

Eco Champions newsletter - November 2022

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MK Eco Champions Newsletter

 Milton Keynes
City Council



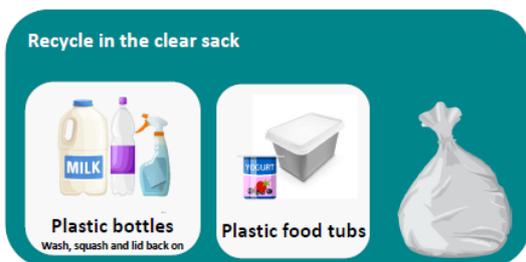
This month's focus is on plastic.

Plastic has an interesting beginning, as it was created partly as a result of a competition in Victorian times to find an environmental-friendly alternative to products made from ivory, tortoiseshell and whale bone.

Our modern life could not exist without plastic, but it's inventors would be horrified to see the damage their product had done by our overuse and poor disposal. The problem is not with the plastic material itself, but how we use it and what we do with it when no longer required.

Quick quiz: What is plastic made of? Answer at the end of this newsletter

Recycling plastics - quick fire questions



What plastics go in the clear recycling sack?

Plastic bottles, milk bottles, shampoo containers and cleaning products. Plastic tubs including fruit punnets, yoghurt pots, meat trays, bleach bottles, triggers and pumps accepted too.

Lid on or lid off?

If possible, lid back on helps to ensure the lid is recycled. We do also accept lids separately. Wash, squash - rinse to remove any food or drink residue, squash so you can fit more in your clear sack.

Do I have to rinse the container out?

Plastic must be cleaned before recycling, so you are helping reduce the amount of cleansing done by the recycling facility. It keeps down smells from your clear sack which might attract animals to rip open your clear sack.

Can I recycle crisp packets?

These are classified as 'soft plastics' and can be recycled at your local supermarket soft plastic recycling drop off area, along with plastic carrier bags, bread bags and pet food pouches, etc.

What happens to the plastic bottles and tubs I put in the clear recycling sack?

The sacks go to a recycling facility where the contents are separated by material types. This is sent onto factories to be recycled. Plastic is flaked into small pieces, then washed, dried, and melted. Plastic bottles can be recycled into more bottles, traffic cones, wheeled bins, guttering, fluff in duvets. Plastic food tubs and yoghurt pots can be recycled into a plastic board to be turned into products such as picnic tables or pig sties.

Visit our [Eco Champions resources](#) page for articles for newsletters about plastics to use in newsletters, social media and on noticeboards.

Did you know...?

Did you know that cigarette butts contain plastic? Find out more and learn about other household items that contain hidden plastic.

#PlasticButts



As an Eco Champion how can I help?



At home:

- challenge the whole family, both young and old, to swap to a reusable water bottles
- when making pack lunches, instead of tin foil, clingfilm or plastic sandwich bags, swap to reusable tubs
- use reusable fruit and vegetable bags at the supermarket and in the fridge at home
- ensure everyone at home knows what plastic can be recycled in the clear sack
- look at the plastics in your clear sack. Think of ways you could reduce this or find alternatives.

At work:

- use a reusable cup for hot drinks, not disposable coffee cups - be a good example!

- chat to colleagues so they know to rinse out plastic food and drinks tubs before placing in the recycling bin
- share this newsletter with colleagues or put up the plastics information posters from our [Eco Champions resources](#) webpage on the noticeboard or by the kettle in the kitchen
- review your everyday work practices where you use plastics. Is there an alternative material type or reusable version you could swap to?

Over the last few years, the Facilities team at Civic offices has worked hard to reduce single use plastic, and now use water dispensers and iced water jugs in group rooms and removed plastic cups and stirrers in Hospitality.

Email wasteeducation@milton-keynes.gov.uk and tell us what you have done in your work area to reduce single use plastic use.

Know your stuff!



**Plastic
Ocean**

With Sarah Spicer

**Environment and Waste Team
Milton Keynes City Council**

**MK Milton Keynes
City Council**

Find out more about the inventors of plastic, how plastic gets into our oceans and everyday things we can do to help by watching [the Plastic Oceans video](#).

This month's good news story



A group of parents at [Saplings Children's centre](#) have set up a community project focusing on reducing waste of toys particularly plastic. have set up a second-hand toy project, taking in donations, cleaning up, packaging and making available to families for a small cost. The aim of the project is to provide employment experience for the group members, allow parents to save money and reduce the quantity of plastic going to waste. This is all part of new level 1 accredited employability course at the centre, facilitated by [Community Learning](#).

Share your news

Have a story to share? Email wasteeducation@milton-keynes.gov.uk and share your successes and inspire others.

December's issue will focus on how to have a greener Christmas.

Quick quiz answer: plastic is made from crude oil