

**Written submissions received for the London Assembly's
On-the-Go Recycling in London investigation**

May 2009

Arsenal FC

Dear Darren

Many thanks for the letter regarding the above. Please find the following information relating to your questions;

- 1) A. We collect only plastic bottles and pint pots from our concourse areas. All other waste goes into a general waste collection bin.
B. The plastics that are collected are baled and sent to a recycling facility.
C. The actual plastic waste weight collected is fairly low, approximately 1 tonnes every 3 months.
D. The plastic recycling bins are situated through-out the concourse areas. It is usually 1:4 ratio to general waste bins, although this does change at certain points of the stadium. We currently have no plastic recycling within the "away" fans enclosures.
- 2) The plastics that are collected with the bins on the concourse are usually contaminated and therefore cannot be recycled. The bottles that do get recycled are handpicked from the concourses during the game. The biggest barrier to recycling is that those companies who will recycle the waste want it in a specific way. The almost zero tolerance on contamination means that the plastic that does get separated cannot be recycled. The other largest barrier is the public not participating in the scheme and therefore either contaminating the specific plastic bins, or putting recyclable material into a general waste bin.
- 3) Yes. If all the bins and colours were universal, it would make the recycling scheme much easier to use and public friendly. The disadvantages will obviously be cost to change the existing bins and signage.
- 4) We have had a lot of people ask what we are doing regarding environmental issues in general. My opinion would be that most people would like to recycle, but it needs to be easy and clear.
- 5) .
- 6) I am not aware of this but would be very interested in pursuing the standard.

I trust that this is of use but please feel free to contact me should you require anything further.

Regards
Mike Lloyd
Facilities Officer
Stadium Management

North London Waste Authority

Questions in 'Part 3 - Rationale' of the Recycle on the Go Consultation Paper

Question 1: Do you think that organisations should put in place recycle bins in public places? Why?

Yes

Because public place recycling bins help to promote and reinforce good practice (recycling) behaviour in the home and at work, recycling 'on the go' adds additional recycling tonnage and helps to reduce residual waste for disposal in line with the waste hierarchy and because the provision of public place recycling ensures consistency of service across different aspects of life, bridging the home/work divide.

Question 2: Do you agree that Government should offer guidance to organisations on setting up public place recycle bins?

Yes

However, it should be recognised that this is just guidance which will only be heeded' if organisations are aware of its existence, so it will need to be promoted, once finalised. Secondly, there is other research on station recycling that could be referenced in the guidance document for others to refer to as follows:

Terminal Recycling - Phase 1

Terminal Recycling - Phase 2

Terminal Recycling – Rail

The above reports are all available at

<http://www.resourcesfutures.co.uk/research/publications.html>

The key recommendations included:

- The need for staff assistance and participation in recycling initiatives
- The importance of the education of staff in recycling initiatives.
- The need .for contractual arrangements to include participation in recycling schemes
- The importance of cross-sector working
- The need for transparent charges for waste collection and disposal at railway stations and terminals
- The need to examine current practices in order to reduce the amount of waste arising.

Question 4: Do you agree that voluntary measures should be tried before considering legislation?

Yes

Both the compositional analysis and the cost benefit analysis included in the consultation is very helpful and should give organisations confidence that the installation of public place recycling can bring both a financial as well as an environmental benefit. It will be important however, to track the uptake of public place recycling as a result of the introduction of the voluntary good practice guide and code of practice to see whether the launch of these documents do bring about the new wave of public place recycling by 2008 which the government wants to see take place.

Question 5: Do you agree with the rationale set out in section 3.1? i.e. Do you agree that there is a case for Government intervention, and that it should be in the form of a voluntary code of practice and good practice guide?

Yes the Authority does agree with the rationale set out in section 3.1 of the consultation document, which indicates that there is not an inherent market failure that prevents organisations providing recycling opportunities for public use and that government guidance and information setting out the case for public place recycling would help to encourage more organisations to provide such facilities.

Yes the Authority also agrees that there is a case for Government intervention, in the form of guidance, help and advice provided to support those who wish to introduce such schemes.

The voluntary code of practice and good practice guide are both very useful. However, the Authority also recommends that some additional support should also be available to help organisations considering the introduction of such schemes. This could be in the form of short training sessions and/or telephone support. Some advice should also be included in the guidance documents about the pros and cons of sponsored recycling bins and reference should also be made to recycling at events, which is a different type of service, but nonetheless, organisations looking for guidance on 'public place recycling' might also need to consider and expect to see advice about how best to manage short term increases in visitor numbers and recyclables collected as a result of special events.

Question 6: do you agree that Government should recommend use of Recycle Now's iconography so that recycle bins for public use are consistent with the national recycling campaign?

Yes, the Authority supports Government recommendations for using national campaign branding on public place recycling bins.

However, it is also important to recognise that many local authorities have invested heavily in local branding to promote a sense of place and community. It would be helpful if the guidance documentation could show some examples, apart from contained within any of the case studies, of 'cobranded' recycling bins to demonstrate how it is possible for co-branded local authority and national recycling campaign branded recycling bins to sit alongside local authority only branded litter bins.

Question 10: Would organisations find it helpful to register that they are running schemes on a central website that the public and others can view?

The Authority does not believe that the organisations themselves would find it useful to register their public space recycling scheme(s) onto a central database unless the database was promoted in some way. It is the Authority's view that organisations are more likely to want to promote what they are doing themselves or alternatively log the information onto an existing website or database with minimum effort, such as logging the information onto www.recycle-more.co.uk which already includes a 'bank locator' where residents can search for on-street 'bring banks'/recycling centres. The main benefit of a central database would be for government to see how far its encouragement of public place recycling was making a difference, i.e. as a way of measuring progress against anticipated roll out of services.

Questions in 'Part 4- Evidence Base' of the Recycle on the Go Consultation Paper

Question 13: Do you have any 'evidence' that you would wish to submit?

No

Question 24: Do you have a view about sponsorship of on-street recycling facilities? Is this something that you have pursued? What were the outcomes?

Whilst sponsorship of on-street recycling facilities is not something that the NLWA as a disposal authority has pursued, the Authority notes that any assistance or practical advice the Government can give on mitigating costs will be welcome.

Questions in 'Part 5 - Proposed Voluntary Code of Practice' of the Recycle on the Go Consultation Paper

Question 28: Do you agree with the first principle of the Voluntary Code of Practice (at Part 5) on the provision of containers for recyclable waste alongside those for non-recyclable waste.

Yes, it is a good theoretical principle to say that the provision of containers for recyclable waste should be alongside those for non-recyclable waste, but one which might not work in practice. It is also a principle which is not necessarily consistent with existing on-street recycling bin provision, where there are frequently a number of 1,100 litre on street recycling bins but either no waste containers, or simply a small litter bin alongside. Outside train stations in London, there are also often recycling containers for paper for example, targeting newspaper 'waste' but no other containers or refuse bins. It would be a 'backward' step, that if by signing up to the code of practice, organisations and authorities were 'forced' to put in litter bins alongside recycling bins where there weren't any litter bins before. Similarly it might not always be desirable to have recycling bins alongside litter bins, e.g. it might be better to put recycling bins in first along a street with a 'usual flow' of pedestrian traffic likely to be generating waste and litter and then have litter bins further down the street, to encourage recycling in the first instance, litter disposal as a secondary choice.

It is recommended that this principle is re-worded to say that where there are bins for non-recyclable waste provision of bins for recyclable material should also be provided within the vicinity to encourage people to recycle in preference to disposal, but that street-scene safety and other management issues (including minimising street 'clutter') may be given priority locally if desired.

Question 29: Do you agree with the second principle of the Voluntary Code of Practice (at Part 5) that suggests that organisations installing recycle bins for public use should clearly promote recycling containers, including the adoption of common signage (i.e. the logos and colours) across England for recycling receptacles?

Yes the Authority supports this principle with the caveats outlined in the Authority's response to question 6.

Question 32: Do you agree with the fourth principle of the Voluntary Code of Practice (at Part 5) that suggests that organisations installing recycle bins for public use should reuse, recycle and compost the materials collected?

The Authority supports the above principle. However, the NLWA considers that recycling bins are most likely to be put in place for materials that can be recycled, rather than reused or composted.

Questions in 'Part 6 - Proposed Good Practice Guide' of the Recycle on the Go Consultation Paper

Question 39: Do you agree with the aim of the Good Practice Guide, which is set out in the introduction to the Guide at Part 6?

Yes the Authority agrees with the aim of the Good Practice Guide which is to set out practical considerations for organisations and managers seeking to establish recycling bin schemes alongside general litter collection in public places, and to help managers making informed decisions on how to implement public place recycling schemes in their own area.

Question 44: Is there any information missing from the Good Practice Guide?

Although the Authority does not service on street recycling banks or litter bins, the Authority suggests that any information which could be provided for new developments, e.g. planning information or example policies that could be contained in planning guidance for new buildings with public space attached would be helpful to ensure that recycling points became more part of the norm with new developments too.

Questions in 'Part 7 - Case Studies' of the Recycle on the Go Consultation Paper

Question 52: Are the case study examples given in Part 7 helpful? Are any not helpful?

Yes the case study examples given in Part 7 are all helpful as each provides full details of a public place recycling scheme which will be helpful for organisations and managers seeking to introduce such schemes in their area.

Question 54: Would a web-based repository of case studies that organisations can contribute towards be helpful?

Yes, based upon the Authority's experience of using the case studies associated with the national 'Recycle Now' campaign and associate website, a repository of case studies to which organisations can contribute would be useful.

PR-002

Whilst the Authority has not responded to every question in the consultation paper, we trust that our response is informative and useful. If you require clarification on any of the points raised, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Lappage
Head of Waste Strategy & Contracts

The Ambassador Theatre Group Limited

Evidence was received from the Ambassador Theatre Group limited in the form of their *Environmental Strategy and Improvement Programme* document, dated January 2008. If you wish to view an electronic copy of this document please contact Liz Williams, Scrutiny Manager at Elizabeth.Williams@london.gov.uk

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8 December 2008

Dear Ms Williams

Re: Environment Committee: "On the Go" Plastic Recycling

i am replying on behalf of Kenny Wilks to Darren Johnson AM's letter of 26 November about "On the Go" plastic recycling. I will address each of the questions raised in the letter in turn.

