

Welcome to the BLUEPRINT Circular Economy Roadshow The session will begin soon

projectblueprint.eu



France (Channel) England BLUEPRINT 5

Making recycling in flat blocks & **HMOs work**

Tuesday 10 May, 11:00-12:40



Housekeeping



This session will be recorded



Use the chat/Q&A box for your questions



Please leave feedback



Making recycling in flat blocks & HMOs work

Chair's welcome Leah Martin, BLUEPRINT



What is BLUEPRINT to a Circular Economy?

ENABLE local authorities to accelerate towards a dynamic circular economy

EQUIP social enterprises and training organisations to support disadvantaged people to secure jobs in the circular economy sector



ENHANCE community engagement to deliver lasting behaviour change for residents and schools



Making recycling in flat blocks & HMOs work

Cathy Cook, ReLondon
 Sam Davies, Manchester City Council
 Maria Basilisco, PECT



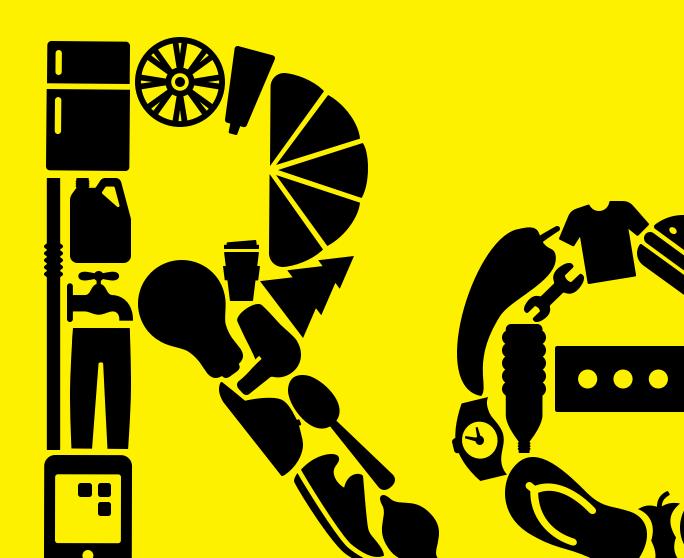
Making recycling in flat blocks & HMOs work

Speaker slides...

ReLondon

Making recycling work for people in flats and HMOs

Cathy Cook 10th May 2022



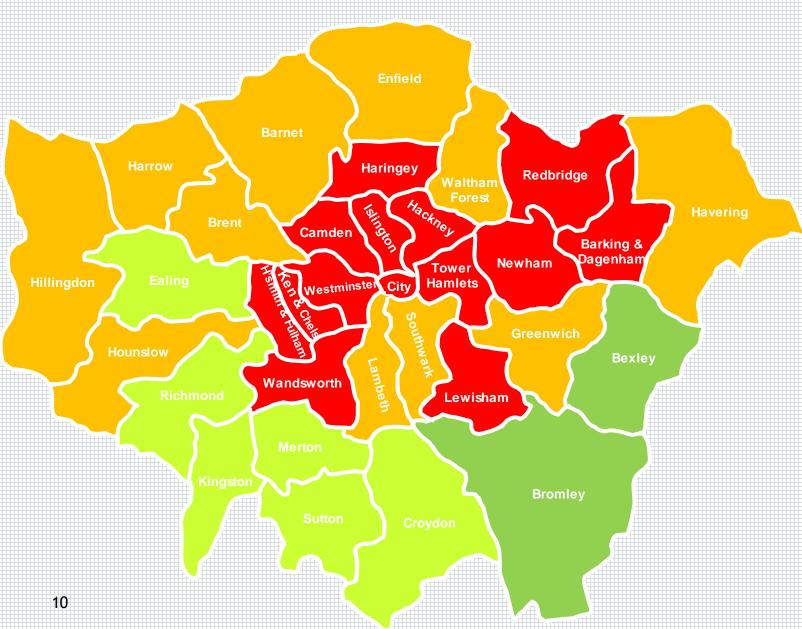
ReLondon - who are we?

ReLondon is LWARB, renamed - a partnership of the Mayor of London and London's boroughs to improve waste and resource management in the capital and accelerate our transition to a low carbon circular city.

Our mission is to make London a global leader in sustainable ways to live, work and prosper by revolutionising our relationship with stuff and helping London waste less and reuse, repair, share and recycle more.



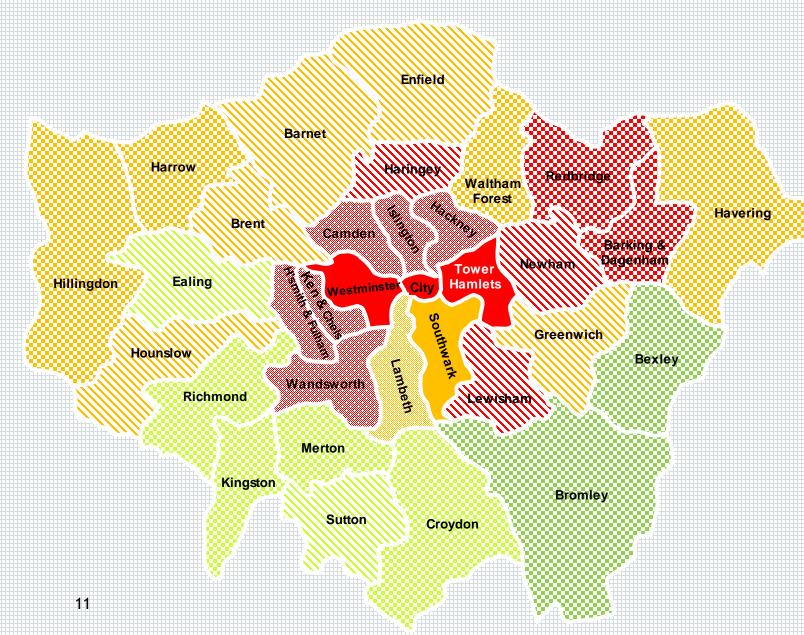
Recycling rates in London



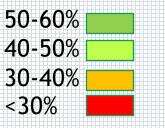
% of household waste sent for reuse, recycling or composting 2019-2020 by local authority area for London.



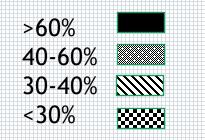
Percentage of flats in London



% of household waste sent for reuse, recycling or composting 2019-2020 by local authority area for London.



