It’s fantastic to recycle your plastic!

Have you ever wondered what happens to your empty plastic bottles when you recycle them?

1. They are collected along with your other recyclables and taken to a Materials Recovery Facility (MRF), where all the cans, plastic bottles, paper, tins and card are separated out.

2. The bottles are squashed and baled before being sent to the reprocessors in the Midlands.

3. The bottles are chopped or mechanically ground into small pieces and fed into a melting vessel. As the molten plastic cools, it forms small beads.

4. Depending on the kind of plastic, the beads are melted down again and made into a variety of products such as packaging, car parts, plant pots, toys, electrical fittings, park benches, or simply new plastic bottles.

5. Beads made from fizzy pop bottles can be spun to create a fine thread or fibre which is used to make fleeces, t-shirts, carpets or quilt filling.

Last year in Hampshire, we recycled over 37 million plastic bottles, enough to produce over 7 million new t-shirts – that’s five t-shirts for every Hampshire resident!

However, that’s only half the bottles we use in Hampshire so please remember to recycle all yours. You can recycle all your empty bottles such as; washing up liquid, squash, milk, fizzy drink, mineral water, shampoo and cleaning product bottles but please remember not to include the lids!

Unfortunately there are currently very limited options in the UK to recycle other types of plastic such as yoghurt pots, margarine tubs, trays and plastic films so please don’t put these in your recycling bin or sack.

For more information visit www.recycleforhampshire.org.uk

It takes 5 plastic bottles to make one extra-large t-shirt!