

## Overview

On the 8<sup>th</sup> March 2017, a representative from BPR Group audited general waste and mixed recycling sacks from the dual bins at Calcutta House. Presented here are the findings and suggestions resulting from the audit.



# General Waste Audit



### General waste

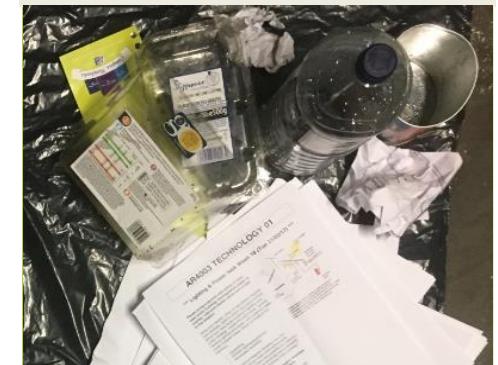
**83%** of the material found in the waste stream was general waste. This mainly consisted of coffee cups, snack wrappers, food and contaminated take away containers.



Waste is taken to an incineration facility and the energy generated is used to power local homes

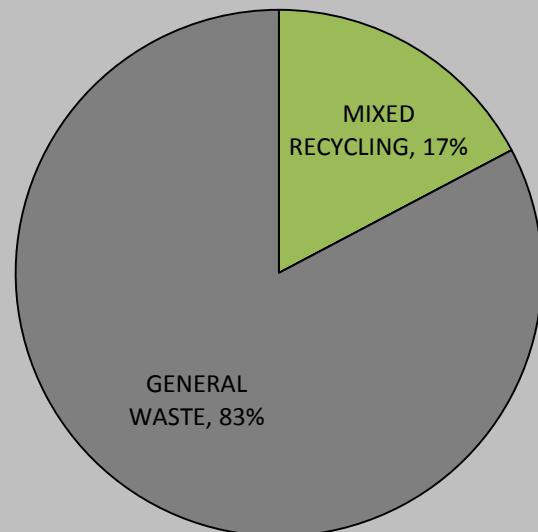
### Mixed Recycling

**17%** of the material found in the waste stream was mixed recycling. These items were mainly clean white paper, plastic bottles and plastic packaging.



25 plastic bottles can be used to make one fleece jacket

### General Waste



## Findings

### Part Two: Recommendations

#### Recommendations

##### General waste

The actual general waste found was mostly made of non-recyclable packaging and coffee cups.

The presence of liquids in some of the containers contributes to the weight of general waste and negatively impacts your recycling rate.

##### Mixed Recycling

There was a small amount of clean recyclables in the general waste, mainly plastic containers, which could have been recycled via your current recycling scheme. Paper should clearly not be placed in the general waste stream.

##### Summary

We recommend focusing on student engagement further as well as ensuring all signage is effective so everybody can clearly see what goes in each bin. As most of the bins are dual bins, it is more the issue of education rather than the placement of bins. From this audit, it is clear to see focus may need to be redirected towards the contamination of the mixed recycling stream, rather than trying to get more recycling out of the general waste.

## Mixed Recycling Audit



34% Mixed Recycling



66% General Waste

Two thirds of the contents found in the samples were materials that would be subsequently rejected from the mixed recycling stream predominately contaminated packaging, coffee cups and snack wrappers.

Coffee cups cannot be effectively recycled mostly due to the fact they have a polyethylene layer embedded in the paper cup that prevents the paper from being recovered.

Food and dirty packaging in the mixed recycling stream runs the risk of contaminating clean paper deeming it unrecyclable.

### Mixed Recycling