% of households which are purpose built flats (2011 census data)



Flats in London

- Account for just over half of London's overall housing stock and comprise up to 80% of housing stock in some boroughs
- 88% of new homes built 2017-2039 (1.89m hh) will be flats
- Well established flats services yield 50% less recycling than average low rise properties
- Large amount of money spent on introducing & improving services
- General lack of reliable performance data
- Poor/no M&E on service improvements





What are the challenges in flats?

- Space limitations (inside and outside)
- Deprivation
- Transience
- Language & culture
- Property tenure
- Service quality and design
- Inconvenient facilities
- Multiple stakeholders
- Lack of ownership of communal bins & anonymity of usage



The Flats Project 1.0.

The Flats Project 1.0





- In Partnership
- Testing a package of improvements & 5 resident focussed
 behavioural interventions across 12 case study estates (dry)
- To find **replicable interventions** to increase dry recycling rates

Estate inventories - key findings

- Lack of consistency of service
- Services focus on operational compatibility, not resident ease
- Signage poor/ non-existent/ damaged/ ad-hoc
- Bulky waste dumping
- Overflows common place
- Older estates no space for bins, let alone bin stores
- Sometimes no recycling facilities

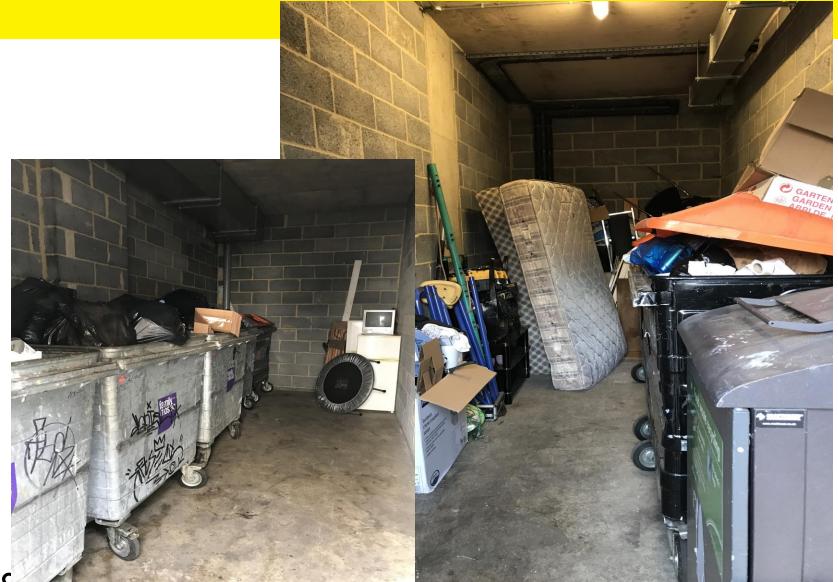
Poor signage







Bulky waste dumping and overflows



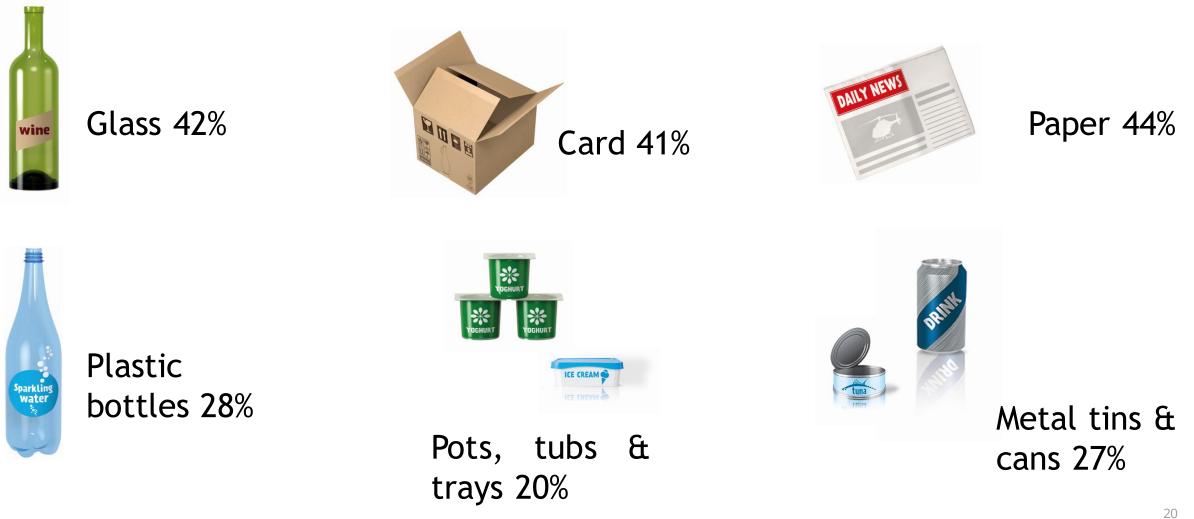
ReLc



Average recycling rate 10.7%

Average contamination 31%

Pre project monitoring - capture rates



Ethnographic research

- Qualitative research
- Builds an understanding of home environments, relationships and life priorities
- Uncovers why people behave as they do
- Respondents are engaged for several hours
- Observation of environments and social interactions
- Comparison of common themes/barriers

The research showed us that.....

.....effective recycling is only achieved when residents:

- Are motivated
- Have the correct knowledge
- Find it sufficiently easy



These led to the development of the Flats Recycling Package (FRP)

Flats Recycling Package (FRP)

- Clean and well-maintained bins and bin area
- Adequate collections to prevent overflows (min 60L/hh/wk)
- Appropriate apertures on recycling bins
- Collection of the six main recyclable materials
- Clear and visible signage on and above the bins
- Bins located conveniently for residents
- Recycling leaflet sent once a year to residents
- Posters highlighting recycling messages
- Residents informed of what to do with bulky waste













