

# Do you recycle?



Find out the latest on recycling at [www.recycle.douglas.gov.im](http://www.recycle.douglas.gov.im)



Compacted paper bales ready for shipping to the UK



Paper from recycling rounds & bring bank collection bins is lifted into the baler for compacting.



Each trailer is shipped to the UK with around 27 tonnes of paper.



The Douglas Borough Council Waste Service team work together from street scene to office to provide an efficient recycling service.



A finished paper bale is wired and removed from the baler ready for shipping.

You might not expect to see fork lift trucks and state of the art machinery as part of a heritage open day, but there's a rare chance for the public to see a very modern industry in action in October.

Tucked away in an industrial unit in Braddan is Douglas Borough Council's recycling centre, which acts as the hub for municipal recycling in the Isle of Man.

Every month around 120 tonnes of recyclable material including paper, card, cans and plastics from the island's network of bring banks and kerbside collections are sorted and processed before being sold in the UK.

The conventional benefits of recycling - conserving resources, saving energy and protecting the environment - might be noble goals in themselves, but the need to recycle as much of the island's waste as possible is much more practical, and more pressing, than ever.

Every year the Isle of Man produces nearly 50,000 tonnes of waste - equivalent to four fully laden Ben My Chrees - to be incinerated at the Energy from Waste (EFW) plant.

But with local authorities and ratepayers now expected to bear the costs for its disposal, reducing the amount of waste has become a top priority for local authorities faced with either hiking domestic rates or cutting other services to cover the increasing costs.

It's estimated that around 40 per cent of the Isle of Man's household waste could be recycled, and the raw materials are in demand.

'Over the last few years Douglas Borough Council have come to understand the importance of recycling,' explained Douglas Borough Councillor Mr Richard McNicholl. 'If it has a value, it's really important

for us to take it out of the waste stream. Not only do we sell the material, but everything we take out saves money on the gate fees at the EFW plant.

'The more we get from householders, the greater the financial benefits for ratepayers,' he added. 'It's really that simple.'

The site processes around 1,200 tonnes of paper every year. It's compacted on site into 850kg bales using specialist machinery and a full trailer load is sold to a recycling facility in Flintshire every week to be made into new paper.

The long-established bring bank network is still the main source, but the relatively new kerbside schemes in Douglas, Braddan and Port St Mary, for which Douglas Borough Council act as contracted collectors, now contribute a third of the island's paper for recycling.

Alastair Hamilton, clerk of Port St Mary commissioners, explained that over 40 per cent of households in the village have signed up to the kerbside recycling scheme since its introduction last October.

'We're aiming to finish our first year of kerbside collection with a total of between 95 and 100 tonnes recycled from 850 households and we're expecting to save, after costs, something in the region of £15,000,' he said.

'We were able to hold the rates bill and there's no prospect of us putting it up for now,' he continued. 'If we'd been taking the same amount of waste to the EFW plant, there would certainly have been much more pressure on the rates.'

Douglas Borough Council's idea of opening the facility to the public is to counter the perception that recycling in the island is uneconomical, said Councillor Mr Richard McNicholl.

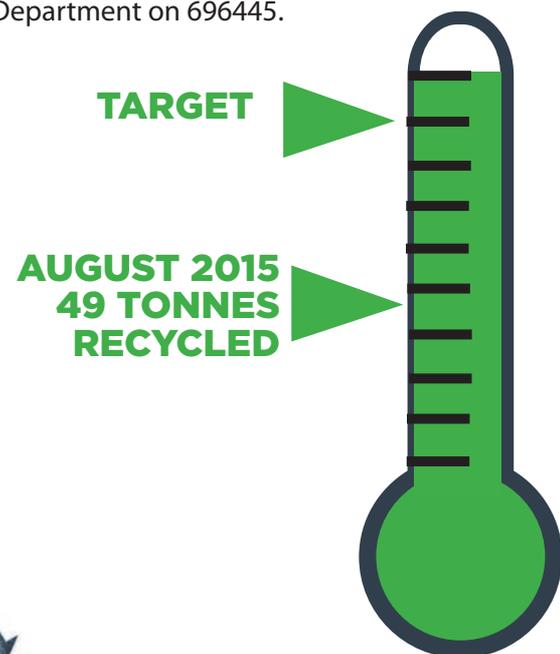
'To me Port St Mary has proved the point that kerbside collection really works and that there's a massive opportunity to increase the amount we capture,' he said. 'We don't have to pay to get rid of it, we're paid for it, and anything we can recycle avoids the charges at the EFW plant.'

'And we do our best to operate locally and we have a full chain of custody on the waste,' he continued. 'All of our materials are sold in the north west of England or, in the case of steel, it stays on the island.'

'We really are an open book here and we'd love for people to come and see the facility for themselves.' Hourly tours of the site will take place on Saturday, October 3 and Saturday, October 11 between 10am and 3pm.

Advance booking is essential, email [heritageopendays@gov.im](mailto:heritageopendays@gov.im) to reserve a place. Accompanied children are welcome but must be aged six or over due to the machinery in operation.

Recycling boxes and calendars can be ordered for residents within the Douglas and Braddan area by contacting Douglas Borough Council's Waste Services Department on 696445.



reuse



reduce



recycle