

Recycling

Each year the residents of Woking alone create over 24,000 tonnes of household waste. The majority of this waste is disposed of in landfill sites, but most of it could be reused, recycled or composted.



Large amounts of waste cause big problems. In Surrey, in particular, traditional ways of dumping waste in landfill sites are having to come to an end in the foreseeable future as the county is rapidly running out of suitable sites.

Residents of Woking at the present time, recycle approximately 14% of their household waste. The Council is continuing to encourage residents to recycle more waste with a variety of initiatives. These include:

- **32 recycling sites** in the Borough provided by the Council which allow residents to recycle an increasing range of materials
- The **Kerbside collection scheme** now collects green waste as well as paper from residents' doorsteps.
- A dedicated **Planet Woking** page on the Council's website plus regular features in the Borough's Woking Magazine (delivered to all homes and businesses three times a year) giving further information about recycling schemes in the Borough.
- **Home composter scheme.** Borough residents can buy reduced price composters and water butts direct, through an initiative organised by the Council. One in three Woking households now owns a composter.
- **The Roadshow Vehicle.** The Council's Environmental team makes scheduled visits to the town centre and Borough villages to raise awareness of the benefits of recycling and to promote Council initiatives.
- **Events and promotions.** The Council has organised several giant 'Earth Machine' sales enabling residents to purchase a home composter for just £10 - over 3,000 composters were sold on just one day alone. Other promotions include dedicated banks for recycling yellow pages every spring when the new edition is published plus banks for Christmas cards



Woking residents collecting their composters.

during the festive season. The Council also provides facilities for residents to recycle their Christmas trees. In 2000, residents recycled over one and a half tonnes of Christmas cards which were taken to a waste paper merchant for recycling into paper products. Over 5339 trees were delivered to a local composting facility to provide compost and mulch.

- The **Really Useful Recycling Directory**. Available on the Council's website and as information sheets, the Directory provides a useful A-Z listing of recycling facilities in the Borough and beyond.