

3 – PLASTIC AND GLASS CUTDOWN

00:00 – 00:04 Have you ever wondered what happens to all the plastic, glass, cans and cartons you recycle?

00:04 – 00:06 Where they're taken, and what they're turned into?

00:06 – 00:09 You have? Great! Let's go and find out.

00:09 – 00:15 All of your plastic, glass, cans and cartons go into your recycling wheelie bin or box.

00:15 – 00:21 They're collected every two weeks and taken to one of four locations, where they're bulked up, ready for the next stage of the journey.

00:22 – 00:31 Which is a trip to a Materials Recovery Facility - like the one operated by Veolia in Rainham - one of several recycling sorting facilities we use in the south of England.

00:32 – 00:36 Here, the plastics, glass, cans and cartons are sorted by machine and by hand.

00:37 – 00:41 Each of the separated materials are baled, then sold on to specialist re-processors.

00:42 – 00:47 Glass and metals are pretty easy materials to deal with - they can be melted down and turned into new products.

00:48 – 00:53 Plastics are trickier. There are over 50 different types – some better quality than others.

00:54 – 01:03 Lower quality plastics are sent to re-processors in the UK for recycling whenever possible – but sometimes we have to send them to recycling facilities in other parts of Europe.

01:04 – 01:12 Wherever they end up, our partner, Veolia works hard to make sure all the plastic is recycled and handled in the most environmentally friendly way possible.

01:13 – 01:22 Higher quality plastics, like milk bottles, are easier to deal with. Most of these are processed much closer to home; at Veolia's own specialist facility in Dagenham.

01:23 – 01:26 The plastic bottles are shredded, washed, then melted down into pellets.

01:27 – 01:32 These pellets are used to make anything from clothing, chairs and toys, to more plastic bottles.

01:33 – 01:38 So you see, we do some pretty amazing stuff with your plastics, glass, cans and cartons.

01:38 – 01:40 But without you, none of this could happen.

01:42 – 01:44 Thank you for helping us recycle more, and waste less.