



What happens to the stuff in my bins?



Energy recovery

The waste from the grey bin is sent to an Energy Recovery Facility in Ardley, Oxfordshire which began operating in 2014. The waste is burnt here to produce electricity. The plant takes waste from all of Oxfordshire's districts and produces enough electricity to power 38,000 homes. Instead of sending waste to landfill we are creating energy from waste. It's still important to recycle as much as you can- recycling transforms waste into new products which reduces the need for extracting raw materials to make these.

Recycling



Your recycling is taken to materials recycling facilities in North London and the West Midlands where it is sorted out and sent on to other companies for recycling.

Food recycling

Our collection crews empty your small food bin into a spare wheelie bin as they move along your road. This is then emptied into a special food pod at the front of the truck.



Then your food recycling is taken to our plant at Crowmarsh Gifford.



Your food is blended and pulverised and then stirred in heated tanks which breaks it down into methane and carbon dioxide. It takes about 120 days for your food to break down.

The broken down food creates a rich, organic natural fertiliser which is used on farmland across Oxfordshire. It's greener, better for the soil, and cheaper for the farmers than the alternatives available.

The process also creates lots of gas which is turned into electricity. The plant in Crowmarsh Gifford makes nearly enough to power a town the size of Wallingford and Radley put together!



Aluminium is recycled in the UK. It is shredded, melted and poured into ingots - they look like bars of gold but a different colour. They're used to make things like engine parts that make vehicles lighter and more energy efficient.

Some plastics are processed in the UK, but at the moment a lot has to be sent to China as it is one of the few countries that has the facilities and the demand for recycling and reusing plastic. Plastics are sorted, shredded, washed, melted and turned in to pellets to make things like toys, mobile phone cases, pipes, crates and even textiles.

Glass goes to various places in the UK where it is smashed, crushed and cleaned before being melted and moulded into things like jam jars, beer bottles, or fibreglass to insulate homes.

Steel is melted in the UK. Iron and sometimes oxygen are added and the mixture is heated to 1700°C and made into slabs. It is then rolled into coils for making cars and bridges and other impressive things.

Paper and cardboard is sent to locations in the UK and abroad where it is pulped and mashed, and unhelpful bits and pieces like staples are removed. It's then cleaned, dried and pressed into new paper.



Why can't I recycle everything?

We are lucky because we can recycle most things, up to 80 per cent of our waste in fact. But unfortunately there are still some things that can't be recycled for various reasons.

The materials recycling facility may not be able to accept some materials because, although the sorting technology is sophisticated, there are some things that it simply can't separate and sort.

Packaging is sometimes made of lots of different materials which can't be

separated. A good example is crisp tubes which are made of three different materials. The plastic lid can go in your recycling bin, but the combined metal and cardboard tube cannot yet be separated and sorted by the machinery. Crisp packets and cat food pouches are similar because they are made of a combined metal and plastic package which cannot currently be separated for recycling.

It may not be cost effective to collect the material, sort it, and send it away for recycling, especially if there is no market for the end product. And sometimes, there simply isn't anywhere suitable to send the material to be re-processed.

Did you know?

You can save **£60** a month by simply not wasting food.

We can recycle all plastic bags, bottles, pots, tubs and trays.

For more information about recycling and reducing waste visit

- www.morerecycling.co.uk
- www.oxfordshirewaste.gov.uk
- www.lovefoodhatewaste.com

And what do all those symbols mean anyway?

Most packaging now contains icons and logos related to recycling. These offer advice, or make claims about how environmentally friendly it is. To help you understand some of them, take a glance at the guide below.



The recycle mark: This is a call for action. Please try and recycle whenever possible.



The new packaging symbols: These help to identify how different parts of packaging can be recycled.

- “Widely Recycled” 65 per cent of people have access to recycling facilities for this.
- “Check locally” 15-65 per cent of people have access to recycling facilities for this.
- “Not recycled” means less than 15 per cent of people have access to recycling facilities for these items. But remember, it is always worth checking the council website to see if it can be recycled.



The ‘mobius loop’: Indicates that an object can be recycled - not that the object has been recycled. Check the recycling information on our website to see if you can put it in your green wheelie bin.

On plastic items this will have a number in it and letters such as PET or HDPE - these identify the type of plastic. We generally take all types of plastic including bags, bottles, pots, tubs and trays (unless made up of a number of materials, such as cat food pouches which are a type of metalised plastic). Remember to remove lids from bottles and pots.



‘Mobius loop’ with percentage: Shows the percentage of recycled material contained in the product.



The green dot: This does not necessarily mean that the packaging can be recycled. It is a symbol used on packaging in many European countries and means that the producer has made a financial contribution towards the recycling of packaging.



Paper: To be given the National Association of Paper Merchants mark, paper or board must be made from a minimum of 75 per cent recycled waste paper and/or board fibre. It should not contain waste fibre produced in mills.



Wood: The Forest Stewardship Council logo identifies products which contain wood from well managed forests independently certified in accordance with the rules of the FSC A.C. This usually means that for each tree felled to make the product, at least one more is planted.



Tidyman: Dispose of this carefully and thoughtfully. Do not litter. This is a reminder to be a good citizen, disposing of the item in the most appropriate manner which, 80 per cent of the time, is probably in the recycling or food waste bin.