

**Great Gloucestershire Debate on Waste**  
**Summary of feedback – Forum, Email and letters**  
**Up to and including 25th January 2007**

154 forum entries, 38 emails and 2 letters received by close of Consultation period.

**To what extent are we responsible?**

**3 camps of people here:**

1. **It's the responsibility of all of us**
2. **We pay the council to do it**
3. **Supermarkets and manufacturers should take responsibility for creating it**

Everyone pays to have their rubbish collected. If anyone is ecologically conscious they are already recycling at supermarkets because the councils efforts are only token.

Gloucester City council is shirking its responsibilities and its efforts do not reflect the desires of the people they represent.

We are all responsible. Councils may have legal responsibility but we all have a moral responsibility to reduce waste in the first place. This will save money in the long run.

It is annoying that some people recycle and compost and others don't. Don't many people have a conscience or is life too busy?

We as citizens are responsible. We may devolve some responsibility to others (like councils) but that does not absolve us of our obligations as citizens. If authorities do not act as we think they should, we should exercise our democratic right and replace them.

I feel really ashamed how much rubbish was in my bin after Christmas. I am making a conscious effort to reuse plastic pots, boxes and other packaging where possible.

I will not allow my conscience to be blackmailed into doing more because the people I pay to do it do it inefficiently.

Why is it the responsibility of individuals when we pay people to be responsible?

Council tax is inherently unfair as it is based on property values and has no bearing up actual usage and burden that occupant puts on the local authority.

"I will not ruin the planet for the rest of the world like a scorned lover"

I recently asked a college what they did with their waste. She said she didn't know, the cleaner dealt with all that. Ignorance or bad attitude?

It's astonishing but perverse that our waste paper gets exported to China. It could be recycled and used for toilet rolls and kitchen paper. The Chancellor could reduce VAT on toilet rolls made from recycled paper to make it attractive to use.

## **Landfill sites**

**Biggest issue here is objections to Gloucestershire taking in other peoples waste.**

**This has now lead on to anger that Gloucestershire takes the toxic fly-ash from incinerators around the country.**

Citizen article says Gloucestershire taking Bristol waste.

Radio reports about lorries from Bristol allowed to dump their waste in Glos. This is grossly unfair to tax paying people of Gloucestershire.

I have seen lorries from Wales coming to Gloucester. How much money does our council make from councils that send us their waste?

We MUST stop Bristol sending their lorries of waste for disposal here.

Respondent clarified that council make no money from waste coming from out of county. Sites are privately owned

Furious response from Cllr. Private Company is making a profit out of Glos landfill sites and when it is full will just move on somewhere else. We should have made them pay for future infrastructure like incineration. GGD on waste is 20 years too late. Now we are all going to have to 'pay' in environmental terms, landfill taxes or sustainable, eco-friendly ways to get rid of our waste.

Emailer suggests an official reply from the council explaining why the importing of waste from other areas is acceptable, who financially gains from it and is the beneficiary.

Suggest looking at Norfolk County Council response, which is very positive.

Citizen did not include full update on GGD as promised.

Suggest using Elmbridge Court as next landfill site, as Cllr Waddington so keen to tear up the green belt.

What does Graham Gardner make of it, I wonder?

## **Cardboard**

**We want councils to collect cardboard from the kerbside, countywide?**

**And where cardboard banks are provided at supermarkets, make them large enough to cope with the demand, and regularly empty them. DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS NOW**

Why don't districts collect cardboard (ie Stroud and Gloucester)

Gloucester currently spend money collecting plastic milk bottles which total 6% of total landfill waste and leave cardboard which totals 16% at our doorsteps.

Some recycling banks collect cardboard, but the bank is never big enough to take the volume (Tesco, Quedgeley)

I was surprised to see one skip lorry arriving at Tesco Brockworth without leaving a replacement skip, so cardboard was just left all over the floor.

Tewkesbury Borough Council cannot cope with the recycling process. I cannot bring myself to add to the mess at Morrisons in Tewkesbury.

Every month I end up with three quarters cardboard. Why can't this be put into green bins?

I agree cardboard should be collected from the kerbside. In addition the public should leave unwanted packaging at the supermarket checkout. Eg Silly cardboard collars on items are totally unnecessary.

If you go down to Tesco at Brockworth you will see the amount of cardboard put out for recycling VASTLY exceeds the facility placed to collect it.

Rather than set up this nice cosy forum, why don't you send someone down to visit the Brockworth site more frequently and achieve ACHIEVE something.

