



18 November 2014

## Statistics on waste managed by local authorities in England in 2013-2014

This release relates to the management of waste under the possession or control of the Local Authority. Results are displayed using the 'Waste from Households' measure on a calendar year basis, which is how the UK reports against the EU Waste Framework Directive. This is the first publication of final figures using the 'Waste from Households' measure for the calendar year 2013, replacing provisional figures published in August 2014. In addition, this is the first publication of figures for January to March of 2014. This release also includes the slightly broader 'Household Waste' measure on a financial year basis, which is favoured by Local Authorities. This is the first publication of figures for local authority collected waste and the 'Household Waste' measure for the financial year 2013/14. Further information is included in the methodology and glossary.

### Key points

#### Waste from Households – final 2013 calendar year and latest 12 months

- For the 2013 calendar year, the 'waste from households' recycling rate was 44.2 per cent. This is up very slightly on the 44.1 per cent achieved for 2012. It has increased from 43.3 per cent in 2011.
- There is an EU target for the UK to recycle at least 50 per cent of waste generated by households by 2020.
- The most recent quarterly data are for January to March 2014. The rolling 12 month 'waste from households' recycling rate to end March 2014 was 44.5 per cent. This is slightly higher than the 2013 calendar year figure of 44.2 per cent, particularly influenced by organic recycling returning to more typical levels in January to March 2014 against a relatively low level in January to March 2013.
- In 2013 total 'Waste from Households' amounted to 403kg per person, a decrease of 2.0 per cent on 2012. Total 'Waste from Households' amounted to 21.6 million tonnes in 2013.

#### Total Local Authority collected waste and Household Waste – financial year

- Local Authority managed waste going to landfill has fallen by 62 percent since 2003/04 with continued steady year on year decreases and was 7.9 million tonnes in 2013/14.

---

**Enquiries on this publication to:** Pat Thomas, Nobel House, 17 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3JR, Email : [patience.thomas@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:patience.thomas@defra.gsi.gov.uk) . For media enquiries contact Defra Press Office: 020 7238 6146.

An Official Statistics publication. These statistics have been produced to the high professional standards set out in the Code of Practice for Official Statistics, which sets out eight principles including meeting user needs, impartiality and objectivity, integrity, sound methods and assured quality, frankness and accessibility.

More information on the Official Statistics Code of Practice can be found [here](#).

---

- Local authority managed waste going for incineration with energy recovery increased by 13 per cent to 6.2 million tonnes in 2013/14 on 2012/13 and has more than doubled since 2003/04 with steady increases each year.
- Local authority managed waste recycled or composted in 2013/14 was 10.9 million tonnes, almost doubling since 2003/04. The proportion of all local authority managed waste recycled or composted in 2013/14 was nearly 43 per cent, an increase from 19 per cent in 2003/04 although increases in the last two years have been modest.

Datasets for national and regional data, as well as data at Local Authority level, including the ex-National Indicator measures are available to [download](#).

## Background

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) that 50 per cent of 'waste from households' is recycled, prepared for reuse or composted by 2020.

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' 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. This may be due to various factors, in particular for recycling a seasonal decrease in the amount of garden waste being generated in the autumn/winter months. For this reason comparisons should be made with the same quarter in previous years or using full 12 month periods.

