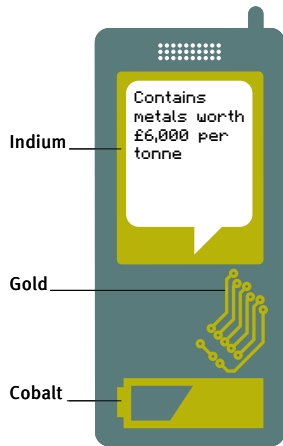
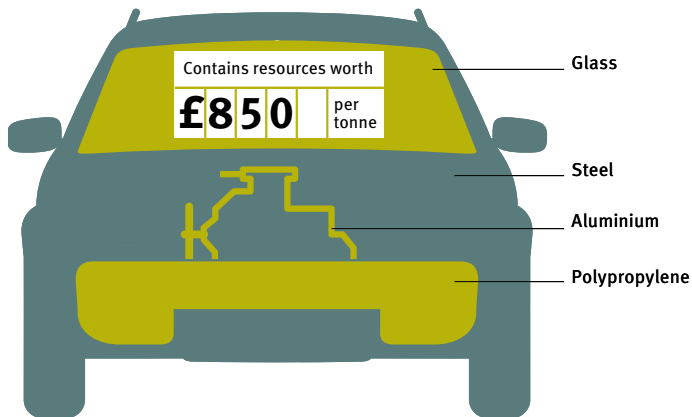


Why we need landfill bans



**green
alliance...**



Economic theory says that the raw materials in products should be valuable enough to keep them out of landfill. But many products containing valuable raw materials still end up in landfill because it's too easy to throw them away. This is a market failure.

By taking away the easy option, landfill bans encourage better collection systems and create economies of scale which brings down the cost of recycling.

Preventing textiles, food, wood and plastics from going to landfill would keep at least £2.5 billion worth of resources in the economy, and avoid £1 billion in landfill costs.

Landfill bans for mobiles make recycling happen

No landfill ban

92% to landfill

The USA threw away 141m mobile devices in 2009. 92% of them went to landfill.¹ The USA doesn't have landfill bans.



Landfill ban now

25% recovered

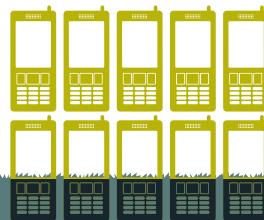
The UK recovered nearly three times more mobiles than the USA in 2010,² due to WEEE regulations.³



Landfill ban in the future

80% recovered

By 2020, the UK will recover 80% of mobiles, keeping £13m of value in the economy per year.



Landfill bans get more value from old cars

No landfill ban

Landfill and dumping cost £88m

In 2003, 25% of cars were landfilled and over 230,000 cars were abandoned in the UK.⁴



Landfill ban now

Better recycling and collection saved £29m in 2008



EoLV regulations limited landfill from 2004. By 2006, they required free collection.⁵

Landfill ban in the future

By 2015, £58m will be saved per year



By 2015, 95% of all cars in the UK will be diverted from landfill.

Landfill bans work for cars and mobiles, so why not extend them?

This is how much we would gain per year:⁶

Wood
£229m

Plastics
£1,083m

Textiles
£646m

Food
£693m

= £2.5bn
value recovered



£79m



£363m



£181m



£508m

= £1bn
avoided landfill
costs

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Notes and references

- ¹ US EPA, May 2011, *Electronics waste management in the United States through 2009*
- ² Based on US EPA end of life modelling (ibid), using data from: Ofcom, August 2011, *Communications market report*
- ³ The Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment directive (effective in the UK from 2007) requires increasing levels of electronics to be diverted from landfill and into recycling
- ⁴ GHK and Bio Intelligence Service for DG Environment, May 2006, *Costs and benefits of the ELV directive – final report*
- ⁵ The End of Life Vehicles directive (effective in the UK from 2003) requires increasing proportions of vehicles scrapped in the EU to be diverted from landfill
- ⁶ Based on Green Alliance calculations using data from: WRAP, November 2012, *Landfill bans: feasibility research* and other sources given at www.green-alliance.org.uk/whylandfillbans_sources

Further detail on references and methodology is available at www.green-alliance.org.uk/whylandfillbans_sources

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