

## Response to Request for Information

Reference EIR 000123  
Date 16 March 2017

### ***Recycling***

#### **Request:**

Thank you for your request for information about the above. We are dealing with your request under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 rather than Freedom of Information. In response to your request, please find our response below

Do you issue recycling instructions (both on your website, and direct to the home, school or workplace) that contain a complete yes or no of acceptability for all common materials found in (household) waste? especially for ambiguous items that may end up in, and contaminating, the wrong recycling stream -

- 1) "plastic drink bottles ( please remove the lids )" - where are the lids supposed to go?
- 2) bottles for bleach, caustic soda, shampoo, washing up liquid etc?
- 3) bottle tops - metal and plastic? "jam" jar lids
- 4) "black microwave "ready meal" containers" - not all microwaveable containers are black ( some are white, some see-through, and?)
- 5) heat-proof microwave meal plastic film "lids" / non heat-proof film "lids" from plastic food trays ( such as meat and fruit)?
- 6) plastic nets from fruit packaging?
- 7) plastic-lined card eg sandwich wrappers?
- 8) toothpaste tubes?
- 9) metal (eg tomato puree) tubes?
- 10) polystyrene - packaging, cups, takeaway containers, large moulded pieces such as for transporting fridges?
- 11) "pringles" etc tubes?
- 12) oil, anti-freeze, screen-wash, brake fluid etc containers?
- 13) wire coat hangers?
- 14) old nails, hinges etc?
- 15) crisp packets (and other non-aluminium foil)?
- 16) plastic moulded packaging eg from toys, tools etc?
- 17) food containers – which types of plastic are recyclable ?
- 18) beer cans containing plastic widgets?
- 19) aerosols?
- 20) "waxy" drink cartons?
- 21) different colours of glass eg blue, frosted?
- 22) cling film?
- 23) different kinds of plastic bags?
1. If not, how quickly can this be rectified?

2. Do you charge schools to collect recyclables?
3. If so, how many don't use this scheme?
4. What happens to their recyclables?
5. How exactly does this help overall?
6. Do you have plans to make household recycling compulsory as soon as possible?
7. Do you have plans to introduce plastic collection along the Norwegian model? How efficient is this?
8. Do you have a household glass collection? if not why not?

We do issue instructions on recycling in the annual calendars and in the general leaflets that we issue to residents when we directly engage with them. Annual calendars go to all households in the city.

Our leaflets show a 'yes' and 'no' for the basic household items. The list that is included on our leaflets and website are below including some of your queries. They also include additions in regard to emptying and rinsing containers. Our materials recovery facilities (MRF) provider doesn't need lids removing.

#### Recycling – black bin

##### **Yes**

- \* Food tins, drinks cans, aerosol cans and metal takeaway containers- Empty and rinse out
- \* Cardboard boxes
- \* Glass bottles and jars Empty and rinse out
- \* Paper, magazines, newspapers and catalogues
- \* All plastic bottles and plastic food containers such as margarine tubs, yoghurt pots, food trays Empty and rinse out. It doesn't matter what colour they are.
- \* Plastic-lined card e.g. sandwich wrappers
- \* Waxy drink cartons
- \* Beer cans containing plastic widgets

##### **No**

- \* Hard plastics
- \* Polystyrene
- \* Clean textiles
- \* Nappies
- \* Worn-out clothing
- \* Electrical items
- \* Crisps and sweets packets
- \* Plastic bags/cling film
- \* Heat-proof microwave meal plastic film "lids" / non heat-proof film "lids" from plastic food trays (such as meat and fruit
- \* Plastic nets from fruit packaging
- \* Metal (e.g. tomato puree) tubes
- \* Polystyrene - packaging, cups, takeaway containers, large moulded pieces such as for transporting
- \* Pringles etc. tubes
- \* Oil, anti-freeze, screen-wash, brake fluid etc. containers

[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

- \* Wire coat hangers - you can take these to the Household waste recycling centres
- \* Old nails, hinges etc. - but you can take these to the Household waste recycling centres
- \* Crisp packets and other non-aluminium foil
- \* Plastic moulded packaging e.g. from toys, tools etc.
- \* Food containers – which types of plastic are recyclable- NOT polystyrene
- \* Toothpaste tubes

Those uncommon or more ambiguous items not listed are being discussed, what we would like to do is introduce an electronic version of a recycling wheel on the website so that you can search for the more obscure items.

In regard to schools we do charge for recycling and I think we have just over 100 schools who subscribe. The recyclates are taken to a MRF the same way as the kerbside service.

We don't have plans to make households recycling compulsory at the moment.

In Wolverhampton we are not currently adopting the Norwegian Model in regards to a bottle deposit scheme.

Yes, we collect household glass bottles and jars (not window, mirror, plate glass or glass bowls), but our collections are not separate.