

# SUMMARY

REcycling Of Used Plastic Containers Limited

## 12,715 Tonnes of Plastic Bottles Collected in 2000

... and there are now 210 plastic bottle recycling schemes across the UK

The following is a summary of the findings from RECOUP'S annual survey of plastic bottle recycling in the UK. Over 97% of all UK local authorities kindly responded to the RECOUP questionnaire, providing a comprehensive overview of plastic bottle recycling activity in the UK.

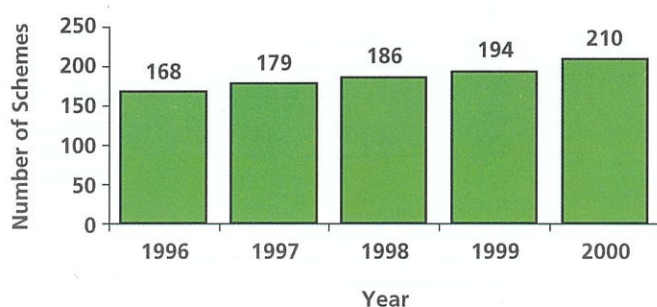


**Bring Schemes**  
4115 banks on 2851 sites



**Kerbside Schemes**  
3,616,853 households covered

### UK Plastic Bottle Collection Schemes



The number of local authority areas with plastic bottle collection facilities has shown a steady rise over the last 5 years. Councils not offering plastic bottle collection facilities will become a minority during 2001.

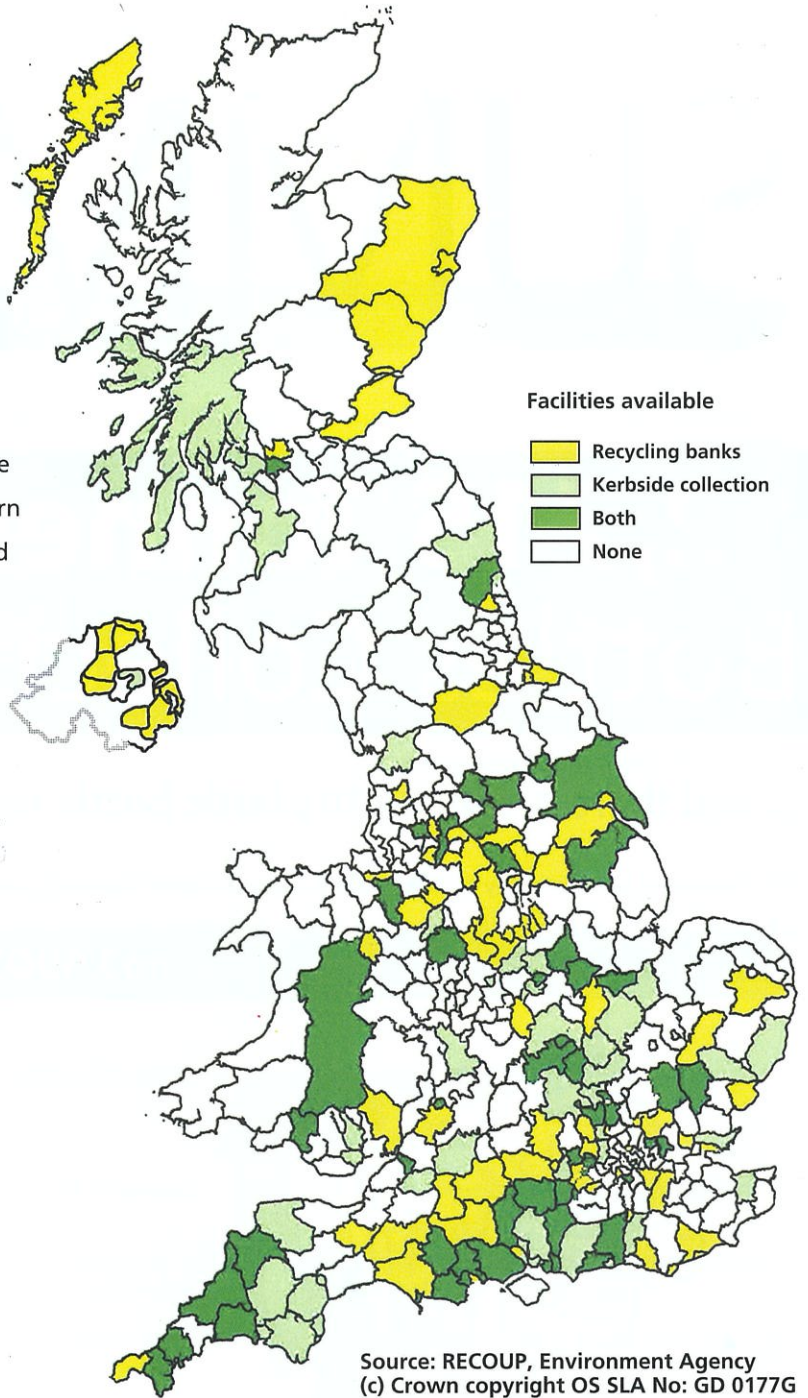
4 out of every 5 local authorities that recycle plastic bottles have bring collection facilities, including 80 schemes that also use a kerbside service. A further 45 schemes use Kerbside only to collect plastic bottles.