1. Do you collect materials for recycling from people "on the go" (e.g. in recycling bins placed in streets or other public spaces)?

Islington has 256 public recycling points around the borough, largely consisting of 1100 and 1280 litre recycling containers.

a. What materials do you collect for recycling?

Islington has 161 public co-mingled recycling points at which members of the public can recycle plastic bottles, clear, green and brown glass, paper, cardboard and metal tins and cans.

We have a further 95 source-separated recycling sites, where residents can recycle glass containers, paper, and metal tins and cans. Furthermore, we have 15 textile recycling banks, 2 ink cartridge banks and 5 tetra pak recycling points.

b. What happens to each of these materials once they have been collected?

The co-mingled material is sent for sorting to Veolia's MRFs in Rainham and Greenwich, Holmen or Bywaters. The textiles go to Scope and the tetra paks are collected by Bywaters.

c. What is the amount in tonnage collected for each raw material and how does this compare to other wastes collected from people "on the go"?

Approximately 250-300 tonnes per month of recyclate are collected via our network of recycling points around the borough. The breakdown of this material can be seen in the table below. Additionally, around 14 tonnes of textiles and 0.3 tonnes of tetra paks are collected per month.

Between 75-100 tonnes per month are collected via our litter bins.

d. What ratio of recycling bins to waste bins do you have and is waste collected separately or co-mingled?

Number of bins on streets

- Litter – Approx 900
- Recycling - 862

Estimated combined total bin volume

- Litter – Approx 63,000 litres
- Recycling - Approx 1,000,000 litres

2. What are the drivers and barriers to collecting plastic recycling "on the go" compared with other materials?

Drivers

- Public pressure to make recycling easier away from the home
- The need to collect recyclable material from wherever it can be obtained in order to drive up borough recycling rates.

Barriers

- Difficulties surrounding emptying of containers on red routes
- Contamination
- Cost of containers
- Dumping of recyclate beside containers, especially near smaller Linpac bins
- Cost of bulk/transport.
- Lack of local/national/regional reprocessing infrastructure.
- Negative 'sent to China' perception.

3. Do you think that it would be useful to agree, across London, a standard way of collecting plastic and other recyclable materials "on the go", and, what would be the benefits and disadvantages of a standard system?

The initial difficulty would be getting a consistent range of materials that could be collected (plastic bottles / packaging etc).

Separate collections for plastic would be costly. Small containers (required for public places) would hold minimal quantities, fill up quickly and cost a lot to transport. Co-mingled collections reduce these costs.

4. Do you have any information regarding the amount of public support for recycling "on the go"?

No

5. If you do not collect plastic recyclables "on the go", do you have any plans for collection in the future?

We will continue to offer plastic bottle recycling via our network of public recycling points. In addition, we will review the performance and cost effectiveness of split refuse and recycling "on the go" bins in other London boroughs in order to ascertain whether such an investment would be an efficient use of public funds.

I hope this letter has been helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Benn
Waste Minimisation and Recycling Officer

City of London

1. The City of London currently has 9 Recycling containers for the collection of Newspapers sited outside main rail and Underground sites.
 - a) Newspapers
 - b) The collected papers are sent, together with other City sourced recyclable materials, to the Viridor Materials Recovery Facility at Crayford for further sorting before being sent for appropriate reprocessing;
 - c) Approximately 70 tonnes of Newspapers are collected in this fashion in each year;
 - d) At present we have no other waste related containers [except for some cigarette litter containers] sited in street areas;
2. Drivers: Street Tidiness; environmental sustainability; recycling target achievement;
Barriers: Cost; location acceptability; Plastic, on its own, is not the real problem but in the City – paper is;
3. It might have been useful had the question had been proposed much earlier. We have been at least 18 months preparing for the 100+ recycling container placement and our drivers [see 2 above] demanded that we went alone. Having said that there is much of advantage to having a fully co-ordinated effort across Greater London although, like ourselves, other Boroughs may have already done their own thing;
4. We have no information on public support or otherwise for the proposed initiative;
5. Our new scheme will be flexible and allow for changes to add other materials such as Plastics or Cans or even Litter as circumstances demand.

City of Berlin

In our city, packaging material is part of a “dual system” of waste collection and recycling.

Places where used packaging material is collected are listed in the Packaging Ordinance (verpackungsordnung) These are:

1. Private Households
2. Similar (“commercial”) places
3. Leisure facilities with high waste production

This means that there are generally no public collection bins that passers-by could use to dump their waste “on the go”. Exemptions may result from definition 2) and 3) at, for example, train stations or sports fields.

However, the collection results from stations, for example, illustrate that there is no need to raise the number of collection points. The bins are often filled with other kinds of waste and are so small that they need to be emptied rather frequently. If we were to give our citizens the opportunity to get rid of their used packaging material “on the go” at any time, system costs would rise dramatically, without improving overall efficiency.

So for Germany and Berlin, it remains the case that anyone wishing to separate waste has to take it (e.g. packaging of chocolate bars, sweets, potato chip packaging, etc.) home to put it in the appropriate bin there. Most plastic bottles are subject to a mandatory deposit in Germany and are thus not part of the “dual system”.

I would be happy to answer any further questions you may have

Yours sincerely

Dr. Otto Lampe

Coca Cola Enterprises Limited

Background

1. Coca-Cola Enterprises Limited (CCE) manufactures and distributes products of The Coca-Cola Company throughout Great Britain. We produce 4bn packed drinks for the GB market every year, in a variety of packaging materials including cans, PET, and glass
2. CCE has provided long-term, stable employment in London, with a manufacturing plant in Edmonton and Sidcup for over 50 years. Currently, CCE employs over 2000 people across London, in a variety of manufacturing and sales roles.
3. CCE is committed to partnering with the Capital to create wealth and opportunity. CCE invests in both capital and in developing the skills of its workforce. For example since 2002, we have invested over £55.4m at our site in Sidcup. This investment represents a mixture of up-grades and innovations. In May 2007 we opened a new Automated Stock Retrieval System (ASRS) at our Edmonton manufacturing site in North London. The £30 million facility provides on-site storage for over 25,000 pallets and has made distribution far more efficient to customers in London and the South East. The 35 metre, high-rise warehouse is computer operated and uses a system of cranes, lifts and conveyors to handle over 400 pallets per hour. By eliminating the need to distribute products to separate warehouses, it will save over 77,000 lorry miles per year.
4. CCE takes its responsibilities towards the London community very seriously. We have developed an award winning Education Centre at Edmonton which has helped over 14,000 students develop enterprise skills through curriculum based factory tours for key stage three and four. Coca-Cola Enterprises also sponsors the successful Minute Maid Schools Cup football tournament in Great Britain. Since 2003, the following numbers of teams have participated – split between girls and boys teams:

2003/04 – 5,367 players – 358 individual teams
2004/05 – 5,557 players – 370 individual teams
2005/06 – 5,746 players – 383 individual teams
2006/07 – 5,936 players – 395 individual teams
2007/08 – 6,125 players – 408 individual teams
2008/09 – 6,315 players – 421 individual teams

5. We also recognize we have an obligation to run our business in an environmentally sound manner. In addition to ensuring our own practices are environmentally sound we also promote recycling of our packs. We have chosen to tackle the difficult area of on-the-go recycling. We have launched six recycle zones in theme parks, shopping centres, and hospitals. We have a vision to launch 80 zones by 2011, of which we anticipate several to be in London. Recycle Zones are located in high profile, high footfall locations, which in London, could include venues such as tourist locations and transport hubs.

Recycle Zones:

Coca-Cola Enterprises welcomes the attention that the London Assembly is placing on packaging and the recovery of material for recycling as we recognise the importance in increasing the amount of materials collected and hence available as future valuable resources. We welcome initiatives to encourage workplace and away from home recycling and have developed our own system, with partners, to collect PET, aluminium and other materials from high footfall, out of home locations.

Recycle Zone is

- An 'On-the-go' recycling programme – delivered in partnership with our customers and other on-the-go locations.
- Focused on soft drinks packaging, but flexible enough to include other materials (on request) such as paper and mobile phones
- Supported by Wrap, for three years

Recycle Zone will:

- Deliver recyclate from all zones to Environment Agency accredited reprocessors to ensure that every can and bottle collected will be recycled.
- Begin, over time, to project the volumes of recyclate collected as a result of recycle zone. Once we understand the collection levels we can explore different communications methods to increase participation and yield.
- Increase the volume of recyclate returning to the supply chain, which should over time, reduce demand on raw materials as the behaviour change dynamic is embedded.

Recycle Zone was launched in May 2008 at Thorpe Park and is now operational at Chessington World of Adventure, Legoland Windsor, Warwick University, Festival Place Shopping Centre and Frimley Park Hospital. We have plans to launch zones in transport hubs, motorway service areas and other high profile, high footfall locations throughout 2009.

London:

We would be delighted to discuss any opportunities for partnership with the London Assembly as we develop Recycle Zone across the UK. For example, we are currently in early-stage negotiations with a London council to launch RZ at street level. We would be pleased to engage with the committee on this, as our thinking evolves. If you would like to discuss this further please e-mail helenwright@cokecce.com

Yours sincerely

Helen Wright
Senior Corporate Responsibility & Sustainability Manger
CCE UK

The British Plastics Federation

Q1. What are the drivers and barriers to collecting plastics recycling "on the go" compared with other materials?

Plastic is often the material of choice for bottles and convenience foods intended to be consumed 'on the go'. This is on the basis of life cycle analysis of packaging, quality, durability, safety and convenience in handling. As such there is a significant amount of material that could potentially be collected.

Significant barriers would be consumer confusion caused by mixed messages as to what can be collected and where. This could be compounded by other factors such as difficulty accessing on-the-go recycling points or a system that produced a material mix that was difficult/costly to reprocess.

To make life simple for users of the system they need to be able to deposit all types of plastic with the minimum of difficulty. For recyclers the key is to get as much plastic as possible in a format that is acceptable for the recycling facility. Possibilities include a two part system with bottles only in one half and everything else in the other. The third option would be to collect only bottles however this would not fully solve the issue.

Since the general public is unlikely to be wandering around with large amounts of plastic film, it is possible that an on-the-go system that accepted all material should generate material of an acceptable specification but work would be needed to verify this.

It would also be necessary to consider the issues of the quality of materials collected and the logistics of the placing of bins - numbers, location, possible security implications etc.

