Appendix 2

Waste Management Strategy 2017-2027

Household Waste Management Strategy: Forward Thinking Towards Zero Avoidable Waste

Annual performance review 2019-20

Contents

Introduction

Wiltshire's Household Waste Management Strategy 2017-2027 contains a commitment to provide annual performance reviews.

This document provides a summary of waste management performance against the priorities set within the household waste management strategy during the period of April 2019 to March 2020.

Reviewing waste management performance against the priorities within the strategy is an essential step in the development of the annual action plan, which sets out goals and outcomes for the next year of service delivery in the context of changing local and national circumstances and the resources available.

This document aims to explain the key waste management performance statistics and trends during the period, whilst offering some commentary on how the council's actions may have affected residents' behaviours and performance of the council's waste services.

The document will consider each of the priority areas in turn.

1. Waste prevention performance

> Priority 1 - Waste Prevention:
> The council will work with national, regional and local partners to provide advice and information to encourage residents to reduce the amount of household waste they create.

The total amount of household waste produced in Wiltshire has been declining since a peak in 2014/15. The total amount produced is impacted by a number of local and national influences, including how much disposable income people have to spend, the changing characteristics of product packaging, and a decline in newsprint media, etc.
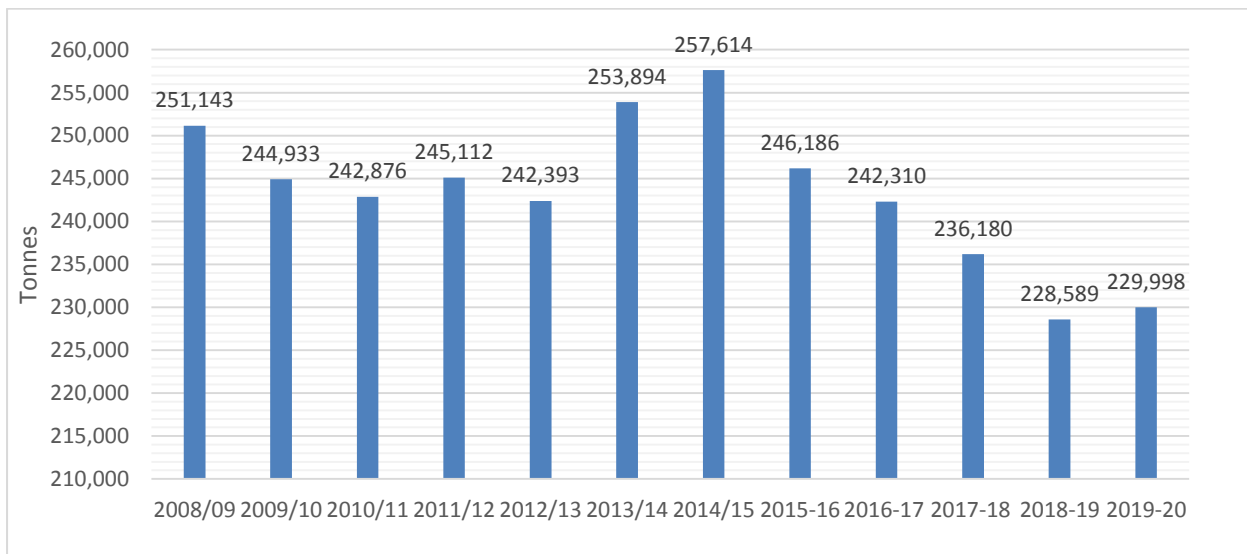

Figure 1: Total local authority collected waste in Wiltshire, 2008-2020.

Recent trends show that the amount of non-recycled waste produced per household (after recycling) has not changed significantly since 2015. This is referred to as "residual" waste and is comprised of several waste streams including, but not limited to :

- Kerbside collected residual waste;
- Residual waste disposed of at household recycling centres;
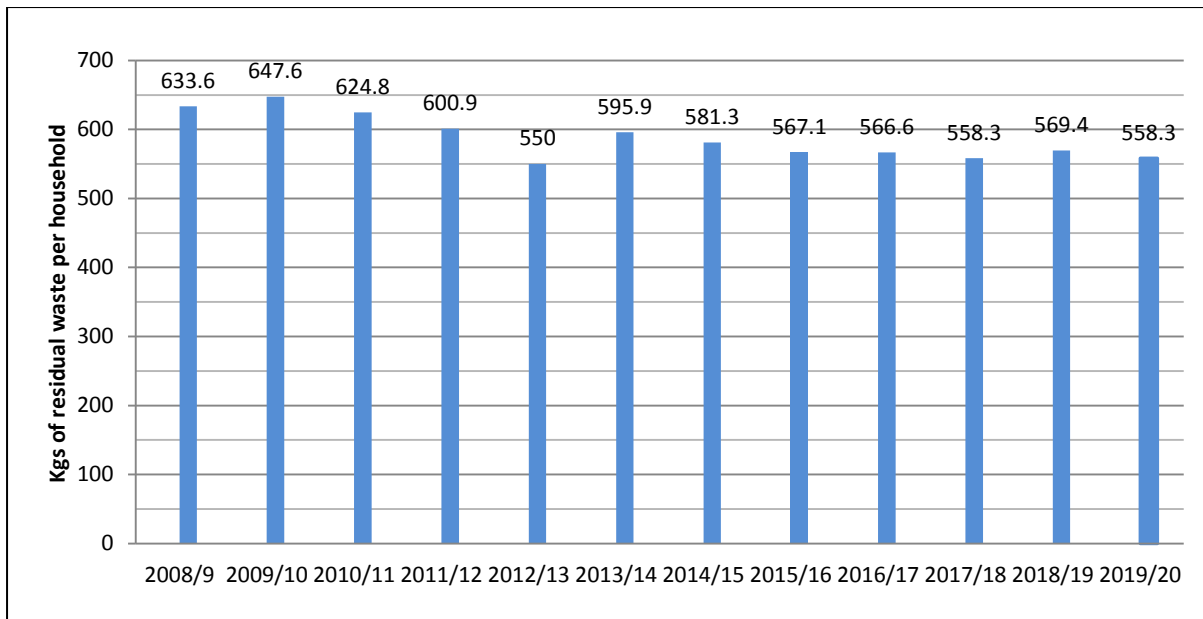- Skips at council depots;
- Fly-tipped waste.