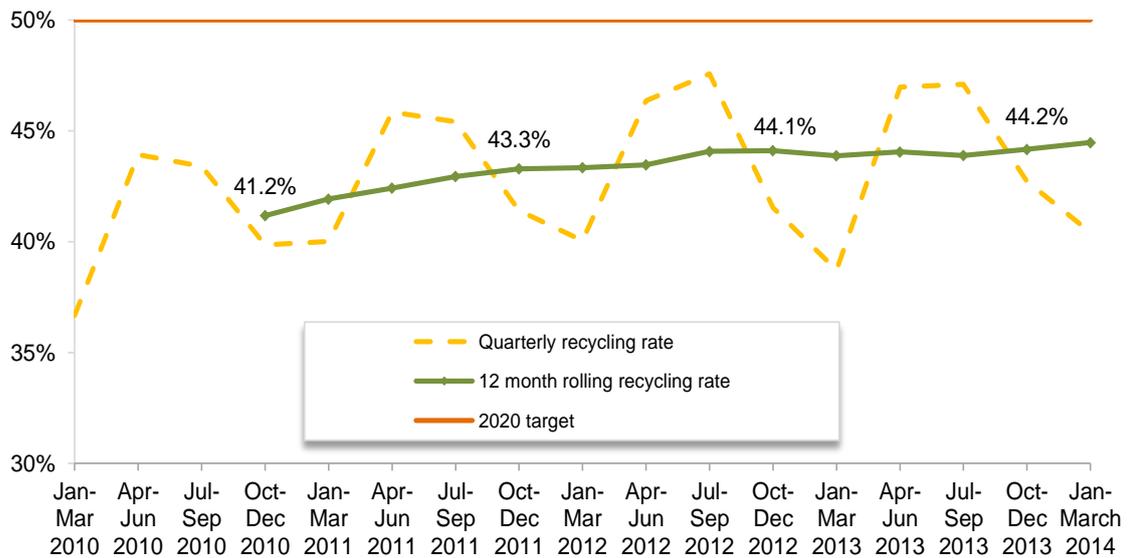
## 1 Waste from Households

The 'waste from households' calculation was first published by Defra in May 2014. It was introduced for statistical purposes to provide a harmonised UK indicator with a comparable calculation in each of the four UK countries and to provide a consistent approach to report recycling rates at UK level on a calendar year basis under the Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC).

'Waste from households' is a narrower version of the 'Household waste' measure which was used previously. 'Waste from households' excludes local authority collected waste types not considered to have come directly from households, such as street bins, street sweepings, parks and grounds waste and compost like output. The largest component of the excluded waste is street sweepings. Details are provided in the 'Glossary' section. A comparison with the 'household waste' was

included in the recycling statistics published in May 2014 with data backdated to 2010 and is available [here](#). This comparison is also included in Figure 4 under the 'household waste' section.

**Figure 1: The 'waste from households' recycling rate in England Jan-Mar 2010 to Jan-Mar 2014**



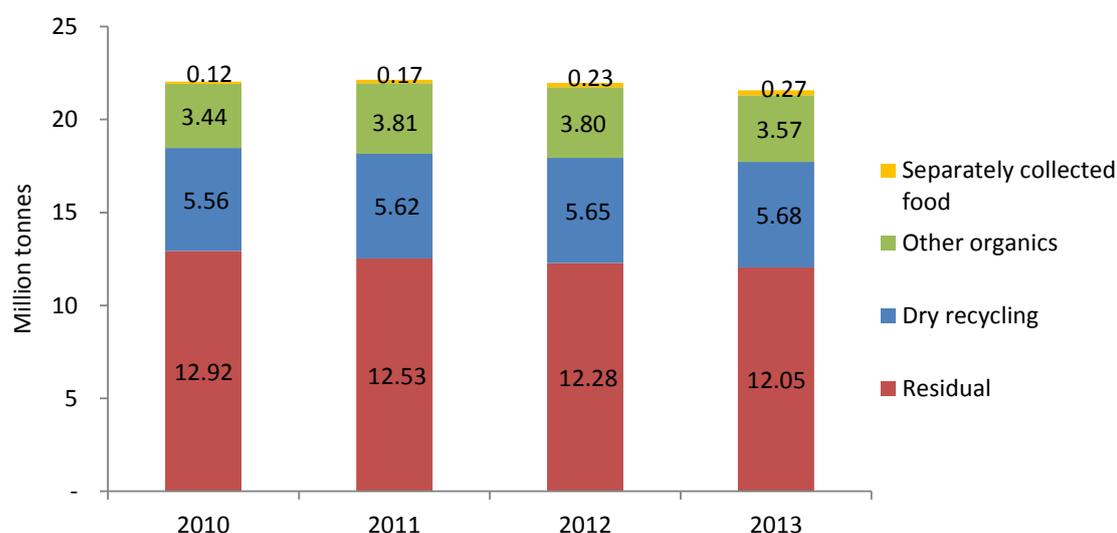
Note: recycling is 'recycling, composting and preparing for reuse'.

