



# What happens to my recycling?

When you place a recyclable item in the bin it is collected by Veolia, our recycling and waste contractor, and transported to a sorting facility where it will be processed and separated into similar items. Each item is then sent to other facilities equipped to reprocess that specific material.

Veolia's practices meet and exceed the legal requirements for recycling. Their dedicated team audits, visits and rigorously monitors all outlets for recycling commodities to ensure the highest standards are met. Veolia also works closely with the Environment Agency to reduce waste crime, ensuring that every step of the recycling chain is accountable and efficient. You can be sure that when you recycle, it will go to the right place.

For specific end destinations, please see the table below, as locations change depending on markets. The information below is a snapshot of destinations from November 2021. Veolia only exports recycling abroad when we do not have the capacity or available facilities in the UK.

Exporting waste is not always a bad thing. It is certainly not acceptable if it doesn't go to the right location to get value back, but Veolia ensures that export entails a valuable material going to a location that makes the most of it. For example, the UK imports a large proportion of its food, and therefore we need to send some plastic pellets to the people packaging that food. Export is part of the global economy: **Veolia's job is to make sure it's done correctly and invest in UK infrastructure where it makes sense.** 







Collection stream	Materials	Sorting Facility stage one	Processing stage two
Plastic, glass, cans, tins recycling	PET Bottles	es  Os, d stic eg Bottles  ns	Lincolnshire, <b>UK</b> - 99.6%,
			Kent, <b>UK</b> - 043%
	HDPE Bottles		Dagenham, <b>UK</b>
	PP Bottles		Various locations in the <b>UK</b> including Durham, West Yorkshire and Lincolnshire - 91.5%
			Netherlands - 8.5%
	Pots, Tubs, Trays and		Lincolnshire, <b>UK</b> - 99.7%
	other plastic packaging Bottles		Kent, <b>UK</b> - 0.3%
	Steel cans		Various locations in the <b>UK</b> including Lincolnshire, Yorkshire and Lancashire
	Aluminium cans		Various locations in the <b>UK</b> including Cheshire, Lincolnshire and Wales - 92.5%
			Germany - 7.5%
	Glass		Greenwich, <b>UK</b>
Paper and Card Recycling	Paper	King's Lynn, <b>UK</b>	
	Card		
Food waste recycling	Food waste recycling	St Albans, <b>UK</b>	
Green garden waste	Green garden waste	Various locations in the <b>UK</b> including Basingstoke and Rainham	
Supplementary recycling	Batteries	Halifax, <b>UK</b>	Belgium
	Small Electrical items	Lewes, <b>UK</b>	Various locations in Europe
	Clothes and Textiles	Bromley, <b>UK</b>	
Non-recyclable refuse	Non-recyclable refuse	London, <b>UK</b>	



In partnership with

# What happens to my recycling and waste?



















Management Facility

# **Food Waste**

Through a process of anaerobic digestion, food waste is recycled into fertiliser for farming and



green energy for homes.





Composting Facility

# **Green Garden Waste**

Green garden waste is sent to a Composting Facility where it is turned into compost for farmers.









# Facility

Cardboard and paper materials are separated mechanically.

## Paper

Paper is sorted into grades and sent to paper mills to create new paper products such as newspapers.



# Card

Card is bailed to be sold for new cardboard manufacture.





Items are separated by material type.

Plastic is further separated into different grades, which are reprocessed into **pellets** which can create



new plastic products.

## Glass

**Glass** is firstly separated by size. Small pieces are recycled to make aggregate for road surfacing.









Cans, tins, aerosols and foil are separated by material and processed to create **new** products.



**Batteries Recycling** Centre

## **Batteries**

**Batteries** are firstly separated by battery type. They are then crushed into a black mass, from which metals can be recovered. For example:









Reprocessing Facility

## **Clothes & Textiles**

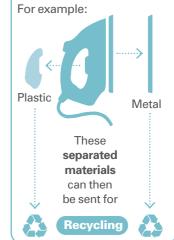
Clothes & Textiles are sorted by hand and separated. Some quality products are exported to be used again, while others are sent to be remanufactured into new items.





Small Electrical Items

Small electrical items are sent to a facility where materials are extracted from each item.

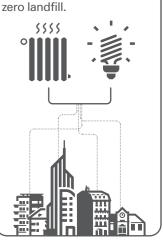




Energy Recovery

## Non-recyclable Refuse

Non-recyclable refuse is sent either to an Energy Recovery Facility or to produce Refuse Derived Fuel. The waste is turned into **energy** to power homes and businesses, achieving virtually



www.bromley.gov.uk/wastenews