The council keeps throwing big wages for people to look at what's bests. Why don't we learn from those that have already got it right? Stop talking and get on with it, is the answer.

Cheltenham Borough push hard for the public to recycle, and yet have no cardboard recycling facilities. I really hope we don't have to wait even more years for something that should be relatively straightforward to resolve.

Very annoying to find Tesco or Morrison's recycling banks are always full up.

### **Energy from Waste**

**We need to embrace energy from waste.**

**Offer incentive for local people who might have the site on the doorstep. It cannot actually be any worse than having a landfill site on your doorstep?**

**Toxic fly ash being brought into Gloucestershire**

Europe is further ahead because they do not rely on landfill. They have embraced Energy from Waste.

If we don't afford some advance in waste treatment, we will all suffer the consequences of the increased landfill charges.

What about all the 'not in my back yard' folk though who don't want EfW? But is it any worse than having landfill in your backyard?

Maybe we could consider smaller plants to serve the more rural bits of Glos to cut down on transport costs. These sites could allow us to do landfill mining – getting energy from processing existing full material.

Why can't we create a EfW plant which provides enough energy for our street lighting with no net increase in our green footprint?

Processes like anaerobic digestion; pyrolysis and gasification can convert about 95% of residual waste into very useful products such as gas and fertilisers. Power plants built next door to these EfW sites would be useful but can we make sure that the fumes from this kind of operation are pollution free?

Local residents could be offered cheap or even free heat and electricity from the combined heat and power plant.

Rigid planning rules over things like wind turbines, probably mean Glos won't be brave over EfW.

Norfolk County council are apparently bringing solutions to the public, not sitting back and waiting for the public to give them the solutions. Also offering Council Tax REDUCTIONS, as a result of their waste management systems.

Energy from waste is already in place, making money for the owners.

The fly-ash from Grundon's incinerators in Slough and Poole, will come to Bishops Cleeve. This is hazardous waste, which will trundle through Gloucestershire and the streets of Cheltenham to Bishop's Cleeve.

It comes from a lot further afield than that. Gloucestershire is taking incinerator ash from all over the country as it has been designated a nationally strategic site for this type of hazardous waste. The counties that send us this waste are using incineration to fix their landfill problems and we are getting their toxic residues.

I find it galling that the finance to solve this issue is being used to make the situation worse, but the company that owns the waste facilities.

Think of the waste miles, transporting the toxic fly ash from all over the southern half of England to Gloucestershire.

## **Kerbside recycling of plastics and cardboard**

**Reduce weekly collections to fortnightly**

**Increase recycling collections to weekly and provide recycling wheelie bins**

**Recycle plastics and cardboard from our kerbside**

**Why can't we have it now collected from the kerbside now?**

Cut general waste collections to bi-weekly and increasing recycling to weekly, to include plastic and cardboard. Councils have a big responsibility to help public recycle as much as possible and should be encouraging this, not making it more difficult.

- frequency of collection should depend on risk to human health –eg rats and rotting food.

Most plastics could be recycled too but this is not collected consistently across the county

The rubbish men seem to work so fast they drop litter and leaving dustbins lids on the road.

In rural areas there are not enough rubbish bins, so people drop litter.

Cheltenham weekly collections continued over Christmas. Cheltenham recycling generally however is only every other week. If you lose track of the week you should be putting it out, you had it, so no one bothers.

Respondent suggests looking at Cheltenham Borough website which has all the dates on.

**Encourage more recycling of plastics and reduce the amount of plastic packaging from supermarkets.**

**Gloucester City Council should widen the amount of items you can recycle – particularly cardboard and plastic bottles. It is very frustrating moving from Stroud where you could recycle these items and in Gloucester you can't.**

**If the council are serious about us recycling then why is my wheelie bin for landfill rubbish larger than my recycling bin?**

## **How can we all recycle more?**

**Put recycled plastics into waste treatment process to get some energy back from them**

**Design a scheme that promotes the more you recycle, the more money you get back**

**Go back to reusable glass milk and drink bottles**

**Make sure kerbside collection is consistent across the county and includes things like cardboard, plastics and garden waste**

**Invest in every rural parish setting up a community composting service**

**Increase the scope of kerbside collections now**

Cardboard, glass and paper are heavy enough to make recycling economic sense and they compact well. Aluminium makes some environmental sense because of the saving on natural resources and habitats.

Plastics make no sense at all and they are very light, very bulky and collection vehicles would be carrying around a lot of air. Can we put them into some waste treatment process and get some energy back from them?

