



Viridor Position on Recycling Collections and Recyclate Quality.

This position statement is designed to provide our clients and partners with an update on recent regulatory amendments transposing the requirements of the European Waste Framework Directive, and on recent guidance regarding recycling collections, 'TEEP' and materials recycling quality testing.

As one of the UK's leading providers of recycling, renewable energy and waste management services, Viridor works with a large number of local authorities and businesses to effectively and responsibly manage society's resources and wastes. Viridor is committed to a relentless pursuit of quality in recycling. We continue to receive, process and market recyclate materials from many types and variations of collection system across the UK.

Viridor provides services for both pre-segregated and commingled collections, and our approach to producing quality recyclates remains second to none. Our MRF sorting operations have in place extensive quality control systems which guarantee high quality outputs, and which fully comply with the 'MRF Code of Practice' (The Environmental Permitting (England & Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2014). We sell recycled commodities that meet the challenging demands and materials specifications of an established network of client reprocessors in the UK and globally.

Viridor welcomes the clarity provided by the recent regulatory amendments – both those referred to above, and the Waste (England & Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2012 concerning collection system requirements. Supporting guidance on the latter is provided by WRAP in England and by Welsh Government. The outcome clearly allows for the continued delivery of essential recycling collections for households and businesses in a pragmatic manner through the assessment and application of technical, environmental and economic practicability ('TEEP') principles. The choice of collection systems remains as it should with local authorities and businesses to best suit their needs.

It remains clear that commingled collections of some materials for recycling remain a valid and fully legal option for local authorities and businesses, based on being able to demonstrate that they will achieve high quality recyclates, and where it can be shown that they offer clear technical, environmental, economic and practicable advantage over separate collections.

It is essential to continue the drive towards higher levels of UK recycling using convenient, flexible and cost-effective collection systems for customers, which also encourage high levels of participation. There should of course be a continued focus on the production of high quality recycled commodities to meet demanding market specifications from reprocessors in the UK and beyond, and both commingled and separate collection systems are capable of achieving this.

In order to ensure that collections of household waste are not only efficient to operate, but designed to capture greater quantities and types of materials for recycling, many local authorities are implementing commingled collection systems for mainly paper, plastic, card, ferrous metals, aluminium and glass. Providing that the appropriate necessity and practicability testing is conducted, and that the evidence of these assessments is recorded,



then local authorities remain free to choose appropriate collection and recycling systems to suit their local needs.

Viridor will continue to work alongside its clients to ensure that the relentless pursuit of quality in recycling is maintained, helping the UK to recycle more and to continue to divert materials and unwanted goods away from landfill.

Additional Information:

Viridor operates 26 Material Recycling Facilities (MRFs) to produce high quality recovered materials that can be remanufactured by production industries. Viridor's Crayford MRF is currently one of the largest and most advanced in Europe handling around 350,000 tonnes of mixed recyclables per year. Additional state-of-the-art facilities produce a total of 1.8 million tonnes of dry recyclates that are traded every year.

Maintaining the highest product quality to meet demanding end-user specifications and export requirements is essential. This is directly related to input quality and therefore to collection systems and effective complementary service communications. All feedstock that enters the MRF must be in a form (dry, loose, un-compacted materials) that can be adequately sorted through the process equipment. Viridor manages the inputs through pre-defined input specifications and a rigorous sampling and analysis routine of the incoming recyclate as it is delivered. Additional sampling during the transit of materials through the MRF further ensures that a high quality output is achieved.

This sampling regime identifies trends and improvements or decreases in individual material stream quality. Feedback to relevant parties is key to continued improvement of recyclate quality, MRF performance and output quality. Viridor therefore places strong emphasis on clear information and education with its local authority and business customers.

Demonstrable quality assessment and control on MRF inputs and outputs allow Viridor to supply high quality products to meet the demands and specifications of manufacturers and reprocessors who wish to use the recyclate. The company has supported the development of the 'MRF Code of Practice' which will further help to demonstrate that modern well-managed MRFs produce high quality products.

It should also be noted that most pre-segregated or 'kerbside-sorted' materials also go through additional sorting or processing prior to being utilised by reprocessors or manufacturers. This is required to ensure quality of product. Viridor will also maintain the same level of quality controls on all materials it handles from these collection methods, as it would for commingled materials.

Viridor has its own well-established specialist marketing, sales and logistics company (Viridor Resource Management Ltd) for the development, implementation and management of a long-term UK, European and international marketing and sales strategy for all processed recyclables generated from Viridor and its client facilities throughout the UK. Viridor is therefore well placed to continue supplying high quality materials and also to maintain and improve its recycling capacity and MRF facilities in relation to market drivers.

For further information please contact communications@viridor.co.uk