Q2, What are your views about how best to make plastic packaging recycling easier, in terms of the plastic types used and percentage of recycled content?

Plastics packaging should not be designed and specified for recycling alone, instead it is important the whole life cycle is taken into account and considered when assessing packaging. Recently there have been calls from some quarters to phase out the use of certain polymers in order to simplify plastics packaging recycling. This is simply not a viable or rational option. All polymers have different properties and particular polymers or mixtures of polymers are selected in specific items of packaging in order to optimally protect the contained goods.

The BPF has been very heavily involved with the work of the Packaging Recycling Action Group (PRAG). PRAG was set up in March 2008 as an initiative between the Local Government Association, retail, manufacturing, waste industries, and national government in order to improve collection and recycling of packaging. PRAG workgroup 1 is looking at best practice in packaging design and will focus on improvements that can be made to all types of packaging in order to improve the ease of recycling. This workgroup will be publishing a guide to packaging design in the coming year.

43. Do you think it would be useful to agree, across London, a standard way of collecting plastic and other recyclable materials "on the go", and what would be the benefits and disadvantages of a standard system?

We are supportive of the idea of a standardised system of collection. One of the major problems for achieving high recycling across the whole of the UK is the disparate collection methods used and the wide variety of MRF specifications resulting from this which vary enormously between local authorities. To succeed, plastic recycling needs three things:

- quantity of supply;
- quality of supply
- consistency of supply

Should you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Sarah Plant
Industrial Issues Executive

Lords Cricket Ground

1. Yes.

We are a cricket ground and so open to the public (on purchase of a ticket) on match days, but also for organised public tours of the ground on days throughout the year. We also operate as a meetings and events venue and welcome many clients to the ground this way.

1a. Card, paper, plastic, cans, glass.

1b. Glass is managed separately for recycling. Other waste streams are collected as "dry-mixed recyclables". This co-mingled waste is sent to a MURF for sorting and recycling.

1c. Not available

1d. Ratio of recycling to general waste bins is approximately 60:40 and recyclable waste is co-mingled.

2. A significant barrier to recycling plastic is knowing which plastics are recyclable and which are not. This can be dealt with by clearer labelling on the products and better information. For example, my own local authority (not in London) will only accept plastic bottles and no other form of plastic, even though many other items are made of the same material, and some bottles are not recyclable. This is an oversimplified approach, lacks any real objective basis and, ultimately, confuses people.

Drivers have to be a desire for a more sustainable society at all levels.

3. A standard system would be useful so that similar messages are put out and people understand a single system. An issue (perhaps not a disadvantage as such) would be that many people in London every day are not Londoners but are visitors. For venues, such as ourselves, where a significant proportion of the crowd may not be from London, and so not exposed to the 'standard' system there would be no real tangible benefit as it would be a novel system to them. This may be true of many other venues and attractions.

4. No

5. N/A

6. We are aware of it. Indeed, we were one of the six venues that were engaged by BSI to trial the Standard before publication. I have since undertaken training pertaining to this Standard (with the Sustainable Events Group) and have kept in contact with BSI with regard to the new revision to be published soon. I have integrated the requirements of this Standard into an internal environmental management and sustainable development policy that I hope to roll out over the coming months. We will head for certification once the procedures are in place and functioning.

I hope this is useful. Please feel free to contact me again should you require any further information with regards to Lord's Cricket Ground and our sustainability policies.

PR-009

Regards

Russ

Dr. Russell Seymour
Sustainability Manager
Marylebone Cricket Club

London Assembly Labour Group

Labour Assembly Members asked constituents to tell them about their experiences of on the go plastic recycling and for their opinions of what would increase the likelihood of them recycling more when out and about. We would like our findings to inform the Assembly Environment Committee's work on this.

We had 158 respondents, who in addition to answering our specific questions, offered us suggestions both on how we can increase recycling rates on the go, and on which other items they would like to see recycled.

Essentially we found there is a lot of will to recycle more in London, but people are held back by lack of facilities and information.

From our 158 respondents we learnt that 97.2% of those who have kerbside collections do recycle plastic bottles at home.

However, when they are out and about:

- | | |
|----|---------------------------------------|
| 58 | Throw them in the nearest litter bin. |
| 12 | Look for a plastic recyclables bin. |
| 88 | Take them home to recycle them. |

There is clearly a lot of suppressed demand for plastic bottle recycling on the go.

We also found that:

- 114 of our respondents would like to recycle more than they already do.
- 122 of our respondents don't know or are confused about which plastics can be recycled in their area
- Only one person knew that it is possible to recycle all plastics
- 51 people recycle newspapers when out and about
- 12 people recycle their drinks cans when out and about
- 81 people have not seen any plastic recycling bins out and about
- 71 have seen them in just a few places
- 6 respondents see plastic recycling bins often

In answer to the question what would make them more likely to recycle more on the go:

- 129 people asked for more recycling bins in public
- 35 want better information on what can be recycled
- 33 suggested clearer labelling on bins would help

Our respondents had a lot of suggestions on how to increase recycling rates by improving the process and facilities.

Overwhelmingly, respondents were in support of measures to help them recycle on the go and asked for more recycling bins in public, better information on what can be recycled and much clearer labelling on bins.

Other suggestions included having a bin for all recyclables or, alternatively, copying the multi-recycle bin design used in Germany and elsewhere in Europe. Respondents wanted to see recycling bins in busy shopping areas, near schools and libraries. There was also confusion about whether plastics needed to be cleaned before using on the go recycling, for instance smoothie bottles. And on a practical level, recycling bins need to be emptied more regularly. This problem could be a symptom of too few recycling bins that they were more likely to be too full to place another item in.

Although all plastics can be recycled, only one respondent was aware of this prior to the survey. Because each Local Authority has different capabilities with their sorting and recycling equipment, each has different rules to follow about different types of plastics. This was helping to create more confusion for people. Some people's desire to recycle more is hampered by which items are accepted by their particular council, some councils' different policies regarding what can be collected from houses as opposed to blocks of flats, or how early in the morning they are permitted to put their recycling out.

People would like to know what happens to plastic and other recycled material to generate greater confidence, and what benefits recycling produces. Respondents would prefer recycling to be processed in the UK rather than be shipped abroad.

To encourage recycling more generally will require a much larger determination than the GLA or Boroughs can do by themselves. The following thoughts were put forward.

Manufacturers and retailers to sell products in reusable containers with a deposit (like they used to with glass bottles).

More in-house recycling by large organisations (NHS, train companies), particularly those which receive Government funding and should therefore follow Government recycling policy.

More in-house recycling facilities in sandwich bars and cafes, where customers can separate their paper plates/recyclable bottles.

More information about food waste recycling and compost bins.

There should be a more consistent approach across London

Recycling should be made simpler for people. Woking was cited as employing good practice on this.

Other things that people would like to be able to recycle:

People would like to see an increase in facilities where they could recycle tetrapacks, batteries and water filters. It was asked whether the free papers collected from public transport could be recycled rather than collected as rubbish.

Other items people would like to be able to recycle are electric light bulbs, other plastic wrapping, such as cling film, and mobile 'phones and small electric appliances.

Alison Marcroft 9th January 2009

London Borough of Haringey

1) Do you collect materials for recycling from people 'on the go' (eg. in recycling bins placed in streets or other public spaces), including:

a. What materials do you collect for recycling?

Newspapers and Magazines & Cans.

b. What happens to each of these materials once they have been collected?

Materials are collected and processed by our waste disposal authority, North London Waste Authority.

c. What is the amount in tonnage collected for each material and how does this compare to other wastes collected from people 'on the go'?

Paper = ~ 8 tonnes per calendar month

Cans = ~ 320 kg per calendar month

d. What ratio of recycling bins to waste bins do you have and is waste collected separately or commingled?

1 recycling bin : 37 waste bins

Waste is collected commingled in Haringey. Household and bring bank recycling is also collected commingled, with separate collections occurring only at our Reuse and Recycling Centres.

2) What are the drivers and barriers to collecting plastic recycling 'on the go' compared with other materials?

Drivers:

- Increasing demand from residents to provide 'on the go' recycling
- An increasing amount of waste by volume is plastics
- Increasing demand from Government for local authorities to collect more recycling year on year, and in particular more plastics
- Plastics are a major part of street waste, and therefore an obvious choice for 'on the go' recycling

Barriers:

- Contamination
 - 1. key issue at present due to restrictions from MRFs
 - 2. lack of resident understanding and engagement around recycling and the types of plastics accepted
- Volume

1. plastic presents a problem because of its high volume to low weight ratio, deterring local authorities from collection
2. high volume impacts on the viability and cost-effectiveness of collections. Plastic banks require more frequent collections. This poses a problem in congested urban areas where pavement space is at a premium

3) Do you think it would be useful to agree, across London, a standard way of collecting plastics and other recyclable materials 'on the go', and, what would be the benefits and disadvantages of a standard system?

Haringey believes it would be useful to agree a standard way of collecting plastics and other recyclable materials 'on the go'. It would lead to standardisation across the metropolis, which would have a very positive impact on the perception of recycling in the city.

However, due to the plethora collection systems in place across London, along with a very varied cityscape, it may well be impossible to agree standard rules for collection, as certain collection schemes will be suited to some areas and not others. As a middle ground, making colour coding and iconography compulsory would undoubtedly be beneficial and would ensure greater public understanding of recycling.

4) Do you have any information regarding the amount of public support for recycling 'on the go'?

Haringey is experiencing increased political pressure to provide recycling 'on the go', however no borough-specific research has been carried out.

5) If you do not collect plastic recyclables 'on the go', do you have any plans for collection in the future?

Haringey is currently planning the roll out of an expanded recycling 'on the go' service. At present Haringey plans to provide paper, cans, glass and plastic bottles commingled in one bin, and bins will be trailed across major high streets in the borough.

