

# Waterbeach Waste Education Centre

Community Newsletter

AUTUMN 2023



Join our Halloween  
event! page 3

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**Meet the  
band of  
repairers**

They are ready  
to fix your stuff -  
find out how to  
get involved!



# Welcome to the Autumn edition of our newsletter!

Located at Waterbeach Waste Management Park, Cambridgeshire County Council work with Thalia, our service provider to raise the awareness of the importance of waste reduction, reuse, repair, and recycling across Cambridgeshire.

We have a fabulous Education Centre at Waterbeach where we offer thought-provoking presentations on waste reduction, recycling etc. As well as various 'hands-on' activities, (including sorting out your recyclables). We also offer a chance to view the Material Recovery Facility, (where your blue-bin recycling waste is sorted). We carry out recycling workshop visits across the county to schools, community groups, parish councils and organisations and support a wide range of community events across the year.



## Summer family recycling events prove hit with local community!

As part of Cambridgeshire County Council summer activities, the waste team with the support of our eco waste partners, (inc. Recoup and Cambridge Carbon Footprint), held a series of family recycling events at our Waste Education Centre at Waterbeach. They were held across four days in August and over 120 people enjoyed taking part in a variety of activities including: making hats from old tee-shirts, making puppets from socks, enjoying tasty fruit skewers made from surplus fruit and seeing their recyclable waste being sorted for recycling. Participants were also encouraged to take part in various recycling games and some even got to star in a video!

***“We were busy all the time, the children, (and their parents) enjoyed themselves and were excited with the design possibilities. We had some great feedback from them including amazing resources, informative, fascinating tour and most importantly, I am going to change some of our behaviours around eating and recycling at home! I’d like to thank all our partners who supported us and can tell you that we are already planning the next event.”***





People in Cambridgeshire are reducing the amount of waste they produce.



In June 2018 we collected

**455.2kg**  
**per person**

of household waste across Cambridgeshire



In June 2023 that figure was

**402.1kg**  
**per person**

a drop of 50kg, (or 2 bags of cement) per person!

## HWRC WINTER OPENING HOURS



As from 1st October 2023, residents are reminded that Household Waste Recycling Centres are now operating their winter opening hours, for more details please search on our website or scan the QR code.

[www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk)



## Back by popular demand...

Such was the success of the events in August, the waste team are pleased to announce their next event which will take place at Waterbeach on **October 24, 2023, between 10-12 noon.**

The format will be the same as the summer events but based on a **Halloween theme**. As well as the opportunity to try tasty Halloween treats visitors will be able to make spooky decorations and have a go at painting their own scary face using everyday makeup found around the home.

**To get your name on the list and book a place at the event\*, (we can only cater for a maximum of 30 people) please email [wmt@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:wmt@cambridgeshire.gov.uk) and we will be in touch.**

\*Please note children under 6 are not allowed on-site.



# Meet the band of repairers ready to fix your stuff and find out how to get involved!

*“As we face multiple environmental crises, I feel that it is part of my responsibility as an engineer to ensure that the products I design are as sustainable as possible...”*

Savinien

The Repair Cafe movement is going from strength to strength in Cambridgeshire with the number of events in the county set to double to over 40 this year with more and more people bringing their broken toasters, lamps, clothes, gadgets, and other items to be repaired by volunteer repairers. Repair Cafes prevent emissions (about a quarter of a tonne of CO2 per Repair Cafe - equivalent to a car journey from Lands' End to John O'Groats), reduce waste, help with the cost-of-living crisis by offering free repairs and, most importantly, brings people together.

Mike is one of the longstanding repairers and helps to look after the two shared toolkits that are borrowed by Repair Cafes across the county: “I am a retired product designer. I began my career in hifi design, then moved on to be a design consultant in electronics. To me repairing is as much a social benefit as an environmental benefit.”

