



# UK Household Plastic Packaging Collection Survey

---

# 2024

## Data Summary

**RECOUP**

Leading a more circular  
plastics value chain

# UK Household Plastic Packaging Collection Survey

## 2024



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.

**This report has been written, researched and supported by:**

Laura Hutchings - Projects & Data Manager  
Steve Morgan - Head of Policy & Infrastructure  
Rob Haley - Policy & Infrastructure Manager  
Veronika Pluharova - Projects Officer  
Kate Sullivan - Education & Engagement Manager  
Katherine Fleet - Head of Sustainability & Circularity  
Emily Bullimore - Projects Officer

**361** UK Local Authorities

**100%**

collect plastic bottles

**89%**

collect plastic PTT

**14%**

collect plastic film



# DATA SUMMARY

## HOUSEHOLD COLLECTION RATES

**65%**

plastic bottles

**40%**

plastic PTT

**8%**

plastic film



**1,186,000 tonnes**

of plastic packaging declared as recycled from all sectors in 2023

**43%**  
overall collection rate of all consumer plastic packaging in 2023



**587kt**

of household plastic packaging collected for recycling in 2023

**66%**

plastic bottles

plastic PTT

**30%**

**4%**

plastic film

**40%**

lids on bottles

**85%**

empty / rinse



## ADVICE TO CITIZENS

**54%**

flatten / squash

**53%**

loose

## KEY POLICY AREAS

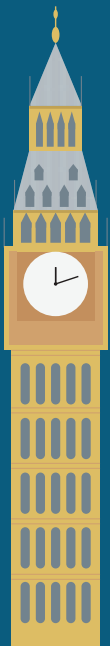
Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)

Deposit Return Schemes (DRS)

Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS)

Simpler Recycling

Plastic Packaging Tax



**52%**

of UK waste plastic packaging declared as recycled is exported



## NATION COLLECTION RATES



**54%**

Wales

**45%**

N Ireland

**43%**

England

**39%**

Scotland

Collection rate for all rigid plastic packaging (bottles and PTT)



**55%**

**60%**

have a continuous or ongoing communication campaign about recycling to residents



**21kg**

of plastic packaging collected per household

**14kg**

plastic bottles

**6kg**

plastic PTT

**1kg**

plastic film

## PLASTIC COLLECTED FOR RECYCLING

**55%**

source-separated



**13 billion**

plastic bottles used each year in the UK

**65%**

collected for recycling

**35%**

NOT collected for recycling