Food and Drink Federation

Following a consultation with members of our Environment Committee we would like to offer the following observations on this topic with particular reference to your 18 November Committee meeting:

1. We note that nobody was present at the aforementioned meeting representing the fast food sector. We hope this does not mean that the Committee is only concentrating on sandwich packs and bottled soft drinks as customers of the fast food sector are a major source of “on the go” packaging.
2. It is not clear why the Committee is solely focusing on plastics rather than taking an integrated approach involving other materials as well such as metal drinks cans, paperboard clamshells and pizza boxes, glass bottles etc.
3. FDF believes that the key to any form of increased collection for recycling is public participation. This requires the provision of adequate numbers of appropriate collection containers and public education to encourage their use.
4. As is the case with plastics recycling from households, whilst bottle collection/separation/reprocessing could be relatively straightforward, the mix of polymer types (eg PET, HDPE, PP, PS, EPS) - each designed to perform a specific function for each packaging application - complicates “on the go” plastics recycling. There is not yet a consensus within the packaging chain that recycling this mix is either technically, economically or environmentally feasible - whether from the household waste stream or elsewhere - or whether energy from waste might be a better option. FDF is currently involved in work being undertaken by the Packaging Recycling Action Group – formed of representatives from the retail, manufacturing and waste industries along with WRAP, government and compliance schemes – looking into this issue further.

I hope these points are helpful to your Committee’s work on the matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need any additional information.
Thank you for the opportunity to make input.

David Bellamy
Sustainability Manager

Sainbury's

Outlined below are the answers to the questions posed:

1. Do you collect materials for recycling from people "on the go" (e.g. in recycling bins placed in streets or other public spaces) and if so:

a. What materials do you collect for recycling?

The closest we have to 'on the go' recycling are the carrier bag recycling facilities located at the front of our main stores. Any clean polythene can be recycled in the recycling units, including dry cleaning bags, magazine wrappings and bubblewrap. Last year we recycled over 100 million carrier bags.

In addition to this 'on the go' recycling, we also have recycling facilities located in the car parks of our main stores. Customers can recycle paper, cardboard, aluminium, steel, glass (green, brown and clear), rigid plastics (where available), tetra packs (where available), clothing, shoes, books and CDs.

In November 2007 we started running a pilot scheme in London where we run our own recycling bank service. These banks collect a wide range of packaging including plastic, and will sit alongside either Oxfam or Salvation Army units for the collection of clothing, shoes and CDs. We have also identified a further 300 sites where there is potential to run such a scheme in future, if they prove popular.

b. What happens to each of these materials once they have been collected?

The materials collected from our carrier bag recycling facilities are currently recycled into black refuse sacks, black plastic pipes and soles of shoes.

c. What is the amount in tonnage collected for each material and how does this compare to other wastes collected from people "on the go"?

This year we anticipate that we will collect around 1,250 tonnes of mixed-colour polythene from plastic bag recycling units at the front of our main stores.

d. What ratio of recycling bins to waste bins do you have and is waste collected separately or co-mingled?

In smaller stores the ratio of customer plastic bag recycling units to general waste bins is 1:1. In larger stores, it is two plastic bag recycling units to one general waste bin. The waste is collected separately.

2. What are the drivers and barriers to collecting plastic recycling “on the go” compared with other materials?

There is a lack of end-markets for the sale of a mixture of plastic types that are likely to be contaminated with food residue and other non-plastic materials. Also, the costs are high to collect small weights of high-volume material from a number of locations.

3. Can you provide us with information on the material content of plastic used in your packaging, in terms of the percentage of recycled content and the ease in which it can be recycled?

The three main plastic types used in our packaging are:

- High-Density PolyEthylene (HDPE) – for example milk bottles
- Polyethylene terephthalate (PET) – for example carbonated drinks bottles
- Polypropylene – for example margarine tubs

We also use polystyrene for packaging such as yoghurt pots. We have almost phased out use of Polyvinyl chloride (PVC), which is a quality and durable packaging material but is usually not collected for recycling.

Following WRAP funded research, we now use recycled content in food grade (plastics of greater purity than plastics used for non-food packaging) HDPE & PET. However, this remains very limited in its availability.

Recyclate (recycled material used to form new products) content for non-food plastic packaging varies from product to product. 93 per cent of local authorities now accept plastic bottles for recycling. The remaining plastic types and shapes are not generally collected for recycling.

4. Do you think it would be useful to agree, across London, a standard way of collecting plastic and other recyclable materials “on the go”, and, what would be the benefits and disadvantages of a standard system?

In the absence of a consistent mixed plastic recycling method in the UK, in 2008 we were chosen by WRAP following a competitive bid to partner with them and key packaging suppliers to trial a scheme where mixed plastic can be recycled for the first time. The results of the trial should be available at the end of this year.

5. Do you have any information regarding the amount of public support for recycling “on the go”?

We do not have any information about this.

6. If you do not collect plastic recyclables “on the go”, do you have any plans for collection in the future?

N/A

Closed Loop Recycling

In order to make plastic packaging recycling easier there are a number of initiatives that could be undertaken, including but not limited to:

Providing regular and consistently signposted collection infrastructure to encourage the public to always recycle, whether they are at home, in the workplace, in public spaces or in other meeting places (e.g. art, media and sporting venues and events) - ultimately leading to the public expecting to be able to recycle plastic waste wherever they be as the first route of disposal.

Encourage a consistent collection strategy across as wide an area as possible to provide a large volume with a known mix of materials. There are technological solutions to provide financially viable plastic recycling for a variety of material streams (e.g. 'just bottles' or 'mixed rigid plastics' but in order to secure investment and build appropriate infrastructure a sufficient volume of material must be available to the reprocessing sector with a consistent make-up.

Encourage leading brand owners to reduce the variety of polymers used (such as removing PVC) from the overall packaging mix and minimising the number of polymers used within each item of packaging where practicable. Effective recycling to high-value end product, such as food-grade recyclate, requires very exacting separation of different polymer types - a process made easier if the number of polymers in use and in the waste stream is reduced. In addition, encouraging the avoidance of coloured material in food packaging and non-coloured material in non-food plastic packaging would also be of benefit if optical colour sorting is being used in the recycling process.

An appropriate content level for recycled plastic should be encouraged in all packaging, one that strikes a balance between developing the market for recycled material and ensuring that packaging items retain their recyclability in order to allow for multiple journeys around the recycling loop.

A London-wide collection strategy and standard for plastic and other materials would result in increased volumes of recyclate with a more consistent mix of materials, facilitating effective local recycling infrastructure to be developed and operated sustainably.

With thanks and best wishes,

Nick Cliffe
Marketing Manager
Closed Loop Recycling Ltd.

Waste Watch

What are the drivers and barriers to collecting plastic recycling “on the go” compared with other materials?

Drivers:

- The main driver for local authorities is the need to increase recycling tonnages to reach targets – this is increasingly difficult as targets rise and new areas, such as “on the go” recycling, will become crucial in helping achieve this. There is also public demand for such services. Recycling within the home is now commonplace and recycling at work is becoming widespread. Thus the public is now starting to expect recycling to be accessible throughout everyday life and this includes recycling whilst on-the-go.
- From our experience, an increasing number of manufacturers are now also becoming interested in enhancing the recycling capture of their products, such as plastic and paper cups, to improve the social and environmental credentials of their products and services.
- Demand from the public is also a limited driver – as residents are getting used to being able to recycle at home and in the workplace, they are questioning why this is not possible in public spaces or ‘on the go’.
- It is key to identify those materials that are produced “on the go” to ensure appropriate facilities – at a guess this is likely to be newspapers, cans and tins, plastic bottles and glass bottles. However, this area could benefit from some formal compositional analysis. Different locations and settings will also generate different waste streams, e.g. a shopping centre may generate more plastic in comparison to a park.

Barriers:

- It is also important to understand how far the public would be willing to carry materials for recycling and to understand attitudinal barriers, using techniques such as focus groups and surveys.
- It is likely that different collection provision strategies will be appropriate for different material compositions and scenarios – e.g. separated collections versus co-mingled etc. It is unlikely that the collection of just plastic on its own is economically sustainable.
- Contamination with unwanted materials is likely to be a major issue for “on the go” recycling facilities regardless of the material collected. We would suggest public awareness campaigns in newsagents, sandwich shops, newspaper stands etc to ensure people aware that there are facilities in their local areas.
- Manufacturers should also be engaged with to explore opportunities for placing recycling messages on the targeted products such as plastic drinks bottles.
- The collection facilities themselves should be distinctive with clear indications of the materials to be put inside. If some level of consistency across London (preferably across the UK) could be obtained, this would simplify matters further and ensure a maximum level of convenience for residents. We would suggest this should tie in with the national *Recycle Now* campaign iconography.

- Security and space are obviously a major issues for waste/recycling facilities on central London streets – we strongly suggest that the level of provision that is actually practicable in particular areas is considered before any type of communications are undertaken, as promoting on-the-go recycling and then not actually providing adequate facilities could cause public frustration and lose support.
- Consideration should also be given to the capacity of the collection facilities and collection frequencies required. This is particularly relevant to plastic bottles and other plastic packaging, which are a high volume waste. Collection facilities are likely to fill up rapidly without frequent emptying or some sort of shredding and/or compaction mechanism. Facilities will have to be monitored regularly to prevent bins overflowing and resulting public nuisance and frustration.
- In view of the complexity of plastic packaging products, there needs to be a decision and clear communication as to the types of plastics being collected. Currently, many local authorities collect only plastic bottles and no other types of plastic packaging. This is to simplify the communication with residents in order to prevent contamination from unwanted plastics. In addition, plastic bottles are targeted for recycling because the plastics used in drinks and other bottles (usually PET and L/HDPE) command high resale value. Other packaging plastics such as expanded polystyrene are considered significantly lower in value.
- If mixed plastics are to be targeted by on-the-go plastics recycling initiatives, UK capacity for plastics sorting also needs to be considered. Currently, there exists only one mixed plastics sorting facility (J & A Young).
- In the current economic climate, which is resulting in rapidly decreasing demand for recycled plastics within the export markets the UK has traditionally relied upon, it also needs to be ensured that there are sufficient end-use markets for the materials captured. Public frustration and cynicism is likely to be enormous if the materials collected were not actually recycled as a result of a lack of recycling infrastructure and end-use markets and could seriously undermine the efforts of pro-environmental behaviour change initiatives across the environmental behaviours spectrum.

What are your views about how best to make plastic packaging recycling easier, in terms of the plastic types used and percentage of recycled content?

Consumer perspective:

- Ensure a simple message as to exactly what types of plastic packaging can be recycled- is it just bottles or mixed plastics? Simplicity and consistency in approach will be vital.
- Consistency in logos and recycling advice, so consumers are aware of what can be recycled and what cannot as outlined above.
- Provide easy access to banks, using consistent design and colour-coding to increase recognition.

