

Dear

I am writing to you in reply to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to Nottinghamshire County Council. I have the following information.

*Does Nottinghamshire County Council procure plastic bottles for use in local authority premises; if so, how many per year over the last 5 years?*

Yes; we do not hold a count of the number of bottles.

*How many or what percentage of the plastic bottles used within Nottinghamshire County Council are recycled and how many go to landfill?*

We have a waste contract with a local provider "Wastecycle" based in Colwick. Wastecycle take our general waste and co-mingled recyclable waste. The recyclable waste is passed through a plant which recovers products that are fit for recycle, the single use plastics are then utilised as per the statement below. Please also see below for a summary table of the waste collected by category by our contractor and the amount recycled and the amount sent to Landfill.

Wastecycle's processing facilities will continue to produce recyclable plastic commodities and explore sustainable avenues to supply the plastic re-processors with high quality materials. Non target recyclable plastics and non-recyclable plastics will be sorted and destined for further processing into SRF (Solid Recovered Fuel) and RDF (Refuse Derived Fuel). Both of these fuels are manufactured in Colwick (Nottingham) from the residual waste following the sorting process of dry, mixed recyclable waste streams.

<b>Material Type</b>	<b>Total Weight (t)</b>	<b>Recycled (t)</b>	<b>Recovered for Energy / Heat (t)</b>	<b>Landfill (t)</b>
Cardboard	1.14	1.14		
Confidential Waste	24.93	24.93		
Construction Waste	165.40	132.32	29.77	3.31
Fluorescent Tubes	2.23	2.23		
General Trade Waste	294.31	235.45	52.98	5.89
Green Waste Recyclable	184.33	184.33		
Industrial Waste	43.84	35.07	7.89	0.88
Inert Mixed Recyclable Waste	15.24	15.24		
Light Iron	0.02	0.02		
Mixed Recyclables	118.64	118.64		
WEEE - Domestic Size	1.92	1.92		
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>852.00</b>	<b>751.29</b>	<b>90.64</b>	<b>10.07</b>

*Does the Council have a specific policy relating to plastic bottle usage among Council staff and elected officials? If so, please provide further details.*

*Does the Council have a specific policy relating to plastic bottle usage at premises owned or leased out to 3<sup>rd</sup> parties? If so, please provide further details.*

The council's recycling plan is available on our website at:

<http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/media/131033/wasterecyclingreusecompostingplan.pdf>

*Is the Council engaged with any local initiatives to reduce plastic bottle waste? If so, please provide further details.*

Each year the Waste Management team publishes its Waste Reduction, Reuse, Recycling and Composting Plan, contained within is key emphasis on partnership working with the District and Borough Councils. The latest version of the Recycling Plan can be found on the County Council's website at the link above. Within the plan it sets out key actions and investments that work towards increasing the County's recycling rate and reducing overall waste arisings.

Plastic bottles are a targeted recyclable material in Nottinghamshire, and research has shown that a significant number of plastic bottles are still found in the residual waste stream. Therefore plastic bottles often form the key message of communications campaigns and initiatives run in Nottinghamshire. By keeping the plastic message clear and concise with emphasis placed on the fact that all plastic bottles can be placed in the recycling bin, this helps to reduce confusion around what plastics can be recycled and maximises the number of plastic bottles that are recycled.

For the Council the reduction of waste to landfill is a key target and one that has been significantly reduced in recent years and in 2017/18 just 6% of household waste went to landfill, a figure that has fallen from nearly 30% in 2014/15. Therefore of any plastic bottles found in the residual waste stream, very little are actually sent to landfill.

As part of our Recycle for Nottinghamshire education programme the waste reduction, reuse and recycling messages are delivered through a variety of formats. Schools throughout the county have specific lessons focussed on the above messages delivered by the County's Waste Education Officer. In addition to this, both schools and community groups can also undertake tours of the materials recovery facility in Mansfield to see how the various materials placed in the kerbside recycling bin are sorted before being sent for reprocessing.

With regards to smaller scale initiatives the County Council also offers, in conjunction with our contractors Veolia, an 'Envirogrant' that schools, charities and other community groups can bid into in order to help implement projects that will achieve a waste reduction or an increase in waste reuse or recycling/composting. Grants of up to £1,000 can be sought and awards are made quarterly. Further information can be found on the Veolia Nottinghamshire website.

If you have any queries or concerns then please contact me. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

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 e-mail [foi@nottsc.gov.uk](mailto:foi@nottsc.gov.uk).

Yours sincerely

John Allison  
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