Figure 2: Residual household waste (after recycling) - kgs per household, 2008-2020. Note: Figures include residual waste from all sources e.g. kerbside collections, HRCs, MBT residues etc.

The following changes have been introduced by the Council and its partners to reduce the amount of waste created in Wiltshire.

- Providing wheeled bins for non-recyclable waste and enforcing a no side- waste policy, which encourages residents to make full use of the kerbside recycling services available and to better manage their waste.
- Standardisation of bin size to 180 litres for residual waste bins. Where larger bins need to be replaced due to breakage or loss, these will be replaced with a standard 180 litre bin, unless the following criteria is met.
- Providing larger bins only in extenuating circumstances, such as:
  - six or more residents in a household;
  - a family of five including one or more in nappies; or
  - a medical need which creates large volumes of unrecyclable waste.
- Limiting the amount of non-recyclable waste which residents, who are unable to store a bin on their property, may put out for collection in bags (only bags with council-issued labels will be collected by the contractor).
- Introducing van and trailer permits at household recycling centres to help limit traders illegally disposing of their business waste at the sites.
- Introducing a proof of address scheme at household recycling centres to limit the impact of waste being disposed of by residents from outside of the Wiltshire Council area.
- Subsidising the purchase price of food waste composters for residents who wish to compost their food and garden waste at home – see Figure 3.
- Introducing a charge for the collection of garden waste which, for some residents, would encourage composting at home.
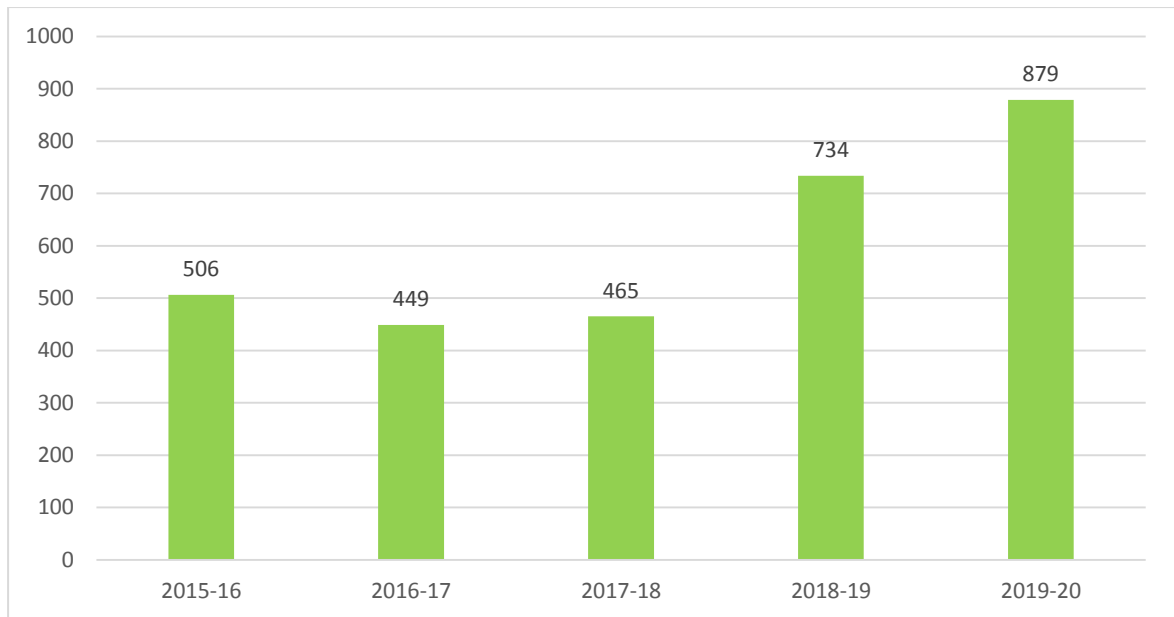
Figure 3: Subsidised food waste digesters sold, 2015-2020.

2. Repair and Reuse Performance

Priority 2 – Repair and Reuse
The council will work with local reuse organisations and contractors to increase the opportunity for items to be repaired and reused. The council will continue to work with national partners and manufacturers to promote sustainable design so that items can be easily repaired rather than having to be replaced.

The amount of waste repaired or reused in Wiltshire is difficult to measure as much of this activity happens within communities and voluntary groups, and without the direct involvement of the council. Some Area Boards have successfully hosted Repair Workshops in their communities.

Repair and reuse performance are therefore not currently measured and reported. However, the council will be working with its contractors and partners to implement a system whereby reuse activities in Wiltshire can be measured and reported.

