

# **Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs**

## **Summary and Response to Consultation on 'Recycle on the Go'- 13 August- 2 November 2007**

**March 2008**

### **1 Consultation Summary**

#### **1.1 Introduction**

On 13 August 2007, Defra, in association with ENCAMS and Recycle Now, published a 12-week consultation on recycle-bins in public places called 'Recycle on the Go'.

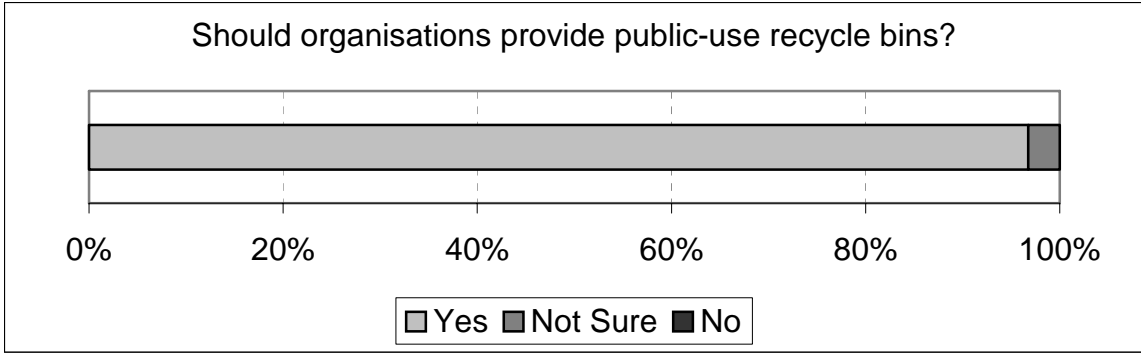
The consultation, which closed on 2 November 2007, did not propose any amendments to legislation and sought to encourage the voluntary take up of public-place recycle schemes. Comments were invited on proposals for a Voluntary Code of Practice and a Good Practice Guide for organisations looking to provide public-use recycle bins.

#### **1.2 Responses**

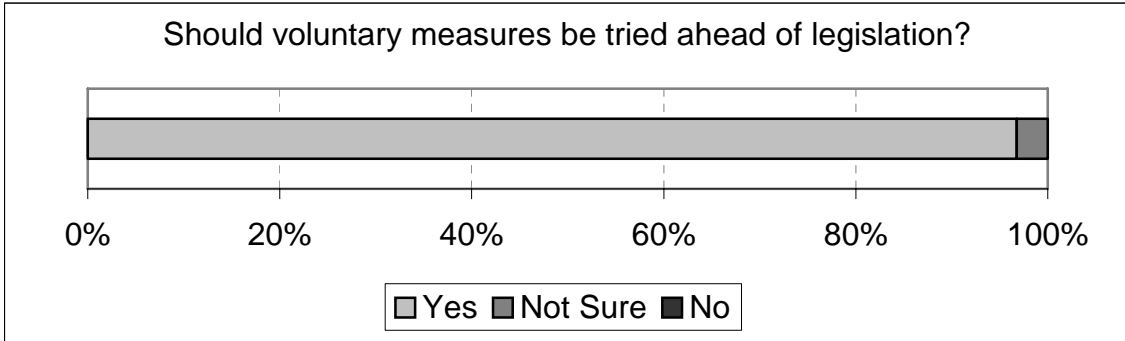
The consultation was aimed at land, venue, attraction and public-place managers that have a responsibility for litter and / or would like to offer recycling facilities in public places.

The consultation paper suggested more can be done to recycle outside the home and workplace and to contribute visibly to sustainable management of waste, litter and publicly accessible places.

Consultees look favourably on public-place recycling and the provision of appropriate containers to collect recyclable waste.

