

Don't Dump on the Last Day of Christmas

(05.01.04) The last day of Christmas (January 6th), when householders around the country traditionally take down their Christmas trees and clean up from the festive period, could see over 190 million recyclable containers being dumped in landfill if people do not recycle. The warning came from Repak, who have set up a nationwide network of 77 special Green Christmas recycling centres in conjunction with 31 local authorities to deal with the 30% increase in used packaging that is generated over the Christmas period.

According to the organisation this figure does not include the 4 million rolls of gift wrap that are used to decorate presents, the thousands of Christmas cards or the estimated 30,000 tonnes of cardboard in households over the Christmas period.

The 77 Repak Green Christmas centres (full list on www.repak.ie) accept a wider range of materials than normal and open for longer hours to make it as easy as possible for householders to recycle. The initiative is supported by a nationwide advertising campaign on TV, Radio and Print and will run until the 10th of January.

Andrew Hetherington, CEO of Repak said: "Now that the Christmas festive season is coming to a halt, we are asking householders to remember to separate and recycle all their bottles, cans, cards, wrapping paper and cardboard. By visiting the special designated Green Christmas recycling centers, householders can get rid of a large amount of Christmas waste that is clogging up their homes and also rest assured that it is being recycled rather than dumped in already overloaded landfill. This is also the perfect time to make regular recycling a new years resolution."

The Campaign is in its fourth year, having expanded from 11 participating Local Authorities in 2001 to nearly all local authorities in 2003. Full details of opening hours of the Green Christmas centres and materials handled are available at www.repak.ie.

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.

Earlier this month Repak launched a school based, plastic bottle-recycling scheme, which will initially run through 14 schools in county Wicklow and aims to recycle 70,000 plastic bottles over the next school year. The organisation has also launched a TetraPak recycling initiative in Dublin, Cavan and Wicklow.