

Doing good with your waste

I am sure many of you recycle your unwanted paper. And, you know that the majority of it is reused to make new paper, or cartonboard. But, what else do you recycle and what 'can' you recycle?

The answer is, pretty much everything! And, if you can't, you can donate it, or compost it, or reuse it, and if not, only then should it become 'waste'.

Remember though that it is important to get all staff to understand that reduction is the first step, and then recycling can take care of the rest. Reduce what you waste first! And, why not 'recycle' to a charity and do some good, while you are doing good for the planet?



Have you thought about recycling/donating...

Electrical items: Radios, CD players, kettles, toasters, microwaves, vacuum cleaners, smoke alarms/detectors (some are classed as hazardous waste, so check with your waste consultant), clocks.

Furniture: Desks, chairs, bookcases, shelving, cupboards. You might be able to donate to a local good cause if they are still in working order.

Plastic bottles and drinks cans.

Plastic films and wrapping.

Aerosols.

Carpeting.

Batteries. Try using rechargeables, but they don't last forever, so recycle them too.

Food waste. If you have a space, why not start a garden for employees, you can compost some food waste, or start a worm farm, and have a nice, natural area to sit in for breaks too.

Fluorescent tubes and light bulbs.

Laptops and computers. Much of this can be donated to charities (make sure you clean all your information off first). Try www.computeraid.org

Mobile and landline telephones. The Red Cross

(www.recycle4charity.co.uk/britishredcross) accepts donations of old mobile phones (and ink cartridges too).

Stamps: Save your stamps and donate to a charity. They sell the stamps per kilo to dealers and use the money to fund their projects. You need to separate the UK and foreign ones if you can. A couple of suggestions of those that collect stamps:

www.rnib.org.uk; www.leukaemiacare.org.uk; www.againstbreastcancer.org.uk;

www.hearingdogs.org.uk – there are loads more that would welcome your donation.

Old work wear, textiles and towels. Some charities still collect textiles and clothing, which they sell on for recycling. Check with the local store.

Spectacles/glasses: Donate to www.visionaidoverseas.org