Initiatives that the council delivered in 2019-20 included the following:

- Encouraging residents to prioritise reuse of large items rather than requesting a large item collection from the council – see Figure 4. The Environmental Protection Act 1990 allows the charge for this service to reflect the council's reasonable costs for collection (though disposal costs should not be charged to the resident). Despite charges having increased significantly in 2018/19 this service is still well used by residents.
- Promoting reuse organisations in Wiltshire through the council's website: www.wiltshire.gov.uk/large-item-collection
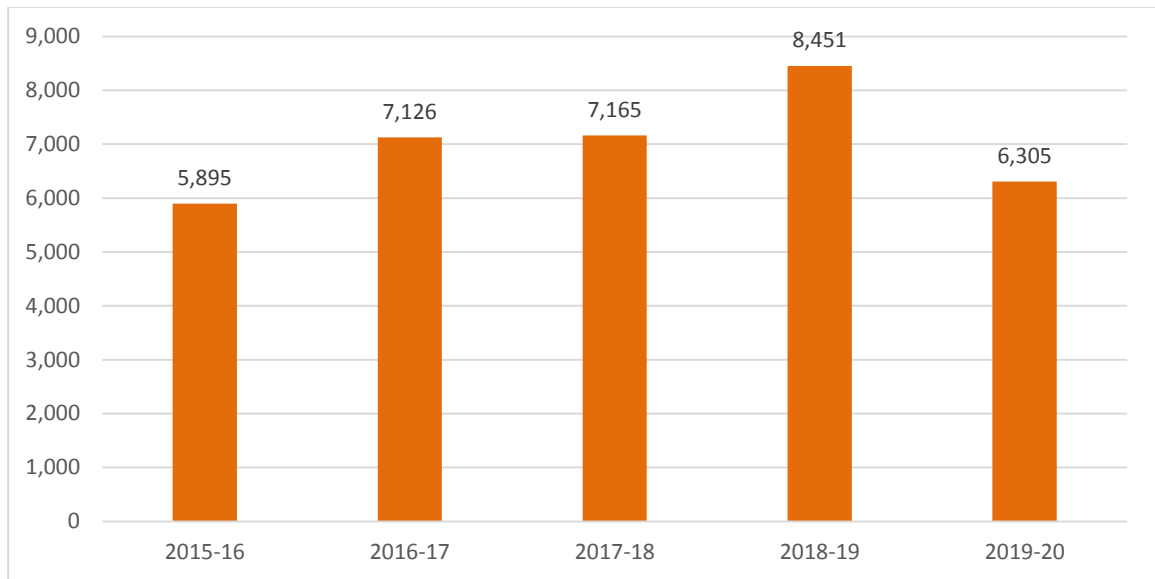
Figure 4: large item collections, 2015-2020.

3. Recycling Performance

Priority 3 - Recycling and Composting:
The council will continue to ensure that cost effective and efficient recycling services are provided so that residents are able to recycle a range of materials as easily as possible. The council will continue to review the potential for expanding the range of items collected for recycling and composting where it is environmentally and economically practical to do so.

Recycling, which includes garden waste sent for composting, comprises materials collected through the council's kerbside collection services and ten household recycling centres. Wiltshire's recycling rate (the total percentage of household waste sent for recycling and composting) had decreased in recent years following a peak of 46.42% in 2014/15. 2019/20 saw an upturn in recycling performance from 42.69% (2018/19) to 43.45%.

Figure 5 below shows how the cumulative recycling rate follows a similar pattern over the year. This reflects the seasonal impact of the quantity of garden waste collected and sent for composting, which is also very weather-dependent.
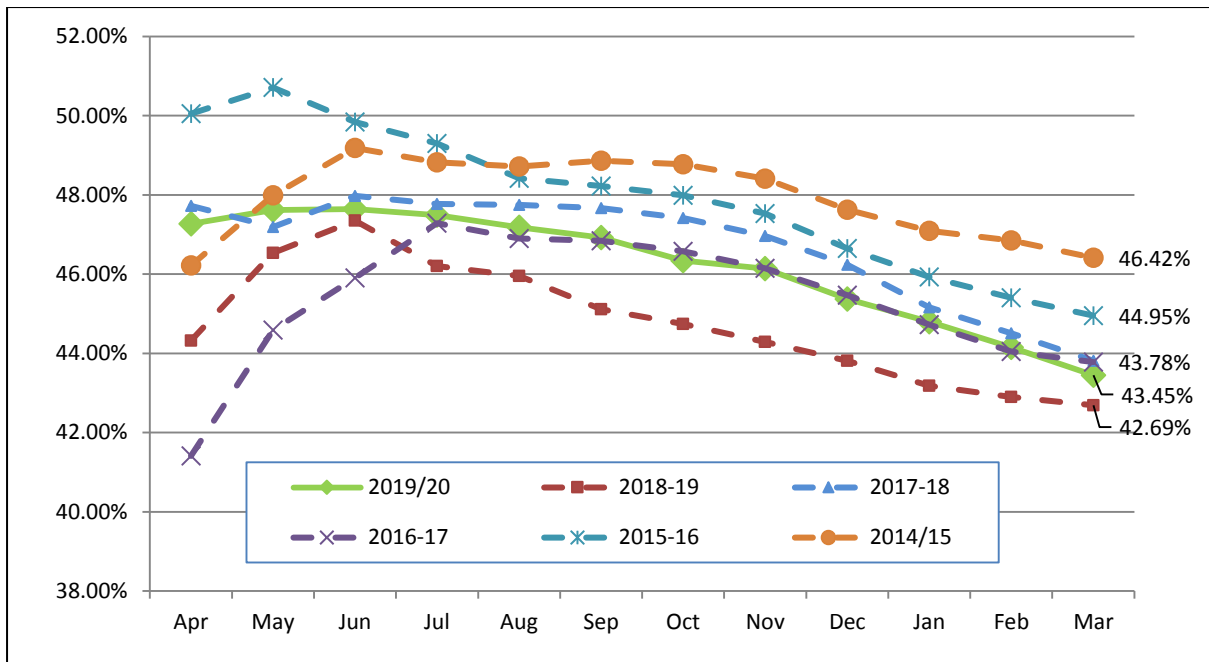
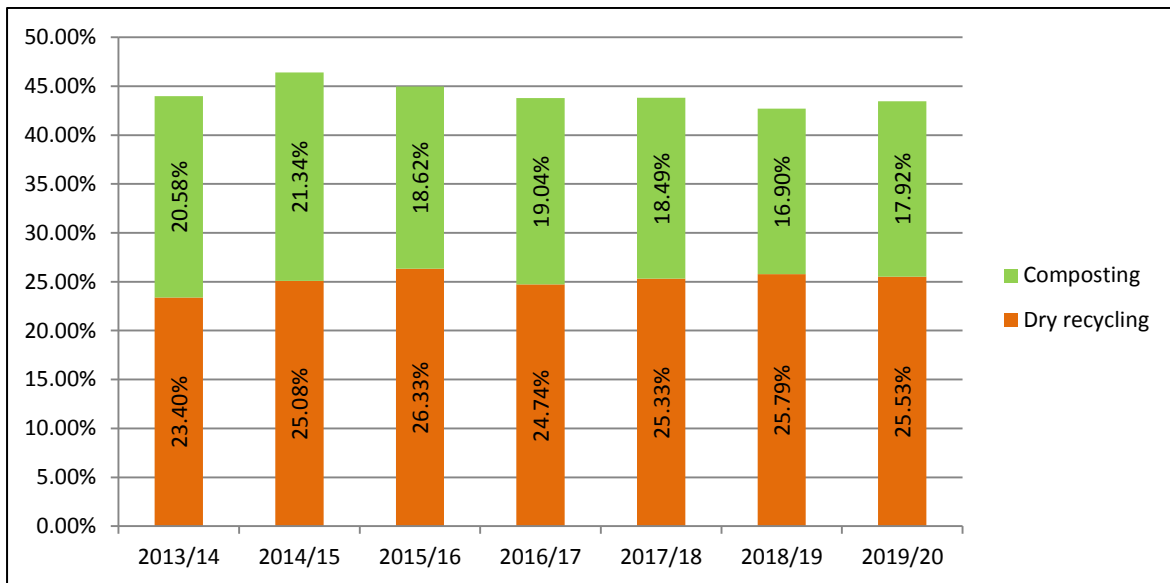Figure 5. Recycling and composting as percentage of household waste, 2013-2020

