



## Carbon Campaign Newsletter - November 2013

### WHAT'S ON NOVEMBER 2013?

In the run up to the festive season the last thing most of us are thinking about is buying nothing. But that's exactly why an international day was generated to take place in November each year, to remind us all that we must be responsible about the purchases we make. This year **Buy Nothing Day** is on **Saturday 30th November**.

**BUY  
NOTHING  
DAY**

The idea is to switch off from shopping and tune into life. The rules are simple, for 24 hours simply detox from shopping. Anyone can take part provided they spend a day without spending! And of course, by spending less, we'll be wasting less too. For more information check out the official website: <http://www.buynothingday.co.uk/contact.html>

### Celebrity Corner

One celebrity who, despite her designer labels, is known for her interest in environmental issues, is British Fashion Designer, Vivienne Westwood. In 2007 she was asked what fashion people should be wearing. Her reply was "If you ask me what I think people should be getting next season, I'll tell you what I'd like them to buy - nothing! I'd like people to stop buying and buying and buying...". Thanks Vivienne, at least we know what to get you for Christmas!



### Introduction

Welcome to the monthly newsletter, part of the Moray Council energy saving campaign.

This month we look at reducing our waste through purchasing less and how we dispose of items when they're finished, both at work and at home. This edition is packed full of useful tips, not to be thrown away!

If you have a question about waste or perhaps have a suggestion about how to reduce waste packaging from products we use please get in touch. Email us at [energy@moray.gov.uk](mailto:energy@moray.gov.uk).

### Website of the Month

<http://www.zerowastescotland.org.uk/stopthedrop>

One aspect of waste that we can start to take better control of is to reduce the amount of junk mail we each receive. Some direct mail drops are poorly targeted and not even read before being discarded in the bin. Sometimes leaflets aren't even recycled. Waste Aware Scotland has a goal to reduce the amount of unwanted mail, or junk mail as it's often known, delivered to Scottish householders by 10%.



To find out your rights as an unwanted mail receiver and receive 5 easy tips to block junk being posted through your letter box, log on to the stop the drop website ([www.mpsonline.org.uk](http://www.mpsonline.org.uk)) or telephone 0845 703 4599 for more information. You can also visit the Zero Waste Scotland website for information about the European Week for Waste Reduction which takes place 16-24<sup>th</sup> November 2013. <http://www.zerowastescotland.org.uk/ewwr2013>

### Thank You!

Thanks are due to everyone who recycles their waste whether this is at home, or at work (hopefully both). Residents in Moray have recycled an average of 61% of their waste during the first six months of this year and that's terrific.

The Waste (Scotland) 2012 Regulations require the following targets to be met by Local Authorities.

- 50% of household waste by 2013
- 60% of household waste by 2020
- 70% of household waste by 2025



The Council is fully committed to meeting its legal obligations in relation to managing the waste generated across Moray that is produced by residents and visitors.



## Items that should NEVER be placed in a waste bin

Some items should never be thrown out with normal waste because they contain toxic substances and can be a health hazard.

1. Paint (any that needs white spirit to wipe it off)
2. Car batteries
3. Engine oil and petrol
4. Medicines and tablets
5. Mobile phone batteries
6. Ink and toner cartridges from computer printers
7. White spirit
8. Large quantities of cooking oil
9. Gas cylinders
10. Aerosols, including deodorant sprays and de-icing fluid



### So What Should We Do With These Items?

Take paint, car batteries, oil and de-icing fluid to the local Recycling Centre to be disposed of safely. Medicines can be handed in at any pharmacy. Old mobile phones, batteries and chargers are worth around £6 to charities. The British Red Cross (0800 015 3576) and Oxfam (0870 010 1049) will accept unwanted mobiles at their shops or by post. Or send your mobile off to <http://www.fonebank.com/> for cash back, where the parts are recycled. Remember to delete personal details from your phone and remove your sim card. Visit a website such as <http://www.refilltoner.co.uk/> to buy a printer cartridge refill kit, which contains enough ink for up to 12 refills, for around £12. Or give spent cartridges to a charity, which can make around £4 a time by recycling them. Scope (0800 781 2600) and the Royal National Institute for the Blind (0800 781 2400) both run schemes. Gas cylinders should be taken back to where you bought them, or to a collection point at your local Recycling Centre.

## Exploding Environmental Myths

### *We recycle - but why?*

**ANSWER:** There is a common misconception that the Council's waste management strategy is solely focused on hitting government targets, now set in statute through the Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012, without any consideration to environmental benefit.

True, these regulations and targets are a challenge to be met but they weren't plucked out of the air. The Scottish Government, after much research and consultation with all local authorities and the waste industry in general, set these to drive a culture change from regarding waste as either recyclable or disposable to considering it holistically as a resource to be managed for maximum environmental benefit.

Substituting raw materials for manufacture with a supply of those recyclable waste products separately collected from households such as paper, card, aluminium cans, steel cans and plastic bottles, when reprocessed are essential to manufacturers to reduce their reliance on dwindling and increasingly expensive virgin resources.

Likewise food and garden waste is composted to strict standards for ultimate re-use in agriculture as fertiliser, saving on processed mineral equivalents. "Closed loop" recycling at its best.

What's left is politely termed "residual waste" and it is currently landfilled. Landfill will be with us for the near future, but whilst an unfashionable opinion, there is still benefit from this, as even after their closure, through continued gas extraction for electricity generation there will be a contribution towards energy demands.

Residual waste is now regarded as a potential source of fuel for generating both heat and power through a combination of incineration and digestion. We only await the provision of the infrastructure to exploit this resource.

***Not waste,  
a resource.***

