



1 December 2015

Statistics on waste managed by local authorities in England in 2014-2015

This release relates to the management of waste under the possession or control of the Local Authority. This confirms the final figures based on the 'Waste from Households' measure for the calendar year 2014, replacing provisional figures published in August 2015 and is the first publication of quarterly figures for January to March of 2015. **'Waste from households'** relates to local authority collected waste that originates more directly from households and so excludes waste such as that from street bins, street sweepings, parks and grounds waste. 'Waste from households' recycling is the measure that the UK introduced in 2014 for statistical purposes to provide a harmonised UK indicator to report recycling rates at UK level on a calendar year basis under the Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC). This is also the first publication of figures for **all local authority collected and managed waste** for the financial year 2014/15. Data are included for **'Household Waste'** which includes the broader categories of waste such as street bins, street sweepings, and non-household waste. Further information on the measures is included in the methodology and glossary section of the annex.

Key points

Waste from Households – final 2014 calendar year and latest 12 months to end March 2015 for waste generated more directly from households

- The England 'waste from households' recycling rate reached 44.8 per cent in 2014. This is up from 44.2 per cent in 2013 and is an increase of almost 4 percentage points since 2010, the earliest year for which data for this specific measure are available.
- There is an EU target for the UK to recycle at least 50 per cent of waste generated by households by 2020.
- The tonnage of organic recycling (including food waste and other organics) increased by 9.6 per cent in 2014 compared to 2013, and dry recycling increased by 2.3 per cent compared to 2013.
- The most recent quarterly data are for January to March 2015. The rolling 12 month 'waste from households' recycling rate to end March 2015 was 44.7 per cent.
- In 2014, the total 'waste from households' amounted to 413 kg per person, up from 402 kg per person in 2013 (2.9%) and very similar to 2012 levels. Total waste from

Enquiries on this publication to: Pat Thomas or Lindsay Holmes, Nobel House, 17 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3JR, Email : patience.thomas@defra.gsi.gov.uk or lindsay.holmes@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](#).

households amounted to 22.4 million tonnes in 2014, an increase of 3.7 per cent on 2013.

Management of all Local Authority collected waste for the financial year 2014/15 - relates to waste from households plus that from street bins, street sweepings, parks and grounds as well as other non-household waste collected by local authorities.

- The total local authority waste disposed to landfill has fallen by 71 per cent since 2000/01 to 6.4 million tonnes in 2014/15, with a marked 20 per cent fall in the last 12 months compared to 2013/14.
- The amount of waste sent to incineration with energy recovery increased by 25 per cent in 2014/15 compared to 2013/14 with a more than three-fold increase since 2000/01.
- For the first time the amount of waste sent to incineration with energy recovery exceeded the amount of waste disposed to landfill, at 7.8 million tonnes and 6.4 million tonnes respectively accounting for 30 and 25 per cent of the total local authority waste. In combination, the waste disposed to landfill and sent to incineration with energy recovery has remained very similar to 2013/14 even though the total collected increased by 0.7 per cent (25.8 million tonnes).
- Local authority managed waste recycled (including waste prepared for reuse and composted) in 2014/15 was 11.1 million, and accounted for 43 per cent of all local authority managed waste. This has increased more than three-fold since 2000/01 although increases in more recent years, especially since 2011/12, have been modest.

Datasets for the national and regional data, as well as data at Local Authority level, including the ex-National Indicator measures are available at the www.gov.uk website.

Data notes and developments

A new question structure within the data recording system, which replaces a number of existing questions on waste treatments and disposal methods was introduced and used by approximately 100 authorities in England for various quarters in 2013/14. Consequently there have been some necessary modifications to the process for extracting data from the database and the workings used to produce the various data breakdowns although the principles of the current methodology are unchanged. In particular there are no changes to the categories of waste that are included as recycling. As far as possible effort has been made to maintain consistency and comparability of datasets between Local Authorities and with previous years. However it is possible that in a small number of cases there may be some small differences as a result of more accurate or detailed reporting. At an aggregate level, there is no significant impact on the data reported. See the methodology section for more information.