Figure 6: Recycling and composting as percentage of household waste, 2013-2020

3.1 Kerbside Recycling Collections

The council collects paper, glass, cans, foil, textiles, plastic bottles, pots, tubs and trays, cardboard, liquid food and drink cartons and garden waste from the kerbside.

In 2019/20 the total amount of kerbside-collected recycling and garden waste increased for the first time since a peak in 2014/15. The data also shows a progressive increase in kerbside dry recycling since 2013/14 (see Figure 7).
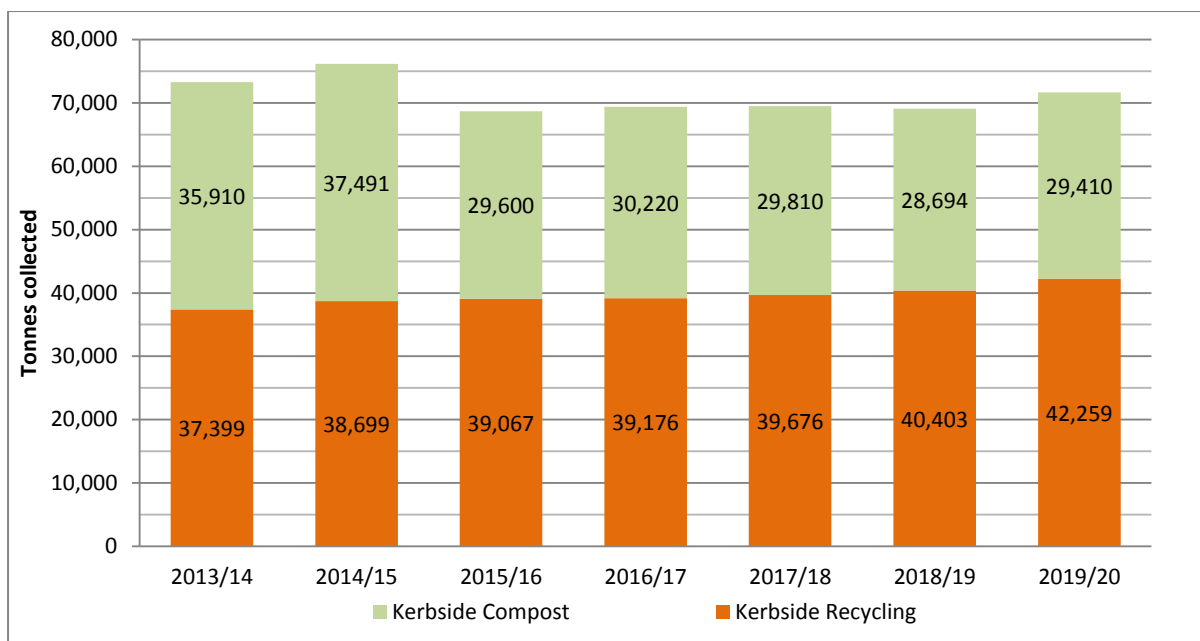
Figure 7: Tonnes of kerbside recycling and composting, 2013-2020

Figure 7 shows the split between the tonnage of dry recycling and green waste collected and from 2015/16 reflects the impact of moving from a free of charge opt-in kerbside collection of garden waste to a charged-for service, resulting in fewer people using this service and less garden waste being collected.

There has been a small but steady increase in the tonnes of dry recycling collected each year, despite manufacturers using less materials in packaging in a drive to reduce the weight of items. For example, some glass bottles are being replaced with plastic bottles, while some cans and plastic bottles are made using less material and so weigh less. There continue to be changes in buying habits and generally people buy less newspapers and magazines than in previous years. This may have been compensated for by an increase in online shopping and the additional packaging used to protect items in transit.

Waste composition research undertaken in Wiltshire in 2012 shows that over 36% of material in residents' non-recyclable waste bins could have been recycled using the council's kerbside collection services.

	Average % of material in residual waste which could have been recycled at the kerbside
Paper and card	15.68%
Plastic bottles	8.48%
Textiles	5.50%
Glass	3.83%
Tins and cans	2.99%
Total:	**36.46%**

Figure 8: Percentage of recyclable waste found in non-recyclable waste bins.

