

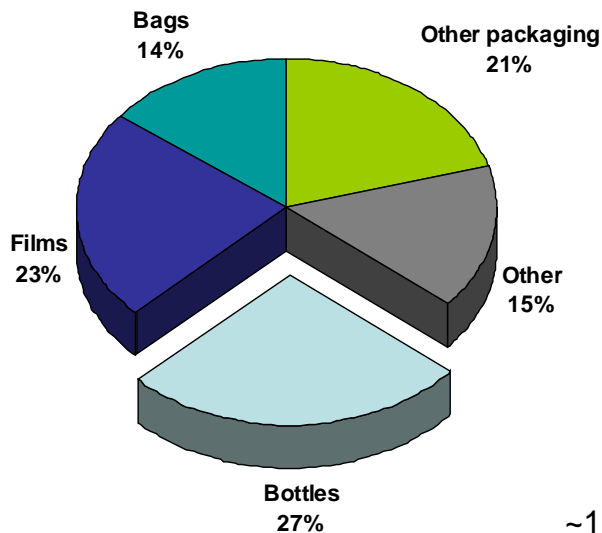
Plastic bottle recycling

- affordable and valuable addition to recyclables collection programmes
- it can cost no more to recycle plastic bottles than landfill them
- recycling rates of other materials increase when you include plastic bottles
- it makes environmental sense
- valuable resource with strong markets

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Plastics in household waste



~1.9m tonnes

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Lightweight but high volume material



25kg/m³

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"can we afford to collect plastic bottles?"

you should **absolutely, definitely not** be asking *this* question

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UK councils are *already* paying to collect 450,000 tonnes of plastic bottles from households and transport them to landfill

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The plastic bottles take up about 10% of the capacity of your refuse collection vehicles

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Did you know?

Each year councils in the UK spend over £100m collecting and landfilling recyclable plastic bottles worth over £27m

“What is the difference in cost of collecting plastic bottles for landfill and collecting them for recycling?”

This is a better question

Proven solutions

- 75% of UK councils offer plastic bottle recycling programmes
- 8.4 million homes now have kerbside collections including plastic bottles
- 5,500 plastic bottle banks
- Boosts recycling of other materials
- Efficient, high performance examples



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What scheme operators tell us

“In pilot area, which previously had paper/card only, 30% put out rate increased to near 100%”

“Increase of 53% in tonnage of mixed cans and plastics”

“Participation rates increased from 11% to 28% in trial area”

“The recent plastic trial was very successful and increase participation rates from 55% to 65%”

“A collection scheme for glass/cans/plastics was introduced in December 2002 participation in the existing paper collection scheme rose by 12%”

plastic bottles could add 5 percentage points to recycling rates



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What scheme operators tell us

“Kerbside collection of plastic bottles is cost effective as part of co-mingled collection”

“It only cost us a little more to add plastic bottles into our kerbside scheme - it has been really popular”

“I wouldn't introduce alternate week collections of residual rubbish and recyclable materials without including plastic bottles.”

“It doesn't really costs us any more to recycle the bottles than throw them away”

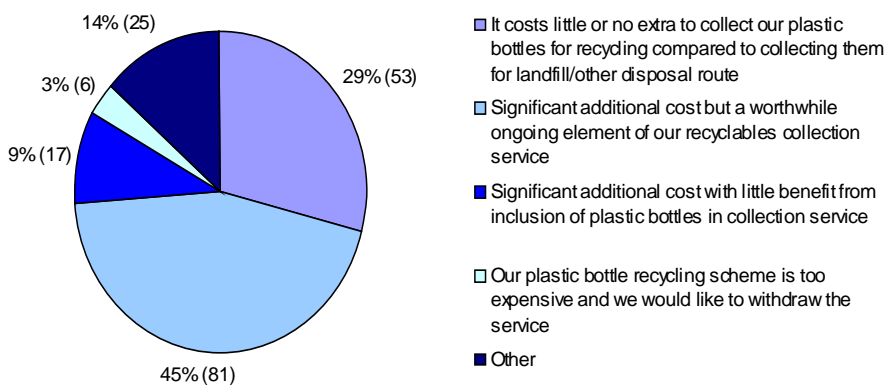
“Our office waste management costs were reduced with the plastic bottle and can recycling scheme”



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Local authority perceptions

Value of plastic bottle recycling



(Number of local authorities in brackets)



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Alternate weekly collections



- e.g. Eastleigh, Breckland
- Same vehicles & crews
- One extra wheelbin
- Centralised sorting

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Compacting on collection - with paper