Why not treat waste like any other utility (eg water, gas etc) and bill people for what they use. This would encourage more recycling.

- its far easier to dump waste than it is to steal people's gas or electricity!

If Councils will be fined for not hitting their landfill targets, why has Glos spent £2.5m more during a period where recycling has doubled?

- Maybe it is on the landfill tax fines?

Design a scheme that says the more you recycle, the more money we will give you back.

Supermarkets provide free recycling facilities where as some of the council facilities are akin to a 'day out' and of course we pay for them through our taxes.

- apparently the supermarket provide the space, and the council provide the skips.

Gloucestershire Lifestyles charity shop sells recycled goods.

Can you promote Freecycle more?

Green waste collections have proved very popular with residents.

Why can't we go back to reusable glass milk and drinks bottles?

Is it right that it is cheaper to throw computers, washing machines etc away and buy a new one than have them repaired?

As satellite office in Shire Hall, we need to recycle but do hardly any at the moment. Could there be some sort of advertisement to let offices know where to contact and to encourage more recycling

No garden waste collection in Bath Road, Cheltenham area. Apparently this is because the road is too narrow. Could there at least be a garden rubbish container in the Bath Road Car Park where the bottle banks are?

If we recycle all our cans are we not putting miners in South Africa out of work and inflicting more hardship on that continent?

Make councils recycle their paper and cardboard.

We have stopped kerbside recycling in Gloucester because often it was unemptied, left strewn across the road, or box left in the road. The Council should provide wheelie bins type recycling boxes, as Portsmouth and many other councils have done.

Has anyone done any research into the Japanese model of recyclable waste, where private companies bid for individual elements of waste, resulting in no cost to the local authority?

Support the Furniture Recycling Company to do more work

All GCC contracts must have a waste clause in it

Pressurise the government to insist that traders have to be responsible for their own waste.

Invest in every rural parish setting up a community composting service (people have to be able to walk to the composting as well as drive)

When we had the blue boxes issued this enabled us to recycle most items. Now we must put these in wheelie bins, as we have no means of transport to dispose of these items at the local recycling sites. Please let us have our blue boxes back (GL4).

Weekly general collections should continue.

Less frequent garden waste collection should continue

The scope of the weekly recycling collection should be widened to include plastics, polystyrene and cardboard. You should also collect electrical goods and paints at no charge, the components of which can be sold and offset against costs.

Encourage more car boot sales, internet trading sites.

It is ridiculous that shredded paper cannot be recycled.

Why is there only one set of recycling bins for all the flats in Podsmead. A lot of people if floats do not bother recycling, because they can't be bothered to walk the distance to the communal bins, especially in the winter months.

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We need lots more education – through leaflets, TV, radio and at supermarkets. Lots of people don't know enough about recycling.

The scope of kerbside collections should be widened and adequate boxes provided.

I telephoned the Recycling Team at Stroud DC for advise on where to put plastic containers other than bottles. They told me that any recycling site would take these items. A visit to the Cam site proved fruitless, and when I visited the attended site at Horsley, I was told that Gloucestershire does not collect this type of waste anyway. I had to put these carefully collected items in the non recyclable waste. A waste of my time.

A large percentage of my waste is plastic containers which are not bottles. The vast majority are marked with the recycling symbol, with an identifier as to what the plastic is, PP, HDPE, PET etc. All this is perfectly reusable plastic. Why are there no facilities in Gloucestershire to process this valuable waste.

Plastic containers should be collected for recycling regardless of their markings or colours.

Garden waste and kitchen waste should be collected as standard.

Residents in Gloucester City area do not all get the same level of kerbside recycling facilities.

If you want to increase recycling rates, you need to invest in appropriate receptacles and roadside collections for plastics, cardboard, garden waste etc, like they did in Hertfordshire.

Its disgusting that the council constantly ask us to help them reach their recycling targets and yet they do not assist us in doing this.

Does the Council think there are no gardens in GL1? We are still waiting for our green bags!

Hempsted Site only takes plastic pop bottle lids. We are trying to do our bit for the environment. If householders are prepared to separate out the recycling from rubbish, why are the council not providing the facilities we need?

I lug huge amounts of used plastic bottles and cardboard to Swindon Village depot for recycling. Why can't it be collected from the kerbside?

Does Gloucestershire recycle coloured plastics, printed card board, clear plastics, meat containers from supermarkets, tetra pack or foil?

