

## WEEE Won a Gold Award! Bhuannaich SINNE Duais Òir!

In July 2010, the Highland Council received a Gold Award in the REPIC's Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Collector of the Month scheme. This accolade was awarded for high levels of household waste electrical and electronic equipment being collected for reuse and recycling at the Recycling Centres.



Since the WEEE containers were installed at the Recycling Centres in January 2010, your continuing support has meant that we have collected nearly 2,000 tonnes of WEEE! That's the equivalent of 1¼ million toasters! You have been an invaluable part of this success, so we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your contribution.

## Love Food Hate Waste Miadh Biadh Càin Caitheamh

Did you know that in Scotland we throw away 566,000 tonnes of food waste every year and 69% of this amount could have been avoided if we managed our food better? This is an expensive habit and costs each household an average of £430 each year!

Our top tips to reduce food waste

- Plan your meals and food shopping so you only buy the things you need.
- Before you go food shopping, have a look to see what you have in your cupboards, fridge and freezer.
- Buy the amount of food you need, rather than being tempted to bulk buy perishable items that you might not use in time.
- Try rotating the food in your fridge, so that any food at the back that needs to be used up first is brought to the front.



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## Recycling Update Fios as Ùire mu Ath-chuartachadh

### Where are we now?

The current recycling rate for The Highland Council is 34%. As we continue to make steady progress towards achieving our recycling targets, the amount of waste we are generating is going down – this is good news so keep up the good work! Although this is a step in the right direction because less rubbish is being sent to landfill, we still need to recycle more of our waste. Our figures show that there is still a huge amount of material in your rubbish bins that can be recycled – glass bottles and jars are a prime example. Did you know that only half of all glass bottles and jars are being recycled in the Highlands?

Please remember to make use of the Council's recycling facilities so we can continue to increase our recycling rate year on year. More information about what you can recycle and where to recycle it can be found within this newsletter.

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For more information:

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[www.highland.gov.uk/recycle](http://www.highland.gov.uk/recycle)

### IMPORTANT NEWS

This year will see major changes to your recycling and refuse collection service.

Turn overleaf to find out more about these changes and when they will be happening in your area . . .



## Recycling and Refuse Collections Togail Ath-chuartachaidh is Sgudail

In a move to increase recycling, the TECS Committee has agreed to roll out alternate weekly waste and recycling collections to all of Highland. This means that refuse bins will be collected one week and recycling bins will be collected the following week. Residents who currently have a blue wheeled bin recycling service will receive fortnightly collections. Residents who currently receive blue box collections and those without any recycling collection will be provided with a blue wheeled bin to recycle paper, cans, card and plastic bottles. To find out when your new collection begins, see the table below.



Many other Local Authorities have already introduced similar schemes and are operating without problems. Over the last 6 months a pilot alternate weekly collection has been carried out in Skye and Lochalsh. During the first three months of the trial the quantity of material recycled increased by 17% compared to the same period in the previous year.

New Recycling and Refuse Collections roll-out start date	
Area	Start Date
Lochaber and Caithness	Apr 2011
Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey	July 2011
Ross and Cromarty (excluding parts of Wester Ross)	Oct 2011
Inverness	April 2012
Wester Ross	Apr 2012 (provisional)
Sutherland	July 2012

Why are we doing this? The reason for introducing this change is to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill and to encourage people to recycle more. The Scottish Government's Zero Waste Plan sets out a long term target to recycle 70% of all waste by 2025. Zero Waste means that everyone in Scotland needs to play their part in reducing the amount of waste sent to landfill.

## Where Can I Recycle? Càite An Ath-chuartaich Mi?

### What and where can I recycle?

#### Kerbside Recycling

Approximately 95% of householders in Highland receive a kerbside recycling collection service. The good news is that if you currently are not receiving this service, you will be soon as part of the new recycling and refuse collection scheme



#### Recycling Centres

There are 21 Recycling Centres across the Highlands. Recycling Centres are a fantastic way to recycle a wide range of materials. As well as recycling cardboard, glass bottles and jars, did you know that you can recycle large items such as old furniture and electrical equipment?



#### Recycling Points

A Recycling Point is an unmanned recycling facility and the majority of them accept paper, cans, glass bottles and jars and textiles - you can now recycle books and DVDs at some of them! There are over 200 of these located at convenient places such as supermarkets, leisure centres and public car parks.



#### Home Composting

Why not try home composting? Composting at home is one of the most effective ways you can reduce your waste. You can compost a wide range of organic materials including fruit, vegetables, egg shells, teabags, grass cuttings, plants and much more.



For further information about recycling or waste minimisation visit [www.highland.gov.uk/recycle](http://www.highland.gov.uk/recycle); or phone 01349 886603; or email [recycle@highland.gov.uk](mailto:recycle@highland.gov.uk)