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ONLY

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NO recycling in this bin

fridges and other large items please call 020 7527 2000



Flats Recycling Package





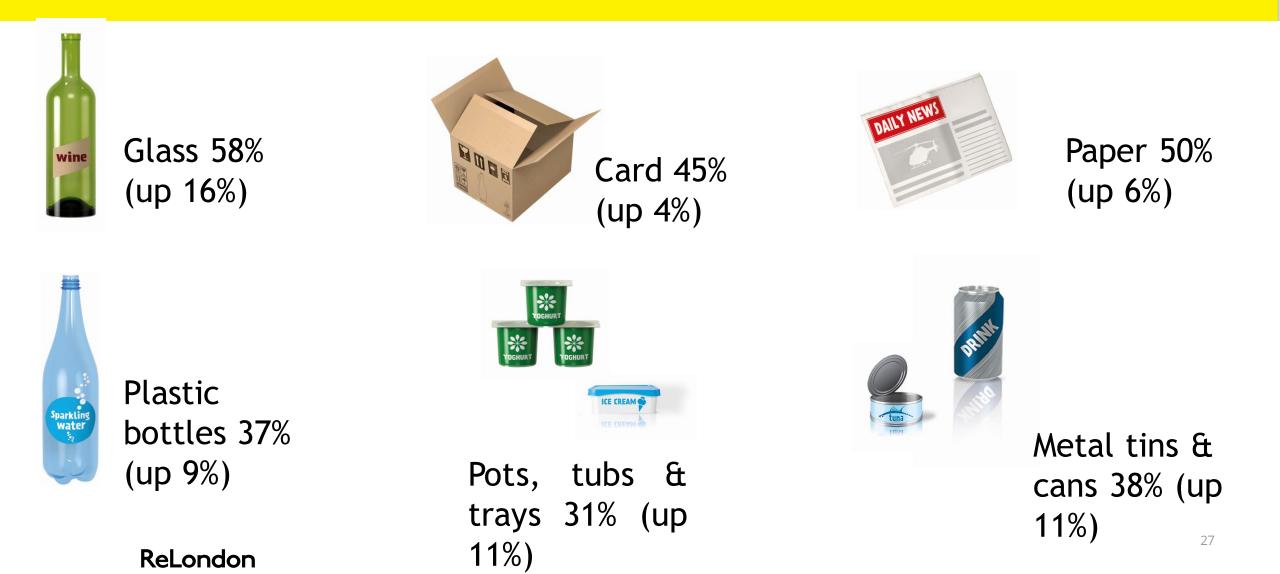
Annual information leaflets to all residents

Key findings

- 26% increase in the overall recycling rate From 10.7% to 13.4%
- 22% increase in overall capture rate From 38% to 47%
- Capture of all materials increased, especially glass and plastics
- 24% decrease in overall contamination rate From 31% to 23%

The project engaged some residents to recycle for the first time and got some residents recycling more consistently.²⁶

Post project monitoring - capture rates



The Flats Project 2.0.

Flats Project 2.0 - Introduction

Project aim - maximise recycling in purpose built flats, building on learning from the Flats Project 1.0, and trialling further interventions (food waste, textiles and WEEE collections).

Project output - Update the FRP to roll out good practice across London.



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Before:

Residual paladins, chutes on some estates

After:

New WEEE, large card and food bins Locked lids, large apertures Residual and recycling co-located, chutes closed



New services and engagement triggers



- Prototype pedal bins for food waste
- Slimline caddies and liners
- Pop-up weekend collections of textiles and weee
- Dedicated large card and weee bins
- Reusable bags for dry recycling





New communications - based on FRP principles

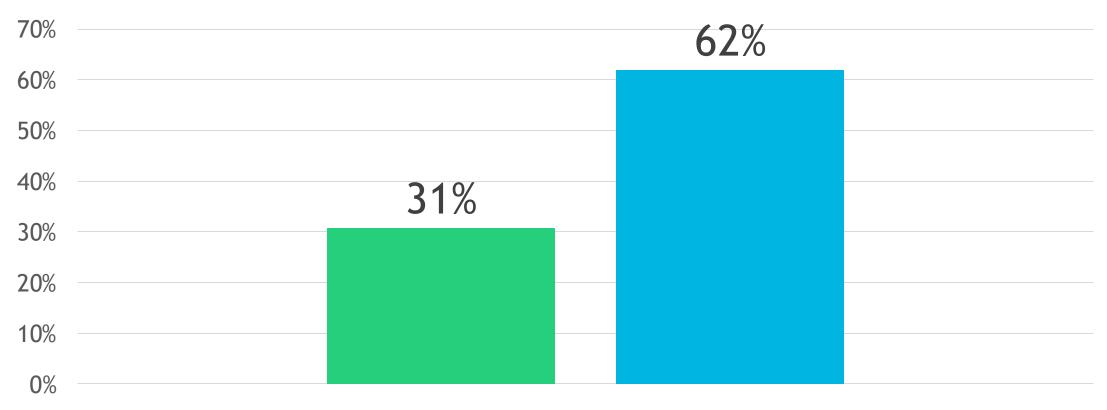


Impacts and evaluation

- Pre, interim and post project Waste Composition Analysis
- Residents' survey plus in-depth interviews with residents, caretakers, TRA reps
- Comprehensive data on changes in waste presentation and behaviour as a result of the interventions

