

UK Household Plastic Packaging Collection Survey

2023

RECOUP

Data Summary

Leading a more circular plastics value chain

UK HOUSEHOLD PLASTIC PACKAGING COLLECTION SURVEY 2023

RECOUP

RECOUP is the UK's leading independent authority and trusted voice on plastics resource efficiency and recycling. As a registered charity, our work is supported by members who share our commitments including a more sustainable use of plastics, increased plastics recycling, improved environmental performance and meeting legislative requirements. We achieve these by leading, advising, challenging, educating and connecting the whole value chain to keep plastics in a circular system that protects the environment, underpinned by evidence and knowledge.

The content and analysis contained in this report is based on the information received. While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the contents of this publication, RECOUP cannot accept responsibility or liability for any errors or omissions. Opinions expressed by external contributors may not reflect RECOUP positions. Recommendations provided herein are offered for the purpose of guidance only and should not be considered legal advice.

RECOUP publications are exclusively available to members for a period of 3 months before being released to the open domain. All information contained in this report will remain the subject of copyright and any reference made to this document must ensure that RECOUP is credited.

Researched and written by:

Tom McBeth - Policy & Infrastructure Manager

Supported by:

Laura Hutchings - Projects & Data Manager Steve Morgan - Head of Policy & Infrastructure Danette O'Hara - Sustainability & Circularity Manager Declan Jackson - Projects Officer Stewart Hemley - Sustainability & Circularity Officer

RECycling of Used Plastics Limited (RECOUP)

1 Metro Centre, Welbeck Way, Woodston, Peterborough, UK, PE2 7UH
t: +44 (0)1733 390021 e: enquiry@recoup.org w: www.recoup.org
Registered Charity No: 1072029 & Company Registration No: 02435729

© RECOUP 2023

2

Data Summary

local authorities in the UK in 2023

100% plastic

88% Collect plastic PTT



1,154,000 tonnes

of plastic packaging declared as recycled from all sectors in 2022

Recycling rate of 52%

Advice to Citizens

Lids on bottles

Empty & rinse

35%

Flatten & squash

49%





1,025

HWRCs in the UK

at which

120,000 tonnes

of plastic packaging and non-packaging is disposed of annually



plastic bottles are used each year in the UK

NOT collected for recycling



80% of local authoritie

ran a recycling communication campaign in the last 12 months.



Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)

The Plastic **Packaging Tax**

Single-Use Plastics (SUP)

Simpler Recycling



of household plastic packaging collected for recycling in 2022

This consists of...

66%

29% Plastic

Plastic Film 4%

~46% of UK waste plastic packaging declared as recycled is exported Main export destination Turkeu

Residual Waste Treatment

Energy Recovery

reported they recover recyclables from

At kerbside, local authorities collect

recycling materials:

Household **Collection Rates**

63% Plastic Bottles

39% Plastic PTT

7% Plastic Film

21kg of plastic packaging collected per household 14kg Plastic Bottles

6kg Plastic PTT

1kg Plastic Film

Source-separated

use **wheelie bins** to 75% collect plastic for recycling at kerbside

Blue bins were the most common



plastic packaging in

42%

all rigid plastic packaging

of local authorities reported fly-tipping to be a greater concern in their area than litter felt their area was predominantly free of litter and refuse apart from small items

Drinks Bottle Collection Rates

76% PET bottles

78% natural HDPE bottles

Non-drinks bottles 45%



© RECOUP 2023 6

UK Household Plastic Packaging Collection Survey 2023

1 Metro Centre Welbeck Way Woodston Peterborough PE2 7UH

T | 01733 390021

E |enquiry@recoup.org

W | www.recoup.org



Registered in England & Wales number: 02435729

VAT registration number: 546 5837 10

Registered Charity Number: 1072029

RECycling Of Used Plastics (RECOUP) Limited