

Compostable Carrier Bags – Update

BBIA Member Meeting

Tony Breton

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General Scenario

- Biodegradable products need confidence throughout supply chain to develop
 - Product performance
 - Consumer confidence
 - Familiarity
 - Waste sector acceptance
 - Political understanding of the bioeconomy
- Technology keeps developing higher performance but main applications (volume) still waste bags and tableware
- Are carrier bags the system disruptor to enable a wider bioeconomy?

UK – WRAP Carrier Bag Numbers

No of bags (millions)	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	% change 2010 to 2014
England	6,287	6,760	7,061	7,402	7,635	21.4%
Wales	351	273	62	73	77	-78.2%
Scotland	752	753	761	803	656	-12.8%
Northern Ireland	173	188	193	57	33	-81.2%
UK*	7,568	7,977	8,079	8,335	8,529	12.7%

England – use of carrier bags

Table 1: Bag use in England in baseline (millions of bags)

Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	TOTAL
Supermarket SUPB in England	7,492	7,642	7,795	7,951	8,110	8,272	8,437	8,606	8,778	8,954	82,037
High street SUPB in England	2,472	2,472	2,472	2,472	2,472	2,472	2,472	2,472	2,472	2,472	24,719
SME SUPB in England	3,455	3,455	3,455	3,455	3,455	3,455	3,455	3,455	3,455	3,455	34,550
TOTAL SUPB England	13,419	13,569	13,722	13,878	14,037	14,199	14,364	14,533	14,705	14,881	141,306
PE BFL supermarket England	321	321	321	321	321	321	321	321	321	321	3,208
Other BFL supermarket England	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	182
PE BFL High street England	138	138	138	138	138	138	138	138	138	138	1,376
Other BFL High street England	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	78
SME PE BFL	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	353
Paper bags on high street	291	291	291	291	291	291	291	291	291	291	2,908
SME paper bags	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	353
Bin liners sold in England	795	795	795	795	795	795	795	795	795	795	7,954

England – future use of carrier bags

Table 20 – bag use in option 2 (millions of bags)

Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	TOTAL
Supermarket SUPB in England	5,876	1,469	1,498	1,528	1,559	1,590	1,622	1,654	1,687	1,721	20,206
High street SUPB in England	2,039	742	742	742	742	742	742	742	742	742	8,714
SME SUPB in England	3,455	3,455	3,455	3,455	3,455	3,455	3,455	3,455	3,455	3,455	34,550
TOTAL SUPB England	11,371	5,666	5,695	5,725	5,756	5,787	5,819	5,851	5,884	5,918	63,470
PE BFL supermarket England	434	773	642	642	642	642	642	642	642	642	6,340
Other BFL supermarket England	27	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	195
PE BFL High street England	172	275	234	234	234	234	234	234	234	234	2,318
Other BFL High street England	12	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	86
SME PE BFL	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	353
Paper bags on high street	298	320	320	320	320	320	320	320	320	320	3,177
SME paper bags	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	353
Bin liners sold in England	830	933	933	933	933	933	933	933	933	933	9,228

Compostable Carrier Bags

Iain Ferguson

22/09/15

The **co-operative** food

Here for you for life

Principal Function

Principal doesn't mean first, just most important.

The principal function of these bags is to provide a low cost food waste caddy liner. This is NOT an afterthought to give us a disposal route.

Counterintuitively, the less important function is to carry shopping home.

A third function does exist - to attract customers to Co-operative stores!

Caddy Liner Problems

1. Flimsy, tend to leak.
2. Flat top – not easy to tie or carry.
3. Cost to collection authority, but benefit to disposal authority.
4. Bought by local authorities to a price, but no technical testing.
5. Available on a roll, but cost per liner and price point per roll are high.

Result is to deter engagement by collection authorities and by residents.

Single-use Carrier Bag Problems

1. Give-away means customers don't value them.
2. Give-away means there is no real incentive other than individual responsibility to go for re-use.
3. Only limited scope for collection for recycling.

Result is that too many are given away, too few are recycled, and too many are littered.

Double-use Carrier Bag and Caddy Liner

Addresses all of the problems with food waste caddy liners.

Addresses all of the problems with single-use carrier bags.

Increases resident engagement in food waste collections.

Reduces contamination with PE in food waste collections.

Other Issues

Out of 386 councils that we have looked at, 219 have food waste collection.

137 accept any seedling bags.

51 provide bags.

11 have paper only.

4 say no liners at all.

7 say any plastic bag.

8 are unclear about liners.

Other Issues – IVC and AD

We would target stores in the areas in England and Scotland where any seedling is accepted.

We currently sell compostable carrier bags in 645 stores in 107 local authorities – it's not just about Oldham.

This is no different to selling compostable liners on a roll. It's up to the local authority to determine which bags they will accept.