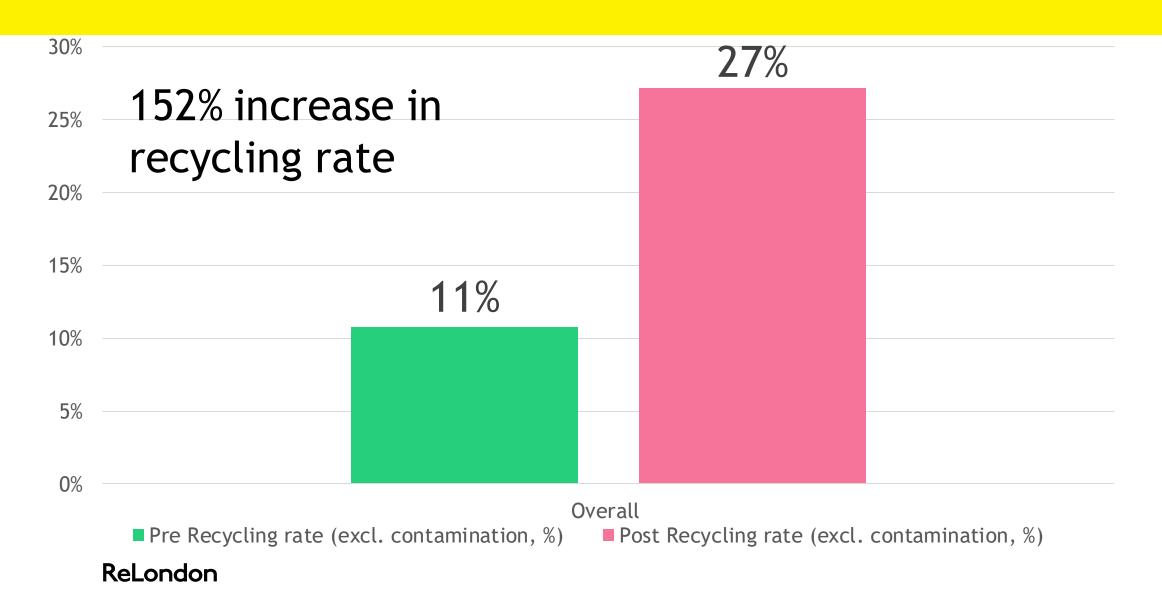


Service change potential improvement

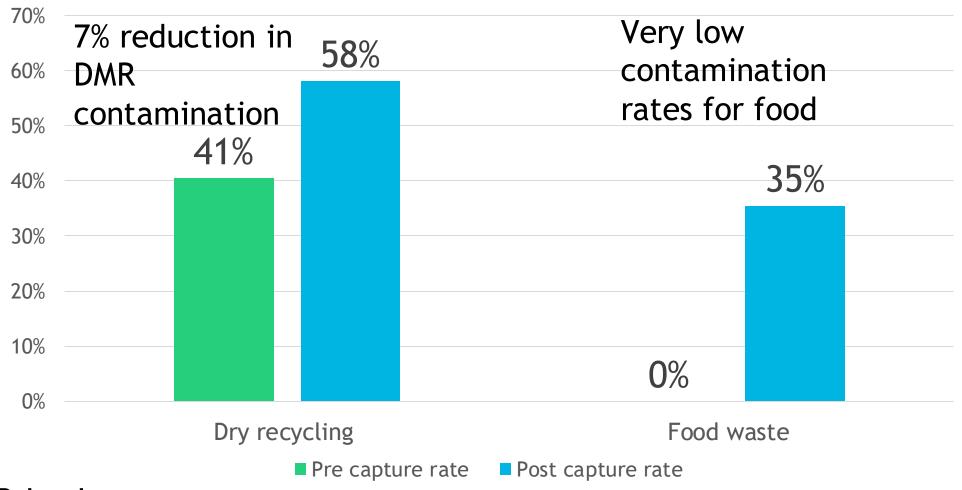


Proportion of total waste recyclable under previous service (%)
 Proportion of total waste recyclable under new service (%)

Recycling rate - excluding contamination



Capture rates





- Introducing new materials & improving the service significantly increased the potential and the actual capture of recycling
- Results varied between estates, possibly due to demographic and infrastructure differences (poor design difficult to overcome)
- Resident insights: good to medium recyclers doing more DMR + food but little impact on low or non recyclers.
- Clear potential to further improve recycling rates from flats

HMO research - Sharing a house, sharing responsibility

Project overview

- Privately rented HMOs
- Kerbside collections
- Households of between 3 and 8 residents
- Did NOT focus on overcrowded or illegal HMOs
- Ethnographic research Did NOT reveal that recycling was the central focus of the research



- Majority working or studying
- Mix of settled and transient households
- Professionals and shift workers on temporary contracts
- Aged between 21 and 49
- Mixture of UK born and overseas tenants
- Sub-lets to yearly contracts
- Some live-in landlords

Social dynamics

Maintaining good relationships with other sharers was the main influence on behaviours

People want to:

- Be a good house mate
- Avoid conflict
- Display socially desirable behaviours





Most households had space for multiple bins and relatively easy routes out to external bins

Sharers were likely to recycle in the kitchen, but were unlikely to sort their waste properly in private spaces

Sharers were often unaware of the external bin set up





Findings cont....

People don't take collective ownership for their waste and recycling

- Bins rarely came up in conversation
- Recycling is an individual behaviour
- Residents often refused to correct the mistakes of others
- Abiding by the rules of historic householders
- Lack of leadership

"Grace doesn't speak much about recycling with her flat mates. She feels they are not as good at it as she is, but isn't sure if it is out of laziness or lack of knowledge"

"Ellie was knowledgeable and passionate about recycling. She often noticed items in the wrong bin, but wasn't sure how to react beyond occasionally moving items herself"



People assume their recycling knowledge

- Understanding of waste systems is low
- People assume and don't re-check

Accurate information is not sought out

- People are unlikely to seek out information about recycling
- People are disengaged from their local council and council communications are not commonly referred to
- Social media and knowledge from friends and family are more commonly relied upon



• Stakeholder partnerships

Provision of information at a new stage of tenancy

• Information on recycling provided by peers (not Local Authority).



Cathy Cook

Senior advisor

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relondon.gov.uk



Apartment Recycling in Manchester

Improvements to recycling in the apartment sector

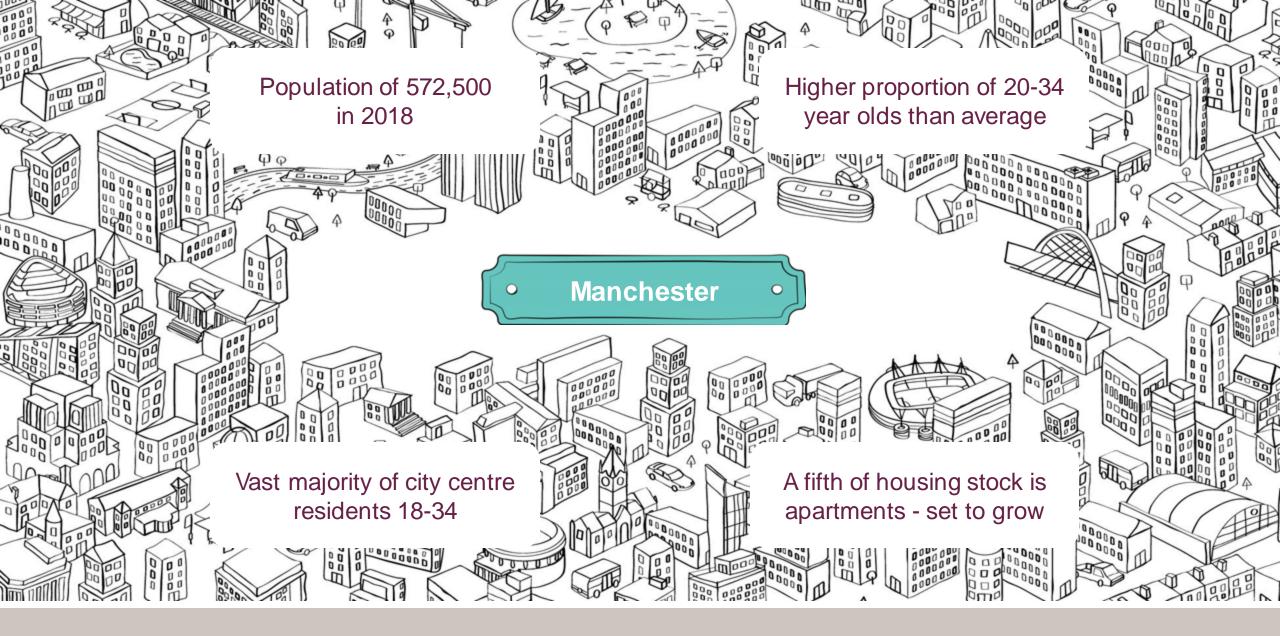
Sam Davies Manchester City Council Contact via recycling@manchester.gov.uk

