

POLICY REVIEW AND DEVELOPMENT PANEL REPORT

REPORT TO:	Environment and Community Panel		
DATE:	25 February 2024		
TITLE:	Waste Management and Recycling Update		
TYPE OF REPORT:	Performance Update		
PORTFOLIO(S):	Cllr Sandra Squire		
REPORT AUTHOR:	Barry Brandford		
OPEN/EXEMPT	Open	WILL BE SUBJECT TO A FUTURE CABINET REPORT:	No

REPORT SUMMARY/COVER PAGE

PURPOSE OF REPORT/SUMMARY:
To provide Members with an update on the Waste Management and Recycling for the Borough and the Government's "Simpler Recycling" reforms.
KEY ISSUES:
Proposed Government changes Current performance information
OPTIONS CONSIDERED:
RECOMMENDATIONS:
The Panel is invited to consider the item and seek information from officers present as required.
REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:
To update members on upcoming changes and current information.

REPORT DETAIL

Summary of proposed changes for waste and recycling collections

The UK government's "Simpler Recycling" reforms aim to streamline household and business waste collection in England, boosting recycling rates and reducing confusion. Key features include:

- **Standardised recycling:** Collecting the same core materials (likely glass, metal, plastic, paper, card) across all areas, simplifying the process for residents and businesses.
- **Weekly food waste collection:** Ensuring food waste receives dedicated composting treatment, diverting it from landfill.
- **Opt in (charged for) garden waste collection:** No policy change encouraging responsible disposal of garden waste and potentially reducing residual waste volumes.
- **Simplified labelling:** Clear and consistent labelling on packaging and bins to eliminate confusion about what can be recycled.

Benefits:

- Increased recycling rates through simplicity and consistency.
- Reduced contamination of recyclable materials due to clearer labelling.
- Improved compliance with upcoming Packaging Extended Producer Responsibility (p-EPR) regulations.
- Potential cost savings for local authorities through optimized collection systems.

Potential Implementation Dates:

- Food waste collections by March 2026
- Collections from non-household municipal premises (commercial premises) by March 2025
- Collection of Flexible Packaging by March 2027

Challenges:

- Public awareness campaigns needed to educate residents and businesses about the changes.
- Government undecided on the provision of caddy liners for food waste.
- Funding proposals are imprecise and may be insufficient

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/consistency-in-household-and-business-recycling-in-england/outcome/government-response>

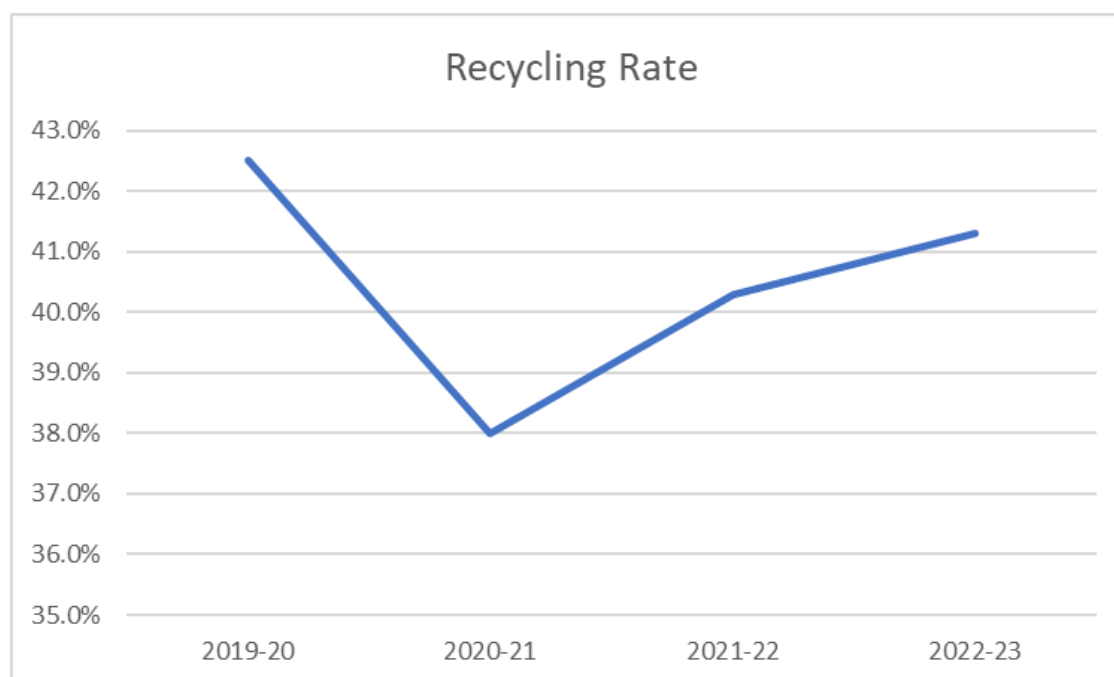
Current Performance

The latest figures for recycling performance for the year 2022/23 were published in January 2024. The figures for Norfolk councils are below

