

Minimising Waste & Recycling

A guide for our church community as part of our Eco Church journey

Why Minimising Waste Matters

As Christians, we are called to live simply, tread lightly on the earth, and care for God's creation. Yet modern life produces huge amounts of waste—much of which ends up in landfill or incineration, contributing to pollution and climate change.



Reducing waste matters because it:

- Protects the environment and wildlife
- Reduces carbon emissions
- Conserves natural resources
- Reflects a lifestyle of gratitude rather than excess

“The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it.” (Psalm 24:1)

By minimising waste, we honour God’s creation and make a practical difference.

The Waste Hierarchy: A Better Way

The most effective way to deal with waste is not recycling—it is **reducing it in the first place**.

The 4 Rs

1. **Reduce** – Buy less, avoid unnecessary packaging

2. **Reuse** – Repair, refill, and repurpose items
 3. **Recycle** – Process materials into new products
 4. **Recover/Dispose** – Last resort (landfill or energy recovery)
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How to Reduce Waste in Everyday Life

Reduce What We Buy

- Choose products with minimal or no packaging
- Buy in bulk where possible
- Avoid single-use plastics

Reuse and Repair

- Reuse containers, bags, and bottles
- Repair clothes, furniture, and appliances – Did you know that a Repair Café takes place 4 times a year in the Church hall with volunteer experts who can help you repair broken items (see the Greener Brockenhurst website for dates and details)
- Donate unwanted items to charity shops
- Use refill shops for household essentials

Reduce Food Waste

- Plan meals and shop carefully
 - Store food properly
 - Use your freezer!
 - Compost uncooked vegetable food scraps where possible
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Recycling in Our Local Area (NFDC)

Our Local council, NFDC provides most homes with 3 separate bins 3 different categories of recycling:

1. Green crate (collected once a month) for glass bottles and jars (can leave metal lids on).
2. Food Waste caddy for all food waste that you are unable to compost at home (this includes things like mouldy food, plate scrapings, etc (NB no liquids or packaging)
3. Green lidded recycling bin for all of the following items:

- a. Paper & cardboard
- b. Tins and cans
- c. Aerosols
- d. Plastic bottles with lids on



Recycling More with Greener Brockenhurst

The Greener Brockenhurst Recycling Shed, located in the carpark of the Village Hall is a fantastic local initiative helping to recycle items that cannot go in our household bins.

Items Currently Accepted There are:

(Always check on the Greener Brockenhurst website for the latest list)

- Soft plastics (crisp packets, bread bags, wrappers)
- Tin foil and aluminium
- Bras
- Bicycle inner tubes
- Inkjet Printer cartridges
- Corks
- CDs and DVDs
- Small Flower Pots
- Stamps

Other Local Recycling Options

- **Supermarkets** – often accept soft plastics and carrier bags
- **Household Waste Recycling Centres** – for electricals, batteries, and bulky waste
- **Charity Shops** – for clothes, books, and household goods
- **Carton Banks located in Lymington and Lyndhurst Carparks** – for food and drinks cartons (like tetrapaks), including straws and caps, paper-based containers with metal ends, such as tubes used for crisps, gravy, and hot chocolate (without lids)

As a Church Community

As part of our Eco Church commitment, we aim to:

- Reduce waste at church events (e.g. reusable cups and plates)
- Recycle correctly and consistently
- Avoid single-use items wherever possible
- Share information and encourage one another

Small changes, made together, have a big impact.

A Final Thought

Minimising waste is about more than tidiness—it is about justice, stewardship, and care for creation. When we choose to reduce, reuse, and recycle, we reflect God's love for the world and our responsibility within it.
