



Alexandra
Primary School

Aspire, Perform, Succeed

Small Changes We Can Make at Home to Help Save Our Borough and the Planet

If we all changed one or two things, small changes become big changes for the environment. Our local council has a vision to create a Cleaner, Greener Hounslow working with residents and businesses to deliver public spaces and good quality neighbourhoods that are not blighted by litter, waste, fly-tipping and graffiti.

“Building civic pride by tackling waste, litter, improving recycling rates and ensuring our streets and parks are clean and tidy is a priority for Hounslow. Recycling rates has increased to more than 35%, but we must strive to push for an overall rate of 50%. We know residents want to live and work in streets and spaces that are free of litter, dumped waste and graffiti, which is why we are pushing ahead with plans to invest £3.85m in improving the environment of the borough.”

Cllr Guy Lambert, Hounslow Council Cabinet Member for Highways, Recycling and Companies

To inspire you to do your bit for the community and the planet, we’ve rounded up some easily achievable changes you can make that’ll minimise your impact on the environment.

Switch to Reusable Cups and Bags

First off: an easy and affordable switch to make. Ditch single-use plastic when you’re out and about by getting organic cotton shopping bags, reusable water bottles, and a reusable coffee cup or flask.

Recycle

Much of the waste in the kitchen and around the home can be cleaned and dropped straight into the recycling bin – but when it comes to the bathroom, four in 10 admit they don’t recycle items in there. Hang a bag on the bathroom door or get a recycling bin for your empty shampoo bottles to help reduce your impact.

Stop Wasting Water

There are plenty of water-saving devices you can get for free from your water provider. These include 'save a flush' toilet devices, which reduce the amount of water flushed away and could save 5,000 litres of water; tap aerators, which save water by mixing it with air; and a four-minute water timer, designed to cut the time you spend in the shower.

Buy Loose Fruit and Veg

Buy loose fruit and veg when you can, as this minimises the need for single-use plastic. Some high-street chains, like M&S, have launched lines of loose fruit and vegetables to give shoppers more environmentally-friendly options.

Reduce Your Food Waste

Food waste is an unnecessary modern-day scourge – the energy and resources that have gone into growing, cooking or packaging food are wasted if that food ends up in the bin. If you're unsure what to do with those leftovers, head to the charity Love Food Hate Waste online. It has a number of recipes which can be adapted to suit what's in your fridge.

Ditch Non-Recyclable Wrapping Paper

If you choose fancy patterns or a glittery design for your gift wrap, there's a chance it could be reinforced with plastic, which means it can't be recycled and could stick around on the planet for a long time. Brown wrapping paper or good old-fashioned newspaper tied with string are good alternatives.

Start a compost heap

To reduce waste, you send to landfill sites, you could start your own compost heap in your garden. Composting not only reduces the harmful gases, like methane being released, but also gives your garden plants a good breakfast; coffee grounds and eggshells are ideal for composting.