batteries can be found in virtually every room in the house. They're used in a wide range of objects including toys, remote controls, mobile phones, ipods and even doorbells
- Every person in Britain uses about 5 batteries a year
- The UK currently collects less than 3% of waste portable batteries, one of the lowest rates in Europe
- A [European Directive on Batteries and Accumulators](#) was published in 2006 and aims to minimise the impact of batteries on the environment and encourage the recovery of the materials they contain
- The [Waste Batteries and Accumulators Regulations](#) are being introduced into UK law in 2009. These regulations set targets for the collection and recycling of waste batteries:
  - 25% recycling rate by 2012 and 45% by 2016 for waste household batteries

Visit [www.recycle-more.co.uk](http://www.recycle-more.co.uk) or email [recycle-more@valpak.co.uk](mailto:recycle-more@valpak.co.uk) for further information on recycling