All Local Authorities have been reporting under this new structure from April 2015 which should provide a more complete and transparent representation of what happens in practice. It is likely that the publication of the first quarterly data will be later than usual as a result of additional time for reporting by local authorities and quality assurance.

Usage of the Statistics

Data on waste management are used to monitor policy effectiveness 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 are also used extensively by local and central government, the waste industry and the public. Data are reported by all local authorities, often from management information supplied by their waste management contractor.

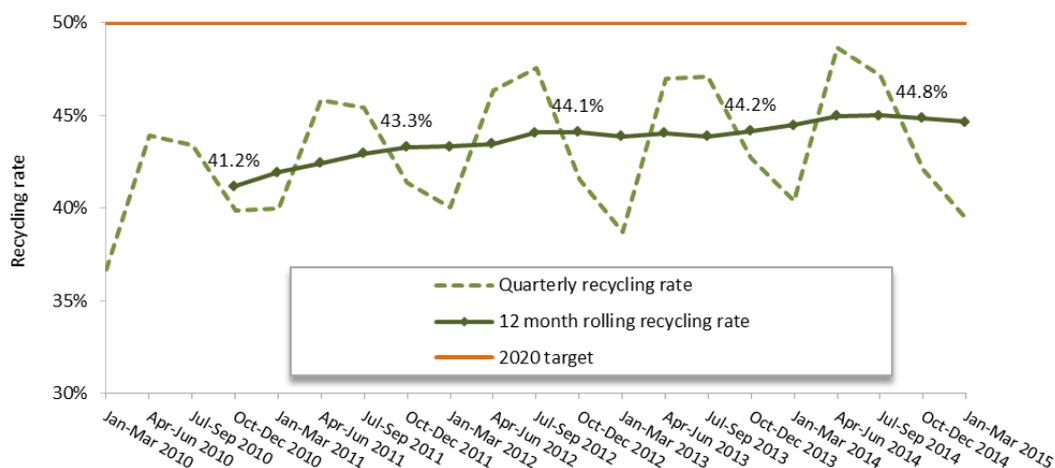
Factors affecting household waste recycling range from individual household behaviours, the advice and collection services provided by local authorities, the cost of waste treatment and disposal and to some extent wider issues such as the state of the economy. Some quarterly waste data show a clear seasonal fluctuation (see Figure 1 below). For example the generation of garden waste is highly seasonal, increasing sharply and pushing up recycling rates 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, parks and grounds, business and construction. Only a small proportion of the total waste from businesses and construction are covered in these statistics, with most being managed privately.

1 Waste from Households

This is the measure that the UK introduced in 2014 for statistical purposes to provide a harmonised UK indicator to report recycling rates at UK level on a calendar year basis under the Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC). '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.

Figure 1: The 'waste from households' recycling rate in England, Jan-Mar 2010 to Jan-Mar 2015



Notes:

Recycling is 'recycling, composting and preparing for reuse'.

The recycling figures stated on the chart are for the relevant calendar years

- The total 'waste from households' increased by 3.7 per cent between 2013 and 2014 to 22.4 million tonnes.
- The annual rate of 'waste from households' recycling for 2014 was 44.8 per cent, up on the 44.2 per cent achieved in 2013. It is also up by almost 4 percentage points since 2010, the earliest year for which data for this specific measure are available.
- In 2014, around 42 per cent of recycling of 'waste from households' was organic waste comprising of separately collected food waste and other organics such as garden waste. Dry recycling accounted for the remaining 58 per cent.
- Organic recycling rose by almost 9.6 per cent in 2014 compared to the previous year, mainly influenced by other organics (in particular green waste) which rose sharply between April and June 2014 compared to the same quarter in 2013 and is the highest level recorded in any quarter.
- Dry recycling rose by 2.3 per cent in 2014 compared to 2013 to 5.8 million tonnes.
- In the 12 month period to March 2015, the 'waste from households' recycling rate was 44.7 per cent, with the recycling rate for the latest quarter for January to March 2015 being 39.4 per cent. The dry recycling has remained relatively stable while organic recycling has fallen slightly but still within the natural year to year variation.
- There is an EU target for the UK to recycle at least 50 per cent of waste generated by households by 2020. The England 'waste from households' figures seen here make a significant contribution to the UK estimates, which are published in [UK Statistics on Waste](#).