## **Chipping Wheelie bins**

**Two views - System can too easily be flouted Vs works well in other places**

**Fine by volume not weight**

**If we chip wheelie bins, people will dump rubbish anywhere to avoid the fine.**

**What will stop people putting their rubbish in someone else's bin?**

Will it cost more money to run a scheme like this than to collect the revenue?  
- Chips are cheap.

The chip scheme will be less popular than the 'poll tax'!

System can too easily be flouted – use someone else's bin or dump.

Just sounds like another way of councils passing on the cost to someone else.

Pay as you throw works well in other countries. It's fair in that you only pay for what you use.

Businesses have been charged separately for their waste for years, with no ill effects.

We should fine by volume not weight. This way we would all be encouraged to cut up rubbish into small pieces. This would take up less space at landfill.

**I support the council's decision to not take away overfull black bins, because some people are too lazy to recycle**

## **Practical difficulties in managing green boxes**

**Give us recycling wheelie bins instead**

**If you live in a flat, you don't get a green box**

Once full these can be heavy.

-Straight recycling sells trolley for them

Lids blow off in the wind.

How about green wheelie bins

- Collecting mixed materials in a wheelie bin means there has to be a sorting facility and that does not come cheap.

If you live in a flat, you don't get a green box!

- Cheltenham have green wheelies for flats which are constantly misused.

It would be helpful if a more comprehensive recycling service were offered by the council kerb collections.

Lids are a waste of time. Could they not be hinged?

## **Supermarkets should recycle**

**Put pressure on supermarkets and manufacturers to reduce packaging**

**Reward those that do well**

**Pass landfill taxes to supermarkets**

**Replace plastic carrier bags with paper ones**

**Make manufacturers and retailers pay to get rid of the waste**

Cause a tremendous amount of plastic packaging waste. The council needs to put pressure on supermarkets, including the distribution of plastic carrier bags. Shoppers can choose to buy goods without all the packaging though.

Supermarkets and other businesses have reduced their packaging over a number of years because of legislation.

Widely available biodegradable plastic seems like a very distant dream without sufficient consumer pressure.

About 15 years ago, in Germany, supermarkets had a packaging bin at the checkout. People would tear off unnecessary packaging as they were packing their shopping and leave it there.

We need to look at good practices in other countries.

Why do bananas and broccoli have to be shrink-wrapped!

Householders are made to feel so guilty about their waste. The bigger players should be made to be more sustainable. Maybe they should be taxed for every item packaged in an environmental friendly way!

Several suggestions to replace plastic carrier bags for paper.

How come we get dissolving packaging for dishwasher tablets but fruit and veg is in clingfilm.

Could council introduce award scheme for supermarkets

No one would dare clamp down on the real culprits – the supermarkets, packaging manufacturers and petro-chemical industry, because it would affect their business.

Supermarkets should be compelled to provide recycling facilities for every piece of packaging they sell. That would make them reduce it.

The new Sainsbury's in Dursley will create vast quantities of waste material. I am not interested in paying higher council taxes for plans initiated to introduce more rubbish into Dursley.

Support supermarkets that make biodegradable packaging

The amount of plastic that comes with an SD flash card, which is about the size of a large cornflake, borders on the criminal.

What is the Government doing to tackle all the non-recyclable plastic they allow into the country?

The amount of waste would quickly reduce if manufacturers and retailers had to pay for the cost of waste collection and disposal. They create a lot of the waste and sell it to us.

### **Leaf Collection**

Has anyone done any research into composting street sweepings such as leaves?

In wet weather leaves naturally break down. Thank goodness they do else in ten years time you would be up to your neck in leaves.

### **Cost versus value**

Press reports of the first Chinese self made waste paper billionaire and packaging demonstrates that there is money to be made in recycling. Why does it still cost us in our Council Tax to pay for collection?

**Reusable nappies**

Should we not be throwing out a challenge for ideas on how to reduce nappy waste – but please let's not have more bureaucrats having a feasibility study. It only takes common sense!

**Requests for talks received**

From Cheltenham Rotary Group and Farmor's School

**Should we teach children to reuse and recycle?**

I find children in general unaware of where the materials come from to make things. A regular answer is "from a factory".

We need to teach REUSE before RECYCLE as a way of life.

What is the closing date of the GGD Waste?

It should be displayed more prominently.

I expect when it does close, we'll be told the findings will be released at some point. Have the findings been released for the transport debate and if so where?

**Who is running this debate?**

Melissa posted a point of clarification that this is a joint debate with all the key authorities in Gloucestershire.

**Would people recycle more if it saved them money?**

If they could see a real reduction. Those of us who make a big effort to doorstep recycle pay no less in taxes than those who cannot be bothered.