



Brighton & Hove City Council

COUNCILLOR PAUL STEEDMAN

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King's House
Grand Avenue
Hove BN3 2LS

Alan McCarthy
Chief Executive
Brighton & Hove City Council
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2007 10 28

28 October 2007

Dear Alan

Tetra Pak recycling facilities – request for report to Environment Committee

Under the Brighton and Hove City Council Procedural Rule 19.3 I would be grateful if you could place this letter on the agenda of the Environment Committee taking place on 8 November 2007.

The need to divert as much waste from landfill, and to recycle and compost as much as possible instead, is increasingly imperative. With landfill sites closing, landfill taxes continuing to rise and the prospect of large fines for councils failing to meet targets for cutting waste to landfill, the need to find solutions which take us towards a goal of zero waste – without using incineration – is clear, not only from a sound environmental point of view, but also to avoid ever increasing charges for council taxpayers.

Recycling is popular with residents across the city and, alongside reducing waste at source, reusing materials and composting, forms a key part of a zero waste strategy. Yet one of the most common complaints about the Council's current recycling arrangements is that the range of materials accepted is too limited. Many people are baffled by why they cannot recycle a wider range of their everyday waste, including plastic packaging (other than bottles), metals (other than cans) and 'Tetra Pak' composite cartons.

Although these other materials may form a relatively small part of the total municipal waste stream, by weight or volume, we must take every opportunity available to cut our waste to landfill in a sustainable manner; and we must maintain residents' interest in and commitment to recycling by providing the opportunities to recycle other materials that residents so clearly want.

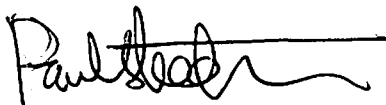
Tetra Pak and the carton industry trade association ACE UK (Alliance for Beverage Cartons and the Environment UK) are offering opportunities for local authorities to take part in a "fully paid-for carton bring bank solution", whereby bring banks for recycling Tetra Paks are supplied and emptied at no cost to the Council. They also

have support available for local authorities seeking to include Tetra Paks in their kerbside collection arrangements. More details of these schemes are available at <http://www.tetrapakrecycling.co.uk/authorities.asp>

At present the schemes only guarantee processing of the cartons within the EU, although the organisers do plan to ensure that this is in the UK in the medium term. As such, there may be some sustainability trade-offs in terms of carbon emissions from transport, etc. Nonetheless, the importance of enrolling residents in the idea of recycling *may* make such trade-offs acceptable in the short term.

I would therefore be grateful if the Environment Committee could receive a report on the possibilities available for Tetra Pak recycling under the schemes indicated above, including an assessment of the sustainability of these options.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Steedman', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Cllr Paul Steedman
Queen's Park ward (Green)

cc: Lisa Johnson, Committee Administrator, Environment Committee