

# DRY MIX RECYCLING (DMR)



## WHAT?

DMR is the clean (non-hazardous) waste that can be separated for reusing or recycling:

- Plastic – e.g. empty drinks bottles, rinsed out milk bottles, clean salad trays, rinsed out microwaveable meal trays & margarine tubs;
  - Paper recycling - e.g. dry paper waste, newspapers, office paper and magazines;
  - Cardboard (flat-packed) – e.g. corrugated cardboard, cereal boxes and card;
  - Metal cans – e.g. clean, empty drinks cans and food tins;
- No food or glass!

## WHY?

- Less waste sent for incineration or landfill
- Creates jobs
- Less litter and pollution
- Reduces the need for mining raw material

Another important reason is that the disposal cost per tonne of DMR is half the price of general waste. So that means spending less on waste disposal and more on improved health care services. Recycling is better for the environment than sending the waste to be incinerated or even worse, to landfill, but it still creates carbon emissions through the recycling process. The best way to reduce any environmental damage will always be to reduce the amount of products we consume and reuse what we already have.

## QUESTIONS

- Can it be reduced?
- Can it be used to generate energy sources?
- Can it be segregated better?
- Are the process methods of the waste sustainable?
- Can any 'hard to recycle' waste be sent to specialist services?

## DO



- Only recycle clean paper and cardboard. Paper with food on it should be placed in general waste bins.
- Separate materials correctly in bins clearly labelled to collect food waste, recyclables and non-recyclables.
- Rinse off the packaging before throwing away.

## DON'T



- Pour any liquid in a recycling bin as it contaminates and reduces the quality of the recycle.
- Mix food waste with recyclable materials.