

Bin the Bin

Effective and efficient waste management requires an integrated approach that recognises the need to reuse and recycle whilst also creating awareness of waste production habits. Recycling has numerous environmental benefits. Recycling saves energy, conserves natural resources, limits pollution, and it supports several sectors of the economy.

University Strategy

Successive Strategic Plans have referred to the University's drive towards waste reduction. For the past year 450 tonnes of waste was produced here in NUI Galway with 52% recycled. Three Waste Characterisation Studies commissioned by the Buildings and Estates Office in recent years suggested that an average of 67% of waste in the general stream could in fact have been recycled if segregated and channelled correctly. Too many materials that can be recycled are passing through the office bin. Along with our colleagues in the Community and University Sustainability Project team and the Green Campus team, the Buildings & Estates Office is striving towards a reduction in the waste produced on campus and a 55% rate of recycling by 2025 but we can only achieve real and significant environmental changes with the support, co-operation and enthusiasm of everyone who is part of the campus community. Since 2019 we have successfully implemented

'Bin the Bin' across campus in all teaching venues and offices.

Bin the Bin - How does it work?

Bin the Bin focuses on enhanced recycling in the workplace and asks everybody to help achieve this goal. As the name would suggest it removes the traditional under-desk office bin for which there is no segregation option and thus no recycling and replaces them with dedicated recycling stations in key communal locations on every floor of the building.

Initially the waste station will consist of two bins, general waste and recycling (consistent with our external black and blue bins). A brown organic bin will be in a few locations. The user deposits their general waste in the black bin as it is created but can store some recycling waste in the desk top recycler tray provided before depositing in the blue bin.



Since the introduction of Bin the Bin the campus recycling rate has increased from 45% to 52%. In buildings where it has been fully embraced it has achieved recycling rates of 70% plus.