3.2 Household Recycling Centres

Wiltshire Council has a statutory duty (under section 51 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990) to provide places where persons resident in its area may deposit their household waste, free of charge. The council currently operates a network of 10 sites, located across the county where residents can dispose of their general waste as well as recycle many other items.

The number of visitors to the sites and the amount of each waste stream collected is monitored and reported. The number of residents visiting the site varies depending on the site capacity, layout and the density of the population surrounding the site.

Visitor numbers to the recycling centres have decreased in recent times. This may be due to:

- The reduction of opening hours and days which came into place in 2015-16;
- The introduction of a van and trailer permit system at household recycling centres to help limit traders illegally bringing waste to the sites;
- The introduction of a 'proof of address' scheme to reduce the amount of waste being disposed of by non-Wiltshire Council residents;
- Asking visitors who are suspected of bringing trade waste to the sites to complete a trade waste disclaimer form to limit the illegal use of the sites.

Whilst it is important to monitor the number of visitors to the site, from a waste management point of view it is more important to understand how visitors manage their waste while on site. The service aims to increase the amount of waste which is brought to the site being diverted from landfill.
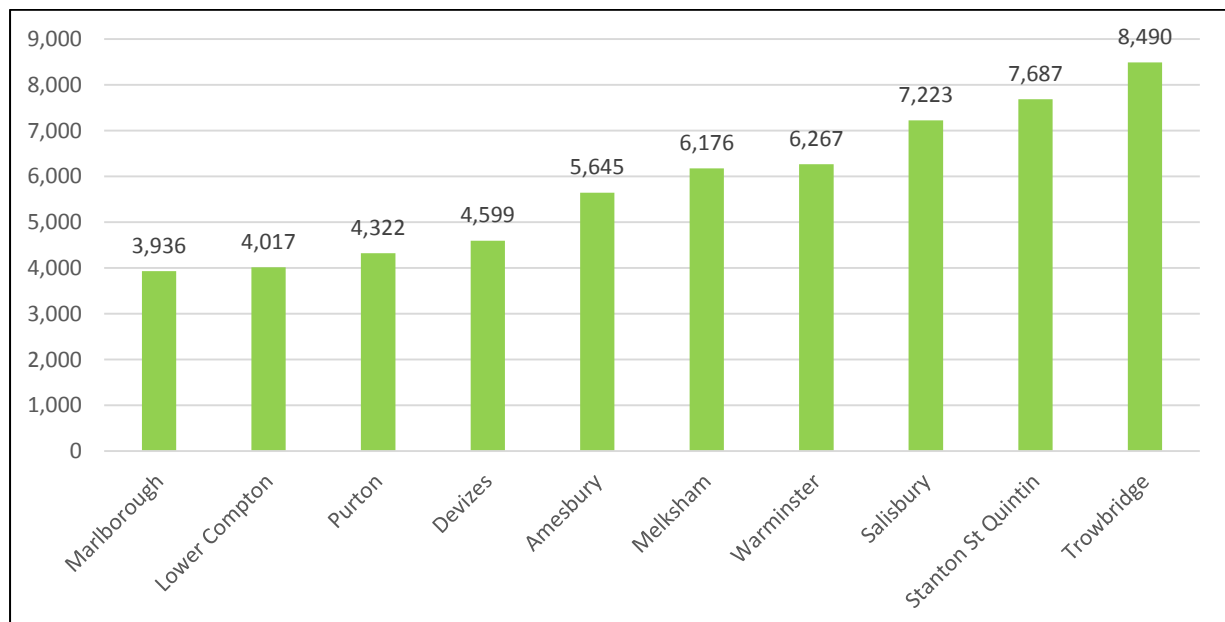

Figure 9: Household recycling centres, total tonnes managed, 2019/20.

HRC Site	Total Tonnes	Tonnes diverted from landfill	Landfill diversion (%)
Amesbury	5,645	4,281	76%
Lower Compton*	4,017	2,310	58%
Devizes	4,599	3,565	78%
Marlborough	3,936	3,105	79%
Melksham	6,176	4,858	79%
Purton*	4,322	2,539	59%
Salisbury	7,223	5,713	79%
Stanton St Quintin	7,687	5,816	76%
Trowbridge	8,490	6,663	78%
Warminster	6,267	4,918	78%
Total	**58,362**	**43,766**	**75%**

Figure 10. Waste taken to household recycling centres which is diverted from landfill, 2019/20. (Note: * Soil/rubble collected at these sites is used as landfill cover at the contractor's landfill sites. Although this replaces a requirement to bring in other materials for this purpose, under waste classifications this is counted as landfilled material.)

4. Energy from waste performance

Priority 4 – Energy from Waste
Recovering energy from waste which cannot be reused or recycled remains strategically important for the council as it prevents this waste from going to landfill. The council will continue to review the feasibility of constructing small scale energy from waste plants within Wiltshire.

Much of Wiltshire's non-recyclable waste is sent to facilities that use the waste to generate energy, or process it into a fuel for this purpose, and divert waste from landfill.

The council has a 25 year contract to send 60,000 tonnes of non-recyclable waste to Northacre Resource Recovery Centre in Westbury, Wiltshire: www.northacrerrc.co.uk/. The contract year runs from November to November and 2019/20 is year 7 of the contract.

