Contact Lenses and Recycling – Missed Opportunities? Who is responsible for it?

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**Purpose:** To evaluate contact lens wearers, practitioners and contact lens manufacturers attitudes towards recycling.

**Methods:** We questioned contact lens wearers and contact lens practitioners using a ten item questionnaire to gather information on general recycling habits as well as their attitudes towards recycling in regards to making decisions in recycling, fitting and purchasing contact lenses. To get a better understanding of the current processes and restraints in recycling in manufacturing we interviewed a major contact lens manufacturer.

**Results:** Although the general attitude towards recycling is very positive, when it comes to contact lens recycling it seems to be a passing the parcel attitude as to whose responsibility this is.

**Conclusion:** Recycling is affecting our everyday lives in many ways; it is not only important in selecting goods but also in regards to maintaining good customer relationships. Recycling of contact lenses however is something where each partner in the producer-user-supply chain is passing on the responsibility and possibly missing out an excellent opportunity to demonstrate environmental responsibility as much as exploiting it for marketing purposes.