

Waste Disposal and Recycling



Grímsnes- og Grafningshreppur



Bláskógabyggð



Recycling: What's in it for **me**?

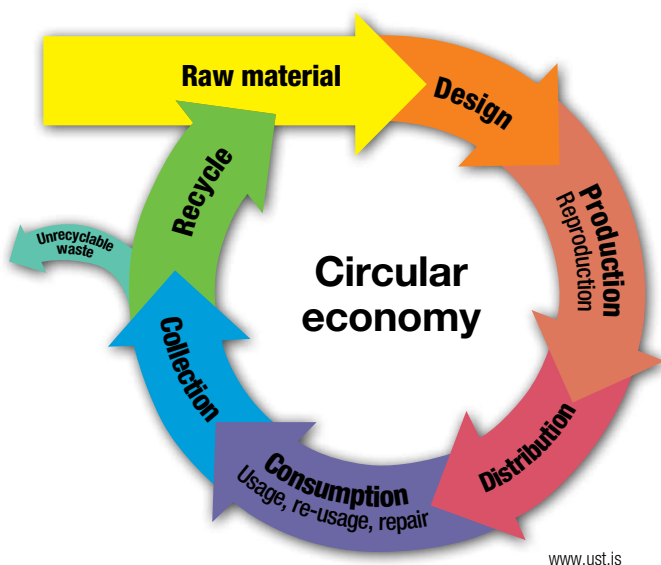
The municipalities of Grímsnes- og Grafningshreppur and Bláskógabyggð will soon begin collecting organic waste from the local households and institutions. Simultaneously, it will be made mandatory to sort organic waste from other waste. This applies both to real estate owners and companies. There are many benefits to sorting organic waste, both economic and environmental. The cost of disposing of organic waste is generally lower than the cost of general waste disposal or incineration. Organic waste processing reduces pollution and undesirable environmental effects. Gámaþjónustan hf is responsible for waste disposal in the two municipalities and will process the organic waste as compost which will then be used as soil nutrition.

Adopting a circular economy includes changing our outlook on waste. Up until now we have viewed waste as a worthless product and gotten rid of it in landfills or by incineration. This must change. The reality is that our waste is comprised of valuable material and the more we consume, and the more people inhabit the planet, this material will become increasingly more valuable. We live in a world with limited resources and the world has reached a certain

turning point where our possibilities for creating new material is decreasing.

Starting is the hardest part about sorting waste. Each household has its way of collecting waste and disposing of it in the available facilities – paper, plastic, and now organic. The municipalities will offer their inhabitants, free of charge, a small container for organic waste to place in their kitchen. Glass and metal shall be disposed of at recycling centres in the municipalities. It may prove challenging for some to incorporate this extra level of waste disposal into their daily or weekly routines, but it will be to benefit us all. The better we sort our waste the more we can affect the cost of waste disposal that real estate owners and businesses end up paying for. It is therefore in the best interest of us all to lower the cost of waste disposal as much as possible. This is how everyone benefits from efficient waste sorting.

On behalf of the municipalities of Grímsnes- og Grafningshreppur and Bláskógabyggð,
Elísabet Björney Lárusdóttir
Environment consultant



Brown bin

Organic waste

NEW!

Collected every 3 weeks

Directions for sorting organic waste

All organic waste goes in the bin with the brown lid, the waste is then used in composting where it will turn into mulch. It is best to collect the material in a specific bag of paper or a biodegradable plastic bag which will then compost with the material. Never use a normal plastic bag.

Be careful to close the bags tightly before placing them in the brown bin.



THE BASIC RULE is that if you can eat it but do not want to, then it should go in the brown bin.



What can go in the bin?

Fruit and fruit peel
Vegetables and vegetable peel
Eggs and eggshells
Cooked meat and fish
Meal
Rice and pasta
Bread and cakes
Coffee grounds, coffee filters and teabags
Used kitchen tissues
Cut flowers and plants

Soups, sauces and broth should be poured down the drain and not placed with the organic waste.



What can go in the bin?

