

CLOTHES

IOM Anti- Cancer Association

The clothes bank for the IOM Anti-Cancer Association is run by Manx Textiles Recycling Ltd, a private company, who donate a share of their profits to the charity. The clothes are then sent on to the Cookstown Recycling Centre in Ireland: <http://www.cookstown.gov.uk/operationalservices/wastemanagement/recyclingdisposal/recyclingcentres/>.

Salvation Army Recycling

The Salvation Army can recycle all textiles, clothing, linen and rags: but please make sure they are clean!

When items are not suitable for reuse they are sent for shredding after which they can then be used for mattress filling, insulation and soundproofing for cars.



Clothes

In UK the average household contains £4000 worth of clothes, of which 30% have not been worn in the past year (recyclenow.com). Furthermore, an average of £1800 is spent per person on new clothes each year. This means that clothes are continually being replaced either because they are; (1) out of fashion; (2) no longer fit; (3) need repairing. Of these clothes a staggering 30% is sent to landfill, despite the fact that clothes are 100% recyclable. There are a number of different schemes and charities at work to increase the reuse and recycling of clothes, and the aim of this article is to make you aware of all of the different options.

But before you get rid of your clothes...

Instead of throwing away your clothes why not look at different ways of preserving them for yourself? If your clothes are damaged then you could have them repaired. A number of small companies around the Isle of Man offer this service. If they no longer suit your style or taste anymore try them out in different combinations or wait a while, they are bound to come back into fashion eventually!

What to do with the clothes you no longer need?

There are plenty of options available to you and the following website gives a lot of information as to what can be done: <http://www.recyclenow.com/what-to-do-with/clothing-textiles>.

The first option is to pass your clothes on, whether it be to friends or charities. There are a number of charities, such as the Salvation Army* and Isle of Man Anti-Cancer Association*, that accept clothes and they have a number of bring banks (including at the Southern Civic Amenity Site) where the clothes can be dropped off. The columns on the left of the first page show the different processes that each charity goes through when recycling clothes. The following article, and it's accompanying television show on BBC2, also shows what happens to the clothes that are not put on the racks at the charity shops: www.letsrecycle.com/news/latest-news/textiles/public-2018still-surprised2019-by-export-of-used-clothing.

Alternatively, you could sell the items of clothes that you no longer want/need. As long as the clothes are in good condition then people will be willing to buy them. Whether it be through ebay, or through Facebook groups such as 'Isle of Man buy and sell'.



Clothes that cannot be passed on or reused, such as old underwear or irreparably damaged clothes, can still be recycled into new products such as cleaning clothes, padding for chairs and industrial blankets. Again these unusable clothes can be put in the clothing banks at the Southern Civic Amenity Site where upon they are collected, sent to a recycling centre depending on the charity, and sorted into clothes that can be reused and clothes that need to be recycled into new products.

Another benefit of recycling clothes is that it reduces costs for the Southern Civic Amenity Site. If the clothes were not recycled they would instead be taken to the incinerator and burnt; this would cost approximately £80 per tonne. As it is the clothes are put into the clothing banks and are then reused or recycled. This raises funds for charity and helps a number of people in need.

Further Information

For more information on recycling clothes please see the following websites:

www.letsrecycle.com/news/latest-news/textiles/public-2018still-surprised2019-by-export-of-used-clothing

<http://www.cancer.org.im/involvingpeople/councilofcancercharities/iomanti-cancerassociation>

<http://www.recyclenow.com/reduce/love-your-clothes>

<http://www.recyclenow.com/what-to-do-with/clothing-textiles>

<http://www.textile-recycling.org.uk/>

