Soft Plastic

Supermarket soft plastic take back schemes are being rolled out in thousands of stores across the country. On the surface, this sounds really positive, but with closer inspection, it's clear that these 'recycling' schemes are not necessarily the answer to all of our plastic problems.

Let’s start on an optimistic note. Whilst supermarket soft plastic take-back schemes present a number of issues, their widespread use by shoppers indicate a couple of positive shifts:

* **Only 13% of local councils collect certain soft plastic, so if you put it into your kerbside collection at home, it is very unlikely to be recycled. And if you put it in your rubbish bin, there is zero chance of it being recycled! Using supermarket soft plastic schemes does at least give it the best chance of actually being recycled.**
* **The huge number of people taking back their soft plastic to the supermarkets demonstrates an increased awareness of the plastic problem and the desire to do something about it. You are part of a growing movement of people who are committed to tackling the plastic problem.**

WHAT CAN WE DO?

As a supermarket customer, there are ways that you can take back control of your weekly shop. Here are some practical actions you can take:

* Choose loose produce if available or affordable
* Reuse plastic bags for bin liners, dog poo collection or storage
* Bulk-buy where possible, as multiple smaller packets creates more plastic
* Take your own containers or reusable bags to the supermarket, cornershop, butcher, baker, market or greengrocer.

See <https://www.everydayplastic.org/> for more information