Reprocessor perspective:

- Ensuring design of packaging to ensure that it is either made of one material or easily separable materials and encouraging the use of recyclable materials whenever possible;
- It is of course important to promote the use of recycled content to support end-use markets, although we would suggest that in the first instance *recyclability* takes precedence over the use of recycled materials. However, genuine closed-loop recycling of plastic drinks bottles meeting food packaging hygiene standards is now carried out by one UK company (Closed Loop Recycling Ltd in Dagenham). We believe that promoting this kind of 'cradle to cradle' process could engender public support for recycling and demonstrate the benefits of a closed-loop economy.

Do you think it would be useful to agree, across London, a standard way of collecting plastic and other recyclable materials "on the go", and, what would be the benefits and disadvantages of a standard systems?

We strongly believe that a standard collection system would greatly increase ease of use for Londoners and visitors alike and will also simplify and reduce the cost of communicating any such scheme. In addition, it would reduce the likelihood of contamination, particularly by those who live in one borough and work in another, or those new to London. Steps to encourage simplicity and consistency will be crucial to the success or otherwise of the scheme.

Do you have any information regarding the amount of public support for recycling "on the go"

We can point to anecdotal evidence for widespread public support for recycling 'on the go' from focus groups we have run on behalf of numerous London council including Newham, Barking & Dagenham, Redbridge and Southwark. We find that the public are increasingly aware of recycling 'on the go' through recycling facilities at museums, events and festivals and in cities in Europe where recycling 'on the go' is often commonplace.

It will take time for the public to become used to such facilities, particularly regarding contamination with residual waste or in this case non-recyclable plastics, but the sooner such facilities become widespread the sooner behaviour will become normalised.

Royal Parks

1. The Royal Parks are collecting recyclable materials “on the go” as part of a pilot scheme. This scheme is focusing on Hyde Park using new bespoke bins, although there are other recycling facilities in other Royal Parks. It is planned to extend the scheme in the both within Hyde and to other Royal Parks.

- Paper + cardboard; plastic bottle + drink cans. Bins are also being provided for general waste at recycling locations to help prevent non-recyclable waste being deposited in recycling bins. Bins are labelled using standard DEFRA/WRAP iconography;
- Collected by contractor for processing at a Materials Recovery Facility (MRF). There is a need to avoid high levels of contamination by non-recyclables which would cause rejection by the MRF;
- No data is available at present due to pilot still being in early stages;
- The design of our new bin allows us to change their use from general waste collection to various recycling streams by changing the aperture in use. We will use our pilot to confirm the best ratio of recycling bins to general waste bins at various locations throughout park areas, although it is expected to initially to be 1:1-3. As visitor awareness increases we would expect to increase the proportion of recycling bins.

2. Our assessment of the drivers and barriers to “on the go ” recycling are as follows:

Drivers:	Barriers:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To reduce costs of waste disposal due to landfill cost; • Environmental delivery of services; • As part of ISO14001 accreditation; • Technological improvements to allow separation of recyclable plastics from non-recyclable plastics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring that collected waste is not contaminated, especially by food; • Encouraging public use of recycling facilities where they exist; • Factors affecting the economics of the recycling industry.

3. Generally yes; the main advantage would be to simplify the collection and [particularly processing of collected recyclable waste; the disadvantage would most likely to be site-specific factors – e.g. access controls on the type/size of vehicles that can be used to collect plastics. There are also likely to local controls over the type and location of bins such as security and environmental considerations. For example in The Royal Parks scheme we are using bespoke designed bins to meet Royal Parks landscape criteria.
4. No Direct information, only informal enquiries from members of the public requesting information on our proposals for implementing recycling in The Royal Parks.
5. N/A – we already collecting plastics

6. We are seeking to continually improve recycling at all our events through initiatives and trials and by working with event organisers. We have had some notably successful event recycling initiatives e.g. plastic waste bottle recycling at runs.

Network Rail

1) Do you collect materials for recycling from people 'on the go' (eg recycling bins) Network Rail recovers, recycles or reuses over 90% of waste from our tracks and we are committed to recovering, recycling or reusing more than 60% of our station, office and depot waste by 2014.

Because of current security threats, recycling facilities in, or outside, our managed railway stations are not appropriate locations for public bins and other street furniture (see answer to question 5).

However, we are introducing new measures at stations to allow segregation of waste once it has been collected by cleaning staff and from our station tenants (see answer to part b).

a) what materials do you collect for recycling?

Mixed recyclables collected and compacted at stations will include:

- Paper;
- Cardboard;
- Aluminium/tin cans;
- Plastic bottles;
- Shrink wrap/carrier bags.

b) What happens to each of these materials once they have been collected?

Fourteen of Network Rail's eighteen managed stations have general waste compactors on site. All of these stations are currently having an additional compactor installed to allow waste to be separated into two streams– mixed recyclables and general waste. The majority of compactors should be in place by the end of this month.

3) Do you think it would be useful to agree, across London, a standard way of collecting plastic and other recyclable materials 'on the go' and what would be the benefits and disadvantages of a standard system?

Because of security concerns Network Rail would not want to be subject to a standard system for collecting plastic and recyclables from the public.

However, we would happy to have further discussions on the standardisation of other aspects of the recycling process in London.

5) How significant are the safety and security issues in waste management in and around transport hubs?

Current security threats prevent Network Rail from providing recycling facilities for the public at our managed stations. In recent years, as a result of terrorist attacks in this country and abroad, Network Rail has implemented a range of preventative, counter terrorism security measures at our managed stations. Many of these implement TRANSEC National Railways Security Programme (NRSP) and statutory instructions (SIs).

As a consequence of an SI issued by DfT in 2004, Network Rail removed all public litter collection facilities in its stations because of security concerns. It was feared that litter and recycling collection facilities could be used to hide Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs). Guidance to councils on security vulnerabilities outside railway stations, issued by TRANSEC in April 2003, states that it is impossible to remove all areas of concealment but highlights particular locations that can be used to hide IEDs;

*"litter bins, wheelie bins, bulk rubbish containers, **newspaper and recycling bins**, cycle lockers and bins used to store grit or salt for use in winter".*

A revised SI has recently been issued allowing fixed clear plastic litter bag bins to be placed in stations for public use.

However, according to a TRANSEC annual report to the Secretary of State for Transport *“The security threat to the domestic rail industry has continued at a high level throughout the year”*. Several terrorist attacks and attempted attacks in recent years at home and abroad have targeted railways and other public transport networks.

Network Rail fears that litter and recycling facilities using clear plastic bags could still pose a threat to security. It is for this reason that we have decided not to provide permanent litter or recycling collection facilities at our managed stations.

About Network Rail

Network Rail is the 'not for dividend' owner and operator of Britain's railway infrastructure, which includes the tracks, signals, tunnels, bridges, viaducts, level crossings, 2,500 stations (leased to train operators) and 18 key stations which we manage.

We aim to provide a safe, reliable and efficient rail infrastructure for freight and passenger trains to use.

For further information please contact;

Mark Hoda, Public Affairs Manager, on 020 7557 9662 or Mark.Hoda@networkrail.co.uk

London Borough of Ealing

1. Do you collect materials for recycling from people “on the go” (e.g. in recycling bins placed in streets or other public spaces) and if so:

- a. What materials do you collect for recycling?**
- b. What happens to each of these materials once they have been collected?**

61 Neighbourhood bring sites/18 commuter newspaper recycling banks outside 18 tube/rail stations

Material Destinations:

- Plastics - S Grundon (Waste) Ltd, Area 22, Tanhouse Farm, Colnbrook Bypass, Colnbrook, Berks SL3 0EG
- Cans - AMG Resources Ltd, Nevills Dock, Llanelli, Carmarthenshire SA15 2HD Glass - O-I Manufacturing UK Ltd, United Glass Ltd, P.O. Box 6068, Edinburgh Way, Harlow, Essex CM20 2UG
- Paper - Aylesford Newsprint, Newsprint House, Bellingham way, Aylesford, Kent ME20 7DL

- c. What is the amount in tonnage collected for each material and how does this compare to other wastes collected from people “on the go”?**

Monthly average (07/08):

- Plastics - 30t
- Cans - 3t
- Glass - 43t
- Paper - 60t

Commuter newspaper co-collected with schools and estates recycling so no specific tonnage available.

- d. What ratio of recycling bins to waste bins do you have and is waste collected separately or co-mingled?**

Material is separately collected. 'Ratio' of recycling:waste bins unknown.

2. What are the drivers and barriers to collecting plastic recycling “on the go” compared with other materials?

Drivers

- Legislative framework
- Increasing economic/environmental costs of landfill
- Customer (and consumer) perception/satisfaction

Barriers

- High material volume = frequent collection = high cost
- Public uncertainty over accepted polymer types = potential for high contamination = intensive, ongoing promotion/communications strategy
- Material market uncertainty

3. Do you think it would be useful to agree, across London, a standard way of collecting plastic and other recyclable materials “on the go”, and, what would be the benefits and disadvantages of a standard system? Very Useful:

Benefits

- economies/efficiencies of scale (potential for framework procurement/shared bulking and/or processing facilities/increased market certainty, etc.),
- potential for uniform containerisation/standard public message reducing contamination/increasing participation/capture.

Disadvantages (or further barrier)

A standardised system would require flexibility to adapt to local conditions (political/operational/contractual/market availability/proximity, etc..)

4. Do you have any information regarding the amount of public support for recycling “on the go”?

Anecdotal (though positive), particularly constituent comments via Councillors

5. If you do not collect plastic recyclables “on the go”, do you have any plans for collection in the future?

An 'on-the-shelf' proposal has been drawn up to trial recycling facilities in a number of parks and town centres, however there is currently no budget provision to trial the service until at least 2010/11. Material types will be reviewed nearer the time.

