Visit to Sherbourne Recycling Centre

A group of us from Earlsdon, Woodside Avenue and St Barbara's Church enjoyed a visit to the recycling centre on London Road last week. We were warmly welcomed, heard lots of interesting information, had a tour of the site and picked up a few hints and tips about our domestic recycling. (see below)

The site in Coventry is an innovative system for sorting waste to be repurposed and sold on, with money going back to the Local Authorities who are part of the project. The centre recycles material from within Coventry and other areas in the Midlands including Rugby, Warwick, Solihull and Walsall. Each area's waste is sorted and processed separately in different cycles, enabling the input and output from each area to be measured and monitored. Different council areas produce different quality waste!!

We heard lots of good news including the fact that no waste from this centre goes overseas. We have all seen images of unusable waste piling up on beaches and landfill sites abroad. This does not happen from here. It is either processed or transferred to the appropriate site. Non-recyclable waste go to the tip where it is burned to create electrical energy.

Each Local authority has slightly different rules for recycling. There is an A-Z guide on Coventry City Council website Household bins – A-Z of rubbish and recycling

*General pointers which we found to be helpful***:**

Tips when recycling:

Don't wrap items in a bag. This distorts the weight of items and makes sorting difficult. Black bin bags are especially unhelpful as the cameras can't detect contents.

Don't tear up paper for recycling. Larger sheets are easier to process. Shredded paper is not suitable for recycling; put it into the rubbish bin.

Do leave caps on plastic bottles There is no need to remove the labels from plastic milk bottles.

Do leave bottles uncrushed. (They may subsequently crush in the bin lorry, but a clear recognisable shape helps the camera in the sorting process)

Rinsing and cleaning food containers is helpful, but items do not have to be 100% clean. A little residual bread or cake on paper is OK. Lots of cheese or fat on pizza boxes is not OK.

Aluminium foil can be recycled but should be scrunched up into tennis ball sized amounts. Single pieces of foil are not helpful.

Do not put these items into your recycling: Batteries or any electrical items (no fairy lights or chainsaws!), sharp objects (medical sharps - take to pharmacy; knives etc. to Waste Disposal at the Tip), hosepipes, food, wood, clothing or any fabric / textiles (including cotton wool). Vapes should be returned to the retailer; they can be a fire hazard.

There is more information about the centre including a ‘You tube’ video tour on their website: Sherbourne Recycling

We are hoping to share a photo of the group donned in hard hats and high-viz jackets, but this hasn’t arrived yet.

Here are a few photos of the site, taken by Tim W