Matt and Savinien are part of a growing group of younger repairers who work for local tech companies. Savinien finds repairing directly relevant to his work as a product designer “As we face multiple environmental crises, I feel that it is part of my responsibility as an engineer to ensure that the products I design are as sustainable as possible... by participating in Repair Cafes I can answer many of the critical questions to design a sustainable product, such as how it broke, its repairability, the reasons behind its failure, the availability of spare parts, and how it actually functions.”

Matt, who works for Sentec a Xylem brand, one of the sponsors of the Cambridgeshire Repair Cafe Network, stresses the value of interacting with the public: “It feels like how engineering is meant to be done. It has brought me into direct contact with the purpose of my work: the people. The conversations, the joy of shared troubleshooting, the appreciation for what I've come to think of as common sense in my day-to-day job, all in a low-pressure environment, with tea and cake. What a pleasure. I would recommend it to anyone!”

If you would enjoy joining our team of repairers, and feel confident repairing items for yourself and for other people, email [repairnetwork@cambridgecarbonfootprint.org](mailto:repairnetwork@cambridgecarbonfootprint.org) and tell us a bit about your repair experience. We would love to hear from you and will pair you up with an established repairer for your first Repair Cafe so that you can see whether it's for you.

Visit [www.cambridgecarbonfootprint.org/events](http://www.cambridgecarbonfootprint.org/events) if you have something that is broken and would like to find an upcoming Repair Cafe to get an item fixed. Repairs are free and donations are welcome to support our growing network of Repair Cafes. You can also find information on our free, online, 'How to run a Repair Cafe' training sessions on our events pages. #Thanks to Sandy Skelton, Cambridgeshire Repair Cafe Network Co-ordinator for providing the article.



Mike and a group of repairers checking over the Toolkit donated by Mackays and Draper Tools



Savinien finds that plastic was jamming a strimmer at the Grand Arcade Repair Cafe

**COMING SOON**

# THE **BIG** RECYCLING HUNT

**16-22  
OCTOBER**

## Recycle Week 2023

Recycle Week 2023 will take place between 16th-22nd October 2023. This year's theme - The Big Recycling Hunt - focuses on "missed capture": the items that can be recycled but are commonly missed in the home.

This year Recycle Week is celebrating its 20th anniversary and will be inspiring children, families and whole communities to get involved. The campaign will have two distinct elements: firstly, for schools – encouraging the country's children to partake in fun activities throughout Recycle Week, plus a focus on local authorities, partners and brands to share the central the message.

Primary schools in England and Northern Ireland can sign up for The Action Pack at the URL below to receive all the latest information and details of how you can get your school to take part.

<https://schools.recyclenow.com>

#RecycleWeek



## Waste Education Collaboration

The waste education team in partnership with our waste management contractor, (Thalia) play an important part in helping residents in our communities to Reduce, Reuse and Recycle - all key to getting our collective carbon footprint down.

We believe in the importance sharing both best practice and ideas on how best we can collectively help our local communities with reducing their household waste.

Cambridgeshire's Waste Education Officer Jon Crisp recently visited the waste treatment facility at Allerton Waste Recovery Park in North Yorkshire where he met Waste Recovery Park Education Officer Laura Cooke on an information exchange. From swapping suggestions for fun craft activities using items from household recycling to tips for encouraging residents to join various Waste Education Programmes both Laura and Jonathan came away keen to share their new ideas.



# Food for the Planet festival, October the 21st to 29th

Making positive changes to the food we eat by choosing to eat a climate-friendly diet is one of the easiest ways that, as individuals, we can act on climate change.

Our week-long festival, with a theme of Climate Action On A Plate, will inspire and encourage you to take positive action towards a climate diet, whether this is through reducing food waste, growing your own fruit and veg or reducing your meat and dairy consumption.

With family friendly workshops, stalls, activities, restaurant discounts and fun days out across the city, our festival has something for everyone.

