

Recycling Festive Foil and Aerosols Makes a Difference!

Mince pies, turkey, sausages wrapped in bacon, squirty cream, and 'snow' spray are all ingredients for a great Christmas. But don't forget metal packaging is really easy to recycle. It's easier than ever now, because our blue bins will accept empty cans, aerosols and clean foil trays.

As a nation we use over 16,000 tonnes of foil and 30,000 tonnes of aerosols annually. Over Christmas the amount of rubbish we produce rises by about 30% - an estimated 175 million mince pie cases alone.

In just a few weeks, your recycled aerosols and food trays could be reprocessed and back on the shelf as a new product or packaging – they're endlessly recyclable! By putting your aerosols and foil trays in your blue bin we can all have a greener Christmas.

Councillor Dermot Bambridge, portfolio holder for Environmental Services, said: "South Northamptonshire Council is a shining example of how metal recycling can be easy and effective, and we know that helping local residents to recycle cans and aerosols alongside their plastic packaging will save valuable energy and resources this Christmas.

"Household recycling rates have been rising steadily for years now, but there is still potential to do more when it comes to metal packaging."

How the recycling process works

Once collected from your house, all the recycling is taken to a local depot for bulking into larger loads before being transported to a Materials Recovery Facility (MRF). Here, the materials are separated from each other, using powerful magnets, lasers and hand picking. Any printed decoration is removed, and it is then baled, ready for reprocessing.

The steel cans and aerosols we collect are made into anything from cutlery to a new car.

Your glass bottles and jars are melted down and remade into glass packaging.

Paper and card is recycled into notebooks, toilet paper, magazines etc.

Foil and aluminium cans are turned into new cans.

Plastics are made into things like bin liners, garden furniture, sleeping bags, and sewer pipes.

For more information, please visit www.southnorthants.gov.uk.