goo.gl/Nc584b for supporting documents



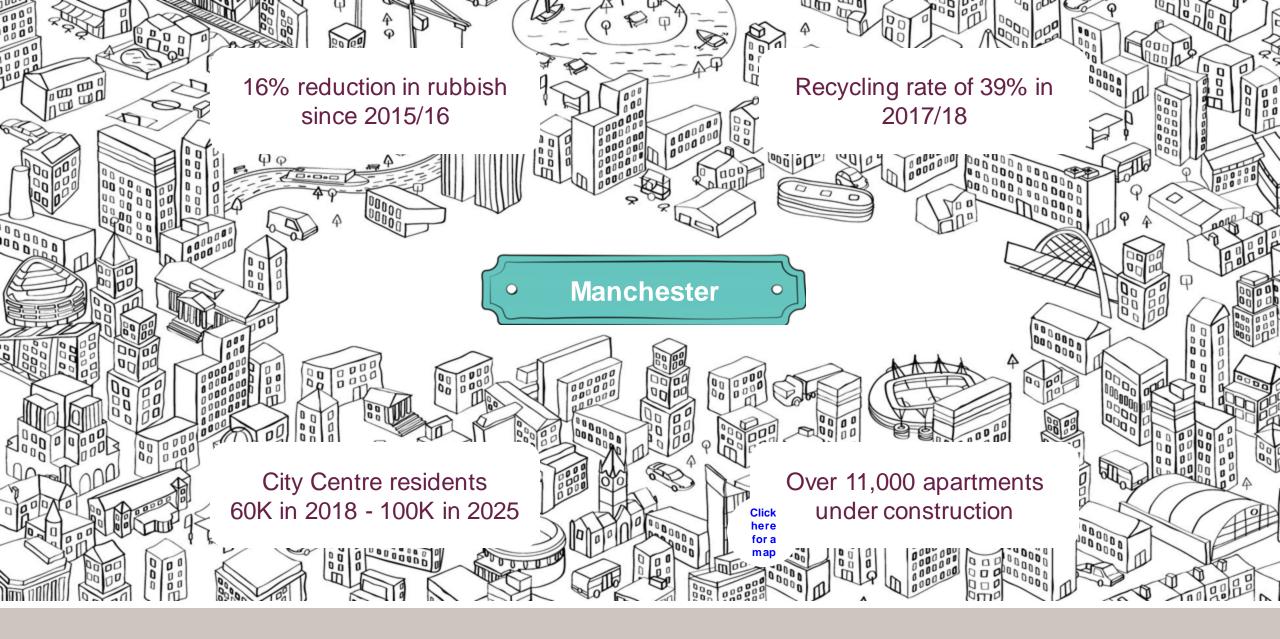
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goo.gl/Nc584b for slides and supporting documents



Manchester One of the fastest growing cities in Europe

Slide 49 Follow slides at goo.gl/Nc584b Sources: Manchester State of the City report 2018



Manchester One of the fastest growing cities in Europe

Slide 50

Follow slides at goo.gl/Nc584b Sources: Manchester State of the City report 2018 and Deloitte Manchester Crane Count 2018

Impact of Growth

The 39% recycling rate in 2017/18 hides a disparity between property types:

- 50% recycling rate houses (with their own bins)
 - 65% in settled and more prosperous areas
 - 25% in transient and less prosperous areas
- 10% recycling rate apartments (shared bins)

Growth in the apartment sector - with low recycling rates at existing apartments is holding the overall recycling rate of the city back. There is a risk of the overall rate reducing in future if houses reach their full potential and apartments do not.

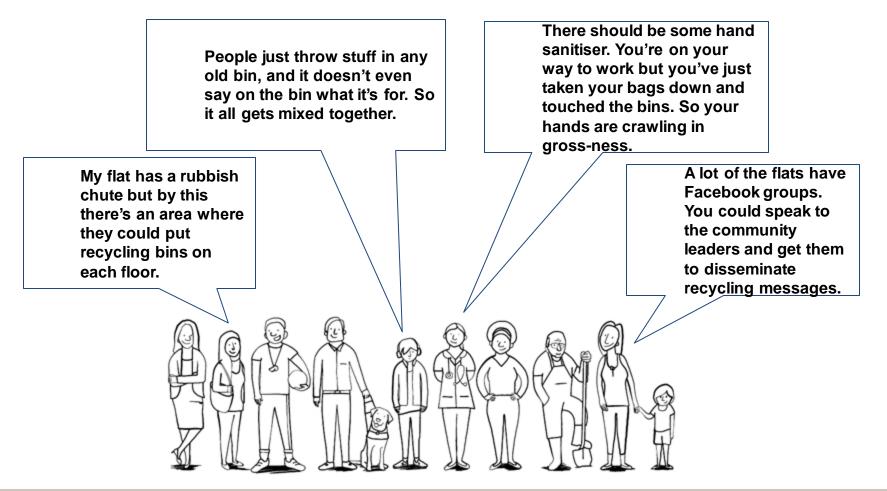
We needed to understand the reasons for the low recycling rate and come up with a plan to tackle this in new developments and existing developments.

This presentation focuses on existing developments.

Resident barriers:

- rubbish bins and chutes are sometimes located on each floor and closer than the recycling bins
- the bin room is a problem area for many with multiple issues noted, including odour, light and arrangement of containers
- Lack of knowledge is cited as a problem, with Facebook community pages widely mentioned as a good way to spread information (as well as better signage directly on / around the bins)
- contamination is counterproductive "final nail in the coffin"

Quotes



Resident solutions:

Residents are generally motivated and see recycling as the right thing to do.

