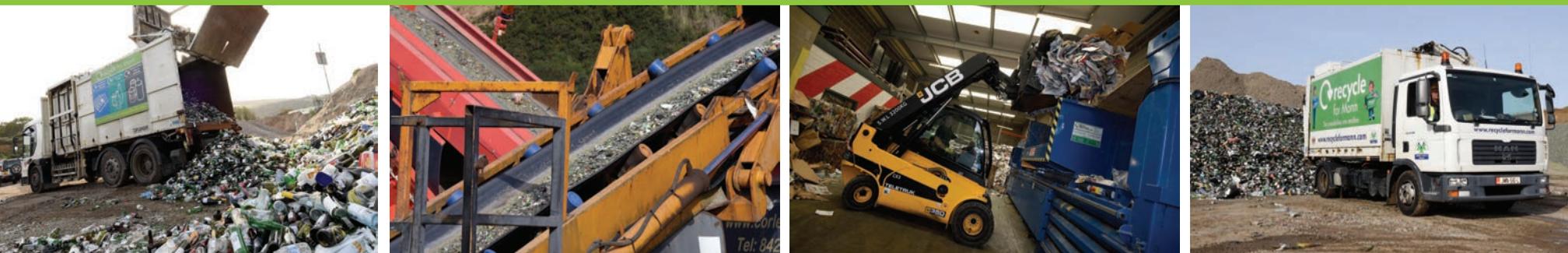


Do you recycle?



Have you ever wondered how the island recycles its waste?

A new website and a series of public open days are aiming to lift the lid on an industry that's often misunderstood in the island...



www.recyclenow.im aims to be a comprehensive guide to recycling in the Isle of Man. Users can learn how recyclable waste is processed and where it is sold, while residents of Douglas, Braddan and Port St Mary can sign up to their local kerbside collection schemes.

But for an even closer look, book now to take a tour of Douglas Borough Council's recycling centre which acts as the hub for municipal recycling in the Isle of Man.

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

The idea of opening the facility to the public is to counter perceptions that everything ends up in the Energy from Waste plant, according to Douglas Borough Councillor Ritchie McNicholl.

'We really are an open book and we love giving people a better understanding of what we do, which is what the website and the open days are all about, we've been recycling at this scale for more than a decade and operating kerbside schemes for nearly six years now.'

And yet some unfortunate perceptions still exist even today - I've heard people insist that despite the fact that we collect, sort and process it separately, it's all sent to be incinerated, which makes no sense at all,' he said.

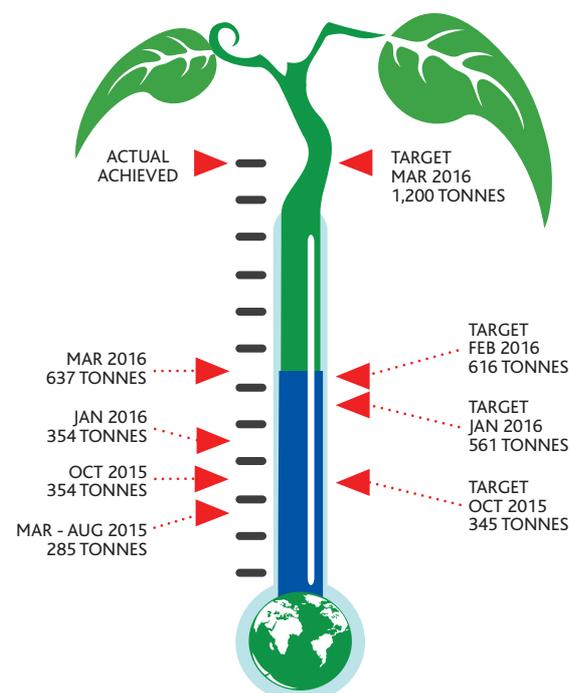
'The logistics of recycling can be difficult for us, nobody pretends otherwise, and isn't always cheaper than incineration,' Councillor Ritchie McNicholl added. 'But it's absolutely the right thing to do.'

The public can also take part in a new online survey about the island's recycling practices. Councillor McNicholl said: 'People's input has a real impact on our thinking. Do you want access to a kerbside recycling scheme, or more convenient bring banks? We're listening, so please make yourself heard.'

Recycling is more than just an environmental slogan these days - it's a fully-fledged industry and the raw materials are in demand. Every year the Isle of Man produces nearly 50,000 tonnes of waste to be incinerated at the Energy from Waste plant and it's estimated that around 40 per cent of the Isle of Man's household waste could be recycled.

Councillor Ritchie McNicholl stated, 'The Isle of Man is now officially a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve and we achieved that recognition for the way we live in our environment. We need to live by those values and remember that it's not all about money, it's about our legacy.'

Hourly tours of the recycling processing centre at the Isle of Man Business Park in Braddan will take place on Saturday, May 14 between 10am and 3pm. Advance booking is essential, please email nbarnes@douglas.gov.im to reserve a place. Accompanied children are welcome but must be aged six or over due to the machinery in operation. Additional tours will take place during the Manx National Heritage open days in September and October.



Visit our new website at www.recyclenow.im



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