



7 August 2014

## Provisional Statistics on waste managed by local authorities in England including October to December 2013

### Key points

- The annual rate of recycling of 'waste from households' was 44.2 per cent in 2013 and continues to be stable with just a slight increase from 44.1 per cent in 2012.
- The quarterly rate of recycling of 'waste from households' reached 42.7 per cent in October to December 2013, increasing from 41.5 per cent in the same quarter in 2012.
- Total 'waste from households' dropped 1.8 per cent to 21.6 million tonnes in 2013. This amounts to 403 kg per person.
- Local authority managed waste to landfill and incineration fell by 5.2 per cent in 2013.

Datasets for this release as well as for regional and local authorities for the 2012/13 financial year are available at the [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) website.

### Usage of the Statistics

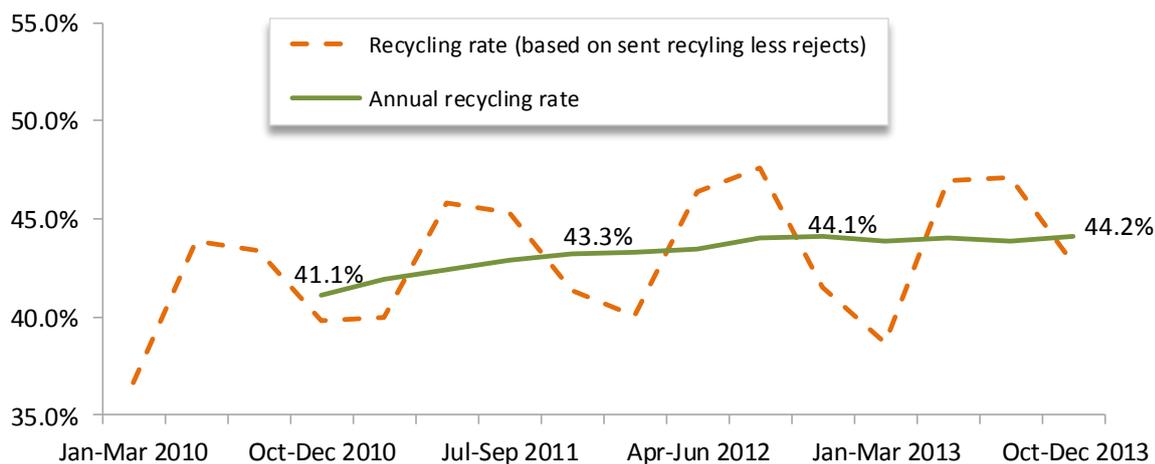
Data on waste management is collected to monitor policy effectiveness, particularly the commitments in the Waste Review and to support policy development in the context of the recycling target set out in the Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC). The underlying data held in WasteDataFlow is used extensively by local and central government, the waste industry and the public. It is reported by all local authorities, often from management information supplied by their waste management contractor.

Factors affecting household waste recycling range from individual household behaviours, the advice and collection services provided by local authorities, the increasing cost of Landfill Tax, and to some extent wider issues like the state of the economy. Some quarterly waste data shows a clear seasonal fluctuation, for example garden waste and recycling rates are highly seasonal, with a sharp increase in the spring and summer months.

For this reason comparisons should be made with the same quarter in previous years or using full 12 month periods.

About 86 per cent of all waste managed by local authorities is 'waste from households' with the remainder coming from street cleaning/bins, parks and grounds and other wastes including business and construction. Only a small part of waste from businesses and construction are covered in these statistics.

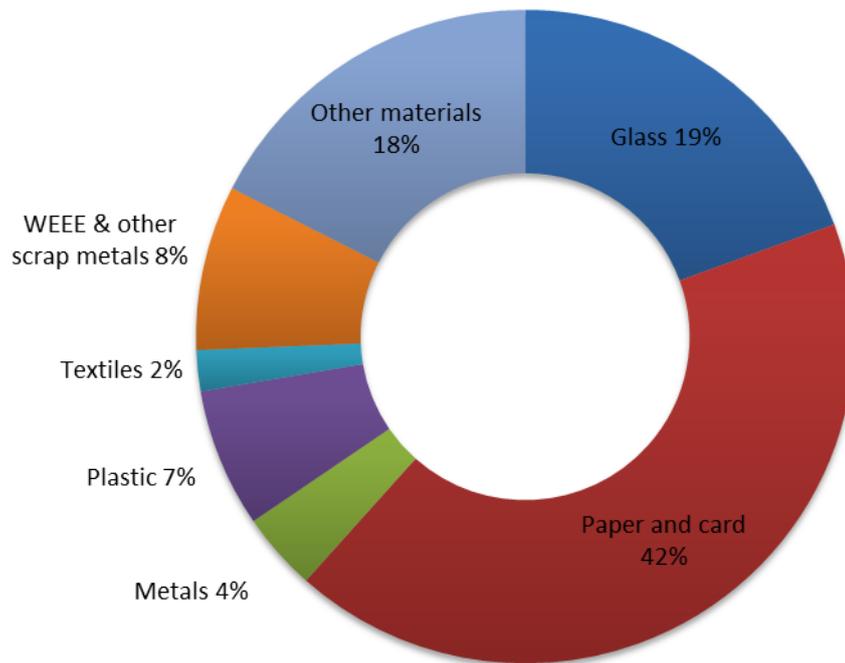
**Figure 1: The 'waste from households' recycling rate in England to December 2013**



