



THE UK RUBBISH MOUNTAIN

- * The UK throws away 30 million tonnes of rubbish each year. Currently 60% could be recycled
- * 5 million tons of food and 4.5 million tons of food packaging are thrown away each year
- * Sainsburys have just launched new compostable packaging on 500 of its ready meal brands and organic fruit & vegetables - removing millions of plastic trays and bags from landfill sites. Look for the green apple/arrow logo.
- * Asda has moved to its food distribution from road to rail to cut down on emissions
- * Tesco is also moving to rail and now awards loyalty points for customers who re-use carrier bags
- * The leading supermarkets spend £15 billion a year on packaging - so each household contributes £500 to this cost
- * 17.5 billion plastic bags were handed out at supermarkets last year
- * Easter eggs are typically 14% chocolate and 86% packaging (Hampshire Trading Standards survey)
- * UK households throw away 460,000 tonnes of plastic bottles each year

The Times 08/09/06

Try and be environmentally efficient -

- Composting is even better than recycling
- Almost everyone can compost at home
- Lobby your council for free composting bins
- Support shops with green policies - especially if they are using green packaging, selling fair trade goods and have green distribution policies.