

# The Waste Doctors

Article by:

**Naomi Gill**

**Support Worker @ ACH Bristol**

Over the past month I have been visiting some of our properties with Bristol's Waste Doctor, Catrin Wade. We've been on a mission to teach our tenants about recycling – how to do it and why it's important. In Bristol we are able to recycle most of our waste, reusing it instead of sending it to landfill. Our food waste is even converted into electricity! We wanted our tenants to know how to contribute towards the city's sustainability, and also to help them out with managing their waste.

The tenants we have spoken to so far have been receptive and keen to get on board with the recycling system. One tenant told us:

***“I've wanted to recycle since moving into this house, and now I understand how I will do this every week”***

We went back to some of the properties 2 weeks later, and found that some of the tenants had started sorting their waste into cans, plastics, card and paper, where before everything was being thrown in to the large black bin. It's encouraging to see the tenants working together to make recycling work, and being willing to make a difference to the environment by changing their lifestyle.

Catrin Wade, Waste Doctor for Bristol Waste Company, said:

***“The visits we do are really beneficial because quite often the people we're talking to are very new to Bristol and in many cases to Britain. This means that they have very little knowledge of what they should be doing with their waste and recycling. We generally meet with the whole household as a group so that we can talk through what materials go where. We also make sure they have all of the bins and boxes they need to get started and answer any questions they may have.***

***“Residents are generally extremely grateful to get help and guidance from us and to receive the equipment and information they need. This gives them the confidence to be able to manage their waste and recycling responsibly.”***