

## Environmental Information Regulations Request No. 6292

Received 3/6/2021

Responded 24/6/2021

### Request/Response

I firstly wanted to ask are you aware of what percentage of the residents in the area don't actually recycle?

Most Rother resident (around 38000 households of a total of 45500 households in the District) have fortnightly collections with wheelie bins and we have a no side waste policy for household waste. Especially for larger households the capacity of the household waste bin (180 litres) collected fortnightly encourages them to recycle as much as possible using their green recycling bin (240 litres, collected fortnightly) otherwise their household bin would overflow.

The remaining 7000 properties are either town centre locations where wheelie bins are not suitable or large communal properties where they have bin stores. In the town centres due to restricted storage space we provide sack collections (household waste weekly and recycling sack collection fortnightly, this is supported by nearby recycling sites for residents). The majority of communal properties have bulk bins i.e 1100 litre for both waste and recycling however we have a small number in single figures where limited space has meant there is only enough space for household waste bins only collected weekly to stop them overflowing.

Rother has never done a study into this area, however my view is that around 90% of people do recycle however it varies greatly as to how dedicated these people are. Some residents will try and recycle absolutely everything they can, others will recycle very little while stating their right to a collection of all the waste that they produce as a household and tax payer.

Do you know roughly the amount of recycling you get sent every year in tonnes?

The following is the Rother monthly tonnages (financial year i.e April 2020 -March 2021). As mentioned above this is the recycling collected from just over 45000 households in our District.

<b>TOTAL HOUSEHOLD WASTE RECYCLED</b>	<b>906.968</b>	<b>2195.582</b>	<b>1868.959</b>	<b>1752.742</b>	<b>1554.157</b>	<b>1701.360</b>	<b>1620.198</b>	<b>1737.397</b>	<b>1393.362</b>	<b>1247.871</b>	<b>1083.860</b>	<b>1683.569</b>	<b>18746.024</b>
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What percentage of recycling is turned away simply because it's not been cleaned?

The recycling collected in the Rother area is taken to the Viridor material recovery facility in Crayford near Dartford. Each month they send us a composition analysis of a sample of our recycling and the rejected material is usually around 5-10% (prohibitive material shown below). This is quite a low level of rejection although Viridor look to recycle objectionable materials like scrap metal, hard plastics (i.e children's toys) which get put in by resident's even though they are not acceptable items.

As i am sure you are aware once sorted by Viridor this separated material ready for recycling is then sent to various recycling processors and there can be quite a long chain before it becomes a new product and this makes it very difficult to trace to the end of the cycle whether something has truly been recycled.

<b>Acceptable</b>	Aluminium Cans	1.55%	1.44%	1.67%	0.98%	1.43%	0.76%	1.89%	1.36%	<b>1.44%</b>	Recycled
	Cardboard	14.85%	21.29%	20.99%	20.70%	11.80%	12.36%	20.74%	20.66%	<b>18.44%</b>	Recycled
	Glass Mixed	24.61%	13.71%	25.22%	19.42%	23.70%	44.22%	23.76%	18.84%	<b>23.61%</b>	Recycled
	HDPE Coloured	1.03%	0.47%	0.62%	0.42%	1.50%	0.38%	1.07%	0.81%	<b>0.82%</b>	Recycled
	HDPE Natural	1.69%	2.46%	2.62%	1.74%	0.91%	1.18%	1.93%	1.48%	<b>1.74%</b>	Recycled
	Mixed Paper	18.75%	24.18%	18.67%	15.62%	12.84%	13.78%	17.26%	18.69%	<b>17.57%</b>	Recycled
	News & Pams	13.29%	15.06%	10.42%	12.61%	25.63%	11.52%	10.02%	15.34%	<b>13.95%</b>	Recycled
	PET Clear	2.03%	2.41%	3.07%	1.98%	2.63%	1.68%	2.21%	2.90%	<b>2.40%</b>	Recycled
	PET Coloured	0.68%	0.40%	0.97%	0.57%	0.15%	0.00%	0.89%	0.27%	<b>0.51%</b>	Recycled
	Pots Tubs and Trays	5.02%	6.92%	5.06%	5.09%	6.49%	2.95%	5.59%	5.12%	<b>5.30%</b>	Recycled
	Steel Cans	2.51%	3.61%	1.61%	2.04%	2.01%	1.88%	2.37%	2.94%	<b>2.43%</b>	Recycled
<b>Total Acceptable</b>	<b>86.01%</b>	<b>91.95%</b>	<b>90.93%</b>	<b>81.17%</b>	<b>89.10%</b>	<b>90.72%</b>	<b>87.73%</b>	<b>88.41%</b>	<b>88.21%</b>		
<b>Objectionable</b>	Hard Plastics	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	<b>0.00%</b>	Recycled
	Plastic Bags Clear & Coloured	3.65%	2.76%	2.27%	3.16%	6.22%	1.92%	2.87%	3.63%	<b>3.31%</b>	Recycled
	Plastic Film Clear	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	<b>0.00%</b>	Recycled
	Scrap Metals	0.76%	0.60%	0.88%	6.42%	2.38%	0.79%	1.40%	2.75%	<b>2.00%</b>	Recycled
	<b>Total Objectionable</b>	<b>4.40%</b>	<b>3.36%</b>	<b>3.16%</b>	<b>9.57%</b>	<b>8.60%</b>	<b>2.71%</b>	<b>4.27%</b>	<b>6.38%</b>	<b>5.31%</b>	