<https://cambridgesustainablefood.org/events>



**CAMBRIDGE  
SUSTAINABLE FOOD**



|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>SAVE</b>                            | <b>FOOD FOR<br/>THE PLANET<br/>FESTIVAL</b> |
| <b>SAT 21 -<br/>SUN 29<br/>OCTOBER</b> | <b>THE</b>                                  |
| <b>DATE</b>                            |   |



## Recycling activities hit right note at Music festival!

The Waste Education Team partnered with Suffolk at Play to provide free entertaining activities for children & their families attending the Cambridge Folk Festival.

Participants enthusiastically took on the challenge of sorting waste by playing the bean bag recycling game. They had to use their recycling knowledge & throwing aim to get bean bag items depicting items of household waste into the right bin.

For the creative there was the opportunity to make bird feeders from plastic drinks bottles. These proved very popular with over 100 being made over the weekend!

Waste Education Officer, Jon Crisp said:

***“It was a really successful weekend made possible with the loyal help & support of volunteers, I cannot thank them enough.”***

If you would like a member of our team to support your community event, then why not get in touch.

**Email: [WMT@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:WMT@cambridgeshire.gov.uk) or phone Jon Crisp 07484 519511**



## Re-imagine Resource Centre C.I.C.

At Re-Imagine we are always finding creative ways to help look after our planet by collecting waste materials that businesses normally just throw away. We started in 2013 for two reasons. First, to help save and use the materials we already have on our planet, and second, to help people who would like to use art, craft and play materials but can't afford them.

The centre is a hub of creative energy with a successful Community Kitchen and Solidarity Larder where we support many families in Ely and all the surrounding villages with fresh, healthy food.

As a CIC we always want to play a part in addressing the global challenges we face, including those related to poverty, inequality, climate, environmental degradation, prosperity, racism, peace and justice. We believe that by providing support, an ear to listen, signposting vital local services, and making fresh healthy food choices accessible and providing education surrounding food waste we can help to alleviate the pressure that comes with food insecurity, we are helping families to eat fresh food and learn how to make waste work.

Re-imagine is a place of creativity, giving and unity. We want to continue the work we are doing to help those struggling in our community and strive to support those facing tough times. Over the past ten years we have recruited over 3,500 members to our network.

Membership includes a wide variety of organisations including schools, colleges and nurseries, charities, various uniformed groups, business owners and church organisations.

Our mission at Re-imagine is to promote sustainability, creativity, and imagination through events, creative reuse, educational programs, material re-allocation, and community partnerships.

Our goal is to inspire innovative ideas on how to divert materials from the waste stream and transform them into resources to help our local community.

**We are located at Witchford Recycling Centre, Stirling Way, Witchford, Ely, CB6 3FA.**

**Check our Facebook page 'RE-IMAGINE RESOURCE CENTRE' for opening times, events, festivals and creative days.**



**#thanks to Ruth Marley for providing this article.**



# FREE Waste and Recycling workshops!

Ever wondered what happens to waste from our homes?  
Do you want to learn more about how you can reduce waste?  
Then why not book a **FREE** reuse and recycling workshop!

**Our fun FREE curriculum-based workshops can take place in schools, are an hour long, and we can deliver up to three lessons per day.**

- ✔ Ideal for primary Key Stage 2 children and above
- ✔ Lessons are based on the national curriculum.
- ✔ Delivered by qualified teaching staff.

We also cater for community groups and are happy to attend at a time to suit you.

Sessions are designed to educate and demonstrate how we manage waste, what we can do to reduce, reuse, and recycle it, and how we can all reduce waste going to landfill. We also provide FREE support to local community events wishing to promote sustainable living.

**To book or request more information email [wmt@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:wmt@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)**

**Workshops are FREE to all Cambridgeshire schools and community groups.**



**For more information scan the QR code or go to:**

[www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/waste-and-recycling/waste-education-service](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/waste-and-recycling/waste-education-service)