At the Northacre mechanical biological treatment (MBT) plant the waste is dried and shredded to create a fuel, which is then used in energy from waste facilities in northern Europe. The MBT process reduces the amount of waste that would otherwise have been landfilled by two thirds – see Figure 11 below.
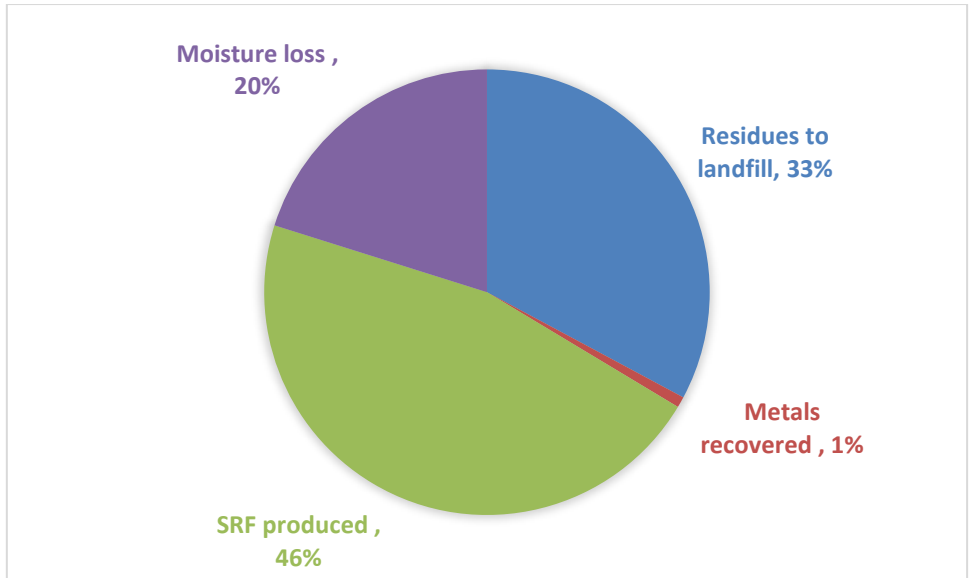
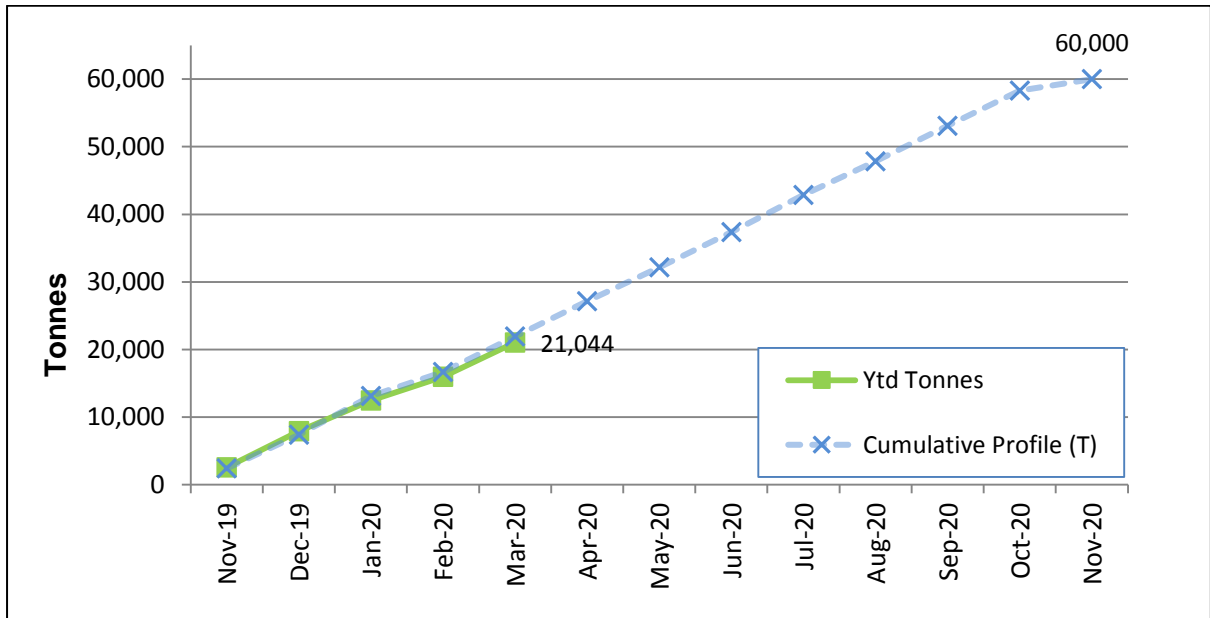Figure 11: Percentage outputs from the MBT process

Figure 12: Tonnes of waste sent to Northacre Resource Recovery Centre, 2019/20.

The council also has a 25 year contract to send 50,000 tonnes of non-recyclable waste to Lakeside Energy from Waste Plant, Slough: www.lakesideefw.co.uk/. At this plant the waste is incinerated to generate power. 2019/20 is year 11 of the 25 year contract.
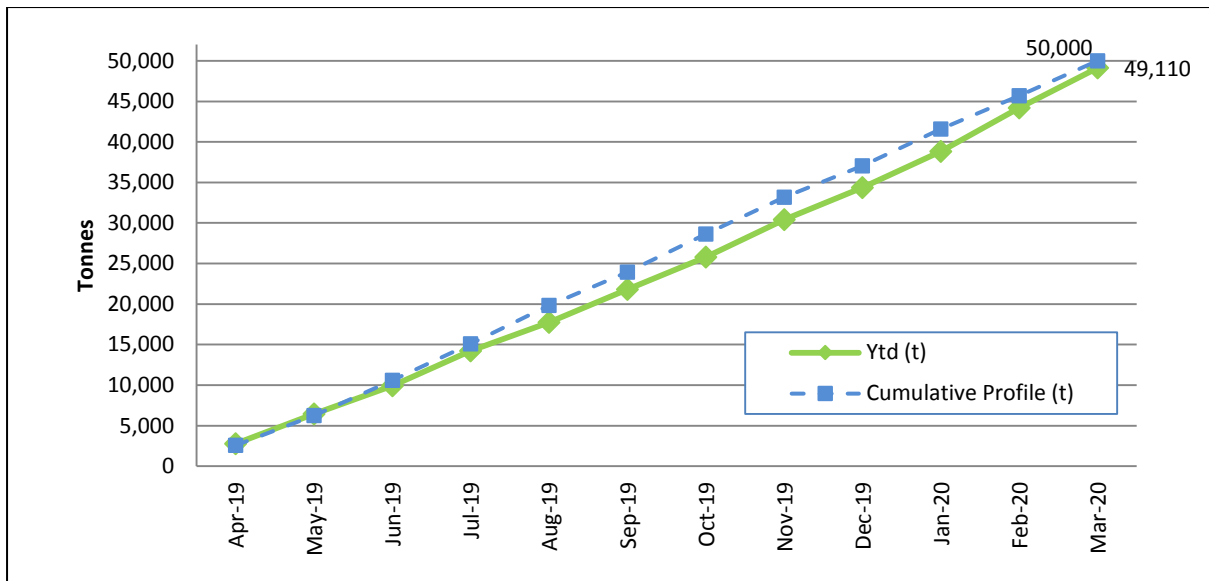
Figure 13: Tonnes of waste sent to Lakeside Energy from Waste Plant, 2019/20.