Other Issues - Recycling

The BPF Recycling Working Group have confirmed that, because of our rules and our labelling, it is highly unlikely that compostable carriers will enter the PE recycling stream.

They have further confirmed that if the odd bag were to enter the PE stream, it would char and filter out and would therefore not cause any problem other than the normal routine filter change caused by other contaminants.

Outcomes

Since we started, we have had:

Zero complaints from customers.

Zero complaints from local authorities.

Zero complaints from composters.

A Green Apple Award.

An AFOR award.

Encouragement and requests from several local authorities.

Acceptance by Resource Efficient Scotland on behalf of the Scottish Government of the environmental benefit from selling these bags.

Support from Plastics Europe.

Oldham – Green Carrier Bag Scheme

wrap



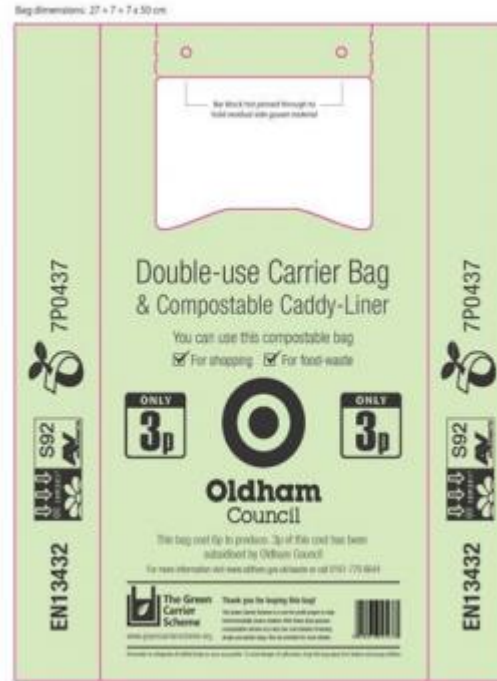
Oldham Council innovates with dual-use compostable carrier bags



Oldham – Green Carrier Bag Scheme

Key Facts

- Prior to the intervention, 19% of participating households in the target area (12,463 households) used compostable liners for food waste recycling.
- Dual-use compostable carrier bags sold for 3p each at the till in 43 local retailers.
- Following an intensive communications campaign, 96% of participating households now use compostable liners.
- Avoided disposal costs to the council (projected for 2014/15) are estimated to be £282,029.



UK Carrier Bag Rules

- Wales
 - 5p Minimum Charge on All Single Use Carrier Bags (<50 micron)
 - Covers all retailers (reporting by those >10 employees)
 - Proceeds to be donated to good causes (env)
- NI
 - 5p Levy on All Single Use Carrier Bags
 - From 19/01/15 charge extended to all bags <20p
 - 5p (or 4.17p + the VAT) goes to DOE
- Scotland
 - 5p Minimum Charge on All Single Use Carrier Bags (<50 microns)
 - Covers all retailers
 - Proceeds to be donated to good causes (env)
 - ZWS manages voluntary code

England..

- England
 - Single Use Carrier Bag Order 2015 published
 - Minimum Charge Single Use Bags of 5p
 - Applies only to businesses with >250 FTE
 - Covers only plastic bags
 - All bags <50 microns
 - Returnable bag for reuse defined as >50 < 70 microns
 - Reasonable “new” costs to be discounted from reported profits
 - Profits to be donated to “good causes”
 - Exemption for Biodegradable?
 - Defra required to publish review of Standards for biodegradability by 5 Oct 15
 - Defra Super Biodegradable Bag will:
 - Biodegrade in Industrial Composting
 - Biodegrade in Home Composting
 - Biodegrade in Soil
 - Biodegrade in Fresh / Salt Water
 - Compatible with current mechanical recycling systems
 - Lower environmental profile than PE

BbIA engagement & activities

- Joined Defra's Stakeholder Advisory Group at first opportunity
- Provided inputs at request of Defra
- Sought clarity on different aspects including:
 - Super bio
 - New reasonable costs
 - Good cause

BBIA engagement & activities



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18th August 2015

Dear David,

Thank you for your letter dated 13th August. I am happy to clarify the Government's intentions with regards to the 5p carrier bag charging scheme commencing on 5th October.

BBIA engagement & activities

- BBIA developing Guidance & FAQ for members to share with whole supply chain
- Engaging with key stakeholders
 - e.g. BRC, LARAC, BPF, WRAP, ZWS
- Will continue to work with Defra / Government

In the meantime, in Europe

- Carrier Bag Directive 2015
 - Requires MS to act to reduce carrier bag consumption
 - Restrictions, minimum charges on bags <50 microns
 - Requirement for labelling biodegradable and compostables (home compostable)
 - CEN to be asked for a home compostability standard
 - Study into Oxos
- UK pushed for oxos

Thank You!
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