<b>Prohibitive</b>	Black Plastic Waste/Sacks	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.70%	0.00%	3.72%	1.71%	0.00%	<b>0.77%</b>	Not Recycled
	Ceramics & Pyrex	0.29%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	<b>0.03%</b>	Not Recycled
	Expanded Polystyrene	0.00%	0.05%	0.04%	0.06%	0.17%	0.01%	0.05%	0.17%	<b>0.08%</b>	Not Recycled
	Food	0.00%	2.83%	3.02%	0.06%	0.23%	1.46%	3.66%	1.08%	<b>1.70%</b>	Not Recycled
	Green Waste	2.69%	0.00%	0.00%	0.09%	0.00%	0.00%	0.41%	0.06%	<b>0.39%</b>	Not Recycled
	Oil/Pesticides Container	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	<b>0.00%</b>	Not Recycled
	Other Hazardous Waste	0.00%	0.16%	0.00%	0.00%	0.61%	0.00%	0.28%	0.29%	<b>0.19%</b>	Not Recycled
	Plastic Laminates / Waxed Paper	0.39%	0.00%	0.04%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	<b>0.04%</b>	Not Recycled
	Sand/Building Materials	0.11%	0.00%	0.47%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	<b>0.06%</b>	Not Recycled
	Sanitary / Nappies	0.45%	0.14%	0.73%	5.60%	0.42%	0.05%	0.46%	0.33%	<b>0.88%</b>	Not Recycled
	Tetrapack / Foil Lined	0.05%	0.54%	0.56%	0.22%	0.32%	0.76%	0.32%	0.40%	<b>0.39%</b>	Not Recycled
	Textiles	4.15%	0.79%	0.63%	2.53%	0.16%	0.00%	0.96%	2.68%	<b>1.57%</b>	Not Recycled
	Wet Paper	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	<b>0.00%</b>	Not Recycled
	Wood	1.47%	0.20%	0.43%	0.00%	0.39%	0.57%	0.14%	0.20%	<b>0.38%</b>	Not Recycled
	<b>Total Prohibitive</b>	<b>9.59%</b>	<b>4.69%</b>	<b>5.91%</b>	<b>9.26%</b>	<b>2.30%</b>	<b>6.57%</b>	<b>7.99%</b>	<b>5.21%</b>	<b>6.48%</b>	
<b>Total Contamination</b>	<b>13.99%</b>	<b>8.05%</b>	<b>9.07%</b>	<b>18.83%</b>	<b>10.90%</b>	<b>9.28%</b>	<b>12.27%</b>	<b>11.59%</b>	<b>11.79%</b>		
Total %	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	<b>100.00%</b>		
Specification Tolerance	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	<b>5.00%</b>		
Sample Weight (kg)	65.73	61.15	62.42	60.84	63.85	61.52	124.49	125.10	<b>625.09</b>		

One of the things we are looking at specifically is single-use plastic in the country, out of the plastic that's sent to you what would you say is the percentage that is actually non-recyclable?

I have attached the composition analysis from Viridor which should show the majority of plastics are separated to be recycled. Plastic bags are not a desirable recycling item, and neither are hard plastics however Viridor do have companies who look to recycle these materials.

We've been thinking especially about gluesticks, gluesticks do vary from the area, specifically in the local area do you advise that they just go into the landfill due to the adhesive?

We would advise these items to go in the household waste bin as its a hard plastic and a potentially harmful substance that is difficult to remove from the plastic part. As mentioned above most of our waste goes to energy recovery.