## Plastic bottle recycling schemes in the UK

There are plastic bottle recycling schemes across the UK including England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. There have also been a number of new and expanded schemes highlighted in this years survey.

New plastic bottle collection schemes have been established - including Bromley, Sevenoaks and Stafford in England, Magherafelt in Northern Ireland and the Western Isles in Scotland.

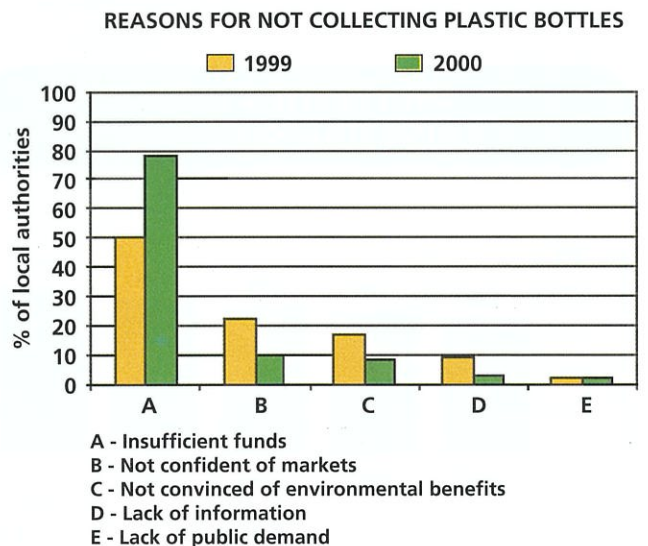
This map has been plotted using survey 2000 data. It indicates that a plastic bottle collection scheme operates within, but not necessarily throughout a local authority area.



## Areas not collecting plastic bottles

Some UK local authorities still do not collect plastic bottles for recycling. 78% of those local authorities that do not recycle plastic bottles identify insufficient funding as the primary obstacle.

Since 1999 the perception of barriers has changed - the number of local authorities concerned about lack of markets, environmental benefits, or lack of access to information has more than halved.

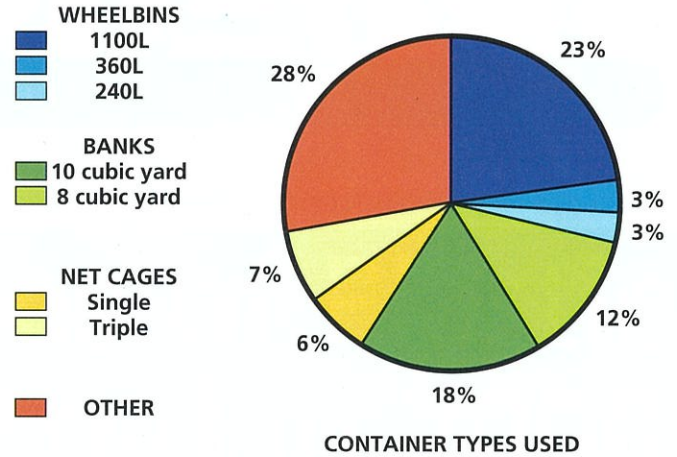


## Bring collection schemes

At the end of 2000, 4115 plastic bottle collection banks were operating on 2851 sites throughout the UK, covering a total of 165 local authority areas.

Factors influencing performance include site location, number of sites, population density and the presence of a kerbside collection scheme.

