

RECYCLE IT CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER 2016

Web: www.recycleit.ie

Email: info@recycleit.ie

Tel: 01 4578321

Welcome

This is our second newsletter of 2016. We hope you can take a few minutes to read about our seasonal recycling tips, our work in the community, Christmas tree recycling and our recent award success.

Christmas Recycling Tips

24 Days of Waste Not, Want Not

Christmas is a time for caring, sharing and giving with families around the country embracing this tradition each year.



It's also traditional for Irish people to travel lots, shop lots and eat like lords and ladies over the festive season, even more so than at any other time during the year. As part of enjoying Christmas, we want to encourage fun, sharing, celebration, rest and relaxation but with a message of **reduce, reuse and recycle** over the festive season. This year we have assembled 24

festive tips which will help you to reduce the environmental impact of Christmas and **save a little money** at the same time!

Have a read of our 24 tips which will take you to Christmas Day 2016

1. Cut up your old Christmas cards and use as present labels.
2. Bring bags and reuse them for Christmas shopping.
3. Try using non-disposable items such as rechargeable batteries
4. Buy recycled Christmas wrapping paper and Christmas cards.

5. Try to reuse envelopes by sticking new labels over the address and send again.
6. Make your own cards with the kids.
7. Send an electronic Christmas card to distant family instead of posting one.
8. Buy gifts that don't have much packaging like vouchers or tickets.
9. How about trying a recyclable artificial Christmas tree – they last for years.
10. When sourcing a real Christmas tree, make sure they can be shredded or composted after Christmas.
11. Look for an antique piece of furniture and jewelry.
12. Buy second hand items as presents e.g. bikes, electronic games, games table or a dolls house.
13. Source your Christmas fruit and vegetables loose, not pre-packed. This helps reduce the amount of packaging.
14. Take unused or unwanted food to foodbanks after Christmas.
15. When preparing your seasonal vegetables, peelings can be composted (and left overs).
16. Buy drinks in large bottles rather than lots of smaller ones.
17. Recycle plastic and metal packaging including bottles and cans.
18. Stuff your shoes with old wrapping paper to help keep their shape or dry them out.
19. Don't use paper plates, plastic cutlery or paper table clothes.
20. Order your food online, save time and the environment.
21. Buy high quality goods that will last.
22. Reuse last year's Christmas Jumper & Santa Hat for the office party.
23. Bake or make Christmas treats rather

than buying e.g. jam, biscuits or chutney.

Recycling isn't just for Christmas.

Should you receive a gift that just isn't to your taste, try to re-gift' it to someone you know will enjoy it. Charities will also happily accept donations of unused items.



Many people will receive great Christmas presents which will replace old or damaged electronic gadgets. You can recycle the old items at either your [local recycling centre](#) or at the shop where your electrical present was purchased. Finally, adopting a **Kris Kringle-**

style approach with family and friends will allow you to focus time and money on arranging an outstanding present for just one other person, instead of having to buy lots of small gifts which can create lots of waste!

Reusing and Recycling Toys

Toys from Santa create an imaginative world of play, they can help build social skills and ease demands on parents!

Sometimes the most expensive toy is not the best option. Many kids enjoy playing with items from around the house. They can build props like a play house or space rocket out of a reused cardboard boxes and tubes, creating their own special world. Most homes with kids have

lots of toys. Storage containers are filled to the brim with dolls, action figures, building blocks, cars, remote controlled flying machines, games devices and many other items.



Our questions is what do you do with the old favourites when the new games arrive over the festive season?

Toy Reuse

When your kids have made the most of their old toys, they can always become a new favourite for another child or family. For toys and games that are in good condition, finding the toy a

new home is the eco-friendliest thing is do.



Some ideas include

- Arrange a toy swap shop with families in the community.
- Car boot sale with proceeds offered to your local child support group.
- Donate the toy to a charity shop.
- Offer toys to a children's hospital, children's shelter or your local crèche or Montessori.
- Add items to your school's shoe box appeal.

Broken Toys & Games

Parents can always try to fix toys by replacing broken or missing parts. Toy repair may be possible, with toy makers such as Mattel, Fisher-Price and Lego replacing or selling you replacement pieces.



There are also services that can repair broken toys, such as the Doll's Hospital and Teddy Bear Clinic in Dublin. Some toys, like board games or toys with lots of small parts, might be re-purposed for arts and crafts use. You can also use various bits and bobs from toys to create mosaics,

jewellery or pictures and get the kids involved.

Plastic Toys

Plastic toys that are broken or missing parts might be able to be recycled, depending on what type of plastic they're made from. If the plastic number is not indicated on the toy or the packaging (if you even still have the packaging), you might be able to contact the manufacturer to find out what it's made from, and then check with your local authority to make sure that your local recycling centre accepts that type of plastic. Alternatively, you might consider letting kids build their own creations from disused plastic toys.

Electronic Toys

Toys with computer chips, computer screens, lights, noise, plugs, batteries or other electronic components can and should be recycled. **They should not be added to the domestic waste.** We know from experience this is not the case as very few electrical toys make their way to us for recycling.



Recycle IT offer a collection and drop off services and will accept electrical and electronic toys including games consoles, cameras, tablets, remote control cars or planes, dolls, action figures, watches or replica

phones. The list is endless but any toy with a plug or battery is acceptable for recycling. Recycling and repurposing is environmentally responsible. You should involve your children and ensure they understand the concept of recycling and the value old or broken toys have for others. Reused toys can bring joy to a child or recycling can help create a job!