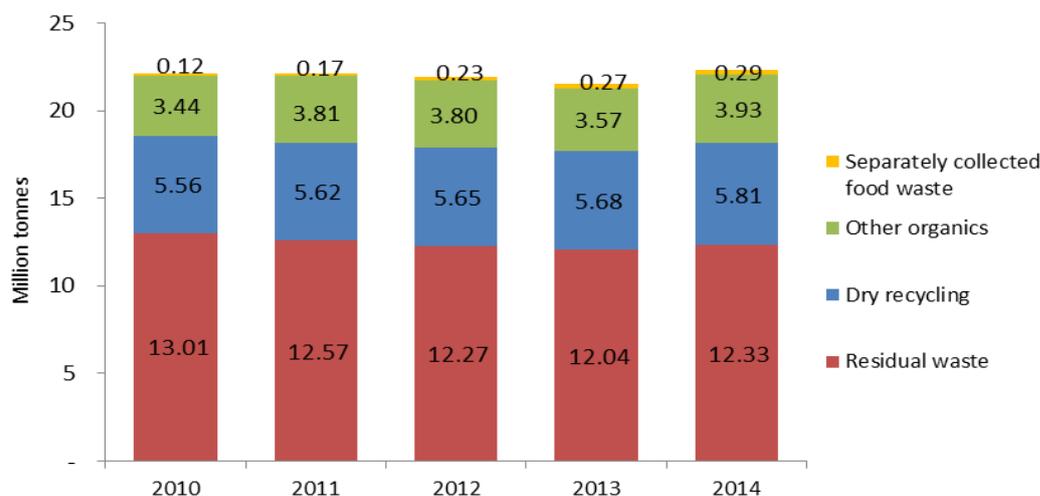
Table 1 Composition breakdown of 'waste from households' in England 2010 to 2014

Thousand tonnes

Collection type	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	% change 2014 over 2013
Total Recycling	9,112	9,596	9,684	9,523	10,025	5.3%
<i>of which: Dry recycling</i>	5,557	5,618	5,652	5,675	5,807	2.3%
<i>of which: Separately collected food waste</i>	118	172	230	273	290	6.3%
<i>of which: Other organics recycling</i>	3,437	3,807	3,802	3,575	3,928	9.9%
Total Residual	13,014	12,566	12,270	12,038	12,327	2.4%
Total waste from households	22,131	22,170	21,956	21,564	22,355	3.7%

Note: Total waste from households includes dry recycling/ preparing for reuse and organics. It also includes residual waste (or 'black bag' waste) and rejects from recycling.

Figure 2: Composition of 'waste from households' 2010-2014, England (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.

Residual waste includes residual waste from households' regular collections (black bags), bulky waste, residual from civic amenity centres and rejects from recycling. It excludes waste diverted for recycling from residual waste.

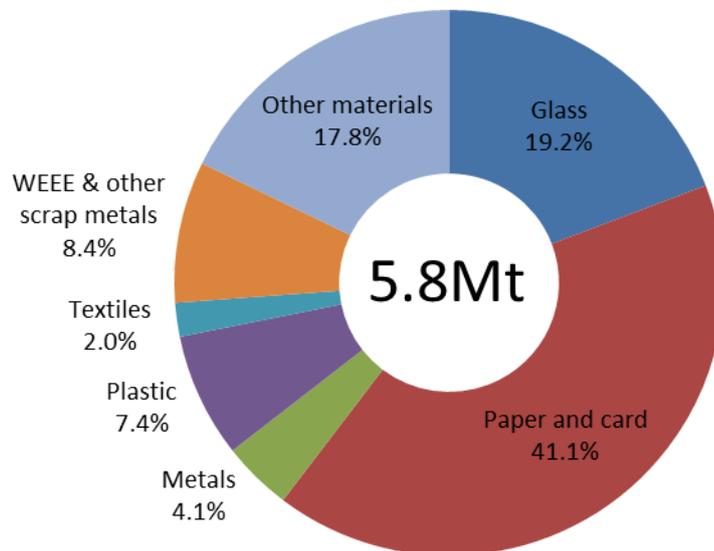
Dry recycling includes paper and card, glass, plastic, waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE), scrap metals as well as other materials.

