

# METALLISED PLASTIC

- Made from layers of plastic and thin metal fused together.
- Very difficult to separate, so not widely recycled.
- Usually disposed of in the green bin as residual waste and sent for energy recovery.



# GLASS

- Can be recycled forever without losing quality.
- High energy cost to melt initially, but recycling saves lots of energy.
- Has to be sorted into different colours to avoid contamination.
- Heavy to transport, but still very efficient to recycle.
- Used to make new glass bottles, jars, and construction materials.



# POLYSTYRENE

- Very light but takes up a lot of space, so it is expensive to collect and transport.
- Can technically be recycled, but very few facilities accept it.
- Often ends up being downcycled into insulation or packaging chips.
- Accepted in Nottingham City's grey-lidded bin.



# P.E.T. PLASTIC

- One of the most recyclable plastics.
- Easily remade into polyester clothing and carpets, or into park benches and playground equipment.
- Recycled plastic has to be mixed with new plastic to make a new bottle.
- Quality drops over time, so eventually gets downcycled.
- Lower energy cost to recycle than making new plastic from oil.



# ALUMINIUM

- Infinitely recyclable with no quality loss.
- Around 75% of all aluminium ever produced is still being used today.
- Using recycled aluminium saves up to 95% of the energy of making new aluminium.
- Can return to shelves as a new can in about 8 weeks.
- Very valuable to recycling facilities.



# STEEL

- Strong, magnetic metal that is easy to sort.
- Infinitely recyclable like aluminium but needs slightly more energy to recycle.
- Commonly made into new food cans, car parts, tools.
- Very widely recycled and economically valuable.



# PAPER & CARDBOARD

- Can only be recycled 5-6 times before fibres weaken.
- Lower energy cost to recycle it than creating new paper from trees.
- Contamination (food, grease, tissues) can make it unsuitable for recycling.
- Often downcycled into tissue products.



# SOFT PLASTIC

- Lightweight, flexible plastics.
- Now accepted in Nottingham City's grey-lidded recycling bin.
- Often contaminated with food waste.
- When incorrectly disposed of, it can get tangled in MRF machinery, causing expensive repairs.



# TETRAPAK CARTONS

- Made from layers of card, plastic, and thin aluminium.
- Needs expensive specialist recycling equipment to separate the layers that not all MRFs have.
- Not accepted in the grey-lidded bin in Nottingham City.
- Can be recycled at some public recycling points across the city.
- Often downcycled into building boards or paper products.

