

WinACC

Winchester Action on Climate Change

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Dear <committee member>,

Mixed plastic and carton recycling

I write to you on behalf of the Waste Action Group, part of Winchester Action on Climate Change (WinACC) and the Hampshire Climate Action Group.

Given that waste is such a significant source of carbon emissions, contributing a similar amount as aviation [1], we applaud the achievements of Project Integra in terms of diversion of waste from damaging landfill over the past two decades.

However, as an organisation we have profound concerns regarding the county's recycling rate. You will be aware that the county's overall recycling rate for 2015/16 was 36%, in the bottom 15% of disposal authorities. This is in stark contrast to the best performer, Oxfordshire County Council which achieved 53% and the English average of 42% [2].

We believe that the primary reason for this is the limited range of materials that are accepted by collection authorities in the county, which is chiefly driven by the strategy of Project Integra.

We also understand that a business case for the introduction of mixed plastics and cartons recycling is being prepared and that a final decision on this is due to be made in June.

As you will recall, the data within the Project Integra Waste Review in 2015 [3] suggested that inclusion of these additional materials could improve the county's recycling rate by an estimated five percentage points. It is our belief that an even higher increase could actually be achieved as it would simplify recycling for householders resulting in increased volumes and decreased contamination. This is reinforced by a recently commissioned survey by Winchester City Council which received over 2500 responses [4]. 75% of respondents expressed a desire to be able to recycle a broader range of materials. Furthermore, 52% of respondents had a preference for a wider range of plastics.

From a climate change perspective, research by DEFRA in 2011 [5] showed that open loop recycling of plastics leads to a significant net reduction in related carbon emissions whereas incineration results in a very significant net increase.

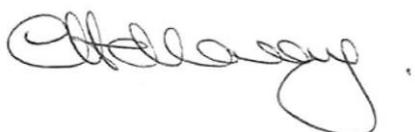
We strongly urge you to support the implementation of mixed plastic and cartons recycling given that there is clearly strong appetite for it, that it would result in a significant improvement in the county's recycling rate and also provide a valuable reduction in carbon emissions.

We would appreciate understanding your position on this important matter and look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

Yours sincerely,



James Vincent Miller
Chairman, Waste Action Group, Winchester Action on Climate Change (WinACC)



Christine Holloway,
Convenor, Hampshire Climate Action Network

Winchester Action on Climate Change (WinACC)

Works to cut the carbon footprint of Winchester district, creating lower energy bills, healthier lifestyles and stronger communities. We are local residents, businesses and policy-makers, working together to tread more lightly on the planet.

Hampshire Climate Action Network

Hampshire Climate Action aims to share good practice and ideas among people engaged in climate change in their community in the geographical area of Hampshire. An unincorporated association, its core membership of community groups tackling climate change by positive action includes independent groups such as Energy Alton, Portsmouth Climate Action Network, and Winchester Action on Climate Change, Transition Groups including Basingstoke and Southampton, and Friends of the Earth groups including Blackwater Valley, Havant & East Hants, New Forest, Portsmouth and Test Valley. On this issue they also have the support of

Martin Silman

Chairman, Portsmouth & District Private Landlords Association

References

- 1 - Committee on Climate Change UK Emissions by Sector, 2017
- 2 - DEFRA Local Authority Collected Waste Statistics - Local Authority data, December 2016
- 3 - Project Integra Strategic Board Resource Capture and Treatment Review, February 2015
- 4 - Winchester City Council Essential Services Survey, November 2016
- 5 - DEFRA/DECC Lifecycle Conversion Factors for Waste Disposal, 2011