They say communication alone, without system improvements, would be ineffective, and would like to see:

- better separation between recycling bins and rubbish bins
- cleaner bin rooms (with proper lighting)
- small bin to dispose of plastic bags (after bringing recycling down)
- provision of hand sanitiser in the bin room
- use of electronic media to communicate (alongside clear signage)

Building manager feedback:

- level of engagement with recycling varied significantly
- many said bulky items were going in to the rubbish bins or bin room
- turnover of residents in private rented sector quoted as barrier
- many had issues with builders, trades, landlords dumping large items
- status quo was preferred none wanted a reduction in their rubbish capacity
- shocked by the 10% recycling rate when compared to 50% other households
- many said "impossible" to get residents in their buildings to recycle more, but majority hadn't tried anything and saw this as a "Council problem"
- all had issue with communication to and from our contractor when collections had not been completed

Contractor and crew feedback:

- crews reported similar issues to building managers (BM) with bulky items blocking access to bins
- contractor and crews reported lack of understanding of the service standard many caretakers and BMs reportedly saying all rubbish is "the Councils problem" and an unlimited amount of rubbish should be removed
- crews report they make every effort to empty a bin, often emptying overflowing, heavy or blocked bins
- contractor reported BMs often asked for return visits with contamination of recycling being a big issue
- contractor reported limited information on who managed each building and BMs / personnel often changed

Container survey:

- wholesale review of all buildings serviced by shared containers conducted
- on-board weighing system installed on all rubbish and recycling vehicles to determine number and weight of bins lifted - also the opportunity to record 'exceptions' with pictures, crew notes and direct notification to BM
- wide range of circumstances found including:
 - $\circ~$ lots of sites with limited or no recycling containers
 - o most sites have excessive capacity for rubbish
 - \circ mostly poor recycling rates (up to 10%) and some better (25%+)
 - o 'new' sites (built in the last few years) often better recyclers

- clear that we needed to balance the capacity for different rubbish and recycling streams across all buildings - existing and future
- unfair for some buildings to have more rubbish capacity and limited recycling also unfair for those who want to recycle, but cannot in some buildings
- currently no imperative on the building managers to act
- minimal limits put on rubbish capacity in the past
- allocation to new buildings (through planning permission) changed to 110 litres per fortnight per apartment, plus at least the same amount of recycling capacity - existing buildings needed to be brought in line
- difficult but necessary to break the cycle of "chuck it all in the rubbish bin"

During our research, there was a strong emphasis from residents on what happens to recycling and why it was necessary and important. Many saw it as a chore and didn't see how it linked to other frontline local authority services.

Many also felt that recycling was complicated, but also cited lots of myths that were unlikely to lead to good engagement. There was also a desire to recycle other materials that we do not collect (mainly textiles and plastics).

All communications sent out included:

Planning

- link back to other services that residents said were important
- a simple recycling guide one page wherever possible
- encouragement to speak to building manager about other recycling opportunities, such as a clothing bank

Comms examples available by following link below (QR code at the end of presentation)

- a capital bid was approved to purchase and provide (free-of-charge):
 - recycling containers with more robust locks
 - $\circ~$ signage to go near recycling bins
 - resident communication (hard copy, electronic and door knocking)
 - $\circ\,$ bags to transport recycling from apartment to bin store
- this would be done alongside:
 - o rationalisation of containers for rubbish
 - (reduce all apartments to 55 litres per week or 110 per fortnight)
 - $\circ\,$ introduction of better communication channels between
 - our contractor, BMs and local authority

- all BMs notified broadly about project and then specifically of changes to their buildings - given the opportunity to request extra recycling materials
- project covers around 40,000 apartments across more than 800 buildings with a reduction to rubbish capacity at 33,500 apartments, across 575 sites.
- four rubbish collection vehicles service these properties made sense to phase the changes in this way
- three months is allocated to each vehicle
 - month one and two is communication (hard copy, electronic and door knocking) plus delivery of new materials (containers, signage)
 - month three is change of number of rubbish containers emptied, with monitoring of impact, review and move to next phase

Risks

There was a need during project initiation to identify risks. We identified a significant range of risks, but the main operational risks were:

- excess rubbish in or around bins could lead to missed collections and dissatisfaction of residents, BMs, elected members and other stakeholders
- rubbish could be left in the bin store or on the street if the amount of rubbish presented was greater than local authority collections
- recycling will go up by such a degree that current recycling collection vehicles reach capacity - it would be counterproductive for recycling collections to fail at the same time as we are encouraging residents to recycle more
- recycling bins could become contaminated by new users who don't understand the system or misuse the recycling system

Progress

This project was completed in March 2019. When comparing January 2018 and March 2019, there has been a decrease in the amount of rubbish containers emptied at existing residential apartment buildings of 24%.

This has translated to a reduction in rubbish of 15% and an increase in recycling of around 30%. This equates to 2,470 tonnes of rubbish removed from the system per year with 871 tonnes moved in to our recycling streams.

On average, apartments now recycling at about 20%, but there is still a disparity between the best and worst performers, with the 'best' buildings recycling at around 35%.



Where did it all go?

We believe that a third of the reduction in rubbish has gone in to local authority recycling bins and the rest has moved into several other streams, including:

- local authority bulky collection service
- third party textile recycling banks & charity donation
- Household Waste & Recycling Centres
- private disposal streams



Learning Point

We engaged with building managers and social landlords from a very early stage. We knew that they would make or break the project. Over 150 management companies are known to operate in Manchester, varying in size. It wouldn't make commercial sense for them to support each other or share what works.

We invited all providers to one of several engagement sessions. This was not a PR exercise. We were frank and honest about what we intended to do and why. We didn't hide anything.

Our collection crews and building managers each had some choice words about how the other had operated in various situations in the past. We have worked on rebuilding these relationships over the past 18 months and in the vast majority of cases building managers and caretakers now know who we are, know we will listen, know that we will respond and will work with us to improve things.

This link between the contractor, the local authority and building managers has been essential and well worth the time spent building the relationships.

