



CUSTOMER SERVICE EXCELLENCE



**OXFORDSHIRE
COUNTY COUNCIL**
ENVIRONMENT & ECONOMY
www.oxfordshire.gov.uk

FACTSHEET

Recycling Plastic Containers



Did you know that? ...

- Over 5 million tonnes of plastic containers are used each year in the UK.
- 19% of this is currently recycled or recovered.
- This figure is expected to increase to over 25% by 2010.

What are the benefits of recycling plastic containers?

- Less oil is used for plastic production.
- Less energy is consumed.

What do we accept at our Waste Recycling Centres?

- All our Waste Recycling Centres in Oxfordshire collect plastic containers for recycling.
- There are 50 different types of plastics.
- We collect and recycle PET and HDPE plastics.
- PET (Polyethylene Terephthalate) plastics are transparent with hard moulded spot in the centre of the base labelled '1'. Examples include, mineral water bottles and carbonated soft drinks.

- HDPE (High Density Polyethylene) plastics are opaque such as milk, juice and fabric softener bottles and are labelled '2'.
- These are the symbols for PET and HDPE plastic containers.



How is your plastic waste container recycled?

The plastic waste recycling process involves:

1. Bulking
 - Materials are bulked up to save energy and sent to a Material Recovery Facility (MRF) for sorting.
2. Sorting
 - Materials are separated using conveyors and trommels.
 - They are then sent to a picking station to be hand picked and separated further.
3. Packing and Compression
 - Materials are packed and compressed into bales.
 - Bales are sent to the open market, and they can be reprocessed into new plastic items such as: drain pipes, decking, and sign posts.

What else can you do?

- Try to avoid using individual portions by buying in bulk to reduce your packaging.
- Buy refillable or reusable plastic containers.

Contact: Oxfordshire County Council - Waste Management Team 08450 504550.
Email: waste.management@oxfordshire.gov.uk Website: www.oxfordshire.gov.uk

September 2008 FS –PL- V1