- The annual rate of 'waste from households' recycling for 2013 was 44.2 per cent, marginally up on the 44.1 per cent achieved in 2012. It is up by 3.0 percentage points since the 2010 calendar year, the earliest year for which data for this specific measure are available.
- Over a calendar year, the majority, around 60 per cent of 'waste from households' recycled, is dry recycling and the remaining 40 per cent is organic waste comprising of separately collected food waste and other organics such as garden waste. Separately collected food waste accounts for a small proportion of the 'waste from households' but has increased from 1.3 to 2.9 per cent of the 'waste from households' recycled between 2010 and 2013.
- The amount of 'waste from households' sent for dry recycling increased by 0.4 per cent in 2013 compared to 2012, similar to the 0.6 per cent increase seen in 2012 over 2011.
- The amount of 'waste from households' sent for organic recycling in 2013 was 4.6 per cent lower than in 2012. This was particularly influenced by untypically low organic recycling in the quarter January to March 2013, 25 per cent down on the same quarter in 2012; for the quarter July to September organic

recycling was also down 10 per cent in 2013, against a high level of recycling in 2012 for this quarter.

- The most recent quarterly data are for January to March 2014. The rolling 12 month 'waste from households' recycling rate to end March 2014 was 44.5 per cent. This is slightly higher than the 2013 calendar year figure of 44.2 per cent, particularly influenced by organic recycling returning to more typical levels in January to March 2014 against a relatively low level in January to March 2013.

**Figure 2: Composition of 'waste from households' 2010-2013 (Million tonnes)**



**Notes:**

Composition of waste from households is made up of materials sent for recycling (including composting and reuse) as well as collected residual waste, therefore the total sum collected may not match since the waste that is sent for recycling differs from what is collected.

**Residual waste** includes waste from households' regular collections e.g. black bags, bulky waste, household civic amenity waste, 'other household waste' and rejects from recycling.

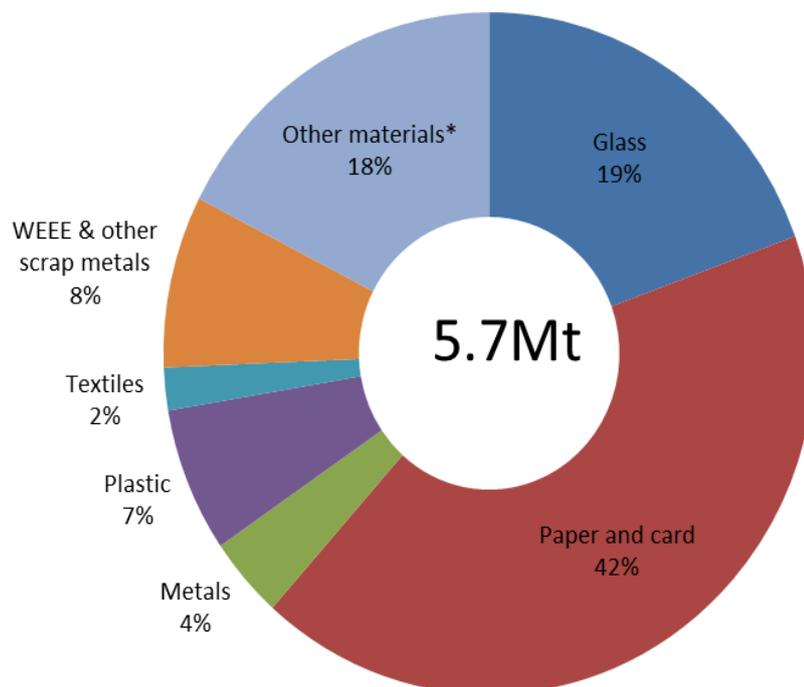
**Dry recycling** includes paper and card, glass, plastic, waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE), scrap metals as well as other materials.

**Other organics** includes green garden waste, mixed garden and food waste, wood for composting and other compostable waste.

- In 2013 total 'Waste from Households' amounted to 403kg per person, a decrease of 2.0 per cent on 2012. Total 'Waste from Households' amounted to 21.6 million tonnes in 2013.
- Over 55 per cent of the waste from households is residual waste. Total residual waste in 2013 was 12.0 million tonnes, down 1.9 per cent on 2012 and by 6.7 per cent on 2010.
- The amount of dry recycling has slowly increased by 2.1 per cent between 2010 and 2013 and was 5.7 million tonnes in 2013. It constitutes over 25 per cent of total waste from households.

- The amount of food waste sent for composting (including anaerobic digestion) has more than doubled since 2010 and in 2013 was 273 thousand tonnes – a 19 per cent increase compared to 2012. This represents a very small proportion in terms of overall waste composition.
- Overall, the composition of ‘waste from households’ has changed very little since 2010.

