

Recycling has really taken off in the UK and is helping us all reduce our impact on the environment. Although recycling is important, it is also important to focus on reducing and reusing materials, this not only saves money, but also energy, water and natural resources.

Below are examples of ways current Green Tourism members are cutting down on their waste. The first four are reduction measures and the last three reuse measures.

1. **Use less or none of a product** – e-cloths and e-mops clean without the need for detergent, pre-ordering breakfasts and offering half-portions reduces food waste and brochures can be available on your website rather than printed.
2. **Avoid individually packaged items** from breakfast cereals to butter, sugar, and toiletries. Other way to reduce packaging is by refilling bottles, buying concentrated products and in bulk.
3. **Use suppliers with returnable/minimal packaging** – unload supplies while the delivery van is still there and give packaging back to the supplier. Ask laundry companies to stop wrapping laundry in polythene.
4. **Only print when necessary** and double-sided where possible. Get the most use out of scrap paper before it's recycled.
5. **Get creative with packaging** – plastic bottles can be used as displacement devices in cisterns and many storage containers can be reused.
6. **Find worthy homes for waste** – might other organisations and groups be able to use your waste? For example jam jars make paint containers, shredded paper can make bedding for animals, plastic tubs and cardboard boxes are great for storage. Charity shops and organisations such as Freecycle will take lots of items.
7. **Promote your 'reduce and reuse' practises** so customers can take your ideas home with them.



## Did you know?

The table below shows estimates from various organisations of the energy saving achieved by recycling a product compared to producing it from raw materials. Less energy is not the only advantage to recycling – less raw materials and often less water are also clear advantages.

MATERIAL	ENERGY REDUCTION	SOURCE
Aluminium	95%	Keep America Beautiful 2006
Plastic	90%	MBA Polymers 2007
Steel and tin	70%	Keep America Beautiful 2006
Paper	60%	Green Living Tips 2007
Paper	40%	US EPA 2008
Glass	33%	Glass Packaging Institute 2007

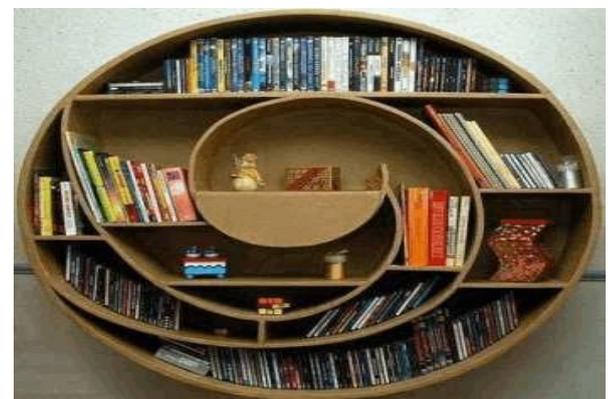
## Craft Workshops

Craft workshops are a fun way of reusing materials. Contact your local art or community group or set one up yourself. Waste paper, cardboard, plastic and metals could all be used to create various art, furniture and practical items. It's also a great way to raise awareness with kids and adults on what can be done with previously considered waste.

## The Great Pacific Garbage Patch

The Great Pacific Garbage Patch is a collection of mainly plastic waste floating in the Pacific. The waste has been trapped by the current of the North Pacific and is estimated to be five times the size of the UK and growing.

Although it is out of sight for most people, it shouldn't be left out of mind!



## Web Links

Freecycle: <http://www.freecycle.org>  
 Innovative ideas on reducing waste [www.zerowastescotland.org.uk](http://www.zerowastescotland.org.uk) , [www.wrap.org.uk](http://www.wrap.org.uk)  
 Furniture Re-use Network: <http://www.frn.org.uk/>  
 Recycling Guide [www.recycling-guide.org.uk](http://www.recycling-guide.org.uk)