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Collection with boxes

- Weekly dry recyclables collection
- Alternate weekly refuse & green waste
- Sort on vehicle or at MRF
- Bulk & bale at central depot
e.g Daventry, Lichfield, Wrexham



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Sorting on the vehicle

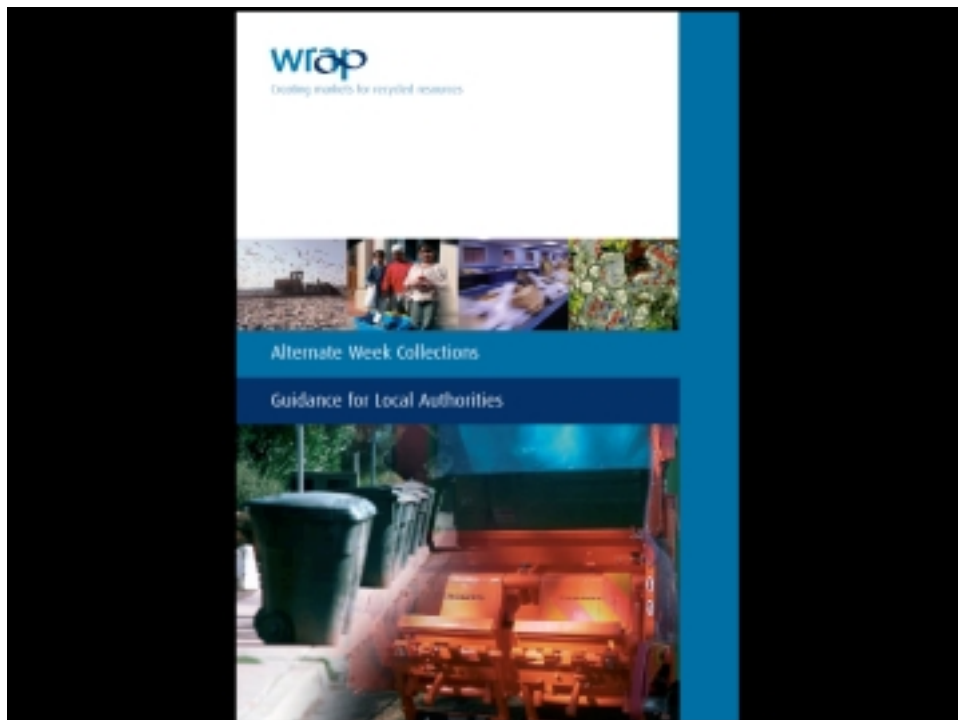
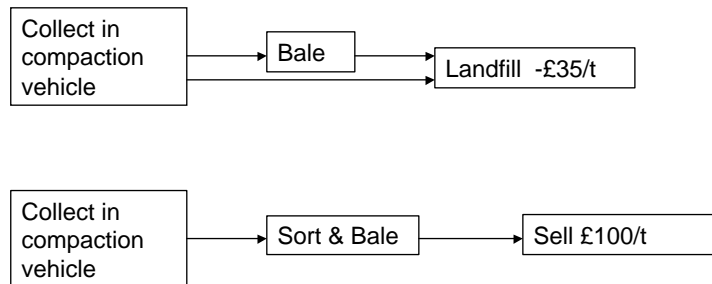


- e.g. Daventry, Newport, Bath, Lichfield

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Basically, this is one option



Compacting on collection - compartments



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Apply same principles to flats



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Efficient sorting & handling



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Get the quality right & maximise income



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Commingled MRF gate fees are lower than landfill costs, and this difference will continually improve in favour of MRFs



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Non-domestic collections



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Attitudes

- Only 11% of workplaces and no school scheme managers cited cost savings as a reason for participating in the scheme - the main drivers were environmental

Implications - economics

- Real cost savings are possible and recognised by 50% of users
- Cost savings of >32% achieved in schools
- Almost half of businesses replying reported savings of over 20%
- Organisations taking up the service are not sufficiently aware of the 'business case' for the service - this should be more strongly emphasised

If it's potentially so inexpensive why don't more people do it?

- Expectation of high cost
- Can't find local service providers easily
- Current equipment or site isn't suitable
- Don't know where to send collected material
- Locked into inflexible contracts
- Community or planning problems
- Not a priority/don't have time to set up
- Expectation of 'hassle'
- Don't have the funds

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So what's the solution

- Pay enough for the material ('real' value+PRN)
- Target & help councils plan efficient schemes
- Challenge inefficient operations & contracts
- Encourage contractors to offer better services
- Show how problems can be solved
- Use Govt support for capital/transitional costs
- Make it easy to say "yes"

=low business costs & lower risk for councils

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