Earl McKenzie

London Borough of Lambeth

1. Do you collect materials from people “on the go” and if so:
 - a) What materials do you collect for recycling?
We operate two different “recycle on the go” schemes: commuter bins, which only accept newspapers and magazines and are located outside main stations, and commingled on-street recycling bins, which accept paper, cardboard, glass bottles and jars, tins, cans and aerosols, food and drink cartons and “plastic bottles” (HDPE and PET).
 - b) What happens to each of these materials once they have been collected?
Lambeth is a WCA, so the materials are taken to a WRWA transfer station and then transported to a MRF in Kent to be sorted.
 - c) What is the amount in tonnage collected for each material and how does this compare to other wastes collected from people “on the go”?
We haven’t got data in relation to specific materials, so I’m afraid I can’t answer this question.
 - d) What ratio of recycling to waste bins do you have and is waste collected separately or commingled?
We don’t currently have waste bins next to recycling bins on the street, and in order to answer this correctly I would need to verify the amount of litter bins we have on the street as well as their volume. I haven’t got this information at the moment, but I could find out if you would like me to.
2. What are the drivers and barriers to collecting plastic recycling “on the go” compared with other materials?
In regards to drivers, plastic containers account for a large amount of street litter, so it makes sense to provide containers for them to be recycled. In regards to barriers, we can only accept two types of plastic (danger of contamination). Security might be another barrier in terms of installing plastic recycling bins near stations (the openings for paper only are considered safer).
3. Do you think it would be useful to agree, across London, a standard way of collecting plastic and other recyclable materials “on the go”, and what would be the benefits and disadvantages of a standard system?
On the one hand, it would make sense for commuters to have a standard system, as the borough where they work and the one where they live might have different recycling schemes and it would avoid confusion, but on the other hand a standardised system might also cause confusion amongst residents if it’s different from their household recycling scheme.
I think such system would only make sense if all recycling schemes throughout London are standardised, bearing in mind there are also operational issues to think about.
4. Do you have any information regarding the amount of public support for recycling “on the go”?
We have no information regarding this.

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5. If you do not collect plastic recyclables "on the go", do you have any plans for collection in the future?

There are no plans to change this except expanding on the types of plastics we accept for recycling once the new MRF at Wandsworth is up and running.

I hope the information is useful, but please let me know if you have any further questions.

Regards,

Olatz Garde-Mazkarian
Waste Development Manager
Sustainable Waste Management
Housing, Regeneration & Environment
London Borough of Lambeth

London Borough of Enfield

7 Stations have recycling bins for paper and then cans and plastic bottles

Do you collect materials for recycling from people “on the go” (e.g. in recycling bins placed in streets or other public spaces) and if so:

What materials do you collect for recycling? **paper, and cans and plastic bottles**

What happens to each of these materials once they have been collected? **co-mingled to a MRF**

What is the amount in tonnage collected for each material and how does this compare to other wastes collected from people “on the go”? **evaluating at present**

What ratio of recycling bins to waste bins do you have and is waste collected separately or co-mingled? **as above 3 bins at each station**

What are the drivers and barriers to collecting plastic recycling “on the go” compared with other materials? **no obvious ones as we co-mingle it**

Do you think it would be useful to agree, across London, a standard way of collecting plastic and other recyclable materials “on the go”, and, what would be the benefits and disadvantages of a standard system? **happy to look at other options**

Do you have any information regarding the amount of public support for recycling “on the go”? **no, but evaluation of the bins will help**

If you do not collect plastic recyclables “on the go”, do you have any plans for collection in the future?

London Borough of Brent

Do you collect materials for recycling from people “on the go” (e.g. in recycling bins placed in streets or other public spaces) and if so:

What materials do you collect for recycling? Yes, Newspapers, magazines, plastic bottles and cans.

What happens to each of these materials once they have been collected? These are taken to our collection contractors MRF and sent to various reprocessors.

What is the amount in tonnage collected for each material and how does this compare to other wastes collected from people “on the go”? We do not have separate tonnage information as this material is collected as part of our wider bring bank collection arrangements.

What ratio of recycling bins to waste bins do you have and is waste collected separately or co-mingled? The ratio is roughly 20 litter bins to every recycling bin The newspapers are collected separately from the plastic and cans which is collected mixed.

What are the drivers and barriers to collecting plastic recycling “on the go” compared with other materials? The problem is volume and the increased collection frequency required.

Do you think it would be useful to agree, across London, a standard way of collecting plastic and other recyclable materials “on the go”, and, what would be the benefits and disadvantages of a standard system?

Yes, that would be useful and less confusing for commuters. the disadvantage would be that all boroughs would be required to collect the same materials and this may not fit with current arrangements and may bring added budget pressures.

Do you have any information regarding the amount of public support for recycling “on the go”? Nothing other than our containers are extremely well used.

If you do not collect plastic recyclables “on the go”, do you have any plans for collection in the future? N/A

Chris

Chris Whyte
Head of Environmental Management
Brent Council

London Borough of Redbridge

Please see below Redbridge's response to the questions raised in your letter dated 26th November, regarding "On the Go" plastic recycling.

1. Do you collect materials for recycling from people "on the go" (e.g. in recycling bins placed in streets or other public spaces) and if so:

- a. What materials do you collect for recycling?** Paper, cans, plastic bottles, glass bottles.
- b. What happens to each of these materials once they have been collected?** They are taken to Ilford Recycling Centre for sorting.
- c. What is the amount in tonnage collected for each material and how does this compare to other wastes collected from people "on the go"?** Very small quantities as there are just a few banks located in the main town centre, so not measurable at present. However, visual inspections confirm that the banks are well used.
- d. What ratio of recycling bins to waste bins do you have and is waste collected separately or co-mingled?** 6 recycling bins to 35 litter bins.

2. What are the drivers and barriers to collecting plastic recycling "on the go" compared with other materials?

The main driver we see is that the public is demanding it, however this is the same for all the main materials. Barriers are the types of plastic items that may be recycled. In this borough we only collect plastic bottles at kerbside / bring sites, and this needs to be the same for recycling "on the go" in order to fit in with our current contract. However, ideally other plastic items such as sandwich cartons would be a popular item to recycle on the go. Our "mixed" recycling works because it demands certain items - cans and bottles (both glass and plastic), thus limiting the types of item accepted, and leaving little room for ambiguity.

3. Do you think it would be useful to agree, across London, a standard way of collecting plastic and other recyclable materials "on the go", and, what would be the benefits and disadvantages of a standard system?

It would be useful in terms of creating a recognizable 'brand' identity. However, different boroughs use different vehicles, and have different contracts in place covering different materials, so not sure if it is workable in practice.

4. Do you have any information regarding the amount of public support for recycling "on the go"?

None has been collected.

5. If you do not collect plastic recyclables “on the go”, do you have any plans for collection in the future?

Yes, we have plans to expand our current on-street recycling facilities in the future.

Should you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Jacki Ager

Recycling Team

Tesco

1. We do collect materials for recycling from people “on the go”, in particular PET plastic, aluminium and steel .Once these materials have been collected they are returned via the store to the Recycling Service Unit (RSU) where it goes on to the re-processor. We collect approximately 15 tonnes of plastic per annum, 5 tonnes of aluminium and 1 tonne of steel.
2. The main barrier to collecting plastic recycling “on the go” are the difficulties associated with successfully locating the bins so that they can be easily accessed by our customers.
3. Our policy regarding recycled content in our packaging is that it must be made from materials that come from the most sustainable sources.

We aim to minimise the use of virgin raw materials used in our packaging by substituting it with materials from recycled sources where appropriate. Recycled material refers to post-consumer waste i.e. generated by households, commercial or industrial facilities as an end-user of the product (e.g. kerbside collection by local councils). We encourage our suppliers to recycle or recover waste materials generated from the manufacturing process such as re-work, re-grind or scrap (known as ‘pre-consumer’ waste).

It is important to us to understand whether the use of recycled content will increase the packaging weight, since we also have a weight reduction target. Increases in weight may occur when using recycled paper and board because the recycling process sometimes weakens the fibres. Often this loss of strength will be compensated for by increasing the amount and therefore weight of material, which somewhat lessens the environment benefits of using recycled materials.

There are also limitations on the quality and quantity of recycled material available in the UK, especially on plastics such as PET, but not on paper board. This affects the extent to which these materials can be incorporated into our packaging.

4. In principle, we would support a standard way of collecting “on the go” recyclable materials. We would hope this would provide a simpler system for customers and retailers as well as making the process more cost efficient.
5. We are due to carry out market research on our trials once they are completed later this year.

PR-023

I hope that you have found this information helpful and if I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Ruth Girardet,
Corporate Responsibility Director

London Borough of Richmond upon Thames

- 1. Do you collect materials for recycling from people “on the go” (e.g. in recycling bins placed in streets or other public spaces) and if so:**
 - a. What materials do you collect for recycling?** Paper and newspapers at 12 major railway stations in the borough
 - b. What happens to each of these materials once they have been collected?** Keep segregated and sent to reprocessors
 - c. What is the amount in tonnage collected for each material and how does this compare to other wastes collected from people “on the go”?** do not have separate tonnages for this
 - d. What ratio of recycling bins to waste bins do you have and is waste collected separately or co-mingled? Separately.** Many more litter bins as there are only 12 sites with paper bins outside stations
- 2. What are the drivers and barriers to collecting plastic recycling “on the go” compared with other materials?** Cost of containers and capacity to collect + contamination issues as I’ve operated other recycling on the go schemes which included plastic and people throw all types of plastic into the container
- 3. Do you think it would be useful to agree, across London, a standard way of collecting plastic and other recyclable materials “on the go”, and, what would be the benefits and disadvantages of a standard system?** Yes, this dd start t happen with the Linpac Envirobank bins that were funded by London Remade but that was some time ago and many boroughs are doing other thing now.
- 4. Do you have any information regarding the amount of public support for recycling “on the go”?** no
- 5. If you do not collect plastic recyclables “on the go”, do you have any plans for collection in the future?** Not currently

Gemma
Gemma Scott
Recycling Manager
London Borough of Richmond upon Thames

McDonalds

1. Do you collect materials for recycling from people on the go?

- No not currently

2. Barriers to recycling on the go

- We have limited space in our restaurants to provide additional bins for recycling
- Customers in the past have not been responsive to segregating waste from trials we have conducted in the past

Drivers:

- Perceptions to recycling amongst consumers have changed as there is far more domestic recycling occurring, therefore consumers are more aware of the importance of recycling
- Landfill costs are making the business case for recycling more attractive
- There are more facilities available for recycling plastics in London e.g. closed loop London

3. We currently do not have recycled content in our plastic packaging

4. A standard system would enable consumers to recycle across London and bring a consistency to the industry. There are a lot of consumers who are confused by the different domestic collection systems which exist across London. However there maybe some difficulty in actually bringing this to reality with different businesses and boroughs needs?