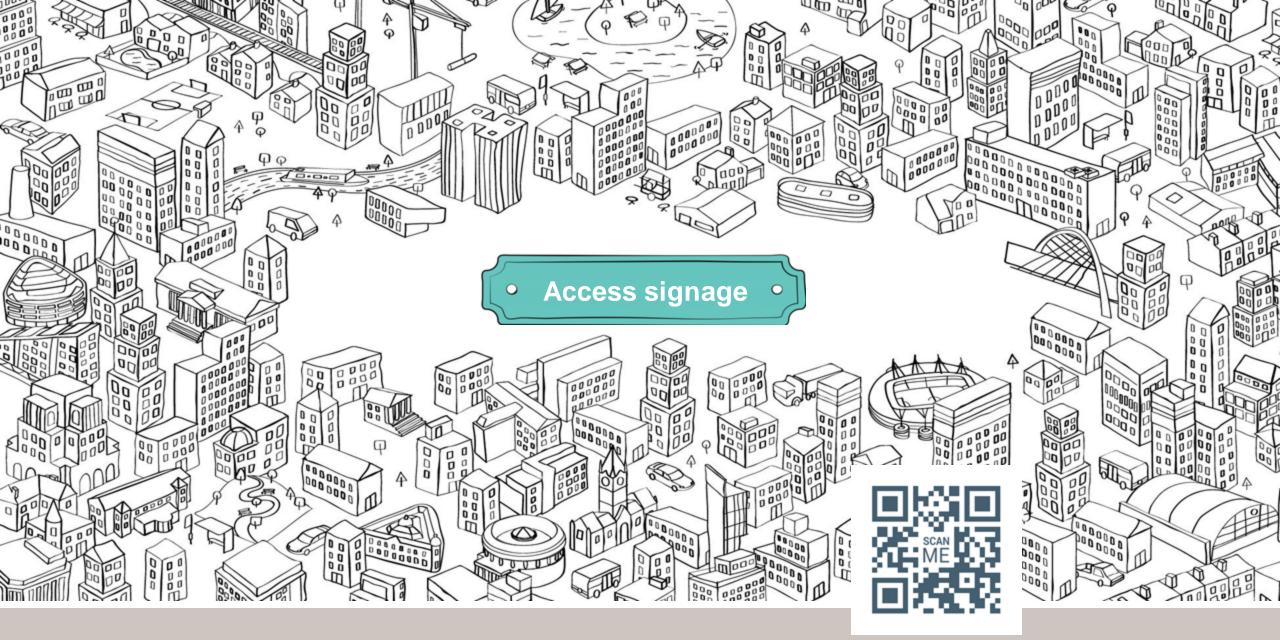
Ongoing Comms

Rubbish containers at sites where a change was made had an A4 'hazard' notification sticker attached advising that more recycling would need to be done and less rubbish would be collected.

In order to close the circle on this message and reinforce good recycling behaviours, we replaced this sticker with a new social norming message.







Questions Contact via recycling@manchester.gov.uk

goo.gl/Nc584b for slides and supporting documents



European Regional Development Fund





EUROPEAN UNION

Peterborough Flats Recycling Pilot

Maria Basilisco – Project Coordinator



Outline

- 1. Introduction and context
- 2. Selected measures and communications
- 3. Monitoring methods
- 4. Results (recycling analysis)
- 5. Lessons learnt and suggestions



Introduction

- Finding ways to make waste management and recycling easier for people living in flats
- Communal schemes see approximately 50% less recycling than equivalent kerbside collections (WRAP, 2018)
- Six sites selected within Peterborough
- 145 households
- ~350 residents











EUROPEAN UNION

Measures

Measure	Description	Challenge seeking to address	Hypothesis
1	The provision of an indoor recycling container	Low recycling rates within flats as a result of contamination	Reduce contamination and increase recycling rates
2	Assistance with the collection of hard-to-recyclables	Lack of awareness around how to dispose of hard-to- recycle items	Make residents feel more confident recycling hard-to-recycle items
3	Promotion of bulky waste collection services	Lack of awareness around how to dispose of bulky items	Prevent bulky waste contamination



Measure 1

The provision of an indoor **recycling container**

- Helps to sort waste and recycling before it is taken down to the bin stores
- Shows residents exactly what can/can't be recycled (recycling sticker provided with bins)
- Recycling bag makes taking recycling down easier for residents





THIS BAG IS MADE FROM 100% RECYCLED PLASTIC BOTTLES









Measure 2

Assistance with the collection of **hard-to-recyclables**

<mark>≥_≤ bat</mark>	cyclo terie nere	Batty Batty ge	Varning! Pries cause fires n thrown in the heral waste or acycling bins.
When your container is full, you can take your batteries to Superma	rket Electronics	Home improvement store	Household recycling centre
France (Channel) France (Channel) England	EUROPEAN UNION		BOROUGH





This leaflet is made from 100% recycled paper. Recycle me when you no longer need me, so that I can be remade again!









Measure 3

Promotion of **bulky waste** collection services













Communications













Communications





- Picture based
- Emphasis on keeping recycling clean, dry and loose















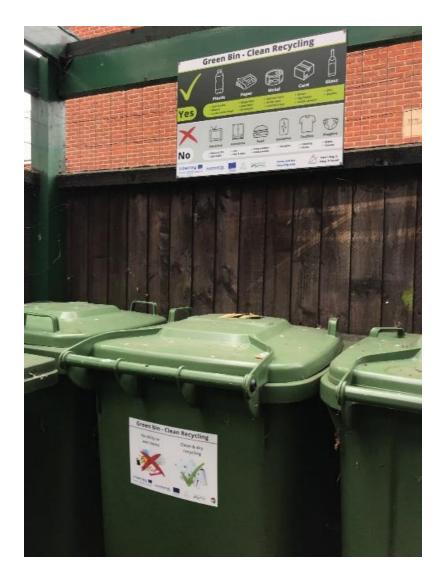














Monitoring

- Recycling analysis
- Resident survey

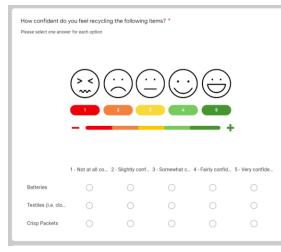


Resident Survey

Win an eco hamper worth £50 by filling out this short survey!

BLUEPRINT to a Circular Economy is an Interreg-funded project helping the transition to a Circular Economy.

In Peterborough, PECT has been delivering a pilot scheme to help residents who live in flats increase their recycling rates. The scheme aims to provide residents with the right tools and information to manage household waste and recycle easily. For more information please visit <u>projectblueprint.eu</u> or email us at <u>blueprint@pect.org.uk</u>





O Furniture (e.g. Sofa, mattress, tables, chairs)

O White Goods (e.g. Fridge, freezer, washing machine)

O Brown Goods (e.g. Computer, TV, radio, electricals)

I haven't had any bulky items to dispose of

Other...