Note: recycling is 'recycling, composting and preparing for reuse'.

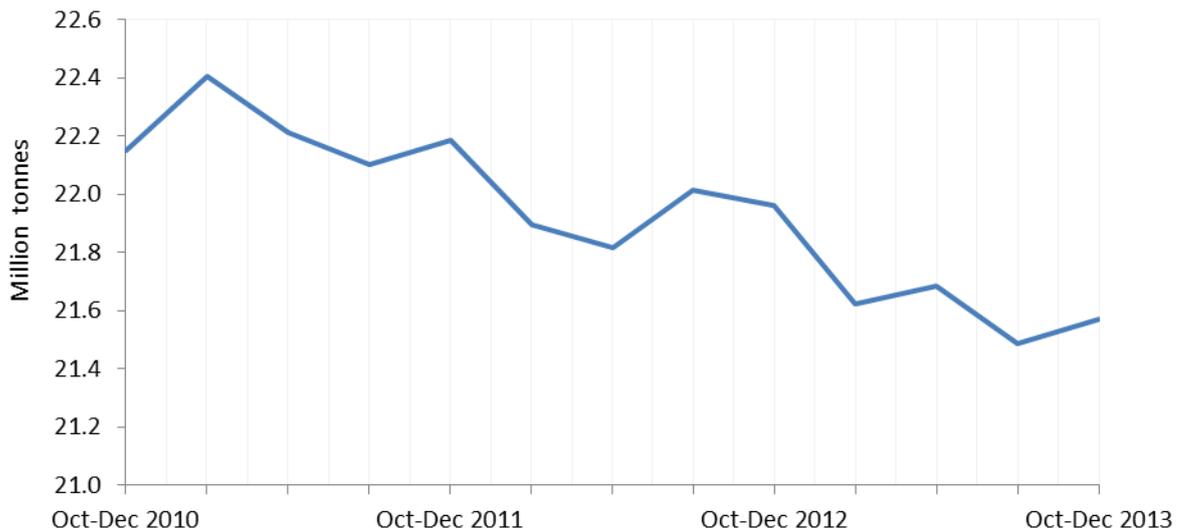
- The annual rate of 'waste from households' recycling was at 44.2 per cent increasing from 44.1 per cent in the year to December 2013. It is up by 3.0 percentage points since the 2010 calendar year.
- Over 40 per cent of recycling of 'waste from households' was organic waste comprising of separately collected food waste and other organics such as garden waste.
- Separately collected food waste increased by 18.7 per cent in 2013 while other organic waste (mainly garden waste) dropped by 6.0 per cent. Dry recycling increased by 0.4 per cent in 2013.
- The quarterly rate of recycling of 'waste from households' reached 42.7 per cent in October to December 2013, increasing from 41.5 per cent in the same quarter in 2012.