**Figure 3      Composition of ‘waste from households’ dry recycling in England, 2013**



- In 2013, approximately 5.7 million tonnes of dry recycling came from households in England. Paper and card made up about 42 per cent of the proportion 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 and plastics made up a further 7 per cent of dry recycling.

## **2      Waste from households versus Household waste**

The ‘household waste’ measure covers a broader category of waste than the ‘waste from households’ measure. The ‘household waste’ measure includes street bins, street sweepings, gully emptying, parks and grounds waste, soil, and compost like output separately collected healthcare waste and asbestos waste. Reporting of the

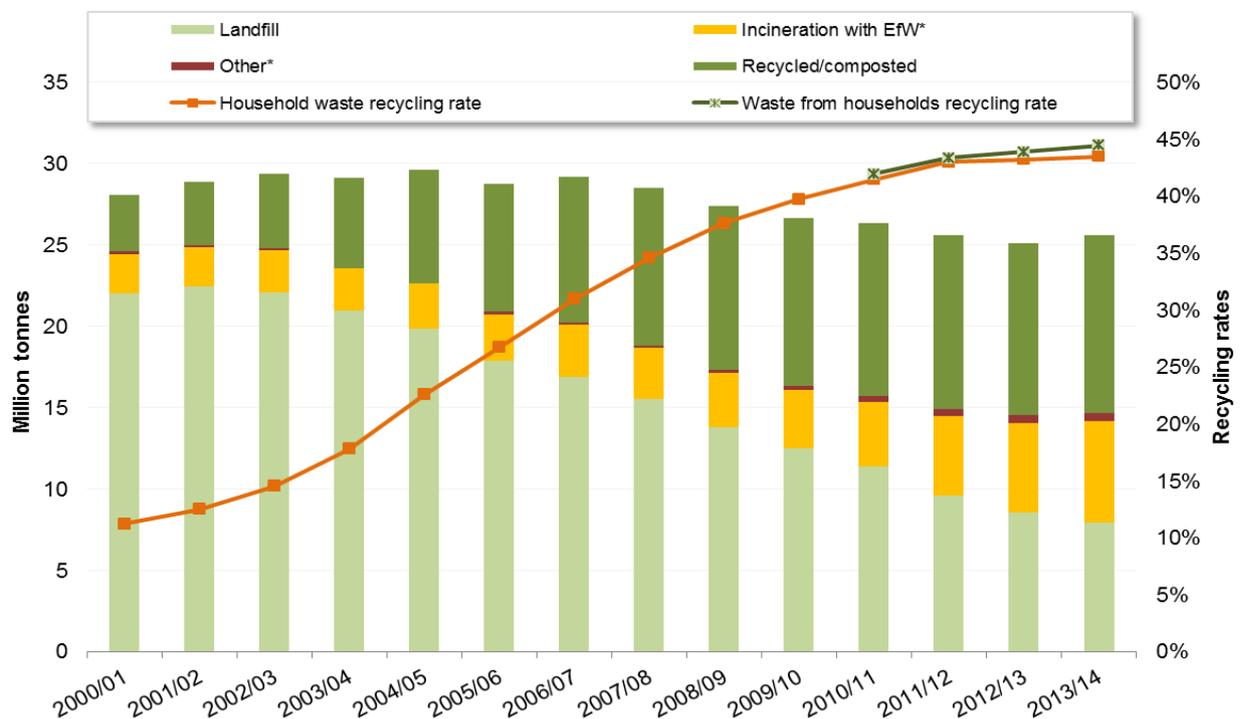
'household waste' measure on a financial year basis has been retained in recognition of the value of these data by users. A comparison of the recycling rates is shown in Figure 5.

- In 2013/14, the 'household waste' recycling rate was 43.5 per cent, increasing from 43.2 per cent in 2012/13.
- In the same period the rate of recycling for 'waste from households' also increased by 0.6 from 43.9 per cent to 44.5 per cent.

### 3 Local Authority Collected and Managed Waste in England

Local authority collected waste is that which comes under the possession or control of the Local Authority. It includes waste coming from households and similar types as well as 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. Some waste managed by Local Authorities is generated by business and construction, but the majority of waste generated by these industries is managed by the private sector. Data are reported on a financial year basis.

**Figure 4: Local authority managed waste and recycling rates in England, 2000/01- 2013/14**



\* Incineration with energy from waste includes recovery from incineration bottom ash.

