

Eco Champions - January

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January 2023



This month's newsletter has a different look, celebrating some of the great achievements of MK Eco Champions.

Each story will hopefully inspire you to do something similar at home, work or in your community.

Young litter picking champions



Well done to the young people of Furze House for litter picking in their local community. [Eco Warrior certificates](#) were given out to all those who participated. Great work!

Inspired? Why not organise a litter pick with your family, friends, work colleagues or help out at a local community event.

Hire litter picks free of charge in your local area

Fun litter audit sheet for children

Ditch the disposable in the workplace

MK City Council staff at Civic offices are being encouraged to bring along one of the mugs from the kitchenettes or a travel mug every time they visit from [Café Civic](#) for a drink.

Currently the café hands out over 3,000 disposable coffee cups every month and are eager to reduce this cost, as well as helping the environment and reducing waste.



Encourage family members and work colleagues to use a travel mug when having hot drinks on the go. In your daily life look out for single use items that could be replaced using a reusable option.

Reuse toy sale



A group of parents at [Saplings Children's centre](#) set up a second-hand toy project, taking in donations, cleaning up, packaging and making toys available to families for a small cost. The aim of the project is to provide employment experience for the parents. The chosen project will help parents to save money and aims to 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](#).

Previously Saplings CC also held a Winter Coat Swap event, helping to save money and preventing textiles going to waste.

Consider forming a group at work, school or local community group to organise a 'bring-and buy' sale to find new homes for clothes, toys and other useful items.

Explaining recycling



Hinton Lodge sheltered housing officer spent time with tenants to help them to understand what can be recycled. This involved putting items into the rubbish and recycling bags, so that residents could see what goes where to help them understand the process. New bin posters were put up and all residents given recycling leaflets and reminder postcards.

Order free bin posters, leaflets and postcards for family, friends and colleagues.

Keep warm and save energy

Walton Community Council have opened up the Pavilion in Walnut Tree as part of their winter Warm Spaces initiative. With the cost of living rising, and the cost of heating homes having gone up, WCC are offering a warm place for residents to gather, to have hot drinks and a range of activities for people to do, board games, decks of cards, magazines and newspapers.

Could this be something that might be of use in your community. How could you help make this initiative happen in your area?



MK City Council is funding a free 'Warmth and Wellbeing Helpline' offering advice to people struggling with the cost-of-living crisis. Local residents can call freephone **0800 107 0044** to get advice on how to get better energy deals, apply for insulation and energy efficiency grants. Residents could save as much as £115 a year by implementing the advice. **Please pass this on to anyone you think will benefit.**

Contact us

Tell us your good news stories of things you have done at home and at work to help the environment.

Do you have a question you would like to ask the MKCC Environment and Waste team or the MK Eco Champion community?

Let us know if you have a particular eco topic you would like covered in future newsletters.

Email wasteeducation@milton-keynes.gov.uk