Dyed table-napkins
Stickers
Disposable gloves
Rubber gloves
Pens
Lighters
Chewing gum
CDs
Diapers

Grey bin

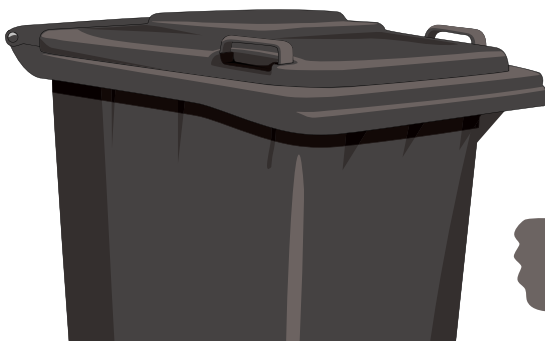
Mixed waste

Collected every 3 weeks

Directions for sorting mixed waste

If waste sorting is generally successful, then there should be very little waste in the grey bin. An example of such waste is for example, diapers, pet-related waste, packaging made from mixed materials that is impossible to separate and waste that is impossible to clean.

Mixed, unsorted waste is disposed of in landfills and by reducing such waste it is possible to minimize the negative environmental impact caused by such waste.



THE BASIC RULE is that if you find no other place for the waste then it likely belongs in the grey bin.



Green bin

Plastic

Collected every 6 weeks

Directions for sorting plastic

To make sure plastic is usable as recycled material it is necessary to keep in mind that plastic containers from food and cleaning materials need to be rinsed and dried properly. It is good to compress the packaging to reduce its bulk. All plastic material should be placed in plastic bags in the bin.

Plastic that is collected is mostly processed abroad for recycling but partly for energy generation.



THE BASIC RULE is that if you are not sure whether the material is made of aluminium or plastic then you can try to crumple up the material and if it springs back into its original shape it's plastic, if it stays crumpled then it is aluminium and is categorized as metal.



What can go in the bin?

Plastic bags

Plastic canisters;

e.g. from cleaning materials

Plastic boxes; e.g. from skyr,
ice-cream, cheese spreads

Plastic film, clear or dyed

Plastic wrappers,
e.g. from biscuits and candy

Plastic trays

Plastic bottles;
e.g. from shampoo and sauces

Styrofoam

Plastic bags from crisps

Wrappings must be clean and
free from all food remnants



What can go in the bin?

Newspapers and magazines

Envelopes and window envelopes

Office paper

Brochures

Clean milk cartons

Corrugated cardboard

Gift wrapping paper

Egg cartons

Cardboard e.g. cereal boxes, tissue boxes

Wrappings must be clean and
free from all food remnants

Blue bin

Paper and cardboard

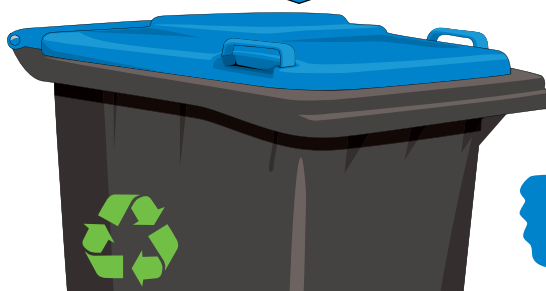
Collected every 6 weeks

Directions for sorting paper and cardboard

To make the most of the usability of the recycled material it is essential to make sure that milk cartons have been rinsed thoroughly and that other food packaging made of paper is clean and dry. It is important to remove all food remnants and plastic material that may be left inside the packaging. All material should be placed directly in the blue bin and not in plastic bags. Paper and cardboard are shipped abroad for recycling and reusing this material reduces deforestation.



THE BASIC RULE is that if you can tear it up, then it is most likely paper and should go in the blue bin.





Metal



It is best to collect metals in your home and then drop it off at the recycling centre closest to your home.

Which items are categorized as metal?

Metal containers used to store food

Metal lids off jars

Metal canisters



Glass



It is best to collect glass in your home and then drop it off at the recycling centre closest to your home.

Bottles and cans



Bottles and cans are accepted at Samskip in Selfoss, and a return fee is deposited at delivery.

It is possible to drop off bottles and cans at the recycling centre closest to your home, but no return fee is included.

THE BASIC RULE is that if you can drink the liquid straight from the container, then it is eligible for a return fee.



MIXED
WASTE

ORGANIC
WASTE

PAPER AND
CARDBOARD

PLASTIC

METAL

GLASS

BOTTLES
AND CANS



Recycling Centres

Bottles and cans are accepted at Samskip in Selfoss, and a return fee deposited at delivery.

