

## **Plastics recycling :NCC-030625-18**

Dear Sir

I have been in discussion with Bassetlaw District Council regarding plastics recycling, and they have suggested that I contact you as the contract for plastics recycling is held at County level. I would be grateful if you could answer the following questions:

Dear Requester,

Further to your Freedom of Information request, Please see below.

Answers are:

***Which plastics are currently recycled in Nottinghamshire? Please answer in terms of chemical constituent / class of plastic. Are coloured plastic items recycled, or just white or clear?***

All plastic bottles, margarine tubs and yogurt pots are recycled as per the guidance from your local district council:

<http://www.bassetlaw.gov.uk/media/735731/Blue-Bin-Guidance-2017.pdf>

Plastic bottles, margarine tubs and yogurt pots will be made of high-density polyethylene (HDPE), low-density polyethylene (LDPE), polyethylene terephthalate (PET) and polycarbonate (PC).

All colours of plastic bottles, margarine tubs and yogurt pots will be recycled.

***What proportion of plastics collected via the blue bin system in Nottinghamshire are actually recycled, and what proportion is rejected and goes to landfill? I assume not all plastics actually collected meet the rather narrow requirements of the current scheme.***

All clean plastic bottles, margarine tubs and yogurt pots are recycled. If other plastic items are incorrectly placed in the recycling bin they will end up in the residual waste stream at the recycling facility and would be sent for energy recovery rather than landfill.

***Are any plastics collected in Nottinghamshire sent abroad for recycling? If so how much, what types, and where do they go?***

By concentrating on plastic bottles, margarine tubs and yogurt pots - good quality plastics with long term sustainable markets – the plastics collected are sent for reprocessing in the UK. Poorer quality mixed low grade plastics which we do not collect in the recycling bin tend to be those streams exported abroad.

***Are there any plans to increase the range of plastics that can be recycled via the blue bin system, as this is currently very restricted.***

We continually work with our contractor: Veolia to review available long term sustainable markets for recyclables which could be collected, at present we are concentrating on plastic bottles, margarine tubs and plastic bottles, as a result of this we do not collect lower grade plastics which require export outside of the UK and are not subject to market issues such as the recent China plastics problems reported in the media.

***Are there any plans to work with local firms, supermarket etc to reduce the amount of plastic packaging on goods sold in Nottinghamshire which currently are not recycled through the blue bin system?***

We are working with our supply chain to reduce the amounts of plastic we consume and the recent increase and media coverage in national government focus on plastic usage will hopefully result in a more focussed plastics resource strategy to be published by central government later this year..

*Tetra Pak items cannot currently be recycled in Nottinghamshire, but they can be in surrounding areas (eg Doncaster). Why is this, and are any plans in place to facilitate recycling for this common form of packaging?*

Different areas utilise different Materials Recycling Facilities which use different types of sorting equipment and access to different markets and reprocessors, for example while Doncaster do collect Tetrapak in the recycling bin they don't collect margarine tubs or yogurt pots and vice versa.

If it would be useful to you, Veolia can arrange a tour of their Materials Recovery Facility and can answer any queries you may have:

<https://www.veolia.co.uk/nottinghamshire/MRF-Tours>

We hope this now satisfies your request. Should you have any further enquiry please do not hesitate to contact me directly on the details below.

In addition to this and for future reference Nottinghamshire County Council regularly publishes previous FOIR,s and answers on its website, under Disclosure logs. (see link)  
<http://site.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/thecouncil/democracy/freedom-of-information/disclosure-log/>

You can use the search facility using keywords.

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you should write to the Team Manager, Complaints and Information Team, County Hall, West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2 7QP or email [complaints@nottscc.gov.uk](mailto:complaints@nottscc.gov.uk).

Kind Regards