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

- In 2014 The total 'waste from households' equated to 413 kg per person, an increase of 2.9 per cent on 2013.
- There was a similar 2.4 per cent increase in the amount of residual waste from households ('black bag waste') between 2013 and 2014 to 12.3 million tonnes, due to increases in waste from kerbside collections and civic amenity centres which were subsequently sent for disposal.
- The amount of other organics sent for recycling has increased since 2010 and in 2014 was 3.9 million tonnes, with the highest level of recycling of other organics recorded in April to June. This in combination with an unusually low other organics figure for January to March 2013, resulted in a 9.9 per cent increase compared to 2013. It constituted almost 18 per cent of the overall waste collected in 2014.
- The amount of food waste sent for composting (including anaerobic digestion) has more than doubled since 2010 and in 2014 was 290 thousand tonnes – a 6.3 per cent increase compared to 2013. This represents a very small proportion in terms of overall waste composition but this has slowly increased from 1.2 to 2.9 per cent of the total 'waste from households' recycled between 2010 and 2014.

- The amount of dry recycling increased by 4.5 per cent between 2010 and 2014 and stood at 5.8 million tonnes in 2014. It constitutes 26 per cent of total waste from households.

Figure 3 **Composition of ‘waste from households’ dry recycling in England, 2014**



- In 2014, approximately 5.8 million tonnes of dry recycling came from households in England.
- Paper and card made up about 41.1 per cent of the proportion of dry recycling with glass contributing to a further 19.2 per cent. Metals made up about 4.1 per cent, ‘waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) including other scrap metals’ made up 8.4 per cent and plastics made up a further 7.4 per cent of dry recycling. Textiles (including footwear) made up 2.0 per cent and ‘other materials’ (including wood, furniture and tyres) made up 17.8 per cent.
- The composition of dry recycling has remained similar since 2010 with minimal variation across the different quarters of the year.

The full dataset for waste from households is available [here](#).

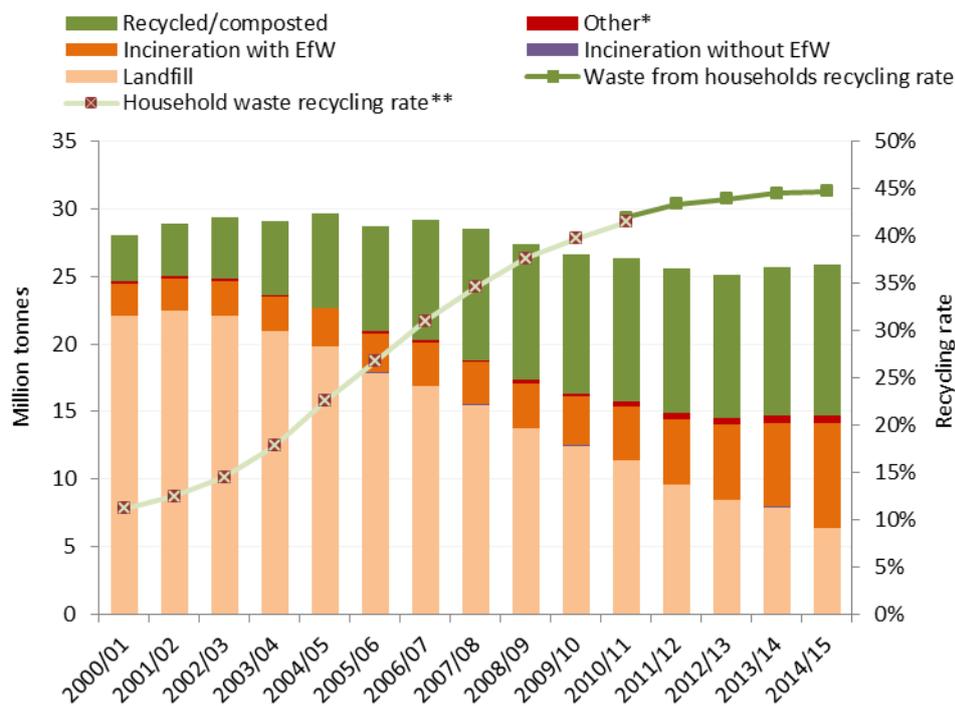
3 Management of all Local Authority collected waste