**Figure 2: Composition of ‘waste from households’ dry recycling in England, January to December 2013**



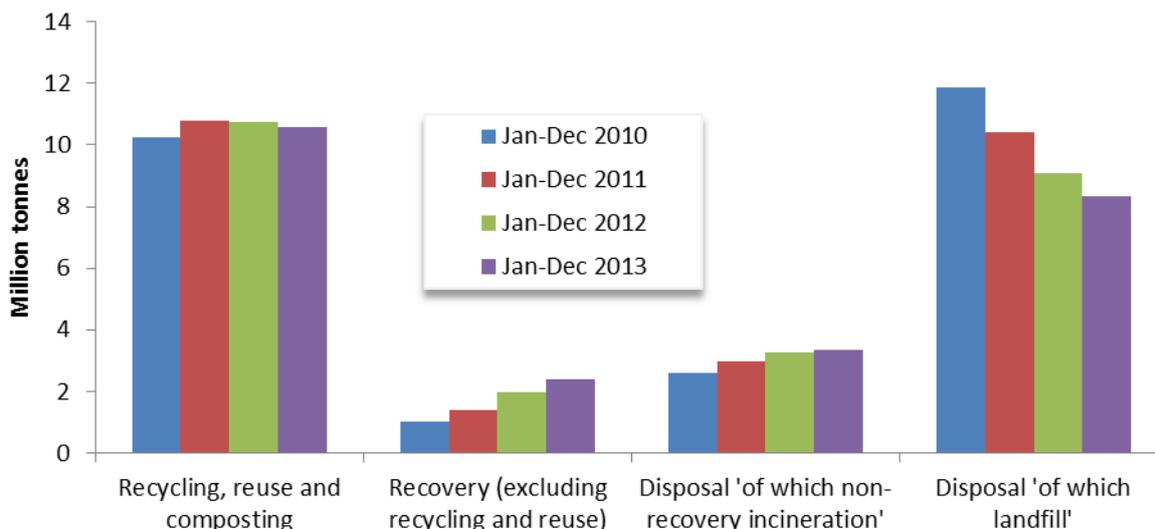
- A total of 5.7 million tonnes of dry recycling came from households in the 12 months to December 2013.
- Paper and card made up about 42 per cent of dry recycling with glass contributing to a further 19 per cent. Scrap metals, including waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE), made up almost 8 per cent of dry recycling.
- Plastic recycling has gradually increased and was 11.9 per cent higher than 2012, while recycling of paper and card has fallen by 4.2 per cent.
- The annual rate of dry recycling of ‘waste from households’ continues to increase gradually, rising from 29.9 per cent in 2010 to 32.0 per cent in 2013.

**Figure 3: Trend in the annual total ‘waste from households’**



- Total ‘waste from households’ can be an indication of waste prevention although other factors such as the level of consumption are involved.
- Total ‘waste from households’ is falling slowly. It was 1.8 per cent lower in 2013 at 21.6 million tonnes. This amounts to 403 kg per person.
- The annual rate of disposal of ‘waste from households’ to landfill and incineration was 45.5 per cent in the year to December 2013. It is declining steadily having been 54.5 per cent over the 2010 calendar year.
- Over the year to December 2013, 7.1 million tonnes of ‘waste from households’ went to landfill and 2.7 million tonnes to incineration.

**Figure 4: Local authority managed waste in England, 12 months to December**



- Local authority managed waste is a combination of waste from households and waste from streets, parks and grounds and some commercial and industrial waste.
- The local authority recycling rate was 42.3 per cent in 2013, amounting to 10.6 million tonnes.
- Local authority managed waste to landfill and incineration fell by 5.2 per cent in the 2013.
- Local authority managed waste disposed to landfill has fallen steadily since 2010 and was almost 30 per cent lower in 2013 than in 2010.
- Local authority managed waste going for incineration increased by 3.1 per cent in 2013. It was 29 per cent higher in 2013 than in 2010.
- Local authority managed waste recovered from landfill and incineration (excluding recycling and reuse) rose by 20 per cent in 2013. This includes changes in stocks and process loss.
- The total amount of waste managed by local authorities fell by 1.3 percent to 25 million tonnes in 2013, although there was a small rise in October to December 2013 when compared to October to December 2012.
- Landfill Tax continues to be a driver for authorities to reduce waste to landfill. Generating energy from waste by incineration is preferable to landfill, although recycling and reuse are preferable to both.

## Developments

The next statistics release will be in November 2014 and will cover the final estimates for the year 2013/14. It will include regional and local authority breakdown.

The National Indicators, including recycling rates at local authority level, remain available and unchanged from the wastedataflow portal.

## Notes

1. Data was extracted from the WasteDataFlow portal in July 2014. WasteDataFlow is a UK wide system managed by Defra in collaboration with Devolved Administration partners. First results are for 2004/05 with earlier estimates of waste available from the Municipal Waste Management Surveys.
2. Local authority collected waste is that which comes under the possession or control of the Local Authority and includes waste from households and other wastes collected by a waste collection authority or its agents, such as municipal parks and gardens waste, beach cleansing waste, commercial or industrial waste, and waste resulting from the clearance of fly-tipped materials.
3. The amount of waste sent for reuse, recycling and composting is that which is accepted by the reprocessor. As such it excludes any recycling rejects that occur during collection, sorting or further treatment. Waste diverted for recycling from the residual (or 'black bag waste') stream by further processing is included in the recycling tonnages.

**Scotland** <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Environment>

**Wales** <http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/theme/environment/wasterecycle/?lang=en>

**Northern Ireland** <http://www.doeni.gov.uk/index/information/asb/statistics.htm#environmentalstatistics>

**Eurostat** <http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/waste/introduction/>

**Wastedataflow portal** <http://www.wastedataflow.org/login.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2fnews%2fwelcome.aspx>

### A National Statistics publication

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