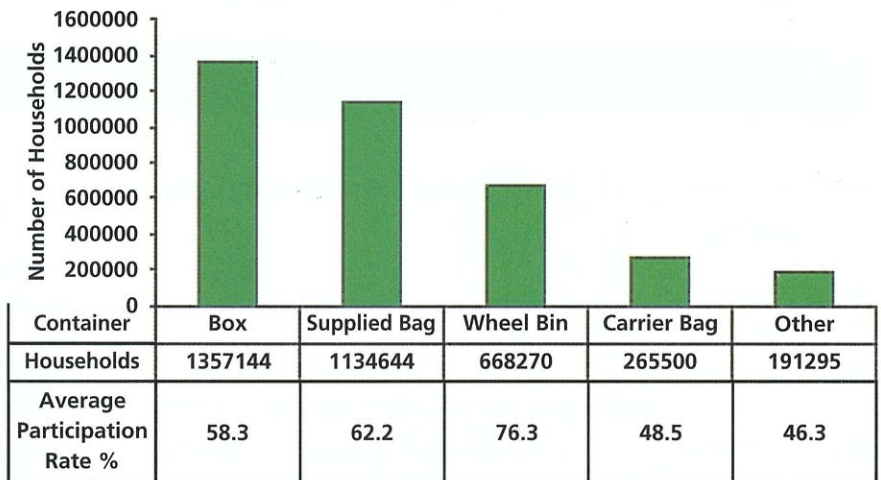
The choice of collection bank will determine the capacity, and also affect frequency and method of collections.



## Kerbside collection schemes

There are 125 kerbside schemes across the UK that accept plastic bottles. This equates to approximately 3.6 million households in the UK with plastic bottle collection facilities on their doorstep - an increase of 28% since 1999.

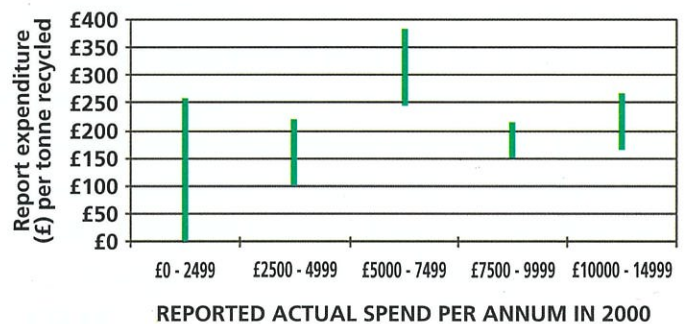
The average reported participation rate in the UK for a kerbside collection is 60%.



## Local authority spending on plastic bottle recycling schemes

This year RECOUP reports for the first time on the expenditure that is attributed to plastic bottle recycling. A broad relationship can be observed between the annual budget and material recovery.

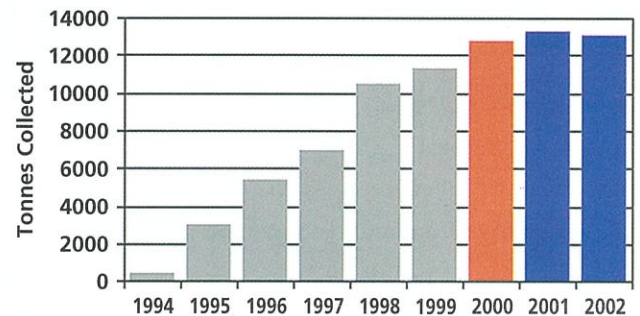
Issues such as locality, household/population density, equipment availability, choice of collection methods and market demand for collected materials all influence the recycling scheme costs.



## The Future

The increase in plastic bottle recovery since 1994 has been dramatic. In 2000, an estimated 12,715 tonnes of plastic bottles were recycled in the UK - that equates to 254 million plastic bottles.

Over 13,000 tonnes of plastic bottles are expected to be recycled in 2001. The predictions suggest that the recovery amount will remain fairly constant over the next few years, though RECOUP fully anticipate a continued plastic bottle recovery increase as more local authorities become committed to plastic bottle recycling.



PLASTIC BOTTLE COLLECTION PROJECTIONS

## RECOUP Comment

*A fundamental part of successful plastic bottle recycling is the promotion of schemes.*

*Why not try :-*

- **PROMOTE** Simple 'Rinse and Squash!' and 'Step on It!' messages - crushing bottles increases recovery capacity and reduces collection costs.
- **COMMUNICATE** Many people do not participate in recycling schemes because they don't know they exist, or what to do. Choose simple messages that sell the scheme and reinforce them regularly.
- **PARTNERSHIP** Work with collection operators to identify and respond to those households who set out the wrong materials. 80% of contamination comes from 20% of your users.
- **MARKETING** Communication strategy and scheme operations are equally important. Studies show that a long term marketing program is absolutely vital to maximise the efficiency and performance of your collection programme.

*RECOUP provides a range of services for local authorities and members to help develop excellent recycling programmes for plastics. Get in touch to find out what RECOUP can do for you.*

Thank you to all the local authorities that completed the 2000 survey questionnaire allowing RECOUP to maintain its position as the primary source of plastic bottle recycling information in the UK.....Look out for the 2001 questionnaire in November!

Contact RECOUP for a copy of the full survey 2000 report



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