5. Less waste to landfill

A strategic aim for the council is to reduce the waste sent to landfill as this is widely recognised as being the least environmentally sustainable way of managing waste. All the waste services and contracts the council has in place are intended to ensure that the waste sent to landfill is reduced where possible.

Through improvements to waste prevention information and recycling services, together with diverting a significant proportion of non-recyclable household waste to energy from waste plants, the council now only sends approximately 16% of Wiltshire Council's collected waste to landfill each year. This is a significant reduction compared to previous years.

34,4000 tonnes of waste were landfilled in 2019/20, of which less than 600 tonnes was non-recyclable waste collected at the kerbside. The majority of the avoidable waste landfilled (12,500 tonnes) was non-recyclable waste accepted at household recycling centres. Further work is required to find alternative treatment routes for this material to divert it from landfill, as most of this waste is bulky in nature and is understood to be unsuitable for treatment under the existing landfill diversion contracts.
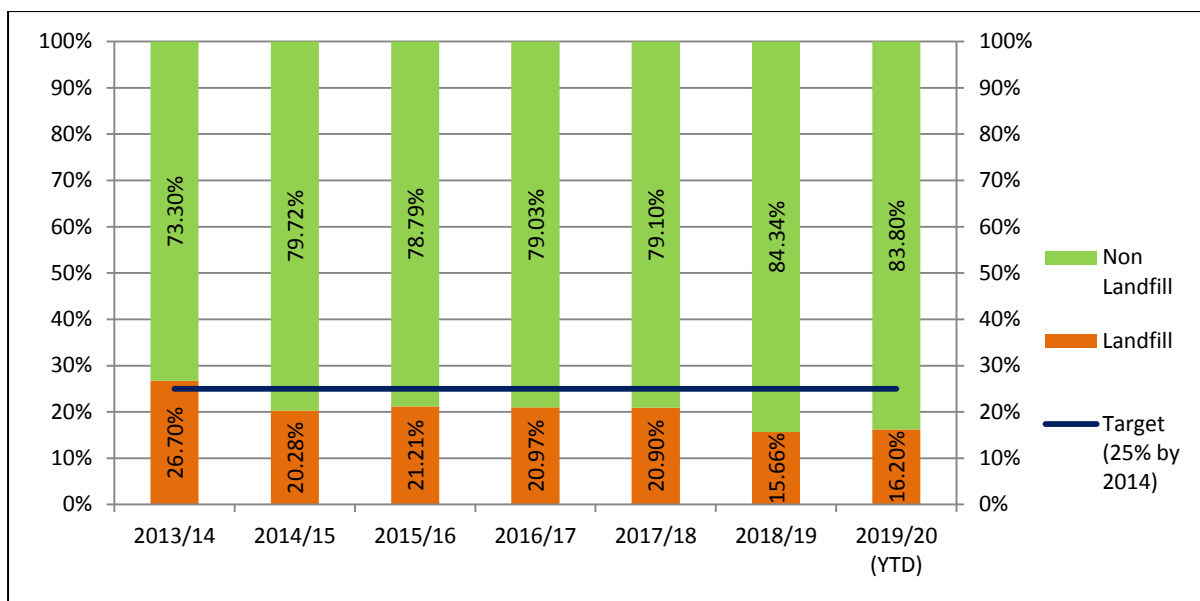
Figure 14: Percentage of waste sent to landfill in Wiltshire, 2008-2020.

6. Litter

Since 2014 there has been significant improvement in the percentage of Wiltshire Council roads which were predominantly free from litter and detritus. In September 2019 Wiltshire Council received recognition from The Department of the Environment Food and Rural Affairs Agency (DEFRA) for consistently achieving a high standard of roadside cleanliness across Wiltshire using the standards as set out in the Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse. Litter includes mainly synthetic materials, often associated with smoking, eating and drinking, that are improperly discarded and left by members of the public. Detritus comprises dust, mud, soil, grit, gravel, stones, rotted leaf and vegetable residues, fragments of twigs and other finely divided materials. Detritus includes leaf and blossom falls when they have substantially lost their structure and have become fragmented.

These most recent results are the highest recorded % in 7 years and provides clear evidence to support the council's initiative to introduce scheduled litter picks and additional reactive litter picking resources introduced in 2019.

N195 Annual Indicators	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
% Wiltshire roads predominantly free of litter	68%	75%	86%	81%	86%	87%
% Wiltshire roads predominantly free of detritus	60%	59%	87%	69%	80%	81%

7. Fly-tipping

The Council received 2,823 fly tip reports in 2019/20 compared with 2,822 in 2018/19, a very small rise of just 0.03% in reports.

Of the 2,823 reports received, 646 (23%) were on private land or were not the responsibility of Wiltshire Council to clear.