Further sorting at the nearest waste collection area



Cloth and clothing



Batteries



Hazardous waste, oil filters, water paints



Electronic devices



Reusable Items



Bulky waste (furniture)



Rubber tires



Wood painted/unpainted



Rocks, plaster battering, soil, gypsum, porcelain, glass



Car batteries



Iron, metal



Garden waste



Hay bale plastic

It is estimated that in the West, every single individual throws away usable food worth around 60.000 ISK per year. For a family of four that amounts to 240.000 ISK per year. Most of us would want to use this amount for something other than producing methane in a landfill.

The amount of plastic wrappings disposed of in Iceland is about 40 kg per inhabitant or about 13.000 tons per year.

Paper is very practical for recycling for it can be recycled four to seven times without loss of quality.

Each inhabitant in Iceland buys around 17 kg of textiles ever year, which is around three times the amount of an average person on Earth. Around 150 billion garment items are made every year which amounts to 20 garments per inhabitant on Earth, every year.

Each inhabitant disposes of 660 kg of domestic waste per year. For a family of four that is 2.6 tons of waste per year.

Recycling Centres

Individuals and companies can dispose of their waste at recycling centres.

The waste collected at recycling centres includes excess household waste in addition to normal amounts of waste left over from cleaning and construction (glass, plaster battering and brickwork, soil). Grímsnes- og Grafningshreppur and Bláskógabyggð operate four recycling centres where various

waste is collected; e.g. plastic, paper, cardboard, general waste, organic waste, garden waste, scrap iron, hazardous waste, clothing (The Red Cross), reusable items, and electronic devices, to name but a few. The map below shows the location of the recycling centres. The opening hours of the recycling centres are also available at the municipalities' websites: www.gogg.is and www.blaskogabyggd.is.

Opening hours in winter from September 1 to April 30, 2019

	Seyðishólar	Heiðarbær	Lindarskógur	Vegholt
Monday	Closed	Closed	10:00-13:00	14:00-17:00
Tuesday	13:00-15:00	10:00-12:00	Closed	14:00-17:00
Wednesday	Closed	Closed	10:00-13:00	14:00-17:00
Thursday	13:00-15:00	14:00-15:00	10:00-13:00	Closed
Friday	Closed	Closed	14:00-17:00	10:00-13:00
Saturday	13:00-16:00	10:00-12:00	13:00-15:00	16:00-18:00
Sunday	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed



Inhabitants, company owners and the owners of summer houses in Grímsnes- og Grafningshreppur shall use the recycling centre in Seyðishólar.

Inhabitants, company owners and the owners of summer houses in Bláskógabyggð shall use the recycling centres in Laugarvatn and in Heiðarbær.

Please note that the opening hours change during major holidays.

The recycling centres are closed during the following days:

- New Year's Day • Good Friday • Easter Sunday • Labour Day May 1 • Whitsunday • National holiday June 17
- Mass of Þorlákur December 23 • Christmas Eve • Christmas Day • Boxing Day • New Year's Eve

Please note that all our recycling centres are open for residential waste delivery 24/7.

Care and location of waste collection containers

The waste collection containers should be located in front of the house or in specific waste storage units, but it is necessary to ensure good accessibility for waste collectors. Bin fastenings must be installed so that they are easily opened and closed.

During winter, residents are expected to keep the bins clear of snow and to make sure that the surrounding area is not slippery.

It can be very difficult to drag the bins in heavy snow and slippery conditions can be treacherous.

If the bins are too full it can create problems during waste collecting. When the bins are overflowing there is a danger of predatory birds spreading the waste around or they could even be blown over.

Each inhabitant is responsible for their containers. The containers should be cleaned regularly, which prevents dirt from collecting in the container and creating foul odours.

Please note that waste collection dates may change due to weather conditions and other conditions that are out of our control.





Waste Collection Calendar

Grímsnes- og Grafningshreppur 2020

Grey bin (mixed) & Brown bin (organic) Blue bin (paper) & Green bin (plastic) Agricultural plastic

January

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

February

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

March

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

April

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

May

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

June

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

July

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

August

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

September

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

October

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

November

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

December

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Comments can be directed to terra@terra.is or via telephone at 535 2500.

Respect the environment - Categorize and recycle.

