



# Mixed plastics collections

## The situation

When it comes to recycling plastics, some collections have been restricted to plastic bottles. But what about all those other plastic items like cartons, yoghurt pots, food trays and product packaging? What happens to all that plastic? Until now, these other 'mixed plastics' were disposed of as waste. But with the need to increase recycling rates and make plastic recycling less confusing, collecting mixed plastics is becoming more and more popular.

#### The seven key issues

1. Food waste collection and processing
2. Mixed material (co-mingled) collections
- 3. Mixed plastics collections**
4. Management of hazardous waste
5. Energy efficiency and incineration
6. Renewable energy and district heating
7. The End of Waste criteria

If every Council in the UK adopted mixed plastic recycling we could save over 300,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per year.

It's not just fizzy drink bottles that produce gas!

Material Recovery Facilities for sorting the plastics are essential for any sustainable city.



Where do you stand?

Join the debate at:

[www.veolia.co.uk/manifesto](http://www.veolia.co.uk/manifesto)

## Where we Stand.



We firmly believe that **collecting mixed plastics is the only way forward**. Converting the plastic that we recover into new products makes a major contribution to helping limit climate change, conserving resources and **reducing our impact on the environment**.

The challenge with recycling plastic products is that they take up more room in the recycling bin than other materials of the same weight. But that shouldn't be an excuse for not trying to recycle as much plastic as possible. It simply means that collecting mixed plastics needs to be pre-planned to make sure there is enough room in the waste vehicles.

The right infrastructure must also be in place to sort the plastics into their respective polymers, a task that simply isn't practical for households. Material Recovery Facilities for sorting the plastics are essential for any sustainable city, regardless of whether the plastic is collected via multi-containers, co-mingled systems or sorted at the kerbside.

The reality is that in the UK the quantity of plastic being recycled is relatively low due to the lack of suitable recycling facilities. At Veolia, we know investment in key infrastructure brings clear and tangible social, environmental and economic benefits. We are investing in the very latest plastic recycling technology to handle the huge variety of plastics in increasing quantities.

We want to widen our input specifications for clients, but the message on what can go in the bin will become more complex as not everything can be reprocessed. Ultimately packaging will also change over time so we are future proofing our treatment solutions for our customers. Our objective is to go down the value chain to achieve End of Waste for clean materials.