

Recycling

Office Water Supplies is committed to minimise the impact of vending on the environment. Our water bottles and dispensers are used in a recyclable programme, our cups we supply are essentially 100% recyclable but this depends on the customers waste collection arrangements and whether there are any restrictions (please refer to existing waste collection providers for further details).

We receive regular updates from AVA (Automatic Vending Association) to new projects and schemes that have a positive impact. According to the recent newsletter municipal waste facilities are not currently able to separate cups efficiently from other materials. The recyclate has too low a value and volume to make it worthwhile developing technology for the separation so that the effective reprocessing of paper, polystyrene or polypropylene depends on the efficient collection of single material streams.

The situation with PLA cups is more extreme. Mixed plastic recyclate has a very low value and the mixing of PLA cups with cups made from other materials makes the recycled mixture virtually worthless.

Until very recently no large waste handling company was interested in collecting post-consumer cups. Companies are now offering a post back service or the collection of decontaminated cups ready for baling but very few offer collection of post-consumer cups from business premises.

In the open model, a waste handling company offers a service to vending clients to collect cups along with other recyclables. Each type of waste – cans, bottles, cups – is collected in a separate container which is then emptied regularly by the waste handling company.

Although the materials are collected separately the cups still need decontaminating before being baled. The bales are then stored until there is sufficient volume to dispatch to a specific reprocessor. This collection model is currently available in from Simply Cups. They also offer the option for vending clients to package their waste cups and send them in by post. A link to their website www.simplycups.co.uk