

# DBC Eco Church Newsletter

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July/August 2023

## Welcome to our Newsletter.

For more information about the Dronfield Baptist Eco Church Group contact - [margaret.keen@talk21.com](mailto:margaret.keen@talk21.com)

A considerable amount of our recycling from church goes via TerraCycle. One of the most common questions is “how does TerraCycle recycle the rubbish it receives into new products” The following is from their website and hopefully explains more about how they work.

### #RecycleEverything with TerraCycle®

TerraCycle is different from your local kerbside recycler. We develop recycling solutions for waste streams that are not typically locally recyclable.

What makes something locally recyclable depends on whether your local recycling company can make a profit recycling it. If the cost of collecting and processing the waste is lower than the value of the resulting raw material, it will likely be locally recyclable. If the costs are higher, then it likely won't be.

The good news is that most rubbish is *technically* recyclable.

TerraCycle can recycle the hard-to-recycle because we work with brands, retailers, and other stakeholders who fund the recycling process.

### Research & Development

Our process starts with our R&D team—in-house scientists and material application specialists who work across our various offices and collaborate with leading universities. The R&D team analyses the materials to determine the right way to process them into something new. This includes how to break down the

waste, separate it into its building blocks, and then recycle those materials for new applications.

### Regulatory review

TerraCycle completes an extensive assessment of the materials we are planning to receive and recycle.

**Regulatory:** We review local, regional, and national regulations to confirm how each item in the accepted waste list can be safely collected, shipped, and/or stored in each market.

**Technical Recyclability:** We assess the material composition of the accepted waste to determine how the material needs to be sorted, processed, and converted into usable raw material for recycled product manufacturing.

**Practical Recyclability:** We layer on real-world factors (like contamination levels or vendor and equipment limitations) to confirm that we have a viable supply chain to recycle.

### Receipt & Check-In

Shipments of waste are sent to one of our local TerraCycle Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs), which are located in the same country in which the waste originates. TerraCycle currently operates in 21 countries and has more than 35 MRFs worldwide.

When a shipment from a collector arrives at one of our MRFs, we scan it to record the shipment information, date, weight, and what material it contained.

### Sortation & Aggregation

We sort materials based on material characteristics and composition, using a wide variety of sorting technologies, including manual sortation, size separation, sink/float, optical, air density, gravity, magnetic, and

more, in order to route material downstream for proper processing and handling.

Incineration (or any other form of converting waste to energy) is avoided. We never use incineration as an end-of-life solution for anything that we guarantee to be recycled (all accepted waste streams are listed on our programme pages). We only use waste-to-energy for the small percentage of material that we receive that is non-compliant (i.e., materials that the programme is not intended to collect) or materials legally required to be processed in this manner (i.e., medical waste), and we make every effort to recycle non-compliant materials that could be accepted in other programmes.

### **Cleaning & Processing**

Once sorted by category, the different material types are cleaned and then sent to third-party partners to process the materials into usable forms.

For example, metals and aluminium are shredded and smelted into metal sheeting, ingots, or bar stock. Glass is crushed and melted to be used in new glass bottles (if clear), or brick, cement, or concrete applications (if coloured). Rubber is generally cryo-milled into a powdered state for flooring applications. Organics are composted or used in industrial and commercial fertilizers.

Plastics are the largest category of material we collect through our programmes. These materials are size-reduced (made smaller by being shredded or ground), then melted and reformatted into pellets, flakes, or a powder format.

### **What happens to the recycled material?**

After we recycle the waste into raw material, it's sold to manufacturing companies who produce the end product and complete the recycling journey. These end products may include outdoor furniture and decking, plastic shipping pallets, watering cans, storage containers and bins, tubes for construction applications, flooring tiles, playground surface covers, athletic fields, and more!

We strictly control the movement of materials through each part of the recycling process to

maintain a recycling chain of custody. This allows us to track and confirm where materials were sent and why.

For more information go to [www.terracycle.com/en-GB](http://www.terracycle.com/en-GB)

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**Eating seasonally** means eating food that's naturally ripe and ready for harvest in your local area at the time, instead of imported foods from different climates around the world.

Eating organic, seasonal food, or food that you've grown at home can make a big difference in cutting down your food miles, helping to make your diet more sustainable and [reduce your carbon footprint](#).

As we wave goodbye to the hungry gap, there's a great selection of seasonal British fruit and veg available! Look out for:

Courgettes  
Chard  
Broad Beans  
Aubergines – best in July but June onwards  
Chard – two seasons from Jun – Aug, and Oct-Apr  
New potatoes  
Onions - Mar to Aug first season

And for your salads & herbs:  
Spring onions  
Watercress  
Spinach  
Parsley  
Rocket – early summer onwards

Take the challenge and eat 2 seasonal meals a week.

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### **Dronfield Baptist Freecycle:**

One melon plant – needs to be grown in a greenhouse. Contact Dilys McCall on 0114 2890026 or 07980 071220

Dilys will be able to give you advice on how to grow melons.