

NEWS RELEASE – 17th DECEMBER

Used cooking oil can make Christmas ‘greener’

Residents are being reminded to recycle their used cooking oil at any of Wiltshire’s 11 household recycling centres (HRCs) in place of putting it in their bins or pouring it down the drain.



Henry Newbery, recycling manager Hills Waste Solutions, said: “Over the festive season more cooking oil will be used as people sit down to enjoy crisp roasted potatoes, parsnips and other festive treats. Pouring left over cooking oil down the drain can cause serious blockages and is in fact throwing away a valuable resource.”

“Rather than run the risk of blocking your drains, wait for the cooking oil to cool, pour it into a sealed container and take it to any one of Wiltshire’s 11 household recycling centres where specialised tanks have been installed to collect the used oil.”

Once the oil is collected it is taken to Hills’ contractor, Living Fuels, whose state-of-the-art recycling facility recovers the oil into an environmentally friendly bioliquid, LF100. This bioliquid is used in Living Fuels’ renewable power stations to generate carbon neutral electricity for the National Grid at times of unexpected power demand, helping to lower the UK’s reliance on fossil fuel derived energy generation.

Rob Murphy, Operations Director at Living Fuels explains: "Turning cooking oil into a chemical-free bioliquid results in higher levels of energy recovery than manufacturing carbon-hungry biodiesel, making our process the most sustainable use of waste vegetable oil. He went on to say that, “as well as providing a valuable source of renewable energy, recycling cooking oil prevents fatbergs building up in sewers which will in turn stop any messy burst pipes this Christmas.”

Find a list of household recycling centres here
<http://www.recycleforwiltshire.com/recycle/hrcs.html>

Notes to editors:

The facts (Source: Water UK)

- Blockages account for 55% of sewer flooding incidents in the UK and more than 3,000 properties are flooded each year as a result.
- There are approximately 200,000 sewer blockages throughout the UK every year, of which up to 75% are caused by fats, oils and grease.
- Approximately £15 million is spent annually on reactive blockage clearance nationwide, with further costs for clean-up after flooding incidents. These costs will be paid for through customer bills.

ENDS



Hills Waste Solutions

offers a range of specialist waste management and recycling services to both the public and private sector. It is a dynamic regional business which, while centred on Wiltshire, has stretched its boundaries into neighbouring areas to become one of the region's largest providers of waste solutions. Hills Waste Solutions is a wholly owned subsidiary of The Hills Group Limited, a privately owned family company established in 1900.

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