

What happens to my recycling and rubbish?

MK residents' recycling from clear sacks and blue boxes is sent to a Materials Recycling Facility. Here the factory machinery and staff sort and separate the paper, metal cans and plastic bottles, etc. These are then squashed into cubes called bales ready for transportation to factories to be made into new recycled products.



Paper is recycled into more newspaper, toilet rolls, tissues & egg boxes. Paper can be recycled 5 or 6 times before the fibres become too weak to be recycled. Its last life will be as a tissue.



Steel and aluminium cans are sent to furnaces where they are melted down and recycled to create another can. They are back on the supermarket shelf with new food or fizz inside in about 6 weeks!



Plastic is first flaked, then washed, dried and melted. Plastic bottles can be recycled into more bottles, traffic cones, wheelie bins, guttering, fluff in duvets, etc. Plastic food tubs, yoghurt pots, etc. can be recycled into a plastic board to be turned into products such as picnic tables or pig sties!



The glass is sent to furnaces where it is melted down and remoulded into new bottles and jars. When different colour glass bottles and jars are melted together it all turns green as this is the dominant colour.



Food and garden waste is sent to a composting facility where it is turned into a compost-like soil for agriculture.



Rubbish placed in black bags is sent to the MK Waste Recovery Park in Old Wolverton. Here items that can be recycled or composted are retrieved and what is left behind is processed and ultimately converted into electricity.