Local authority collected waste is that which comes under the possession or control of the Local Authority. It includes waste coming from households, as well as other wastes collected by a waste collection authority or its agents. Examples include street bins, street sweepings, gully emptying, parks and grounds waste, soil, separately collected healthcare waste, asbestos waste, beach cleansing waste, commercial or industrial waste, and waste resulting from the clearance of fly-tipped materials.

Some waste generated by business and construction is managed by Local Authorities, but the majority of waste generated by these industries is managed by the private sector. Data are reported on a financial year basis, which is most useful to Local Authorities. For further information see [definition of terms](#) on gov.uk website.

The full dataset for the management of all local authority collected waste is available [here](#). The data for Figure 4 are given in Table 2a of the dataset.

Figure 4: Management of all Local Authority collected waste and recycling rates in England, 2000/01- 2014/15



Notes:

Incineration with energy recovery/without energy recovery includes incineration bottom ash (IBA) and metals from IBA.

* Other includes waste treated/disposed through other unspecified methods, process and moisture loss.

** The Household waste recycling rate is based on a broader measure of waste and is not directly comparable to the 'waste from households' recycling rate. For further information on definitions refer to the glossary.

- The total tonnage of waste managed by local authorities in England was 25.8 million tonnes in 2014/15, a slight increase of 0.7 per cent from 2013/14. There has been a general decline in the total waste managed by local authorities from a high of 29.6 million tonnes in 2004/5 with a general gradual declining trend down to 25.1 million tonnes in 2012/13 with small increases in the subsequent two years.
- The total amount of all waste recycled (including composted and prepared for reuse) rose by 1.3 per cent between 2013/14 and 2014/15 to 11.1 million tonnes. This is more than a three-fold increase on the 3.4 million tonnes recycled in 2000/01. In 2014/15, almost 43 per cent of all local authority waste

managed was recycled, very similar to 2013/14 but considerably higher than the 12 per cent recycled in 2000/01.

- The total local authority waste going to landfill has continued its downward trend and for the first time in 2014/15, was lower than the amount of waste sent to incineration with energy recovery. Total LA managed waste to landfill has fallen by 71 per cent since 2000/01 and in 2014/15 represented 25 per cent of all local authority managed waste. There was a marked 20 per cent reduction in the amount of waste sent to landfill over the last 12 months to 2014/15.
- Local Authority managed waste sent to incineration with energy recovery has more than tripled since 2000/01, off-setting the reduction in disposal to landfill, and stood at 7.8 million tonnes in 2014/15. The proportion of all local authority managed waste treated in this way increased from 9.0 per cent in 2000/01 to 30 per cent in 2014/15.
- The 'Hierarchy of Waste' suggests that generating energy from waste by incineration is preferable to landfill, although recycling and reuse are preferable to both.

