

FOI Ref  
7599

Response sent  
14 Aug 2020

**(CCC) Recycling to landfill/incineration during the Covid-19 pandemic.**

How much plastic film has been so far sent to incineration?

Has Cambridge City Council Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council informed residents that plastic film would be sent to landfill or incineration?

If not why had residents not been informed of this change in destination for recycling?

**Response:**

A response to this query has already been provided directly last week, so this is repeated below for information. Any further queries should be sent to [communications@scams.gov.uk](mailto:communications@scams.gov.uk)

A spokesperson for the Greater Cambridge Shared Waste Service said: "Less than 2% of residents' recycling is sent to energy from waste because it is too low quality for re-processors or there is no market for it. Currently this includes thin plastic film – however depending on demand it can be recycled and that's why we'll keep asking residents to put it in their recycling. The overwhelming majority of items residents put in their recycling bins get re-processed and re-used and we closely monitor this."

How much plastic film has been so far sent to incineration?

Out of the 2,376 tonnes of recycling presented by residents in June this year about 35 tonnes of low grade and contaminated plastic film had to be sent to energy recovery.

Has Cambridge City Council Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council informed residents that plastic film would be sent to landfill or incineration?

We continue to encourage residents to put clean cling film and other low-quality plastics into their recycling bins because this gives us the opportunity to send it for recycling when possible. There currently is not a strong market, but this can change, often at short notice. This is about giving products the best chance of being recycled rather than sending them direct to landfill. Last year we run an extensive campaign explaining to residents the importance of ensure that recycling is clean, and that items which are not clean enough may need to go to energy recovery.

Note: The Greater Cambridge Shared Waste Service is a partnership between South Cambridgeshire District and Cambridge City Councils. It collects domestic waste across the two areas.

Further queries on this matter should be directed to [foi@cambridge.gov.uk](mailto:foi@cambridge.gov.uk)