

Trolley Talk

Fieldwork booklet

You are going to be investigating how sustainable your local stores and supermarkets are. You are going to collect data in each store or supermarket on;

1. Packaging of fruit and vegetables
2. Range of UK-grown fruit and vegetables sold
3. Range of recycled products sold
4. Range of eco-friendly products (e.g. Ecover) sold
5. Range of fair trade products sold
6. Checkout bags
7. Recycling facilities at the store

You should make sure that you read the instructions carefully before completing each table of data clearly, accurately and fully. This will enable you to draw comparisons between the different stores or supermarkets and make decisions about which is the most sustainable.

Start by filling in the names of each store or supermarket you are going to be investigating at the top of each table.

Data Table 1: Packaging of fruit and vegetables

Go into the fruit and vegetable aisle(s) or section of the store. Read each question in the left hand column of the table carefully. Look around the fruit and vegetable area and decide whether the answer is 'yes' or 'no'. Place a tick in the appropriate column. Do this for each store or supermarket until the table is complete.

		Name of store / supermarket		
Is there evidence of shrink-wrapping Clingfilm on cucumbers and /or other vegetables?	Yes			
	No			
Is there evidence of small packs of fruit or vegetables in polystyrene trays?	Yes			
	No			
Are you able to buy most fruit and vegetables loose (not pre-packaged)?	Yes			
	No			
In your opinion, is there evidence of severe excess packaging in this store?	Yes			
	No			

Data table 2: Range of British-grown fruit and vegetables (air miles)

Stay in the fruit and vegetable aisle(s) or section of the store. Read each question in the left hand column of the table carefully. Look around the fruit and vegetable area and decide whether the answer is 'yes' or 'no'. Place a tick in the appropriate column. Do this for each store and supermarket until the table is complete.

			Name of store / supermarket		
Find the following items and see whether they've been produced in the UK	Apples	Yes, all varieties			
		Yes, some varieties			
		No			
	Potatoes	Yes, all varieties			
		Yes, some varieties			
		No			
	Leeks	Yes			
		No			
	Carrots	Yes			
		No			
	Cauliflower	Yes			
		No			

Data table 3: Range of recycled products sold

You need to try and locate the items listed in the left hand column of the table. If you can't find them, tick 'no', and if you can tick 'yes'. Then see whether the supermarket also sells its own brand of the product. If it does, also tick 'own brand sold'. Complete the information for every store and supermarket you visit.

		Name of store / supermarket		
Recycled bin bags	No, not sold			
	Yes, sold			
	Own brand sold			

Recycled toilet tissue	No, not sold			
	Yes, sold			
	Own brand sold			
Recycled kitchen roll	No, not sold			
	Yes, sold			
	Own brand sold			

Data table 4: Range of 'Ecover' products sold

You are going to try and locate the 'Eco-friendly' products listed in the left-hand column of the table (most will be in the household / domestic / cleaning area). 'Ecover' is a brand of eco-friendly domestic and cleaning products, and is the one you're most likely to find. If you can't find them, tick 'no', and if you can tick 'yes'. Complete the information for every store / supermarket you visit.

		Name of store / supermarket		
Eco-friendly laundry liquid and / or powder and / or tablets	Yes			
	No			
Eco-friendly fabric softener	Yes			
	No			
Eco-friendly washing up liquid	Yes			
	No			
Eco-friendly dishwasher tablets and / or rinse aid	Yes			
	No			
Eco-friendly surface cleaner	Yes			
	No			
Eco-friendly toilet cleaner	Yes			
	No			
Eco-friendly floor soap	Yes			
	No			

Eco-friendly shower gel	Yes			
	No			
Eco-friendly hand soap	Yes			
	No			

Data table 5: Range of Fairtrade products sold

You will have to do a bit of searching to find the products listed in the left hand column. You must look for the Fairtrade symbol, which look like this: (image from www.fairtrade.org.uk).



Tick 'yes' if you find the Fairtrade item, and 'no' if you don't. If the store / supermarket produces its own-brand Fairtrade version of the item, tick 'own brand sold'.

		Name of store / supermarket		
Coffee	Yes			
	No			
	Own brand sold			
Tea	Yes			
	No			
	Own brand sold			
Hot chocolate / cocoa	Yes			
	No			
	Own brand sold			
Chocolate bars	Yes			
	No			
	Own brand sold			
	Yes			

Sugar	No			
	Own brand sold			
Wine	Yes			
	No			
	Own brand sold			
Bananas	Yes			
	No			
	Own brand sold			

Data Table 6: Checkout bags

Go to the checkout and have a look at the bag options available. Complete the following table by answering the questions in the left hand column for each store / supermarket you go to.

		Name of store / supermarket		
Are the carrier bags made from recycled plastic?	Yes			
	No			
Are the carrier bags recyclable?	Yes			
	No			
Are the carrier bags bio-degradable?	Yes			
	No			
Are there 'bags for life' (strong, re-usable bags)	Yes			
	No			
Is the use of these bags being promoted? (e.g. through signs)	Yes			
	No			
Are there incentives for customers to use less plastic bags?	Yes			
	No			
Is there a carrier bag recycling point for customers to return their bags?	Yes			
	No			

Data Table 7: Recycling facilities

You need to find the recycling facilities at the store / supermarket, if they have any. These are usually located in the car park, although there may be a 'station' for recycling of their shopping bags in-store. Fill in the table by placing a tick next to the items / materials which can be recycled.

Item	Name of store / supermarket		
Paper			
Glass			
Cans			
Clothes			
Plastic			
Cartons			
Books			