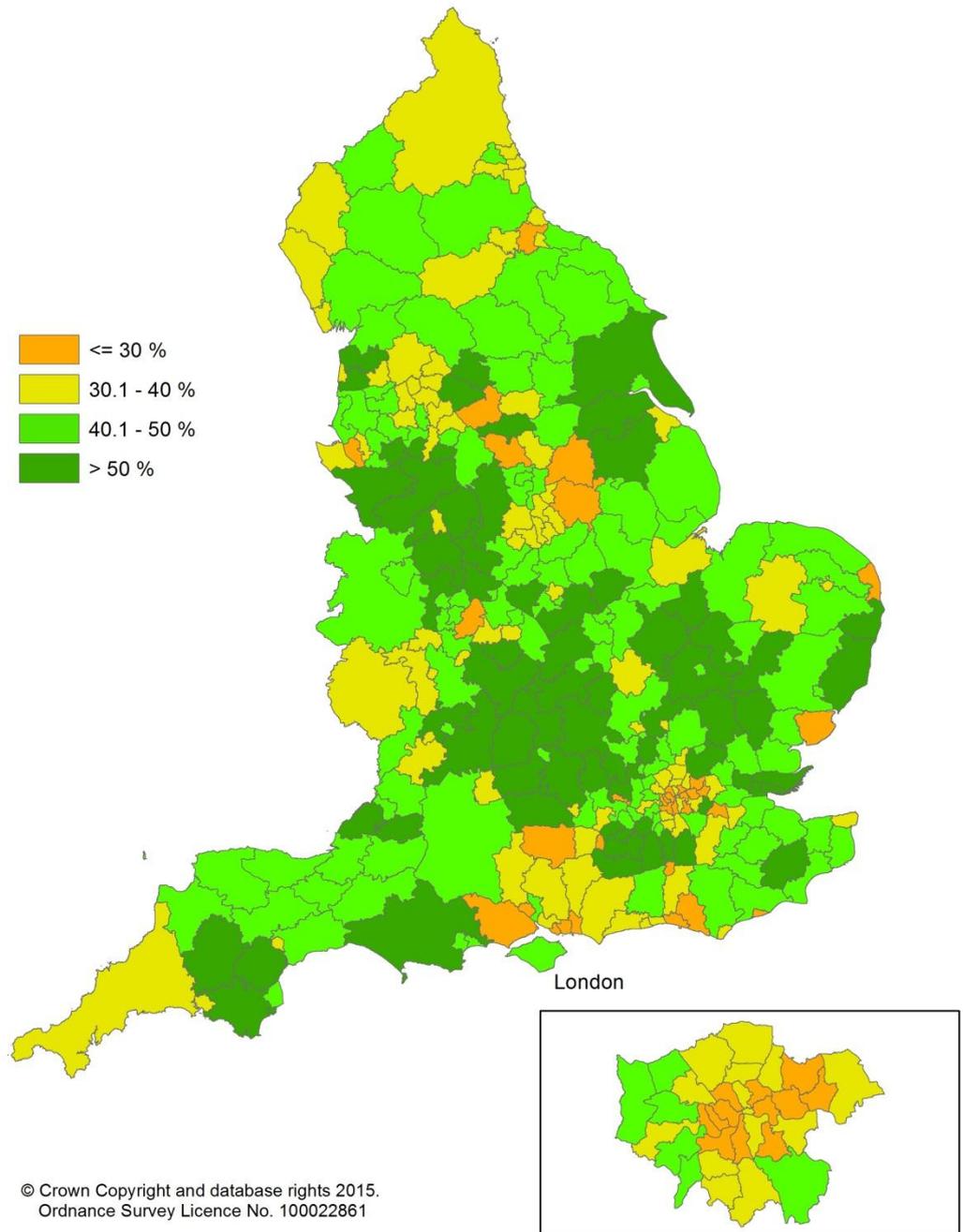
3.1 Household Waste Recycling Rates for Individual Local Authorities

The 'household waste' (ex-NI 192) measure is a broader definition 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.

- At Local Authority level, individual 'household waste' recycling rates ranged from 14 per cent to 67 per cent. The average figure for England is 44 per cent.
- There is a tendency for 'household waste' recycling rates to be similar in adjacent authorities, although high and low recycling rates are spread across England. Figure 5 shows the geographic distribution of recycling rates in 2014/15.
- Council of the Isles of Scilly had the lowest 'household waste' recycling rate in 2014/15 at 14 per cent and Newham London Borough Council and Lewisham London Borough Council both had a 'household waste' recycling rate of 17 per cent.
- South Oxfordshire District Council had the highest 'household waste' recycling rate at 67 per cent, with over 47 per cent of their recycling comprising of green/organic waste. The Vale of White Horse District Council achieved 66 per cent and Rochford District Council achieved 65 per cent 'household waste' recycling rates.
- The local authorities with the largest increase in 'household' waste recycling rates over the last 12 months were South Bucks District Council, Ashford Borough Council, East Cambridgeshire District Council and Gravesham Borough Council where rates increased by 10 to 17 percentage points.

