



Help clamp-down on festive fly-tipping in Wales

Fly-tipping Action Wales is appealing to residents across Wales to make sure they get rid of their household waste safely and legally this festive season.

With Christmas trees, wrapping paper, and packaging all piling up over Christmas, as well as people hitting the January sales to replace old household goods, Fly-tipping Action Wales claims cases of fly-tipping will rise if householders don't recycle and get rid of waste properly.

Last year, a total of 6,420 cases of fly-tipping were reported in Wales during the Christmas and New Year period, according to official Welsh Assembly Government statistics. And the annual cost of cleaning up unsightly and unnecessary cases of waste dumping reached £2.7 million last year.

Fly-tipping Action Wales, a partnership of over 40 Welsh agencies including the 22 Local Authorities, is giving householders advice and tips on ways of getting rid of waste to help clamp down on fly-tipping:

- Contact your Local Authority and be aware of your waste collection dates and Civic Amenity opening times over the bank holiday
- Recycle as much as possible including cardboard, wrapping paper (non-foil), cans and bottles
- If you're getting rid of large household items such as sofas, contact your local authority to find out about their bulky waste collection
- Food and green waste is compostable. Many local authorities have Christmas tree recycling schemes
- If getting rid of large amounts of waste from your home, use a registered waste carrier who has the necessary licences to dispose of waste. Visit fly-tippingactionwales.org for details or call 08708 506 506

Helen Jenkins, All-Wales co-ordinator for Welsh partnership initiative Fly-tipping Action Wales said: “Fly-tipping is illegal, irresponsible and comes with a hefty cost. It blights communities and is harmful to animals, people and the environment.

“Make sure you get rid of your festive waste responsibly. If your waste is fly-tipped and evidence can be traced back to your home, you could also be found to be breaking the law.”

And with many of us buying Christmas trees for the home, Helen also explained how green waste in particular is often over-looked as fly-tipping: “Green waste like Christmas trees is not often considered to be an eye-sore and people think that they can dump trees without having an effect on the environment.

“Real Christmas trees are compostable materials, so they can be easily recycled to produce a biodegradable resource. Take your old Christmas tree to your nearest Household Waste Site for shredding and turning into compost if you have one in your area or contact your local Council.”

For more information about fly-tipping and how to dispose of your waste legally or to find registered waste carriers in your area, please visit www.flytippingactionwales.org.

Ends.

Notes to editors:

For further information please contact Lisa Hocken or Catrin Millar at Equinox Communications on 02920 764100 or email ftaw@equinoxcommunications.co.uk.

Fly-tipping Action Wales is a Welsh Assembly Government sponsored initiative. The partnership includes a range of key organisations including the 22 Welsh Local Authorities, Environment Agency Wales, Keep Wales Tidy, The Countryside Council for Wales, the three National Park Authorities, The Forestry Commission, Network Rail, Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water, Fire Service and South Wales, North Wales, Gwent and Dyfed Powys Police Forces. The initiative includes business engagement, education, community action, targeted publicity measures and enforcement. The initiative also forms part of the **Valleys Regional Park (VRP)** project (www.thevalleys.org.uk) which aims to achieve recognition of the Valleys as an area that is unique in having a high-quality environment, a great variety of landscapes and biodiversity, a rich cultural heritage and one which offers wide-ranging opportunities for all kinds of outdoor recreation.

About fly-tipping:

- Fly-tipping is a serious environmental crime which poses a threat to humans and wildlife, damages our environment, and spoils our enjoyment of our towns and countryside. In fly-tipping hot spots it can even reduce property prices, and local businesses may suffer as people stay away.
- One of the best ways the public can help in the fight against fly-tipping is to use an Environment Agency registered waste carrier and ask where your waste is going.
- You can find the registered carriers in your area by visiting www.flytippingactionwales.org or calling 08708 506 506.