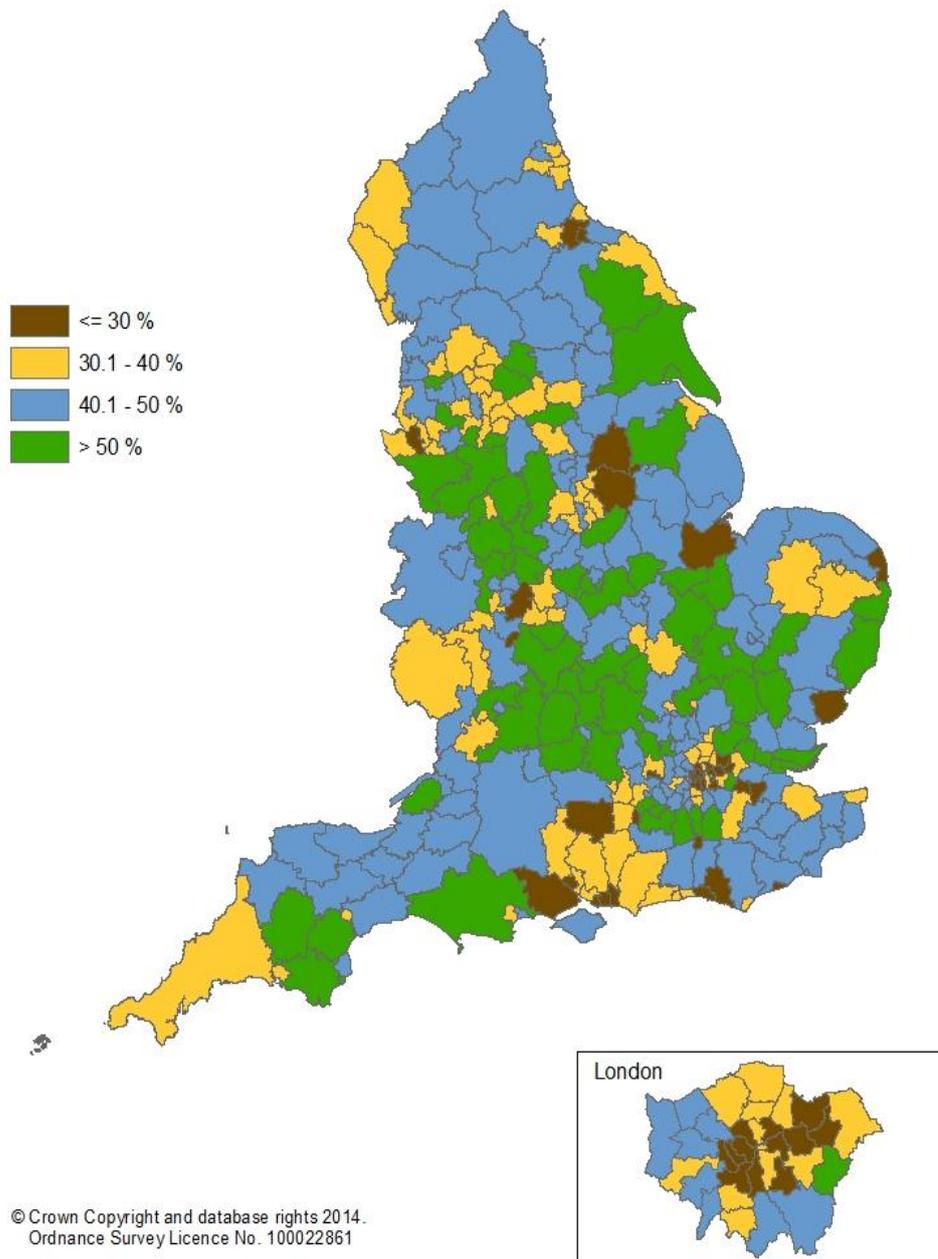
- The total tonnage of waste managed by local authorities in England was 25.6 million tonnes in 2013/14. This is up 2.3 per cent on 2012/13 but down 9.1 per cent on 2000/01 when the total waste managed was 28.0 million tonnes.
- The total amount of all waste recycled (including composting and reuse) rose by 3.3 per cent in 2013/14 to 10.9 million tonnes with more than a three-fold increase on the 3.4 million tonnes recycled in 2000/01. In 2013/14, almost 43 per cent of all local authority waste managed was recycled compared to just over 42 per cent in 2012/13 and just 12 per cent in 2000/01.
- Disposal of local authority managed waste into landfill and incineration has fallen by 42 per cent since 2000/01, down to 14.2 million tonnes in 2013/14.
- Local Authority managed waste going to landfill has fallen by 60 percent since 2000/01 and down by 6.8 per cent compared to 2013/14. In 2000/01, the majority (79 per cent) of all local authority waste was sent to landfill; this has continued to decline and the proportion sent to landfill was 31 per cent in 2013/14.
- Local Authority managed waste going for incineration with energy recovery rose by 13% to 6.2 million tonnes in 2013/14 and has more than doubled since 2000/01. The proportion of all local authority managed waste treated in this way has increased from 9.0 per cent in 2000/01 to 24 per cent in 2013/14.
- Landfill Tax continues to be the main driver for local authorities to reduce waste to landfill. Generating energy from waste by incineration is preferable to landfill, although recycling and reuse are preferable to both.

