

Recycling Courses



A learner makes a bolster from recycled materials

New Clothes from Old

The Windmill Centre in Torquay has run several taster courses about creative ways of recycling. Learners attending Making New Clothes learnt basic sewing skills and design techniques. They were shown how to embellish clothes and how to make blinds from curtains. All six learners reported that they learned new skills, and half are going on to attend other courses. Maggie said: 'I was really impressed by the tutor's patience, and considering I don't like sewing I am pleased with the help and overall result. Enjoyed recycling in the class . . . I received a lot of help.' Tutor Manuela also came in for praise from another learner, Tina, who said that she 'is an excellent tutor and made me feel very special and confident and I learnt a lot.'



A snow globe made from recycled materials by a learner at The Windmill Centre.

Recycle Art

Eight Torquay residents, aged 17–48, attended The Windmill Centre's Recycle Art, session. They practised making jewellery and ornaments from materials that might otherwise go into the rubbish bin – and end up in a landfill site. For learner Jolene the course was 'a chance to meet new people, learn new skills and have fun'. They made snow globes from bottles, potpourri holders from old records, and earrings from buttons and other bits and bobs. Some of these things will make Christmas gifts. Learners also discovered the whereabouts of the local recycling centres, which weren't known to everyone before, and they will be making use of them in the future. All the learners reported that they enjoyed the sessions, and their experiences are summed up by learner Cathy's comment – 'a fun, relaxing time with an outcome of cheap gifts.'