5. After conducting a vox pop of our consumers in central London the main theme concerning the environment was why do we recycle in our restaurants.

6. We have plans to conduct a plastic recycling trial in 50-100 restaurants during the summer to investigate the challenges operationally and also how our consumers will react to segregating plastic bottles in the dining areas and also our plastic bottles/cooking oil plastic containers back of house.
regards,

Marie-Louise ter Beek
UK Environment Manager

London Borough of Barnet

1. We do not currently provide any 'on the go' facilities in Barnet.
2. If we were to provide 'on the go' facilities in Barnet these would be for the existing materials that we collect through the kerbside service including paper, glass, cans and plastic bottles. We do not currently collect mixed plastics as we have no outlets for this material. We could not collect any different materials to the kerbside service as we would have no way of bulking the materials before sending them to the reprocessor. There would also be a risk that if the 'on the go' facilities collected something that we did not collect from the kerbside i.e. mixed plastics, the 'on the go' facilities would be flooded with mixed plastics from houses, therefore having a detrimental effect on the street scene. We are therefore not keen on collecting mixed plastics from the 'on the go' facilities until we are able to collect this material on our kerbside service.
3. We currently operate a kerbside sort collection system whereby the materials are collected separately. Any 'on the go' recycling service would need to fit into this service, therefore the materials would need to be collected separately.
4. No.
5. No, for the reasons stated in response to question 2.

Yours sincerely

Nicola Cross
Environmental Services Manager – Waste Strategy

London of Wandsworth

1. Do you collect materials for recycling from people “on the go” (e.g. in recycling bins placed in streets or other public spaces [targeting recyclable waste produced outside the home and workplace](#)) and if so:
 - a. What materials do you collect for recycling? [Newspapers and magazines](#)
 - b. What happens to each of these materials once they have been collected? [They are delivered to the Western Riverside Waste Authority which delivers bulk loads to reprocessors \(via a "MRF" if the paper is mixed with other recyclable materials during collection\).](#)
 - c. What is the amount in tonnage collected for each material and how does this compare to other wastes collected from people “on the go”? [50 tonnes of paper for recycling were generated by Wandsworth's network of "on the go" recycling containers during 2007/08 \(Currently down from 18 to 15 locations as 3 containers have gone missing & need replacements\).](#)
 - d. What ratio of recycling bins to waste bins do you have and is waste collected separately or co-mingled? [Wandsworth has around 1,400 on-street litter bins, giving a ratio of around 1:93.](#)
2. What are the drivers and barriers to collecting plastic recycling “on the go” compared with other materials? [The only plastics we currently have outlets for are plastic bottles. Compared to other recyclable materials these are very low density but on-street containers must be small to fit into convenient locations where people will use them. Containers would probably need to be emptied daily to avoid regular overflow problems. These means that only very low weights are likely to be collected each time the container is emptied, resulting in very high collection costs per tonne recycled.](#)
3. Do you think it would be useful to agree, across London, a standard way of collecting plastic and other recyclable materials “on the go”, and, what would be the benefits and disadvantages of a standard system? ["On the go" recycling containers in public spaces are essentially a form of specialised litter bin which contributes towards borough-level recycling rates. As such, their provision is clearly the responsibility of the boroughs. There are already frameworks in place to incentivise the boroughs to recycle more and reduce litter and they should continue to determine how best to achieve these aims at a local level. The boroughs should not be forced to adopt a standard system, but if such a system provided a good service at a competitive price \(e.g. by achieving economies of scale\), no compulsion would be required. An example of this is the household hazardous waste collection contract let by the Corporation of London on behalf of all but one of the London Boroughs.](#)

[Having said this, there would be clear advantages for the public if signage on containers is standardised, e.g. by adopting WRAP's standard colours, logo's & recycling](#)

"swoosh" for different materials. Boroughs should be encouraged but not forced to do this.

4. Do you have any information regarding the amount of public support for recycling "on the go"? No, but the level of public support is likely to vary considerably according to how well they are informed about costs.

5. If you do not collect plastic recyclables "on the go", do you have any plans for collection in the future? No specific plans. Wandsworth is seeking to secure external funding to expand its network of public place recycling containers but approaches to Coca Cola and Valpak to fund containers have not been successful to date. If and when funds are identified, unless funds are secured from the producers, any containers are likely to be used for newspaper & magazines so long as this generates a higher tonnage than using them for plastic bottles.

6. Other / further comments:

(a) Small (e.g. 240 litre) containers for recycling plastic bottles "on the go" are likely to have very high servicing costs per tonne recycled. Any such costs are liable to fall to local authorities but any contribution towards their recycling performance would probably be minimal. Producers of plastic bottles/packaging have clear responsibilities to meet minimum recycling and recovery targets and Council tax payers should not be forced to effectively subsidise their achievement by providing high-cost, low-output services. Full application of the "producer pays principal" would require the full recycling costs of plastic packaging to be reflected in the price of products in plastic bottles/packaging rather than Council Tax.

(b) More data from representative existing "on the go" services is required before any decisions are taken on the way forward. (Unrepresentative data from a single facility in Thorpe Park has been widely quoted but little other data is available to my knowledge.)

Adam Forbes
Acting Head of Waste Management
Waste Services
www.wandsworth.gov.uk/wastemanagement

London Borough of Newham

- 1 Newham is just in the middle of installing recycling bins in public places.
 - a Paper , plastic bottles and cans
 - b Sent for recycling
 - c No information available at this point as scheme is in early stages.
 - d Can I come back to you on this point.

2 Plastic is a common material used by people "on the go". Residents and visitors should be able to recycle as many items as possible even if the product is plastic and is not very heavy.

Main barrier is contamination of the recycling bins and cost of investment.

3 It would be useful if this could be agreed but some Borough's have different challenges and one standard might not fit all. One of the main benefits is Londoners would recognise the bins whatever part of London they are in.

Disadvantage - Borough's may have different criteria on type of street furniture so one standard will not fit in with all Boroughs.

4 No information.

Regards

Jarlath Griffin
Public Realm Manager
London Borough of Newham

London Borough of Hackney

1.a Hackney Council currently has recycling bins outside railway stations to collect newspapers and magazines. In addition to these specific bins the majority of the 72 bring sites are on the street and provide a segregated collection system for newspapers & magazines, glass bottles, metal cans and plastic bottles.

1.b The on street recycling bins / bring banks are emptied by the service provider for all recycling services. The materials collected are tipped at the contractors' depot in Edmonton, and then transported in bulk to recycling processors. The paper goes to Aylesford, the glass to Harlow, the metal cans to Llanell and plastic bottles to Nottinghamshire.

1.c The specific newspaper and magazine bins outside the railway station are emptied as part of the bring site service. The total tonnage collected by the bring site service was 963 tonnes in 2006/7 and 1,215 tonnes in 2007/8. This is the total for all the source separated materials.

1.d The Council currently has approximately 1,000 litter bins collecting residual street cleansing waste. All the recyclable waste collected by the bring site service is collected by different waste streams separately at source. (1,215 tonnes in total 2007/8). In addition to the 72 bring sites to Council has also developed an extensive estates recycling collection service of over 1,000 sites owing to the high proportion of multiple occupancy developments in the Borough.

2. The drivers to introduce "on the go" recycling are to encourage the public to recycle a proportion of the street cleansing waste arising, which assists the Council in achieving statutory targets. The barriers to the scheme are concerns over contamination spoiling the quality of the materials. However, the Council is introducing an element of co-mingled collections on estates, keeping paper as a separate waste stream wherever space is available for the conditional receptacles. This gives the potential to introduce co-mingled "on the go" recycling sites.

3. Yes - a standard system throughout London would be a logical step. People would become familiar with the system, and be confident to use the facilities provided, whichever borough they were in.

4. No.

PR-029

5. Specific "on the go" recycling bins are being considered as part of the steps to improve local environmental quality further.

If you wish to discuss this matter further my telephone number is 020 8356 3680, or email address is mark.griffncmhackney.gov.uk

Yours sincerely,

Mark Griffin
Head of Waste Strategy

London Borough of Tower Hamlets

1. Do you collect materials for recycling from people “on the go” (e.g. in recycling bins placed in streets or other public spaces) and if so:

We provide recycling bins at Bethnal Green and Tower Hill tube stations. We are looking to expand the service further this year to other commuter sites. We also have some public recycling bins in parks.

a. What materials do you collect for recycling?

At tube stations paper is collected. In parks comingled materials are collected (paper, card, glass bottles and jars, tins, cans, plastic bottles, and food and drink cartons)

b. What happens to each of these materials once they have been collected?

The materials are sent to a materials recovery facility in Crayford (Viridor) for sorting and onward transport to a range of reprocessors.

c. What is the amount in tonnage collected for each material and how does this compare to other wastes collected from people “on the go”?

In order to make the collections efficient the materials from the public sites is collected along with material from other sources. This means that we don't unfortunately have any tonnage information.

d. What ratio of recycling bins to waste bins do you have and is waste collected separately or co-mingled?

I'm unsure of the exact ratio although currently the number of recycling bins is quite low. This year we will be reviewing sites of litter bins and identifying ways to expand public place recycling.

2. What are the drivers and barriers to collecting plastic recycling “on the go” compared with other materials?

The drivers for providing public place recycling are to respond to public demand and to continue to improve recycling services and performance.

We will collect plastic bottles as part of the comingled recycling. In some public places, such as parks there may be quite a lot of plastic bottles available, however since it is light it is unlikely to contribute to our tonnage based targets. There may be some issues around communicating with the public about the plastics that are acceptable.

A general issue we have has is siting the commuter recycling banks due to security around stations.

3. Do you think it would be useful to agree, across London, a standard way of collecting plastic and other recyclable materials “on the go”, and, what would be the benefits and disadvantages of a standard system

Benefits of a single system would be:

- it would help overcome transience as the public would be able to understand the system between boroughs
- there could be efficiency savings with communication (as the same communication materials / methods could be used by different boroughs)
- there could be potential for collections to take place across borough boundaries, increasing efficiency

Disadvantages:

- it could be difficult to agree a single system as different boroughs have different outlets for materials
- a single system may not fit well with services already provided in the borough, could created confusion and may be difficult to communicate e.g. people may not understand why materials is collected comingled in public places and separately from the kerbside

4. Do you have any information regarding the amount of public support for recycling “on the go”?

No

5. If you do not collect plastic recyclables “on the go”, do you have any plans for collection in the future?

Yes we currently collect it and have plans to expand it further

Ellen Struthers
Deputy Recycling and Waste Manager
Tower Hamlets Council

London Borough of Sutton

Dear Mr Johnson

Environment Committee “On the Go” Plastic Recycling

Thank you for your letter of 26 November to Malcolm Kendall. Malcolm no longer works for Sutton Council and I only received your letter recently so apologise for the delay on replying.

