

Cllr David Monk
Leader of the Council
Folkestone and Hythe District Council



By email: david.monk@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk

18/12/19

Dear Cllr Monk,

As you will be aware, the Co-op operates as a business over several different sectors including as a leading convenience food retailer. We believe action on plastics and packaging is as much of a concern for our members and customers as it is for us. We firmly believe in the power of working together to develop solutions, inspire change and bring together the industry and shoppers.

I'm writing today to thank you for being one of the 178 Local Authorities who accept our compostable carrier bags in your food waste collection service. We've now been able to replace single use plastic bags with compostable carrier bags in over 1,100 stores. As well as saving 311 tonnes of single use plastic annually, the more important impact is that it is helping divert methane producing food waste from landfill. We know this because the biggest barriers to engaging in food waste collection for residents are cleanliness and convenience, both of which our bags are helping to address.

We're now in the process of engaging Local Authorities to encourage them to introduce food waste collection where this service is not yet provided, and to accept our compostable carrier bags where they are currently rejected. I would welcome any opportunity that you have to share with your counterparts in such Local Authorities how you have been working with us. As noted, accepting our compostable carrier bags to give your residents a more environmentally friendly option when on-the-go that reduces the use of single use plastic, and encourages them to use their kerbside food waste collection service, thus diverting the amount of food waste ending up in landfill. It's a great story to be able to share about how we can all start to take steps to tackle the climate emergency that we're facing.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Iain Ferguson', on a light-colored background.

Iain Ferguson
Environment Manager

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