



zeroing in on waste

WHAT HAPPENS TO YOUR RECYCLING?

1

TYPE OF WASTE

Plastic bottles, newspaper and cardboard, tins, cans and aerosols are collected kerbside and recycled. General waste is collected and taken for processing.



2



WHERE DOES IT GO?

The recycling collected from Bracknell Forest, Reading and Wokingham Boroughs is sorted by the Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) at Smallmead Waste Management Park.

Recycling collection vehicles deposit the recycling they have collected in the tipping hall of the MRF at the start of the sorting process.

3

HOW IS IT PROCESSED?

Staff remove any large non-recyclable items by hand. Unfortunately, these have included car parts, dirty nappies and dead animals. These items cause damage to sorting machinery if not removed.

Recycling is then sorted by size in a trommel machine. As the trommel spins round, recycling falls out of the holes onto three conveyor belts. The disc screen helps to remove any glass that may have been incorrectly put in recycling bins.

Small, light fragments of paper are sorted by a vacuum that sucks paper away from other materials. Steel cans are attracted to a magnet, and aluminium cans are sorted by an eddy current separator.

Optical sorters separate plastic bottles from paper. A beam of light is reflected off the recycling and sensors detect which materials are on the conveyor belt. Jets of air are used to sort the different materials from one another.

Plastic bottles, aluminium cans and paper are further sorted by hand and plastic bags and packaging removed.



4



WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

The final stage of the sorting process is to prepare the materials for transport to reprocessors, where the materials will be recycled.

Cardboard, steel cans, aluminium cans and plastic bottles are baled before they are sent for reprocessing. Paper is not baled, and instead is loaded into lorries loose before it is sent for reprocessing.