Waste Week facts

Week 2



DID YOU KNOW? We throw away 7 million tonnes of food and drink from our homes every year in the UK, and more than half of this food and drink could have been eaten.

- The top three foods that Britons are throwing away uneaten include every day essentials: bread, potatoes and milk.
- 5.8 million potatoes and 5.9 million glasses of milk are wasted daily in the UK, have you ever thrown any of these items away?
- Can you guess what might have happened if you were caught wasting food during the second world war? Answer: You could have been sent to prison!
- We waste the largest amount of food on Sundays as this is when the most food is prepared. Why do you think this is?
- Wasting food costs the average UK household £470 a year, rising to £700 for a family with children, the equivalent of around £60 a month.





DID YOU KNOW? UK households throw away 4.9 million tonnes of packaging every year.



- Packaging accounts for 16% of all your household's waste. The UK are the 6th highest user of packaging in Europe (based on kg per person).
- Packaging can help food stay fresh for longer. A correctly plastic wrapped cucumber will stay fresh for 14 days whereas an unwrapped one will be soft in three. Selling grapes in trays or bags has reduced in-store waste of grapes by 20%.
- The food industry is creating intelligent packaging to help reduce food waste - for example nitrogen barrier plastic packaging that keeps meat out of contact with oxygen can increase its shelf life by two weeks.

Sources: **Day 6**: http://england.lovefoodhatewaste.com/node/2472, http://www.wrap.org.uk/content/use-your-loaf-and-save-billions, From history of food waste, Waste game questions, http://england.lovefoodhatewaste.com/node/2472
Day 7: http://www.wrap.org.uk/content/packaging-3, http://www.plasticseurope.org/documents/document/20111107101127-final_pe_factsfigures_uk2011_lr_041111.pdf page 18

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Find more waste facts at
www.jointhepod.org

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Waste Week facts

Week 2

DAY 8

DID YOU KNOW? Around £140 million worth (350,000 tonnes) of used clothing goes to landfill in the UK every year.

- More than 30% of our unwanted clothing currently goes to landfill. You can recycle unwanted textiles for science kit by taking part in www.scienceintoschools.org
- The textiles we throw away to landfill each year weigh more than 800 Boeing 747 jumbo jets!
- Recycled textiles are used in many ways. They can be resold to charities or second hand clothes shops or sent to developing countries. They can also be turned into wiping cloths or processed back into fibers and turned into paper, insulation, carpet padding, and other items.
- Any textile item, even if it's worn, torn, or stained can be recycled. You can even recycle a single shoe. Items just need to be clean and dry.

Take part in Science into Schools and swap your unwanted textiles for fascinating new science equipment





DAY 9

DID YOU KNOW? The average family throws away 6 trees worth of paper in their household bin each year!

- UK tissue mills use around half a million tonnes per year of high grade recycled paper - so your recycled paper is put to good use!
- Corrugated packaging consists of nearly 100% recycled material.
- For every tonne of paper that is recycled, 17 trees are saved.

DAY 10

DID YOU KNOW? You can travel around Bristol city centre on a bus powered by poo and food waste!



- Geneco's new Bio-Bus is powered by gas generated via the treatment of sewage and food waste. The fuel for a Bio-Bus produces fewer emissions than traditional diesel engines and the fuel is locally sourced.
- According to Geneco, the bus has a range of 186 miles on a full tank of gas. To put it another way, it could transport people the whole length of Great Britain on the waste generated from one bus load of passengers in a year.

Sources: **Day 8**: http://www.wrap.org.uk/content/fast-facts-textiles, http://www.telegraph.co.uk/travel/travelnews/9221338/Boeing-Dreamliner-787-Airbus-A380-and-the-jumbo-jet-How-do-they-compare.html **Day 9**: http://www.londonwasterecycling.co.uk/waste-recycling-facts.php, http://www.recyclenow.com/facts-figures/how-it-recycled/paper, http://www.earthtrust.org.uk/ourfootprint/NationalRecyclingWeek.aspx **Day 10**: http://www.geneco.uk.com/Biobug/biobus.aspx, http://www.geneco.uk.com/about-Us/news.aspx?id=14

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