

Bin the Bin – Frequently asked questions (FAQ's)

1. What is the purpose of “bin the bin”?

The University is committed to reducing our environmental impact and we have committed to reduce our carbon emissions by 40% by 2020. The waste we produce has a carbon impact as well as a financial one due to landfill tax. “Bin the bin” is intended to get staff to maximise the amount of waste they recycle and by removing individual office waste bins the aim is to encourage people to think about how much waste they produce and take simple steps to reduce that.

2. When the scheme is in place what will I need to do?

Your individual waste bin will be removed and you will have to separate and dispose of your waste at the nearest recycling point. Individuals may choose to have a small container on their desk so they don't have to visit a recycling point each time they produce some waste. However, it is up to them to empty that receptacle as required.

3. What can I recycle?

There are separate bins for plastic bottles, cans, glass (where possible) and general (non-recyclable) waste. This is in addition to the paper recycling boxes which should already be in every office. The University has arrangements in place to dispose of over 60 different waste streams in the most environmentally friendly manner. Visit [here](#) for more information. Waste that cannot be recycled should be deposited in the general waste bin. This includes paper drinks cups, plastic drinks cups and paper hand towels as none of these items can be recycled with our current arrangements.

4. Where will recycling points be located?

Before a “bin the bin” scheme is implemented, the University's Waste Co-ordinator will visit the building concerned and survey it to determine the location and number of recycling points required. Once installed, the location of recycling bins can be changed to ensure that they are in the most convenient location. Wherever possible, the sets of bins need to be kept together to help reduce contamination.

5. Where does the recycling go?

The University has well established collection arrangements to ensure recyclates are collected by various contractors for recycling. Each waste type is bulked up on the campus and collected on a regular basis, the best example being office paper – see [here](#). None of the recyclates we collect are disposed of unless cleaning staff find recycling bins have been heavily contaminated with the wrong waste types.

6. Who empties all of the recycling points?

Cleaning staff do all this and individual members of staff are not required to do anything apart from segregate their waste at their nearest recycling point. The general waste bins are emptied daily. Recycling bins are emptied as required to save on plastic bags/cleaners time.

7. What do the recycling bins look like?

We use several different bins depending on the space available and to address fire safety concerns, but in most cases we use the type of bins shown below- the ones on the left are plastic, the ones on the right are metal;



8. Is “bin the bin” unique to The University of Manchester?

No. Lots of other Universities have similar schemes and some had schemes across their entire campuses some time ago. Many large companies/organisations also have these schemes as well as public bodies such as the Environment Agency.

9. How do I implement a “bin the bin” scheme?

In the first instance please contact the University Waste co-ordinator, Simon Atkinson on x65963 or at simon.atkinson@manchester.ac.uk to discuss how to get a scheme implemented and all arrangements are managed by the Waste co-ordinator.

10. Who pays for the recycling bins?

At the current time, the University will fund the bins that are installed as part of “bin the bin” schemes. However, this is subject to availability of funds in any financial year.

11. Is there anything I can do to recycle/compost food waste?

The University has been collecting food waste from catered Halls of Residence for some time now and in the first year alone (2016/17) sent 173 tonnes of food waste for anaerobic digestion rather than disposing of it. You can find more information on the process by visiting the [ReFood](#) web pages.

We now have food waste bins for staff/students to use in the following locations on campus:

- *Eats restaurant in University Place*
- *Students Union*
- *Small World cafe, International Society William Kay House*

There is a more detailed version of this FAQ document at <http://www.sustainability.manchester.ac.uk/campus/recycling/binthebin>