Light up Christmas - Green our Lights

Despite the dangers of mixing bright open flames with drying needles from real Christmas trees, candles of all shapes and sizes feature as the preferred Christmas lights over many generations and into the 20th century in

homes across Ireland and many other countries.

The earliest manufactured Christmas lights were made of blown glass or porcelain and appeared on Christmas trees in the homes of wealthy people in the 1800's. In the early 1900's, it was fashionable to buy hand-painted bulbs shaped like animals and flowers.

As you can imagine the public at first didn't trust electric lights as a safe alternative to candles, but that changed after US President, Grover Cleveland erected the first Christmas tree with electrical lights in 1895. With more than 100 multicolour bulbs, the brightly coloured tree got the attention of people across the USA, and illuminated Christmas

trees soon became the rage all over the world, if you could afford one!



This year lots of families in cities, towns and communities across Ireland will be switching on new Christmas light. Today most of these lights will be LED (Light Emitting Diode) lights which means traditional lights are no longer favoured.

DIY Lights

We suggested finding a new use for your old lights so why not start today. You will find some awesome DIY ideas for reusing / recycling old light and bulbs

at www.brit.co The team at brit have listed lots of tips with pictures which demonstrates what can be achieved. Whether you plan to turn light bulbs into small vases or cover it with glitter to masquerade as a festive pear, these versatile pieces of glass can be reused anywhere.

Christmas lights can be reused at other times of year. You and your kids can make some light covers in the shape of Valentine Hearts, Easter Bunnies or Halloween Pumpkins and you have colourful decorations for many different celebrates or festivals.



New Lights

Today LED lighting offers many benefits and features that were difficult, if not impossible, to offer with old lighting used over many generations. These benefits, include enhancing operating energy leading to cost reductions, longer life and lower overall heat generation. We have listed 8 more facts for you to read.

1. Most LED lights cost only little more than traditional Christmas lights and glow brighter.
2. By changing to LED lights you will save on electricity during the festive season.
3. A longer life span means lower carbon emissions. LED Lights

last up to six times longer than other types of lights, reducing the requirement for frequent replacements.

4. Strings of LED light can be much longer than traditional lights.
5. New LED lights generally stay cooler which is deemed safer.
6. LED lights now create the glow of incandescent light or traditional fairy lights so you can relive some memories.
7. LED lights contain no toxic elements therefore they help to protect the environment and reduce toxic waste created by traditional Christmas lights.
8. 95% of the energy in LED lights is converted into lighting with only 5% wasted as heat.

Before you buy lights this festive season, it's important to compare your options and find out the type of lighting which works best for you and your home. Whether it's incandescent lighting or LEDs you choose. Remember LEDs can save you money and reduce energy consumption which is a positive for the pocket and the environment.

Recycling Lights

Whether its old indoor, outdoor, coloured or white lights, you should try to reuse or recycle. Old lights and other unused Christmas illuminations should not be left sitting in



boxes in the store, shed or garage.



They'll usually never shine again once replaced by newer alternatives. Unused items create unwanted clutter which will need to be cleared in the future. If you do decide to recycle your old lights please do so in an environmentally friendly way. Recycle IT are happy to collect old lights and other electrical or electronic items or you can [drop them off](#) with our recycling team. You can also drop them at your [local recycling or bring centre](#).

2016 Awards.

During 2016, Recycle IT were recognised as [Age Friendly](#) by Age Friendly Ireland. We also received two national awards from JCI and Repak Ireland. The first award received from the JCI was a Friendly Business Award.



This award recognised businesses that excel in serving the needs of local people while also playing a vital role in community development. The Recycle IT team were recognised for [Eco-Friendliness](#) at both a regional and national level.

Our 2016 Repak award was presented in the category **Environmental Education and Awareness Initiatives**



Our work in this area included the promotion of electrical recycling, provision of free collections to homes, schools, community groups and charities and offering workshops on “How WEEE Works”

Christmas Tree Recycling in Dublin 2017

By Early New Year 2017 homes all over Dublin will have created what seems like endless amounts of waste.

From wrapping paper, cards, food waste, electronic packaging, waste batteries and of course damaged lights and of course the Christmas tree. Lights and electrical items can always be recycled with Recycle IT with **Christmas Tree** recycling service are offered by **local authorities** to residents in most areas of Dublin in the early day of January. Armed with



this knowledge there should be no need to put the tree in the bin or leave it on the kerbside too waste away! For more details on the tree recycling services in South Dublin please visit the **South Dublin**

County Council list of recycling sites

Dublin City Council has made similar tree recycling arrangements over the years at **11 locations in Dublin City**



Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council will have Christmas Tree recycling available to residents at the **locations listed here**

Fingal County Council will offer a Christmas Tree recycling **service at the locations listed here**

You can also call your local authority for further information.

About Recycle IT



Recycle IT is an award winning not for profit social enterprise providing a collection and drop off service for all types of waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE). During 2016 Recycle IT offered drop off and collection services to 100,000 homes, schools, charities, public bodies, community groups, and businesses across Dublin and surrounding areas collecting a range of WEEE which includes thousands of computers, cables, monitors, microwaves and TV's other appliances.

Our work in waste management and recycling helps create training and employment opportunities while also supporting environmental awareness

Recycle IT services are provided in partnership with WEEE Ireland. Recycle IT is supported by South Dublin County Council, South Dublin County Partnership and the Department of Social Protection under the Community Services Programme administered by Pobal. Recycle IT are authorized by the National Waste Collection Permit Office and the local authorities in Dublin, Kildare and Wicklow.

Visit our [website](http://www.recycleit.ie) for further details, call 01 4578321 or email info@recycleit.ie



**MERRY CHRISTMAS
FROM ALL AT
RECYCLE IT**