### **Household Waste Recycling Rates for Individual Local Authorities (ex NI 192)**

- At Local Authority level, individual recycling rates ranged from 18 per cent to 66 per cent.
- There is a tendency for recycling rates to be similar in adjacent areas although high and low recycling rates are spread across England. Figure 5 shows the geographic distribution of recycling rates in 2013/14.
- Newham London Borough Council and Lewisham London Borough Council had the lowest 'household waste' recycling rates at 18% in 2013/14.
- South Oxfordshire District Council had the highest 'household waste' recycling rate at 66 per cent, with over 55 per cent of their recycling comprising of green/organic waste. Rochford District Council and The Vale of White Horse District Council both achieved 'household waste' recycling rates of 65 per cent.
- Ashford Borough Council increased its 'household waste' recycling rate from 12 to 42 per cent from 2012/13 to 2013/14, following the introduction of new recycling arrangements which includes green recycling.

**Figure 5: Map of Household Waste recycling rates for individual local authorities in England**

Percentage of household waste sent for recycling, reuse or composting, 2013/14



## **DATA USES, FEEDBACK, REVISIONS POLICY, METHODOLOGY, GLOSSARY OF TERMS AND MEASURES, AND REFERENCES**

### **User Statement**

Data on waste generation and management is collected to monitor policy effectiveness, particularly the commitments in the Waste Review and to support policy development. The data also meet legislative reporting targets on recycling targets set out in the Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC) and to supply data for the Waste Statistics Regulation (2002/2150/EC). The data are used extensively by local and central government, the waste industry, researchers and the public also.

### **Feedback**

We welcome feedback on the data from all users including how and why the data is used. This helps us to understand the value of the statistics to external users. Please see our contact details at the bottom of the first page of this notice or e-mail : [WasteStatistics@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:WasteStatistics@defra.gsi.gov.uk).

### **Revisions Policy**

Defra will provide information about any revisions made to published information in this statistics release and the associated datasets. Revisions could occur for various reasons, including when data from third parties is unavailable or provisional at the time of publishing or if there are subsequent methodological improvements or refinements.

### **Methodology**

Data comes from a snapshot of the WasteDataFlow database taken in October 2014. WasteDataFlow is a UK wide system managed by Defra in collaboration with Devolved Administration partners that is used to record the collection, treatment and disposal of local authority waste. First results using this database were produced for 2004/05 with earlier estimates of waste available from the Municipal Waste Management Surveys.

Local authority collected waste is that which comes under the possession or control of the Local Authority and includes 'household waste' 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.

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.

## Data quality assurance

All local authorities provide data. Data validation is carried out by the local authority submitting the data, the WasteDataFlow contractor, the Environment Agency and Defra.

The WasteDataFlow contractors check each return for completeness and data consistency. Data are checked against appropriate threshold values specified by the Environment Agency which take into account the expected level of variance. There is an on-line validation process which compares the data for the current quarter against the data for the equivalent quarter for the previous year.

Once the data have been validated by the contractor, further validation checks are undertaken by the Environment Agency's which focus on 'other/exempt' destinations, the comparison of Waste Disposal Authority/Waste Collection Authority data returns, and the review of the destinations of materials sent for recycling. Details of the validation process are available on the WasteDataFlow [website](#).

