

Celebrate Christmas with a Twinge of Green

- Enough plastic bottles to produce 483,114 fleece Santa suits
- Repak estimates 75,000 tonnes of packaging to be generated over Christmas period
- Repak sets target to collect and recycle 48% of used packaging this Christmas
- 12,000 tonnes of extra food waste is generated over the Christmas period
- Enough glass to produce over 12 billion glass Christmas Decoration baubles

Dublin, Wednesday 23rd December 2009: As households around the country wrap their presents and stock up with extra food and drink, Repak is asking people to keep a green eye on the extra 75,000 tonnes of packaging from biscuit tins and beer bottles, to toy boxes and wrapping paper that could be recycled.

Dr. Andrew Hetherington, CEO, Repak said "Christmas is a great moment to celebrate and balancing it with environmental concerns is something that householder across the country can achieve with some simple behavioural changes."

Repak aims to collect and recycle 48% of the Christmas packaging waste generated over the holiday period. It is estimated that a massive 75,000 tonnes of packaging will be generated by Irish householders this Christmas. Put into context, the level of packaging generated over the Christmas period includes:

- Enough glass to produce over 12 billion glass Christmas baubles
- Enough Steel to make 400 Spire Replicas
- Enough plastic bottles used to produce 483,114 fleece Santa suits

Over the Christmas period, it is estimated that we will munch our way through over 8 million mince pies, 1.4 million tins of biscuits, 4 million boxes of chocolates, all washed down with over 19 million bottles of wine, 4 million bottles of spirits, a whopping 45 million cans of beer, 22 million cans of soft drinks, on top of. This Christmas, it is estimated that the alcohol we consume in Ireland will be equivalent in volume to:

- The amount of ice used to create more than 4,400 ice rinks

- Enough alcoholic drinks to fill Lough Derg more than 50 times

As people enter the party period the organization also estimates that over 12,000 tonnes of extra food waste is generated which is the equivalent of over 923,000 large black bins of food waste or 0.6 bins per household.

As well as making an extra effort to recycle more of your Christmas packaging, have a greener Christmas by keeping the following in mind:

- Fold your used wrapping paper before recycling to save space in your recycle bin
- Wash and rinse all recyclables
- Plan meals carefully to avoid generating lots of excess spoilt food.
- Watch best before dates carefully
- Make use of left overs or share the excess with neighbours or friends
- Recycle food waste by separating in a compost bin or household food waste bin.
Don't put cooked foods in regular household compost bins
- With electronic items ever more popular at Christmas, recycle any old or broken electrical items in your local recycling centres or by returning them to an electrical shop when purchasing new ones.
- Don't forget to donate old or unwanted clothes to your local charity shop.
- Trade unwanted presents on www.dublinwaste.ie
- Find a home for old toys by donating them to a children's charity or local school
- Recycle your old mobile phones by giving them to one of the many local charities like the Jack and Jill foundation
- If you have a real Christmas tree you can recycle it at one of the many designated Christmas tree recycling centres around the country. Check opening hours and locations with your local authority or use the recycling facility search on www.recyclemore.ie

This year is Repak's ninth year running a Christmas recycling campaign and this year Repak Green Christmas runs from 22nd December 2009 to the 5th January, 2010. Repak is aiming to collect and recycle 48% of this extra used packaging. This is equivalent to 24 kilos per household or 36,000 tonnes in total of used packaging. Last year Repak supported the

recycling of nearly 36,000 tonnes of used packaging over the Christmas period, which was 6% up on the year before despite the collapse of recycling markets.

Full details of Green Christmas recycling centres, their opening hours, local contractor collection information and Christmas tree recycling drop off points is available at www.recyclenore.ie. Repak also asks consumers to refrain from illegal dumping at Bring Banks or civic amenity sites should they be full due to extra demand at this time of year. Recyclers are asked to find an alternative recycling location nearby.

For further information, please contact:

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Christmas Recycling Tips:

- Recycling isn't just for Christmas time. There are more items and packaging to recycle around Christmas, but make it your gift to the environment to recycle all year round
- Keep all recyclables clean. Remember to WASH and SQUASH before POPPING them into your recycle bin
- Remember put the following Christmas packaging in your recycle bin once they're CLEAN and DRY
 - CARDBOARD AND PAPER
 - FOOD TINS
 - ALUMINIUM DRINKS CANS
 - ALL OTHER ALUMINIUM
 - PLASTIC FOR THE RECYCLE BIN
- Keep GLASS separate for recycling at the bottle bank or recycling centre
- How to recycle your used CARDBOARD and Christmas WRAPPING PAPER
 - Fold used wrapping paper rather than scrunching it up. This will help you sort it and you'll fit more in your recycling bin
 - Remember that Christmas crackers and Christmas cards are all recyclable
 - Flatten used boxes and remove any plastic inserts in selection boxes
 - No need to worry about selotape on wrapping paper; this can be recycled too
 - Make sure all the cardboard and paper is clean and dry
- How to recycle FOOD TINS
 - Rinse out the tins to remove any left over food or sauce
 - Place the lids or tops inside the washed tin
 - If you can, squash the tin, then pop it into your recycle bin
- How to recycle ALUMINIUM DRINK CANS
 - Rinse out the drink cans to get rid of any left over fizzy drink
 - Squash the can and pop it into your recycle bin
- ALUMINIUM is not just used in drinks cans, you will find it in other areas around the house and it's just as recyclable as a drinks can
 - Aluminium trays – from mince pies and when you have eaten enough turkey don't forget to recycle your take away food trays. Just make sure these items are clean and dry. Squash or flatten them and pop them into your recycle bin
- Recycle all plastic containers with the number 1 and 2 placed inside a triangle, usually shown on the base of these bottles. These include items such as plastic drinks bottles, milk bottles, shampoo bottles, detergent and washing up liquid bottles, soap dispenser bottles, shower gel bottles and yogurt drink bottles. Always

rinse these bottles out to get rid of any leftovers, then squash them and pop them into your recycle bin. The company that collects your recycle bin may take more types of plastic in their recycle bins, so check with them to see if you can recycle more

- How to recycle GLASS
 - Rinse out glass drinks bottles to get rid of any left over liquid Don't forget to recycle your mayonnaise, cranberry and pickled sauce jars.
 - Clean out your glass jars to get rid of any left over food
 - Give the lids a quick wash and pop them separately into the recycle bin too
 - Try to use reusable bags or boxes to collect up your glass bottles
 - There is usually a bottle bank close to the supermarket, school or office.
 - Why not bring the glass with you when making a trip, to save time and fuel
 - Put each glass bottle into the correct bank for its colour. Mixing up the colours lowers the quality of recyclable glass.
 - Please do not leave used glass on the ground at recycling banks as this slows collection and attracts unwanted dumping. If the bottle banks are full visit www.recyclemore.ie to locate other sites, or recycle your glass at the end of January when there is less pressure on sites.

- Remember don't just recycle items from your kitchen. Maybe make a New Years resolution to recycle more by recycling from other areas of the house like the living room, bedroom, bathroom and home office or study

- Recycle your used batteries. Shops selling batteries must now provide collection boxes to recycle old batteries. These are usually small blue boxes located close to the tills or information desks in store.