

Leicestershire County Council's policy on recycling of hard plastics

The County Council does not currently have a sustainable outlet available for the recycling of hard / rigid plastics, therefore these are currently being directed to the general waste bin which is sent to landfill or energy recovery.

Prior to 2021, some of our sites did accept hard plastics (e.g. garden furniture, children's toys, plant pots, crates and black plastics), so that material could be sent for recycling should a sustainable solution be available to the Council.

Some of the reasons for the difficulties in recycling this material are as follows:

- The material range is very wide and can be complex with different plastic materials (inc. metal, batteries etc. which makes dismantling harder) and is often contaminated (food, soil, wet, dirt)
- Practicalities, it is operationally very difficult to separate out fractions effectively at point of receipt (e.g. inadequate room at the smaller sites)
- To support recovery, the material is not able to be compacted meaning it is not cost-effective to transport
- There is a very low demand/high price for this type of plastic, and we need to be sure of end destinations.

It is unlikely that the market for this material will be fixed in the near future.

All sites accept plastic bottles, tubs and trays which are then sent to Casepak Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) for sorting and recycling. [Further information on what happens to material sent to Casepak](#) (Lesswaste website).

The types of plastics that you can put in your bin at home are in general restricted to those that can be easily separated with proven and sustained treatment solution available; these are then sent for recycling. Find the details: [Items accepted for recycling at Casepak](#) (Lesswaste website).

Our website is kept updated with [advice on what to reuse or recycle](#) (Leicestershire County Council website).