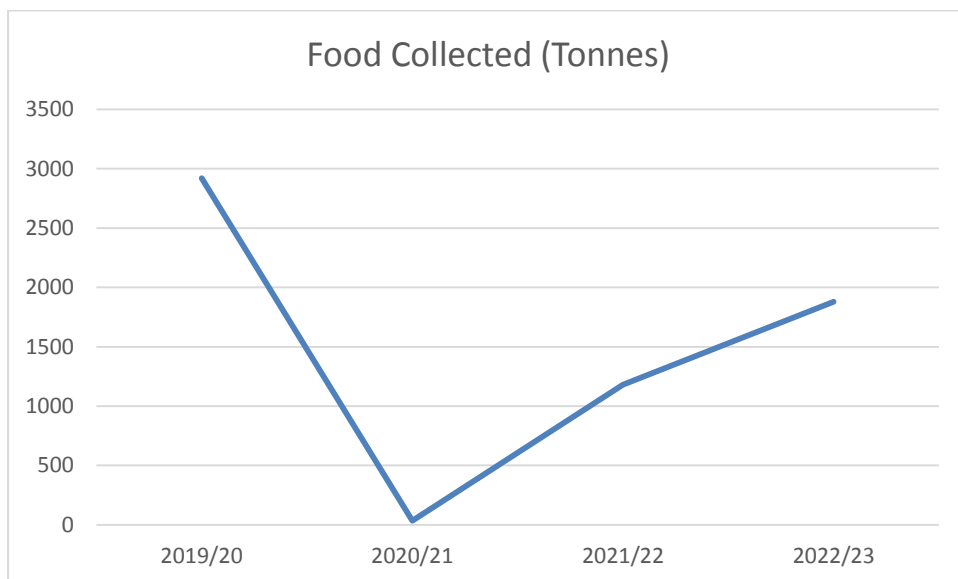
Authority	Residual household waste per household (kg/household) (Ex NI191)	Percentage of household waste sent for reuse, recycling or composting (Ex NI192)
Kings Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council	464.5	41.30%
Broadland District Council	397.6	50.30%
Great Yarmouth Borough Council	529	30.40%
North Norfolk District Council	426.7	43.10%
Norwich City Council	388.5	38.50%
South Norfolk Council	468.5	40.70%
Norfolk County Council	504.8	43.10%

The figures show a stable performance for this council along with North Norfolk and Broadland districts and Great Yarmouth Borough Council and falls in recycling performance in other council areas.

Figures for the Borough Council of King’s Lynn and West Norfolk over the recent years are heavily distorted by Covid 19 including impacts on the tonnage of food waste collected.



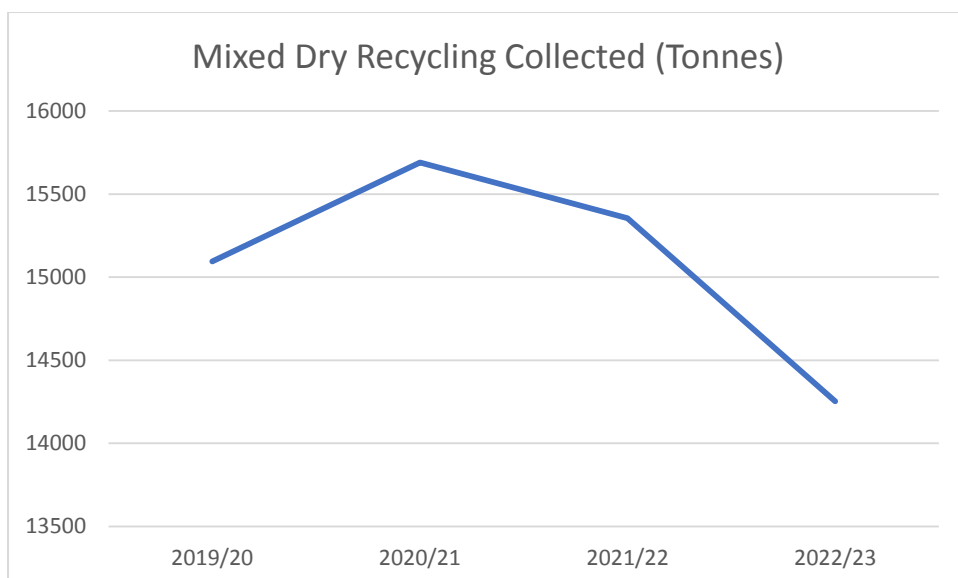
Collections of Food Waste had to be suspended during Covid19 pandemic.