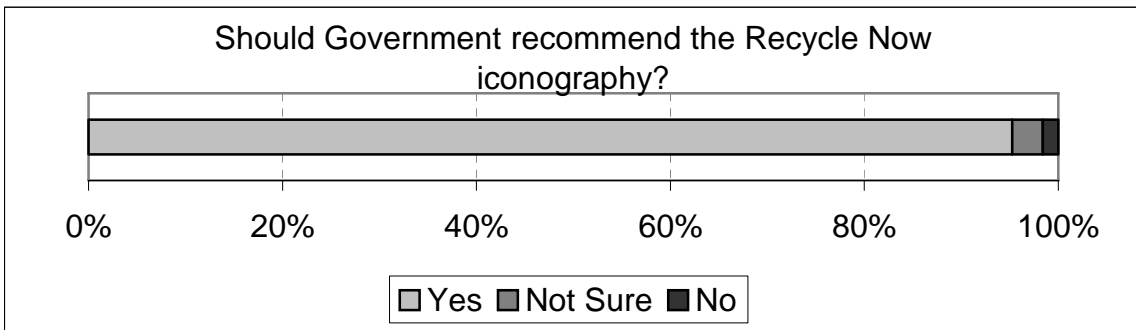


The consultation asked interested parties whether public-place recycling should be brought about through legislation to make the provision of recycle bins mandatory, or whether organisations should be afforded the opportunity to overcome present market failures on a voluntary basis.



Encouragement of voluntary initiatives is preferred ahead of considering introducing legislation, although a few consultees suggested that legislation or more stringent targets should be considered if change is not forthcoming.

The majority of respondents support the proposal in the consultation paper that the Recycle Now iconography should be used for public-place recycling schemes.

