



## **Last Day of Christmas Marked with Call to Help Recycle 4,500 Tonnes of Christmas and New Year's Party Waste**

(06.01.03) 4,500 tonnes of Christmas and New Year's parties packaging waste is being targeted for recycling on the last day of Christmas, as part of a nationwide campaign organised by Repak.

According to Andrew Hetherington, C.E.O., Repak "This week marks the traditional end of the Christmas period and with regular bin collection services resuming we are asking people to segregate out there their recyclables. Rather than dumping Christmas packaging waste that has accumulated in people's homes, we are calling on people to visit their local Green Christmas recycling centre and start the year off with a positive new year's resolution. These Green Christmas recycling centres accept a wide variety of materials from gift-wrapping paper, cardboard boxes from presents, plastic bottles and beverage cans to glass bottles. At Christmas we produce over 30% more packaging waste and by recycling we can take the pressure off landfill, which is rapidly approaching full capacity."

Mr Hetherington added "We are asking people to make recycling a new years resolution, by placing separate recycling bins in their houses and taking the time to find and regularly visit their nearest recycling centre and recycling bring bank. Remember it

is no longer acceptable for us to place our recyclables into our household bin believing it is others responsibility to reduce our reliance on landfill.”

Repak has organised a nationwide network of 70 special Green Christmas recycling centres in conjunction with 31 participating Local Authorities, which will be open for most of January. These centres accept a wider range of materials than regular bring banks and will be open for most of January to make it as easy as possible for people to recycle. The initiative aims to recycle over 300 tonnes of Christmas packaging waste at these centres alone.

Details of the nearest Green Christmas Recycling Centre and what kinds of waste can be accepted are available from [www.repak.ie](http://www.repak.ie).

According to Repak, the amount of packaging waste generated in Ireland increases by almost 30% during the Christmas period. During this period Irish households generate:

- In excess of 100 kilos of waste, 35% of which is packaging waste
- 20 million wine bottles
- 57 million aluminium beverage cans
- 23 million plastic drinks bottles
- 1,000 tonnes of wrapping paper

### **About Repak**

Repak is a not-for-profit members based compliance scheme established under a voluntary agreement between industry and the Department of the Environment and Local Government. It was established as industry's response to the obligations placed on Ireland by the EU directive on Packaging Waste (94/62/EC) and is the only government approved compliance scheme under the Waste Management (Packaging) Regulations 1997. Repak succeeded in reaching and exceeding Ireland's National Recycling Target of 25% of packaging waste in 2001.

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