canterbury city council

LET'S WASTE LESS



YOUR GUIDE TO RECYCLING MORE

THANK YOU

YOU ARE MAKING A REAL DIFFERENCE

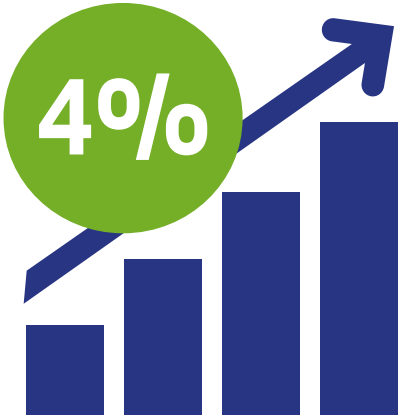
Thank you to all the residents in our district doing their bit to recycle. Last year, you helped increase recycling in the district by 4%.

This is a great achievement and means we recycled 43.3% of all waste.

But there's still more to do. The UK Government set a national recycling target of 60% by 2030, and we all need to do a little bit more to get us there.

The good news is that, by changing just a few simple habits, you can give a massive boost to the amount of waste we recycle.

Last year, your actions helped Canterbury City Council increase its recycling rate by 4%.





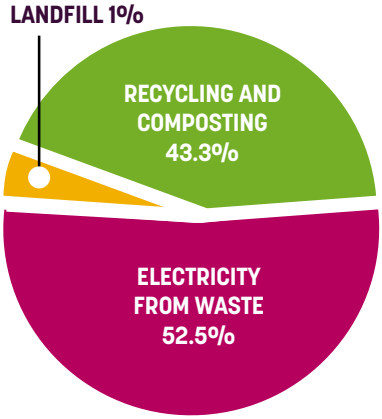
Three reasons to recycle

1. Protects the planet by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and the need to extract new raw materials.
2. Saves money by reducing waste processing costs, helping more of your council tax fund vital local services.
3. Stops useful materials becoming waste by transforming them into new products that can be used again.

WHAT HAPPENS TO MY RECYCLING?

Around **50,000** tonnes of waste is collected across our district each year and just under **90%** of it is processed here in the UK.

43.3% of waste is recycled and **52.5%** is incinerated to produce energy. Less than **1%** of your waste is sent to landfill.



Canterbury district waste breakdown (2025/26)

THE RECYCLING JOURNEY

1



Transported to a Kent County Council waste processing facility

2



Materials separated and washed before being broken into tiny pieces

3



Pieces melted together to produce brand-new products

FOOD WASTE

Thousands of households across the district already recycle their food waste, but we need even more of you to join!

All your food waste can be recycled



Plate scrapings



Raw and cooked food



Meat and fish bones



Tea bags and coffee grounds



Fruit and vegetables



Out-of-date food and packaged food (packaging removed)

RECYCLING YOUR FOOD IS EASY

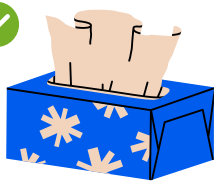
1. Line your kitchen caddy
2. Scrape your food waste into the caddy
3. Tie up the liner and put it in your kerbside caddy or communal food bin



Order your kerbside caddy
canterbury.gov.uk/newbin

PAPER, CARD AND CARDBOARD

We know you have the basics of red bin recycling down, but there are a few sneaky items still ending up in black bins.



Toiletry boxes



Toilet roll tubes



Junk mail and magazines



Envelopes



Plain wrapping paper



Pizza boxes

TIP Put a small basket in your bathroom for recyclables so they don't go to waste in your black bin.



Recycling these only takes seconds, but the impact is huge!

PLASTICS, CANS AND GLASS

Most of you have mastered blue bin recycling, but a few tricky items are still finding their way into black bins.



Shampoo bottles



Deodorant cans



Yoghurt pots



Spray bottles



Perfume bottles



Toothpaste tubes

TIP Rinse before you recycle. Food or liquid left inside can cause whole loads of recycling to go to waste.

NEW! Don't forget you can now recycle your cartons and Tetra Paks.

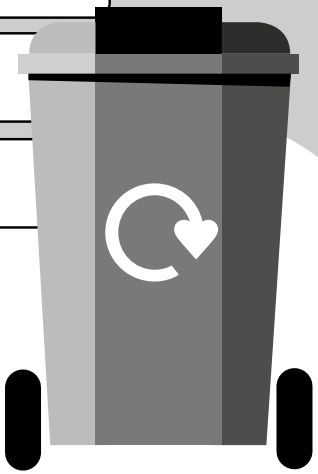




GENERAL WASTE

Most things that can't be recycled can go in the general waste, **but please don't put these items in your black bin:**

- **Batteries**
- **Textiles**
- **Vapes**
- **Hot ash**
- **Small electricals**
- **Paint pots**



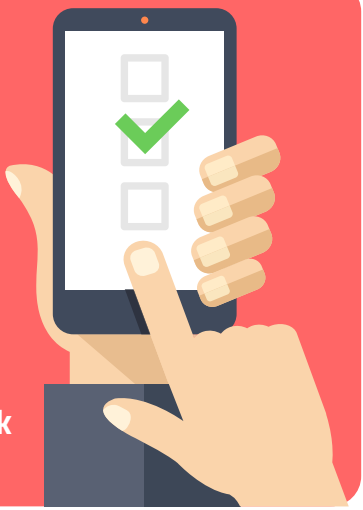
Still not sure what to put in your household bins?

Use the search tool on our website **canterbury.gov.uk/waste**

TELL US WHAT WOULD HELP YOU RECYCLE MORE

Take five minutes to complete our short survey and share what would make recycling easier for you.

Those who can't complete the online survey can request a physical copy by emailing consultations@canterbury.gov.uk



RECYCLING OUTSIDE THE HOME

There are some items that you cannot recycle at home that can still be recycled at many collection points across the district.

	Recycle at a household waste recycling centre	Recycle at supermarkets, shops or special points	Donate at charity shops or their dedicated points
Batteries	YES	YES	NO
Vapes	YES	CHECK FIRST	NO
Coffee pods	YES	CHECK FIRST	NO
Bulky items	YES	NO	CHECK FIRST
Metal and wood	YES	NO	NO
Carrier bags	NO	CHECK FIRST	NO
Other soft plastics	NO	CHECK FIRST	NO
Light bulbs	YES	CHECK FIRST	NO
Books	YES	CHECK FIRST	YES
Small electrical items	YES	CHECK FIRST	CHECK FIRST
Toys (good condition)	NO	NO	YES

Find more information about what you can recycle and where on Recycle Now's website.

recyclenow.com

This leaflet is for residents served by Canterbury City Council only. If your waste and recycling is not collected by Canterbury City Council, please recycle this leaflet and accept our apologies.