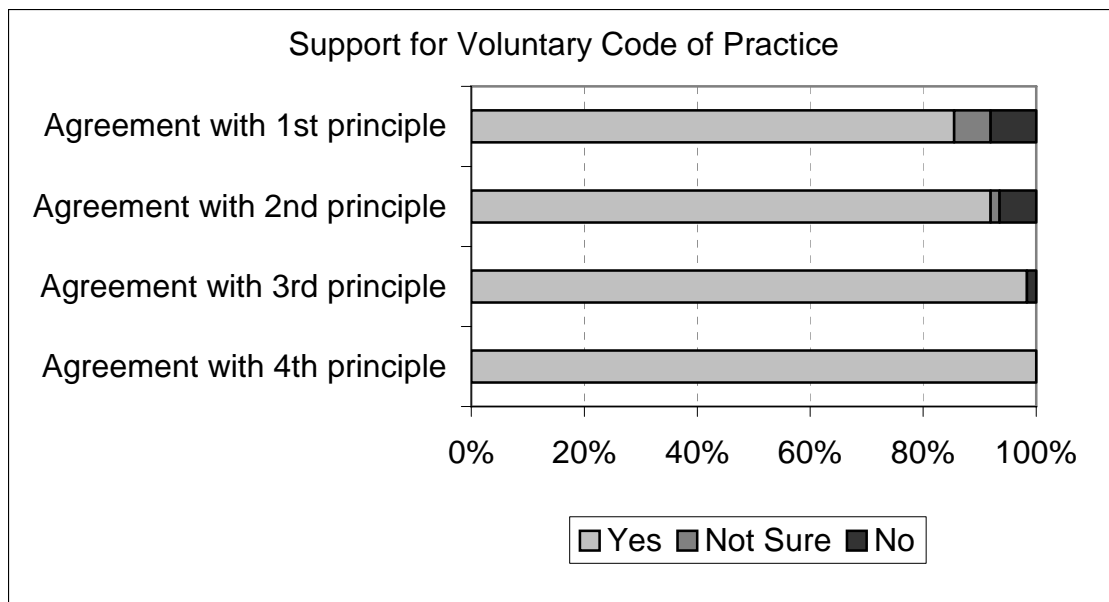


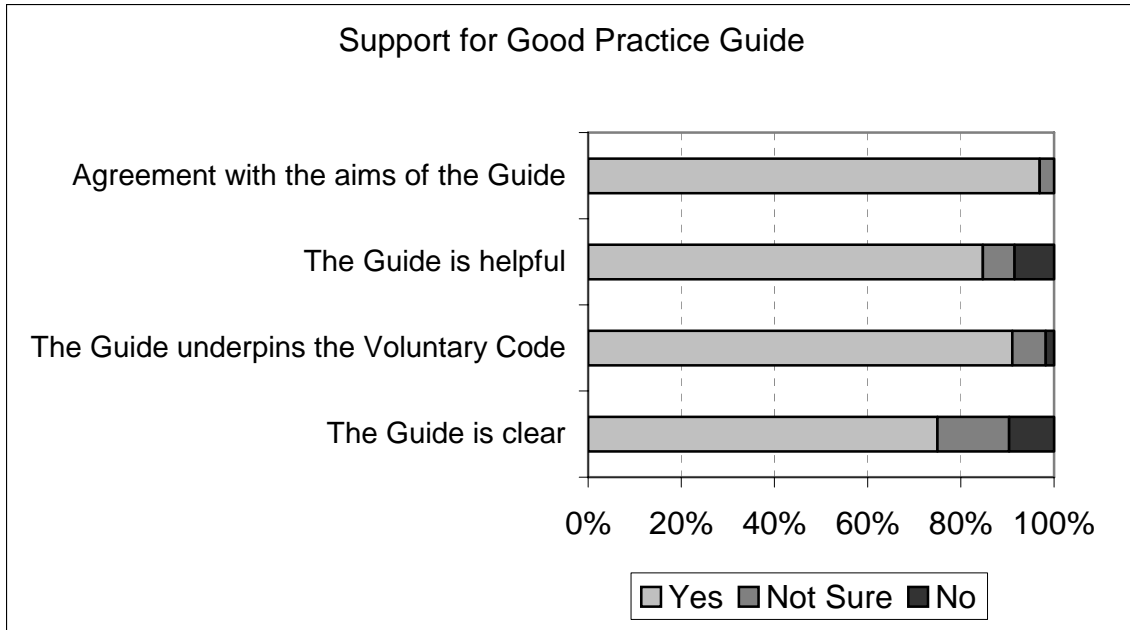
Guidance would be welcome on making good use of the iconography.

The Impact Assessment and cost benefit analysis included in the consultation paper present the basic case for public-place recycling. Consultees indicated that there are numerous possible combinations of costs and benefits dependent on local circumstances, not all of which can be monetarised in a meaningful manner. Whilst two thirds of consultees would welcome guidance on costs and benefits, a fully developed 'toolkit' might be of limited practical use. Whilst the economic cost of 'not recycling' is not yet a strong driver on its own, it will become increasingly important as the cost of landfill does increase as does the amount and cost of pre-treatment of all waste prior to disposal.

The consultation paper included a draft Voluntary Code of Practice for providers of public-place recycling facilities and a Good Practice Guide. Support was strong for the principles of the code of practice, which are:

1. Provide recycling alongside the correct disposal of non-recyclable waste;
2. Adopt standard signage on all recycling receptacles;
3. Maintain and upkeep the infrastructure; and
4. Re-use, recycle and/or compost the materials collected.





Support was good for the Good Practice Guide, and consultees identified some areas where slightly more information could be included whilst avoiding being overly prescriptive in order to assist in making the Guide as clear as possible.

## 2 Government Response

The objective of the consultation was to continue to garner views, and an indication of likely support, from organisations about public-place recycling as well as to consult on proposed guidance.

The consultation responses have provided a useful narrative that supports the notion of light touch intervention from Government to encourage organisations to put in place public-use recycle bins, and that the intervention should be in the form of a Voluntary Code of Practice, a Good Practice Guide and support for the Recycle Now iconography.

Defra will consider the feedback on the proposed Good Practice Guide and incorporate key points on the areas that consultees have explained they would find helpful, however significant changes are not deemed necessary.

The business case has been made through the Impact Assessment in the consultation and there appears to be relatively little merit in attempting to hone further the cost benefit analysis, partly due to the number of variables. Defra will consider how to include organisations' consideration of the business case in the Good Practice Guide.

It would appear that a website would be useful, preferably as part of the existing Recycle Now website, and Defra will take forward proposals. As a minimum the website should contain the final versions of the Voluntary Code of Practice, the Good Practice Guide and information and direct access to the Recycle Now iconography.

More detailed analysis, and a list of consultees can be found in the accompanying 'Analysis of Consultation on 'Recycle on the Go.'