## Glossary of terms and measures

The measure '**waste from households**' is used in this statistics release for reporting against the Waste Framework Directive household waste recycling target. These figures are reported on a calendar year basis in line with the standard format for official statistics at a national level. 'Waste generated by households' is how Commission Decision 2011/753/EU defines "household waste". The 'waste from households' measure is a better fit with the current EU definition against which the UK has to report.

'Waste from households' is a narrower version of the '**household waste**' measure. The difference is that 'waste from households' excludes local authority collected waste types not considered to have come directly from households, such as street bins, street sweepings, parks and grounds waste and compost like output (CLO) from Mechanical Biological Treatment (MBT) plants. Further information on the difference has been published on the gov.uk [website](#) and is summarised in the table below.

We have continued to report the 'household waste' recycling figures in this annual publication on a financial year basis to maintain consistency and continuity with the existing data series and in order to meet the wider needs of users. However it is no longer reported in the quarterly releases on recycling which will report 'waste from households only'.

Recycling (including composting and reuse)	Waste from Households recycling	Household waste recycling
<i>from households and other premises similar to households, CA sites, Bring banks</i>	✓	✓
<i>from street bins</i>	✗	✓
<i>from household-related parks and grounds</i>	Community skips only	✓
<i>from soil</i>	✗	✓
<i>from rubble and plasterboard</i>	✗	✗
<i>from compost-like output from MBT plant</i>	✗	✓
<i>from incineration bottom ash (IBA) &amp; IBA metals</i>	✗	✗
<i>other, from residual streams</i>	✓	✓
<i>recycling rejects</i>	✗	✗

Residual waste	Residual waste from households	Household waste residual
<i>from regular household collection</i>	✓	✓
<i>from civic amenity sites</i>	✓	✓
<i>from bulky waste</i>	✓	✓
<i>from other household waste</i>	✓	✓
<i>from street cleaning/sweeping</i>	✗	✓
<i>from gully emptying</i>	✗	✓
<i>from separately collected healthcare waste</i>	✗	✓
<i>from asbestos waste</i>	✗	✓

The local authority recycling rate is based on the **NI 192 National Indicator** recycling calculation. The National Indicator calculation has been widely used by local authorities for many years for local strategic planning purposes, discussions with contractors and for benchmarking against other authorities and captures a broader scope of household waste than 'waste from households', e.g. it includes street sweepings. This calculation will be made available as the NI 192 report on the wastedataflow portal (<http://www.wastedataflow.org/>) and also on gov.uk [website](#). This is reported on a financial year basis to meet the needs of local authorities.

## EU recycling target

Commission Decision 2011/753/EU allow a choice of four options and calculation methods for the calculation of the target to recycle at least 50% of household waste and similar by 2020. Each Member State must use the calculation method that

corresponds to the re-use and recycling option that it has chosen to apply the target to. The UK currently applies the target to the third option: “the preparation for reuse and the recycling of household waste”. This means that the UK must use calculation method 3 set out in the Decision and use national data to report on the recycled amount of household waste. “Household waste” is defined at Article 1(1) of the Decision as “waste generated by households”.

The “waste from households” calculation was introduced in May 2014 and is being used to provide a harmonised UK indicator with a comparable calculation in each of the four UK countries, to provide a consistent approach to report recycling rates at UK level on a calendar year basis under the Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC).

### Useful links

<b>Scotland</b>	<a href="http://www.environment.scotland.gov.uk/System_Pages/Spotfire/Household_Waste.aspx">http://www.environment.scotland.gov.uk/System_Pages/Spotfire/Household_Waste.aspx</a>
<b>Wales</b>	<a href="http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/theme/environment/wasterecycle/?lang=en">http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/theme/environment/wasterecycle/?lang=en</a>
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	<a href="http://www.doeni.gov.uk/index/information/asb/statistics.htm#environmentalstatistics">http://www.doeni.gov.uk/index/information/asb/statistics.htm#environmentalstatistics</a>
<b>Eurostat</b>	<a href="http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/waste/introduction/">http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/waste/introduction/</a>
<b>Wastedataflow portal</b>	<a href="http://www.wastedataflow.org/">http://www.wastedataflow.org/</a>

#### **A National Statistics publication**

National Statistics are produced to high professional standards set out in the National Statistics Code of Practice. They undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure they meet customer needs.

Website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-environment-food-rural-affairs>  
Public Enquiries: 08459 335577; Media enquiries: 020 7238 6146