

The Time is Now

Climate Change Newsletter

February 2011 - Issue 6

Waste

Waste not want not

The Battery Buster Campaign



The Battery Buster Campaign

Batteries are made up of heavy metals and corrosive materials such as lead, cadmium, mercury, lithium and other chemical compounds, which if improperly disposed can harm our environment. The chemicals can seep into the ground and eventually even reach our water table.

It is calculated that around 3 million batteries are thrown away in Malta and Gozo each year.

The Battery Buster campaign urges children and schools to be responsible for the disposal of batteries. WasteServ collects these spent batteries and ensures that they are properly dealt with. Once the batteries are collected, they are then sorted into different groups and stored responsibly until they are shipped and recycled.

To join the battery buster campaign visit <http://www.wasteservmalta.com/wastemanagement.aspx?id=107>



HSBC
The world's local bank



Composting at school

Most people nowadays use the bring-in-sites and separate their waste, however composting is still quite new in Malta. The reason for this may be because composting is usually something that is kept outside because of smell and the need for ventilation.

Some compost bins however have been designed to be used indoors, in kitchens, washrooms or the internal yard.

Schools are a good place to promote composting, because the bins can be kept outside and with little supervision.

Compost bins can be made from anything that is big enough to hold a substantial amount of waste. So, things like wooden pallets, large jerrycans or plastic water tanks, can all be used. If the school has a green patch then part of it can be turned into a compost heap.

If using a plastic container, holes must be put at the side of the container for air ventilation as this will prevent smell.

Using earthworms or compost worms is another great way of speeding up the composting process, because the worms will feed on the waste. To prepare a worm compost bin, you will need a good heap of newspaper strips slightly wet and placed at the bottom of the container filling about a third of it. The worms are then placed on the wet paper and food scrapings are then placed on top.

Fruit skins, vegetables and garden waste are all good for composting.

To find out more about composting visit <http://www.wasteservmalta.com/wastemanagement.aspx?id=108> and http://www.tn.gov/environment/ea/pdf/tp3_ss-alpha-compost.pdf

Happy Composting!!!



WasteServ Malta Ltd

WasteServ Malta Ltd can offer you creative ideas about how you can manage waste.



One thing I can do...

Start up a lunch box campaign where students bring their lunch in a lunch box instead of a plastic bag

It is illegal for shops to give out plastic bags with handles to consumers, but they can still legally give out plastic bags without the handle. However, environmentally - both cause the same harm.

When shopping take a cloth bag with you and say no to plastic



“The Earth has enough resources for our need, but not for our greed”

Mahatma Gandhi



What can I do?

Waste

- Do not litter
- Separate waste for recycling
- Buy products which have less packaging
- “Buy fresh” this way you can reduce packaging as well as carbon emissions
- Don't use the toilet as a bin
- If something is broken do not rush to buy a new product, check if it can be fixed first
- Buy rechargeable batteries
- Don't throw clothes away give them to charity
- Use a cloth bag to go shopping



This is a photo (taken by Charlotte Aquilina and Siah Bianco) that was submitted for the Young Reporters for the Environment competition. This is a typical site in Maltese streets, most of this waste could have been recycled. Waste like this can attract cats and rats. By recycling waste we would also be extending the life of the engineered landfill.

Related links

http://www.ecokids.ca/pub/eco_info/topics/waste/itsnotwaste/thesolution/what_to_do.cfm

http://www.kab.org/site/PageServer?pagename=Focus_Waste_reduction

The Maltese government has been working on a solid waste management strategy for the Maltese islands. For more info visit:

<http://www.mrra.gov.mt/wastestrategy.asp>



In 1970 Container Corporation of America, sponsored a contest for a logo design for their recycled product. The winner was Gary Anderson a 23 year old college student who came up with this well known logo, which has become the Universal Recycling Symbol. See http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Recycling_symbol

