Further to your Information request ER64046 please see your questions and our response below.

Pure Recycling sorts mixed plastic packaging (MPP) such as polystyrene and polypropylene food containers from the RBWM recycling stream and compresses this MPP into bales for onward processing in Lincolnshire.

1) What company in Lincolnshire receives this MPP from RBWM kerbside recycling?

Response: One of Pure’s major reprocessor’s is Ecoplastics, Hemswell, Lincolnshire.

2) What quantity (in bales or Tonnes) of MPP has Pure Recycling sent for onward processing, from the RBWM kerbside recycling service, since they began processing the Royal Borough’s kerbside recycling collections?

Response: Mixed plastic bales represent approximately 2.4% of the Windsor and Maidenhead total recyclate. Pure recycling processes approximately 17000 tonnes per annum from Windsor and Maidenhead.

3) What are the end uses of the mixed plastics in the bales sent for onward processing?

Response: Ecoplastics has advised that the Windsor and Maidenhead plastics are processed through their bottle sort plant. This segregates out any non plastic items (such as paper, cardboard, string, glass, dust & dirt), then further segregates the plastics content down to Polypropylene, and other plastics such as PS/PVC and unrecognisable polymers. The PP is sent to either UK or European reprocessors and goes back into packaging and other household products. The lower grade ‘other plastics’ are generally sent to export and made into lower grade black plastics packaging and other things such as Agricultural films etc.

4) What proportion, if any, of the MPP from RBWM ends up being incinerated for energy-from-waste rather than being recycled into new products?

Response: Ecoplastics has advised that Approximately 2% of the total input of their plant is segregated and sent for disposal (either via landfill or Energy from waste). On all occasions possible they avoid landfill and favour energy from waste solutions.

5) What proportion, if any, of the MPP from RBWM ends up being disposed of in landfill rather than being recycled into new products?

Response: As above

6) What proportion, if any, of the MPP from RBWM ends up being exported from the UK for reprocessing?

Response: Ecoplastics has advised that this is dependant on the levels of other plastics supplied within the Windsor and Maidenhead material. Typically no more than 25%.
7) Does RBWM have any future plans to control the end use of the valuable polymers (e.g., PS and PP) in the MPP bales that Pure Recycling collates from RBWM kerbside recycling?

Response: EcoPlastics has the space, technical expertise and investment capability to enable expansion in various directions over the coming years. It is expected that should 'mixed plastics' collections and therefore volume of supply continue to increase in the way we are already seeing then we would look to further process Poly Propylene. It is likely that they will undertake expansions into this polymer in the coming 2-3 years.

This concludes your request ER64046.

If you require translation of the information you have been sent please do not hesitate the contact us.

If you are unhappy with the information we have provided in response to your request please write to:

Information Management Team Manager
Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead
Town Hall, St Ives Road
Maidenhead
SL6 1RF

or send an e-mail to martin.tubbs@rbwm.gov.uk

We are proud to be one of the leading authorities in England for consistently responding to information requests within the 20 working days set down by statute. Information about our performance and summaries of requests received can be found on our website:

http://www.rbwm.gov.uk/web/foi_information_request_statistics.htm

We are keen to hear about your experience with the Information Management Team here at the Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead and look forward to receiving any comments you have about the way your information request was processed.

Please send any feedback to the Information Management Team Manager either by e-mail martin.tubbs@rbwm.gov.uk or in writing to the address above.

Yours sincerely

Chris Daniels
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