Food waste is processed by anaerobic digestion in Hertfordshire and Essex by Biogen producing green electricity and fertilisers for farms. To find out more about anaerobic digestion visit [Food waste – how is it recycled? \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)

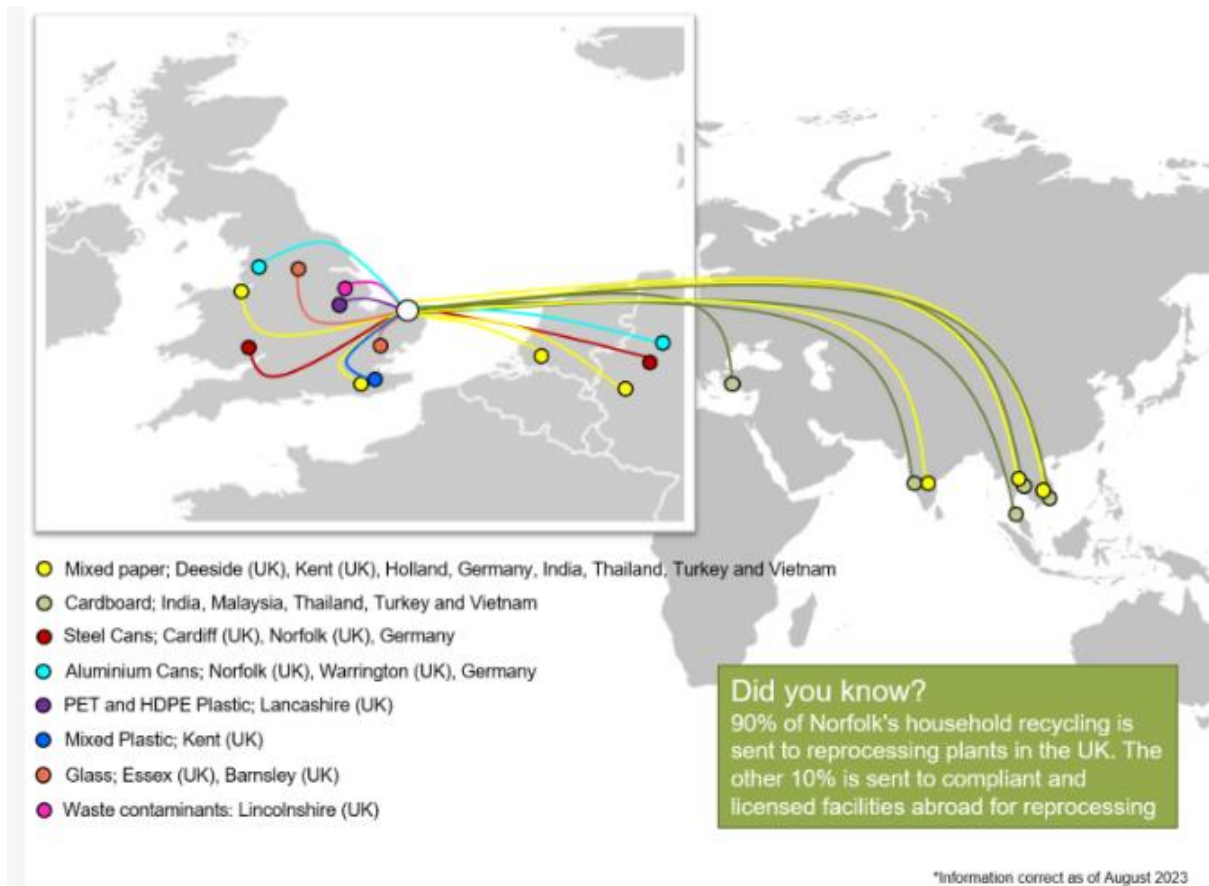
Mixed Dry Recycling Collections (Green Bin)

The tonnages for these has reduced and this may be down to cost of living issues and also the reduction in the weight of packaging and reduction in the consumption of newspapers and magazines, a long term trend.



For those interested in the operation of the MRF and the destination of materials we collect please go to [News Recycling \(cmpds.co.uk\)](https://www.cmpds.co.uk/news-recycling)

Sorted materials are processed in to new products in both the UK and internationally



National Targets

Targets exist in Circular Economy Package and Waste Framework Directive which have moved across to the 25 year Environment Plan, Our Waste, Our Resources: A Strategy For England and the Waste Management Plan for England.

2020 at least 50% by weight of waste from households is prepared for re-use or recycled

2035 the preparing for re-use and the recycling of municipal waste is increased to a minimum of 65% by weight

These targets do not set specific targets for this council but the Extended Producer Responsibility regime may introduce targets which relate to separation of wastes for recycling.

Corporate Strategy

The Corporate Strategy has a priority to protect our environment.

To create a cleaner, greener, and better protected West Norfolk by considering environmental issues in all we do and by encouraging residents and businesses to do the same.

To achieve this the council will minimise domestic and corporate waste by encouraging reuse, recycling and responsible disposal.