Timeline



First recycling analysis. Launched communications and measures

Final recycling analysis. Distributed final survey Process data and begin overview report

AUG 2021	SEP 2021	JAN 2022	FEB 2022	MAR 2022	APR 2022
	FT-				
Distributed first survey		Distributed measure 2		Final surveys collected	
Interreg Image: Construction France (Channel Manche) England European Regional Development Fund	BLUEPRINT Store	**** * * * * EUROPEAN UNION	CREATING SUSTAINABLE PLACES	Resident Survey Win an eco hamper worth ESD by filling out this of BLLEPRINT to a Circular Economy is an interrep- Circular Economy. In Peterborough, PCCT has been delivering a plic increase their recycling rates. The scheme arms information to manage household waste and re- visit projectibueprint.ex or email us at blaeprint	funded project helping the transition to a t scheme to help residents who live in flats to provide residents with the right tools and cycle easily. For more information plasae

Recycling analysis

Data collected:

- Bin capacity (L)
- Fill level (0, 0.25, 0.5, 0.75, 1)
- Contamination and quantity
- Contaminant breakdown





Contaminants

Contaminant types:

- 1. Textiles and Clothing/Shoes
- 2. Dirty packaging
- 3. Sealed bags
- 4. Furniture and bulky household waste
- 5. Tissues
- 6. Crisp Packets
- 7. Masks
- 8. Polystyrene
- 9. Nappies
- 10. Food
- 11. Other

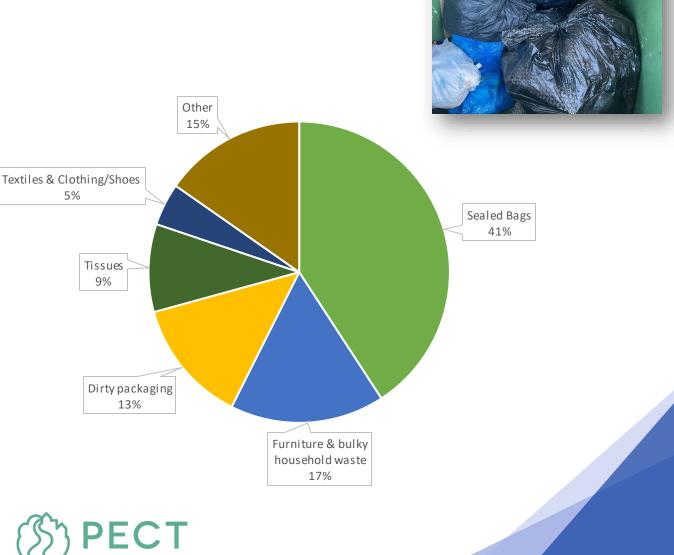




The Culprits

Top 5 contaminants across all sites:

- 1. Sealed bags
- 2. Furniture and bulky household waste
- 3. Dirty packaging
- 4. **Tissues/wipes**
- Textiles and clothing 5.







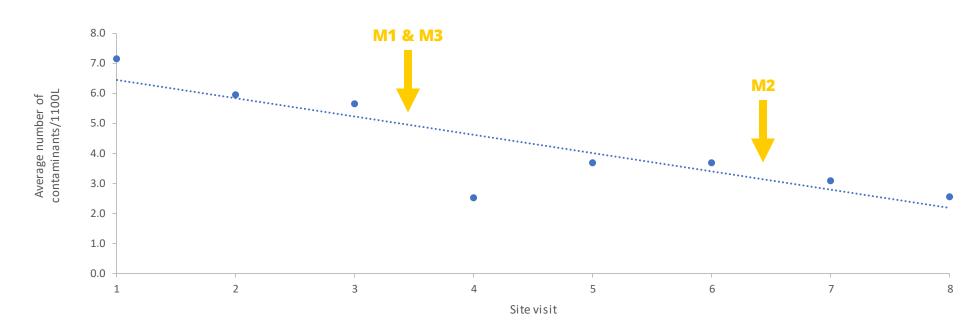






Results

Average number of contaminants across all sites/1100L



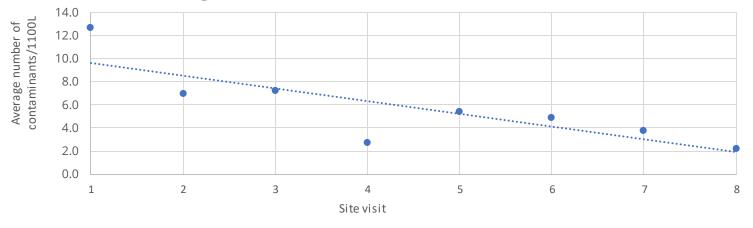


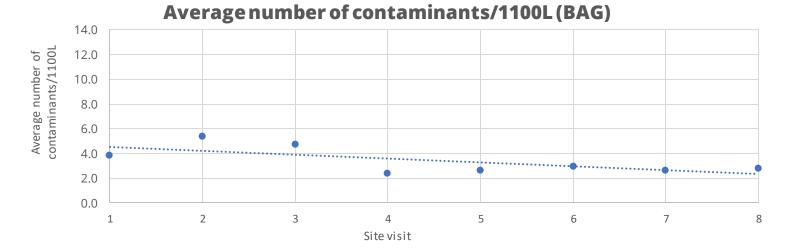


*1100L bin



Averagenumber of contaminants/1100L (BOX)







Additional evidence





- 1. A lot more loose recycling towards the final visits
- 2. Recycling bins looked more full
- 3. Resident feedback during visits











Lessons learnt

Suggestions

Closer relationship with flat directors is important



Management companies to **appoint resident flat directors** with key responsibilities around waste management (recycling champion)

New residents are less aware of recycling provisions



Built-in recycling signage within each flat (e.g., in kitchen cupboards).

New residents must receive recycling guidance/how-to video upon move in

Clear signage on all bins is essential



Bins to have **recycling logo** on them in clear view

Hard to recyclables still an issue despite measures



Separate bins/designated area for bulky waste and textiles to help residents with no car or that are unable to pay for collection services

Language barrier was a key challenge



All recycling **communications to be translated** where possible and more picture-based images











Thank you

https://www.pect.org.uk/

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projectblueprint.eu/roadshow



Thank you for attending! Please complete our quick feedback survey projectblueprint.eu/roadshow

blueprint.project@essex.gov.uk