



UNIVERSITY
OF HULL



EVOLVING
A CIRCULAR
PLASTICS
ECONOMY

Case Study

Scarborough Borough Council

Finding new solutions to existing problems: Kerbside Recycling in Scarborough.

Scarborough Borough Council is committed to eliminating the use of single use plastics in the borough. To support them in this aim, this collaborative project sought to foster a greater understanding of consumer behaviours to develop a solution for the single use plastic sacks currently used.

Scarborough has a distinct infrastructure and architectural identity, with many multi-storey dwellings that present challenges for recycling, such as a lack of wheel bin and storage space. To examine and tackle these challenges, we engaged with households through the use of a survey and worked in partnership with the waste collection teams who operate in the project area, whose insight proved invaluable in the development of potential solutions.

The project team developed several different potential waste receptacle options, which were reviewed by the waste crews. The crews were fully engaged in the process, through which they highlighted practical challenges that had not been previously been considered and supported the team in developing plans for the roll out of a trial with households.

One of the key outcomes of this project was the submission of a report, with a recommendation to roll out a trial with woven sacks. The recommendations made were based on a five-year period and took account of the volume of household waste that would need to be managed. The next phase of this project would see the recommended solutions trialled with selected households, with a view to refinement and eventual roll out.

Highlights:

Life cycle analysis on each of the proposed potential solutions

Cost/benefit analysis of each of the proposed potential solutions

6-month project engaging with partners and stakeholders

Background research on the activities of local authorities throughout the UK

Final report featuring the recommendation to use woven polypropylene sacks



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There was an enthusiasm and appetite across the board to find the right answer.

Claire Lea, Researcher

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Something that is particular to coastal towns such as Scarborough is the gulls; any solution proposed need to be gull proof. This was another key consideration.

Not all plastics are bad. Sometimes they are the best for the job. We just need to be responsible and have the right labelling and infrastructures in place.

Claire Lea, Researcher

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