We are assuming that by “On the Go” plastic recycling the London Assembly Environment Committee mean mixed plastics and not just plastic bottles. Our contracts in Sutton currently limit us to collecting plastic bottles as for some years these have been the only plastics for which there was an assured market. This has changed with the economic downturn as the Far East markets do not require the same volume as before and are purchasing less.

Sutton does not offer “On the Go” plastic recycling. Plastic is bulky and difficult to contain necessitating large bulk bins for its storage. Often the places that plastics are generated are pedestrianised high streets or places with limited footpaths such as outside our train stations. Placing bulk bins at these locations would not only cause obstructions but also provide ideal containers for terrorist activities. We are considering how we can best recycle suitable items from the general street litter but have made no decisions at this time.

Servicing plastic banks is expensive in vehicle and staff time as the plastics collected will be light and the financial return on mixed plastics is extremely low. In addition, as mentioned above, the markets are not working to our advantage at this time so investing in a mixed plastic service for our high streets would not be a prudent move.

We agree that a general discussion on how to recycle “On the Go” plastic waste is worth progressing but believe it is also as important to consider ways of reducing plastic waste in the first instance. Biodegradable packaging has improved substantially and fast food retailers might be persuaded to use these rather than non-degradable plastic containers. We also believe that more litter prevention enforcement is needed to reduce the numbers of plastic bottles and cans dropped in the street.

With new waste treatment processes growing in number it is possible that more local authorities will have access to metal extraction devices such as magnets and eddy current separators. These will remove cans from the general refuse and street cleaning waste and be a more cost effective way of recovering these materials than placing bins on busy thoroughfares where they are likely to be abused and expensive to keep emptied.

Yours sincerely

Matthew Clubb
Head of Waste Management & Fleet Services

London Borough of Bromley

1. Do you collect materials for recycling from people “on the go” (e.g. in recycling bins placed in streets or other public spaces) and if so:
Yes – we have 6 trial sites, outside railway stations and in High Streets
 - a. What materials do you collect for recycling? We collect paper, cans and plastic bottles
 - b. What happens to each of these materials once they have been collected? They are delivered to our Transfer Station. They are checked for contamination and added to our other collected materials
 - c. What is the amount in tonnage collected for each material and how does this compare to other wastes collected from people “on the go”? The tonnage from the 6 plastic containers is too low to measure
 - d. What ratio of recycling bins to waste bins do you have and is waste collected separately or co-mingled? At each of the 6 sites there is a unit comprising litter, paper, cans and plastic bottle elements, each of identical capacity. Each material stream is kept separate.
2. What are the drivers and barriers to collecting plastic recycling “on the go” compared with other materials? The driver is the same as all ‘on the go’ activities – re-inforcement of the recycling message. The barriers are the expense of the units, the cost of collecting the materials from low capacity sites, contamination issues and a low tonnage return for the costs involved.
3. Do you think it would be useful to agree, across London, a standard way of collecting plastic and other recyclable materials “on the go”, and, what would be the benefits and disadvantages of a standard system? It might be useful. A common methodology might help reduce the initial purchase and installation costs of appropriate units. However, the collection methodology will vary dependant on individual options, and these may prove more difficult to standardize.
4. Do you have any information regarding the amount of public support for recycling “on the go”? No
5. If you do not collect plastic recyclables “on the go”, do you have any plans for collection in the future? N/A

I hope this is helpful.

Regards

John Woodruff
Head of Waste Services

London Borough of Hounslow

1. Do you collect materials for recycling from people “on the go” (e.g. in recycling bins placed in streets or other public spaces) and if so:
 - a. What materials do you collect for recycling? [Natasha Epstein] paper
 - b. What happens to each of these materials once they have been collected? [Natasha Epstein] collected with paper from flats recycling and is sent direct for recycling
 - c. What is the amount in tonnage collected for each material and how does this compare to other wastes collected from people “on the go”? [Natasha Epstein] Don't know as within other recycling figures
 - d. What ratio of recycling bins to waste bins do you have and is waste collected separately or co-mingled? [Natasha Epstein] Don't know, less than 1%
2. What are the drivers and barriers to collecting plastic recycling “on the go” compared with other materials? [Natasha Epstein] end markets, no collection infrastructure, space to put bins on the highway
3. Do you think it would be useful to agree, across London, a standard way of collecting plastic and other recyclable materials “on the go”, and, what would be the benefits and disadvantages of a standard system? [Natasha Epstein] yes this would be a good idea, consistent message and extensive coverage. Problems may arise if they are expected to be serviced locally as some boroughs may not have infrastructure to do so
4. Do you have any information regarding the amount of public support for recycling “on the go”? [Natasha Epstein] no
5. If you do not collect plastic recyclables “on the go”, do you have any plans for collection in the future? [Natasha Epstein] Yes but not for the next 18 months

London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham

- 1. Do you collect materials for recycling from people “on the go” (e.g. in recycling bins placed in streets or other public spaces) and if so:**
 - a. What materials do you collect for recycling?**

We have around 50 on-street recycling banks across the borough and around 30 twin receptacle litter bins (which take both litter and co-mingled recyclables) that accept our standard mix of co-mingled materials which includes Paper, Card, mixed Glass, Cans, Tins, empty Aerosols, Paper based Food & Drink Cartons (e.g. Tetra Paks) and Plastic Bottles –either in a Recycling Bank or in sacks

- b. What happens to each of these materials once they have been collected?**

They are sent via a waste transfer station to the Viridor Waste Management MRF, in Crayford, for sorting.

- c. What is the amount in tonnage collected for each material and how does this compare to other wastes collected from people “on the go”?**

It is not possible to determine the comparative volumes as the vehicles used to collect sack based recycling are also used to collect from on-street bins and banks on the same rounds. It would not be economically viable to collect separately.

- d. What ratio of recycling bins to waste bins do you have and is waste collected separately or co-mingled?**

All recycling is co-mingled and there are approximately 130 commingled recycling banks across the borough located at highway mini recycling sites and at ‘dedicated bring’ sites on estates there are another 880.

- 2. What are the drivers and barriers to collecting plastic recycling “on the go” compared with other materials?**

Residents want to recycle more than plastic bottles. They do not understand why they cannot recycle yoghurt pots, ice cream tubs and margarine pots and the reason why we cannot take plastics which display the recycling symbols. However at present, our sorting facilities are unable to sort a greater range of plastics than they already do, which is restricted to plastic bottle only

- 3. Do you think it would be useful to agree, across London, a standard way of collecting plastic and other recyclable materials “on the go”, and, what would be the benefits and disadvantages of a standard system?**

Commingled recycling is very popular in London. With limited storage facilities in properties, one sack for waste and one for recycling suits most households. Equally residents do not want to sort out their recycling when depositing in the recycling bank. Adopting a standard would be difficult because the range of plastics it is possible to collect for recycling will ultimately depend upon the facilities available to sort the material, which differ from borough to borough. There will also be conflicts between those boroughs collecting their recyclables co-mingled and those choosing the source segregated option. Forcing change on boroughs that have already adopted one system or another would be costly and could result in the opposite to the desired effect.

4. Do you have any information regarding the amount of public support for recycling “on the go”?

No; only the comments made by residents when writing to the council and at events held across the borough throughout the year.

5. If you do not collect plastic recyclables “on the go”, do you have any plans for collection in the future?

No more than we are currently doing at present, which is to remain with the standard mix of co-mingled materials adopted across all of our recycling services since 2003/04

Yours sincerely,

Janet Cruse
Recycling Manager, Waste Management

London Borough of Hillingdon

1. Yes Hillingdon has introduced recycling "on the go". In the form of street recycling bins.
 - 1a. Paper/Card, glass, tins, cans, plastics.
 - 1b. Along with the household dry recycling, all co-mingled materials taken to Grundon MRF in Colebrook.
 - 1c. No individual tonnage data keep.
 - 1d. 5% of bins are recycling bins - co-mingled collection.
2. Plastic is collected - focus is on drinking bottles. Securing outlets for many of the other plastic i.e. food trays is difficult and requires separate collection.
3. If ALL plastics could be collected then London wide approach could be advantageous. Disadvantage would be collection costs and storage.
4. Hillingdon can report that all street recycling bins are well used and are emptied at a minimum of twice a week.
5. n/a.

Colin Russell
Manager - Waste Division
London Borough of Hillingdon

London Borough of Waltham forest

1. Do you collect materials for recycling from people “on the go” (e.g. in recycling bins placed in streets or other public spaces) and if so:
 - a. What materials do you collect for recycling?
 - b. What happens to each of these materials once they have been collected?
 - c. What is the amount in tonnage collected for each material and how does this compare to other wastes collected from people “on the go”?
 - d. What ratio of recycling bins to waste bins do you have and is waste collected separately or co-mingled?

Response: we do not currently collect materials for recycling from “people on the go” although we are thinking of introducing a trial scheme in the near future.

2. What are the drivers and barriers to collecting plastic recycling “on the go” compared with other materials?

Response: The problem with plastics is that there is a limited number of companies who will take all plastics, including tetra paks, for recycling. Therefore it would be extremely difficult to educate the public that only certain types of plastic can be put into the recycling bins this would result in a lot of contaminated loads. There is not the same problem with paper, glass or cans.

3. Do you think it would be useful to agree, across London, a standard way of collecting plastic and other recyclable materials “on the go”, and, what would be the benefits and disadvantages of a standard system?

Response: There does not seem to be any advantage of a standard way of collecting plastic until there are enough companies available to take and process all types of plastic. Many schemes will use co-mingled bins therefore this obviates any need for a standard way of collecting.

4. Do you have any information regarding the amount of public support for recycling “on the go”?

Response; No

5. If you do not collect plastic recyclables “on the go”, do you have any plans for collection in the future?

Response: We have plans to collect recycled material but we do not think we will include plastics at this stage.

Please let me know if you require any further information

Yours sincerely

Dave Auger

Interim Contract Manager