

## Resource Efficiency – A Short Guide

### What is Resource Efficiency?

Resource efficiency or resource management means using natural resources in the most effective way, as many times as possible, while minimising the impact of their use on the environment.

It means working with partners to prevent waste, promote re-use and recycling and developing markets for valuable products.

Providing information and tools to the public that support recycling and reduce waste forms an essential part of the approach.

### Good for business

Resource efficiency aims to help businesses cut costs and improve efficiency by securing the supply of resources and meeting customer demand for sustainable business practices.

Reducing waste and using materials more efficiently makes good commercial sense. Waste costs money – not only through the cost of getting rid of it, but also through the 'lost' value of wasted materials.

### Good for the environment

Resource efficiency helps ensure the best use of raw materials and reduces waste going to landfill thereby reducing the emissions of methane – a powerful greenhouse gas. It cuts CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Current UK recycling is estimated to save more than 18 Million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> a year – the equivalent to taking 5 Million cars off the road.

### Good for the economy

Resource efficiency stimulates jobs and growth by helping waste, resource management and environmental technology sectors grow. It can reduce costs for individuals, for example, by reducing the amount of food waste we throw away.