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EMAIL BULLETINS

Three steps to a circular economy – Green Steps

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Three steps to a circular economy

Creating a [circular economy](#) is a way to tackle waste and reduce the environmental impact of the things we buy.

Products and materials are kept in circulation through maintenance, reuse, refurbishment, remanufacture, recycling and composting.

In this edition of Green Steps we've done a bit of a more in-depth look at three ways you can contribute to a circular economy. We hope you find it useful!



Sloooooo fashion

The [fashion industry is responsible for 8-10% of global emissions](#) – and British shoppers buy more clothes than any others in Europe.

Around [300,000 tonnes](#) of used clothes are burned or buried in landfill in the UK each year.

If we all keep clothes in circulation longer and stop them going to waste, we can have a real positive impact on the environment.

What you can do

- **Wear what you buy** – Oxfam research shows that clothes are [worn for less than five days](#) on average in the UK. If you don't like them, sell them or give them away so someone else can wear them.
- **Repair what you wear** – your favourite clothes can get a new lease of life if you get them repaired, look for a local repairer or learn to do it yourself at a [repair café](#).
- **Sell what you don't** – you could sell your unwanted clothes on a re-selling site like Vinted or take reusable clothes to your local charity shop. If you can't get to a charity shop, [Anglo Doorstep Collections](#) will collect from your home.
- **Recycle what you can't** – if you bought clothes that you now can't wear from some companies, they'll take them back to be made into new clothes. Examples include H&M, Patagonia, Rapanui, M&S. Otherwise, try to find a clothing bank or take it to [your local tip \(HWRC\)](#).

[Find out more about circular fashion](#)



Our friends electric

Yes, we know it's not the [Tubeway Army \(Gary Newman\) song's](#) real name, but maybe if we treated our electrical goods more like friends, we'd think twice before throwing them away.

Every year in the UK, we throw away over [100,000 tonnes of electricals](#) instead of reusing or recycling them. That means materials that could be reused or recycled (including copper, lithium and aluminium) just go to waste.

[Six billion batteries were thrown away](#) across the UK in 2024 (approximately 3,000 every minute). 1.1 billion of those were hidden inside electrical devices.

If we can contribute to the [circular electronics economy](#), we can reduce our impact on the environment and potentially save money.

What you can do

Buying rechargeable devices will reduce battery waste, and anything with a plug, battery or cable can be recycled, but recycling should be the last thing on your list.

- **Buy second hand** - you could save money and avoid some tech going to waste by buying it second hand from a company like [BackMarket](#).
- **Repair it** – you could take your electricals to a [repair café](#) or [learn how to fix it yourself](#). If you have big electrical goods like a washing machine, dishwasher, fridge or TV that breaks, the [right to repair law](#) may apply, depending on how old your appliance is.
- **Donate it** – some charity shops will take electrical goods. It's best to phone ahead to check before you take things in. If local charity shops won't take electricals, you can book a collection through [Anglo Doorstep Collections](#).
- **Sell it** – if you've got electrical items which work perfectly well but you're just not using any more, you could sell them through an online market place like Gumtree, Facebook Marketplace or eBay. Don't forget to [delete your data](#).
- **Recycle it** – as a last resort, you can recycle electrical items. The place it came from originally may have a recycling scheme or you can [take them to your local tip \(HMRC\)](#) so they can be stripped down and the useful parts reused. Never put electricals in your household bins, particularly batteries, as they can cause lorry fires.

[Visit the Recycle Your Electricals website](#)



Hey Mr Big Stuff

[Big stuff](#) and bulky items can be difficult to keep circulating in the economy.

If your sofa's looking a bit ragged, you could start by finding out if the company that made it can refurbish the frame, which might be cheaper than buying a new one.

You could rehome working items and furniture by selling online or finding a local charity shop which will take them.

Hampshire County Council's [Smart Living website](#) has information on avoiding furniture waste.

If you have a business with unwanted items, you could check out [A Good Thing](#), who match charities in need with businesses that are getting rid of kit. EHDC is not associated with the company so please make your own checks before signing up.

If you can't find anywhere else to take your bulky items, find an [Environment Agency registered waste carrier](#) (check their licence and get a proper receipt to avoid being fined if your stuff ends up in a fly tip). You can also arrange a [bulky waste collection](#) with us.

Some upholstered furniture contains materials which can damage the environment ([persistent organic pollutants, known as POPs](#)). Make sure that you dispose of these items appropriately.

[Visit HCC's Smart Living website](#)



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