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

Percentage of household waste sent for recycling, reuse or composting, 2014/15



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

Data uses

Data on waste are used to monitor policy effectiveness and to support policy development. These data also help the UK meet legislative reporting targets on recycling rates set out in the Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC) and comply with the Waste Statistics Regulation (2002/2150/EC). These data are used extensively by local and central government, the waste industry, researchers and also the public.

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.

Revisions Policy

Defra will provide information about any significant revisions made to information published in this statistics release and the associated datasets. Revisions could occur for a variety of reasons, including backdating to reflect methodological improvements or the finalisation of data from third parties which was unavailable or provisional at the time of publishing.

Methodology

Data for this release came from a snapshot of the WasteDataFlow database taken in November 2015. 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.

The tonnage of waste 'sent for reuse, recycling and composting' is that which is accepted by the re-processor. 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.

New question structure for treatment and disposal questions (Q100)

A new question titled 'Q100' which replaces a number of existing questions on waste treatments and disposal methods was introduced and set up in the WasteDataFlow online system for Local Authorities in England in April 2014. Q100 is already being used by all authorities in Wales and Scotland.

Approximately 60 authorities in England started using Q100 in April 2014 with another 40 moving across later such that in total 100 authorities used Q100 at various quarters in the reporting year, they are listed in the dataset. This question structure is being used by all Local Authorities in England from April 2015.

Q100 has a much more flexible structure to allow authorities to more accurately record the waste management processes which have become more complex so could not be adequately captured under the previous question structure. It also provides the opportunity for Local Authorities to report in more detail the further treatment and disposal of certain types of waste such as RDF, which would have been a final output previously. This is highly specific to the Local Authority and the facilities and practices used for treatment and disposal.

As Q100 incorporates a number of questions, there have been some necessary modifications to the process for extracting data from the database and the workings used to produce the various data breakdowns but the principles of the current methodology are unchanged. In particular there are no changes to the categories of waste that are included as recycling and no changes to the 'waste from households' recycling rate calculation.

We are monitoring and assessing the impact of the introduction of Q100 on data recording and subsequent reporting so that this is clear and consistent. It is possible that some refinement may be required to the format of datasets in the future, reflecting the additional information which is available through Q100 and to retain consistency and comparability of datasets. The introduction of Q100 should provide a more complete and transparent representation of what happens in practice.

At an aggregate level, there is no significant impact on the data reported.

Data quality assurance

All local authorities provide data into WasteDataFlow. Several stages of data validation are 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 may be undertaken by the Environment Agencies on any specific data queries raised 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. Trend and outlier analysis on key measures at an aggregate and individual Local Authority level are undertaken by Defra. Details of the validation process are available on the WasteDataFlow [website](#).

EU recycling target

Commission Decision 2011/753/EU allows 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”.

EU Legislation on waste is currently under review, with new legislative proposals expected from the European Commission as part of a package on the Circular Economy. This is likely to contain proposed amendments to the definitions and calculation methods for municipal waste and recycling, which may or may not be applicable to targets set for 2020.

Glossary of terms and measures

Waste from households

The ‘waste from households’ measure was introduced to statistical publications by Defra in May 2014. It is also used to construct a harmonised UK indicator based comparable calculations for each of the four UK countries. This provides a consistent approach with which to report household recycling rates at UK level under the Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC).

‘Waste from households’ is a narrower version of the ‘**household waste**’ measure which was used previously. 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 measure in our annual publication on a financial year basis to maintain 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 the ‘waste from households’ measure only. Full data on household waste is available and can be downloaded on the gov.uk [website](#).

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) & 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 and compost like output. This calculation will be made available as the NI 192 report on the [wastedataflow portal \(http://www.wastedataflow.org/\)](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.

Useful links

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

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