Between 2014 and 2018 reports rose consistently each year. However, in 2018/19 total fly tip reports fell by 11% when compared to 2017/18 and remained at that level in 2019/20.
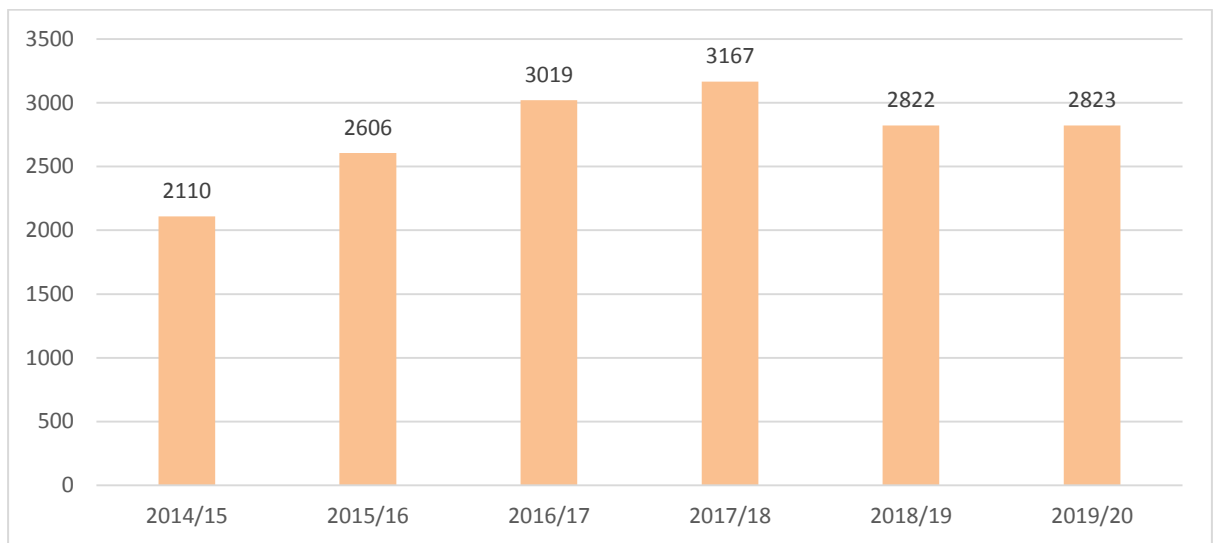

Figure 15: Number of fly-tipping incidents reported, 2014-2020.

Reports of fly tips vary significantly across the 18 community areas of Wiltshire – see Figure 16. All 18 areas show report numbers per one thousand residents that are below the national average of 16 reports per thousand residents annually. South West Wiltshire and Southern Wiltshire show the highest level of reports due to their rural make up and low population density, which makes fly tipping without being seen easier.

Fly Tip Reports per Thousand Residents 2019/20 (March 2020)

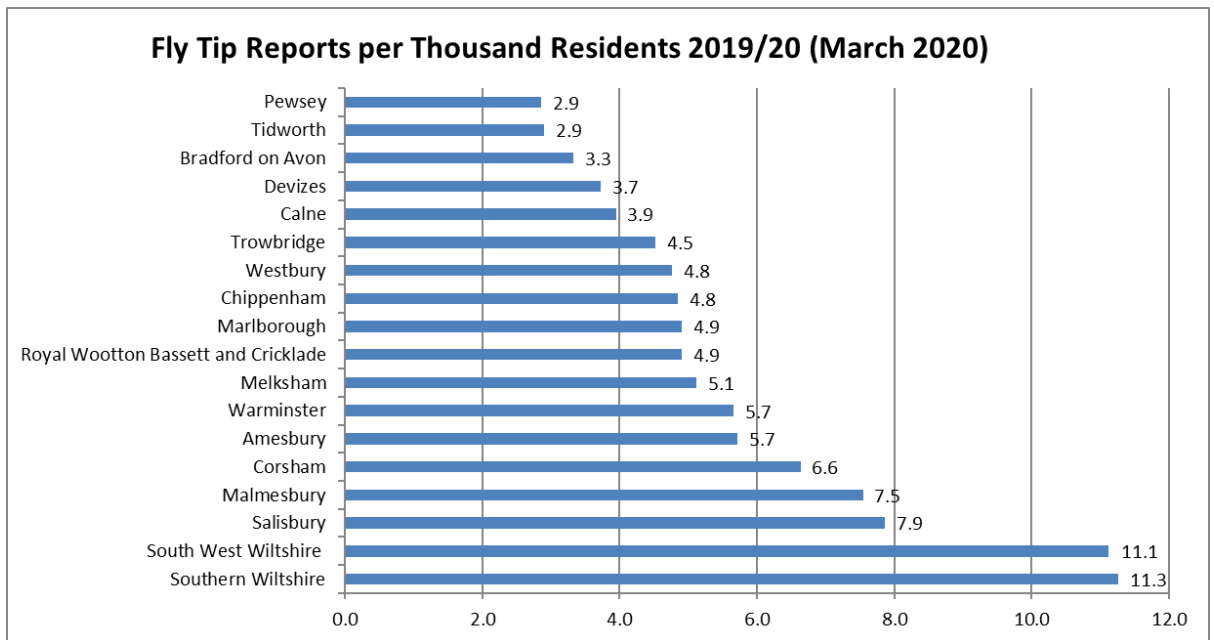| Community Area	Value
Pewsey	2.9
Tidworth	2.9
Bradford on Avon	3.3
Devizes	3.7
Calne	3.9
Trowbridge	4.5
Westbury	4.8
Chippenham	4.8
Marlborough	4.9
Royal Wootton Bassett and Cricklade	4.9
Melksham	5.1
Warminster	5.7
Amesbury	5.7
Corsham	6.6
Malmesbury	7.5
Salisbury	7.9
South West Wiltshire	11.1
Southern Wiltshire	11.3

Figure 16: Fly tip reports per one thousand residents by community area, 2019/20.