

Adding missing dry materials to a collection

The responses to questions are a composite of session responses and paraphrase from the discussions and available guidance.

Question	Answer
Is there enough capacity in the UK to reprocess cartons?	Yes, there's currently excess capacity for cartons in the principle UK facility in Halifax plus surplus capacity in mainland Europe.
How does aluminium foil differ to other grades of aluminium?	Foil is a different grade of aluminium to that of aerosols and beverage cans based on concentration, purity and finish according to the objectives of the packaging. Because of these points each grade has a different market value.
Are there any practical considerations for collections of these materials? E.g. do I need more recycling container capacity?	No, a local authority shouldn't need to provide extra container capacity especially since the materials take up little volume. Modern Materials Recovery Facilities (MRFs) and sorting lines can extract these materials. For foils it is recommended to scrunch and to keep free from food contamination. For cartons, in general, it is better to keep in the plastics stream and separate to the fibre stream, but important to check with your MRF.
When should I start thinking about changing my MRF contract?	For Simpler Recycling it is important to engage with suppliers early to ensure there's sufficient time for facilities to make the necessary site upgrades. See the advice provided in the MRF procurement Change Network session.
Are gate fees different for adding in the missing materials compared to standard rates that don't have them included?	Yes, gate fees vary according to the range of materials requiring sorting at the MRF. The Wrap Gate Fees report covers the standard Industry pricing for mixed loads. UK Gate Fees Report 2024-25 WRAP - The Waste and Resources Action Programme
What are the general prices or gate fees we can expect to pay for these materials? What factors affect these values?	Prices charged as gate fees can be found in the Gate Fees report as mentioned above. Factors such as the contract length, quality of material, age of the facility, volume and range of materials and sales value of the resources post sorting all affect the price charged.
Is there any particular support you offer to local authorities to help with the collection or processing of these materials?	Both ACE UK and ALUPRO who both presented at the session can provide support to Councils.

What advice do you have to get the maximum participation and capture rates for these materials?	There are clear benefits from focussed communications and engagement approaches. The panellists felt that avoiding process losses in the system was key to increasing overall capture. This relates to accepting clean material at the kerbside, ensuring that the materials go into the stream they should and that the sorting infrastructure can sufficiently target the materials.
When should I start communicating with residents?	Starting wider engagement early through regional communication channels is recommended to signal that service changes are coming. The focussed literature (leaflets, updated bin stickers) is normally issued a few weeks in advance of the service change.
Any key tips for educating or training crews about these materials?	Crews are the key interface with householders and should be trained to answer standard questions or signpost for further information. This is important in addressing queries and dispelling myths. Training provided should include understanding the full lifecycle of the products and can be delivered through site visits or videos outlining the process.
What have you found best helps to ensure good quality inputs to a reprocessing facility?	For both materials the main influencer is the design of the collection process. This area has most influence over the quality of the materials that are finally transferred to the reprocessor.

Further questions were asked within the session and are available in the recording.

Key links for further information

Content	Link
Trade body representing carton manufacturers providing resources and information	Ace UK – The Alliance for Beverage Cartons and the Environment
Trade body representing the aluminium packaging industry providing resources and information	Alupro - The Aluminium Packaging Recycling Organisation
WRAP guidance on cartons collections	Collection of food and drink cartons at the kerbside WRAP - The Waste and Resources Action Programme
Additional links coming soon	

