

Waste Management Strategy 2017-2027

Annual performance review 2018-19

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1. Introduction

This annual performance review sits within Wiltshire Council's Household Waste Management Strategy 2017-2027.

This document provides a summary of waste management performance against the priorities set within the waste management strategy during the period of April 2018 to March 2019.

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.

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

2. Waste prevention performance

Reducing the total amount of waste produced by residents in Wiltshire is a performance measure that is regularly monitored.

Overall 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 large number of local and national influences, including how much disposable income people have to spend, shifts in consumer behaviour, product design and changes in the use packaging.

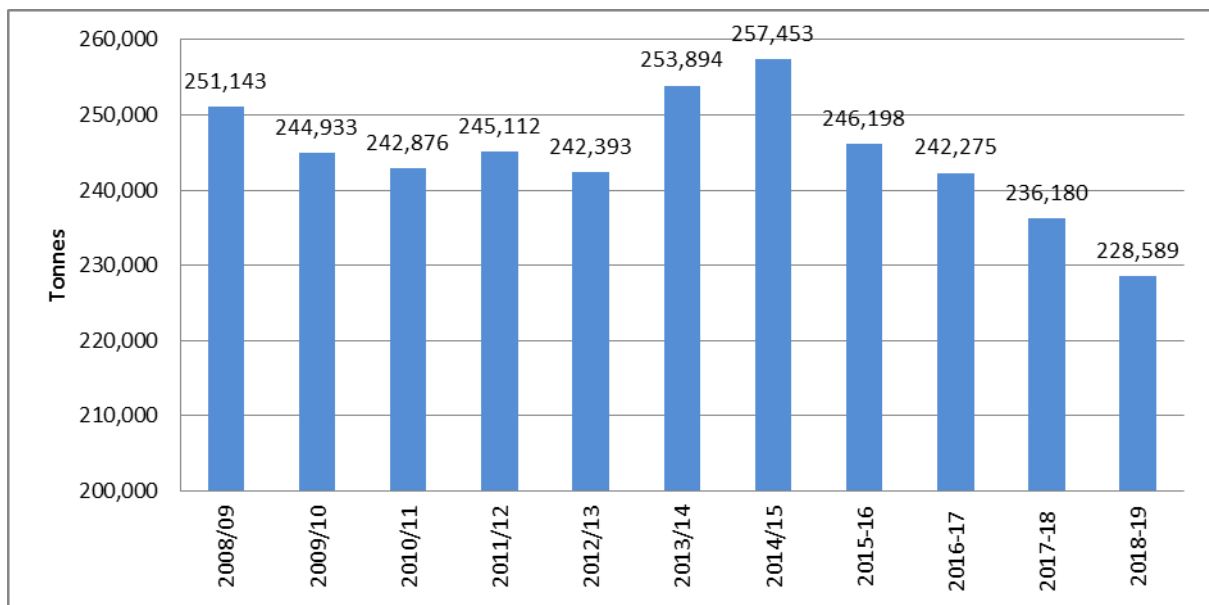


Figure 1: Total local authority collected waste in Wiltshire, 2008-2019.

Recent trends have shown a general reduction in the amount of non-recycled waste produced per household (after recycling), although a slight increase last year:

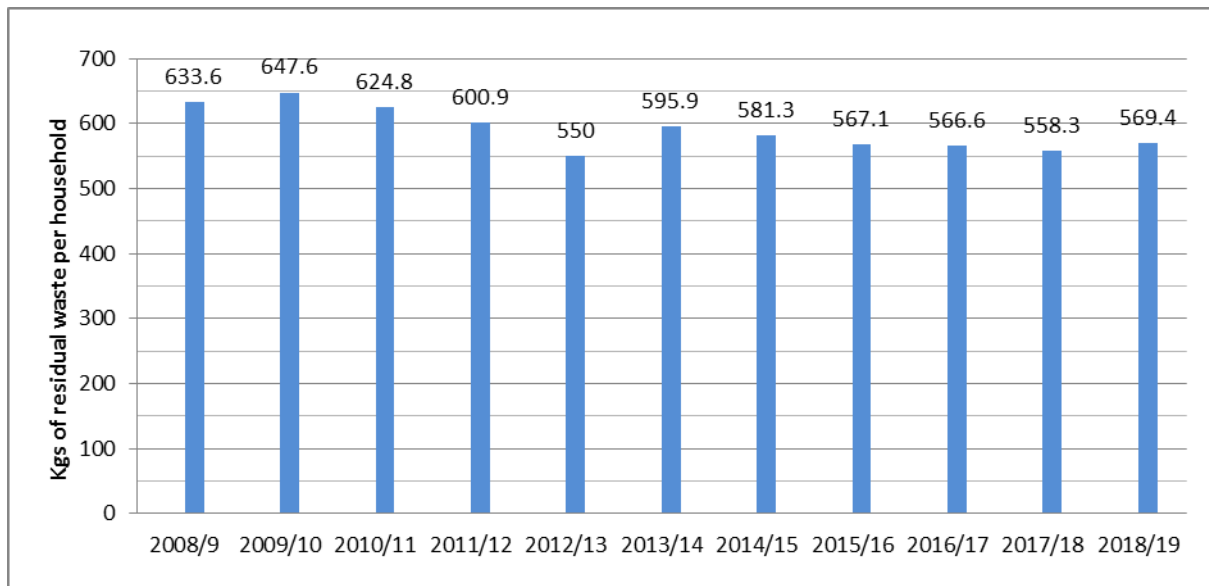


Figure 2: Residual household waste (after recycling) - kgs per household, 2008-2019

The following changes had been introduced by the council and its partners in order to reduce the 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 and manage their waste better.
- Providing larger bins only in extenuating circumstances, such as:
 - a large number of residents (six or more);
 - 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.
- Working in partnership with the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust to provide waste prevention, reuse and recycling information to Wiltshire residents (with 2018-19 being the final year of the agreement).
- Introducing van and trailer permits at household recycling centres to help limit businesses illegally disposing of their commercial waste at the sites.
- Subsidising the price for food waste composters for residents who wish to compost their food and garden waste at home.
- Introducing a charge for the collection of garden waste which, for some residents, would encourage composting at home.

3. Repair and Reuse Performance

The amount of household waste repaired or reused in Wiltshire is difficult to measure as much of this activity happens within communities and the voluntary and charity sector, without the direct involvement of the council.

Repair and reuse performance is therefore not currently measured and reported.

The council will be working with its contractors and partners to implement a system whereby reuse activities in Wiltshire can be successfully measured and reported.

Initiatives that the council delivered in 2018-19 included the following.

- Final year of working in partnership with the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust. The trust work with local communities and residents to promote the repair and reuse of items rather than disposing of them. This includes working with communities to run 'give and take' events, repair workshops, reuse shops, as well as the promotion of reuse networks within the community.
- Encouraging residents to prioritise reuse of large items rather than requesting a large item collection from the council via information on the council's website and customer services scripting.
- Promoting reuse organisations in Wiltshire through the council's website.

4. Recycling Performance

The total amount of household waste which is sent for recycling and composting in Wiltshire has decreased recently following a peak of 46.42% in 2014/15.

Recycling is collected from kerbside collection services and household recycling centres.

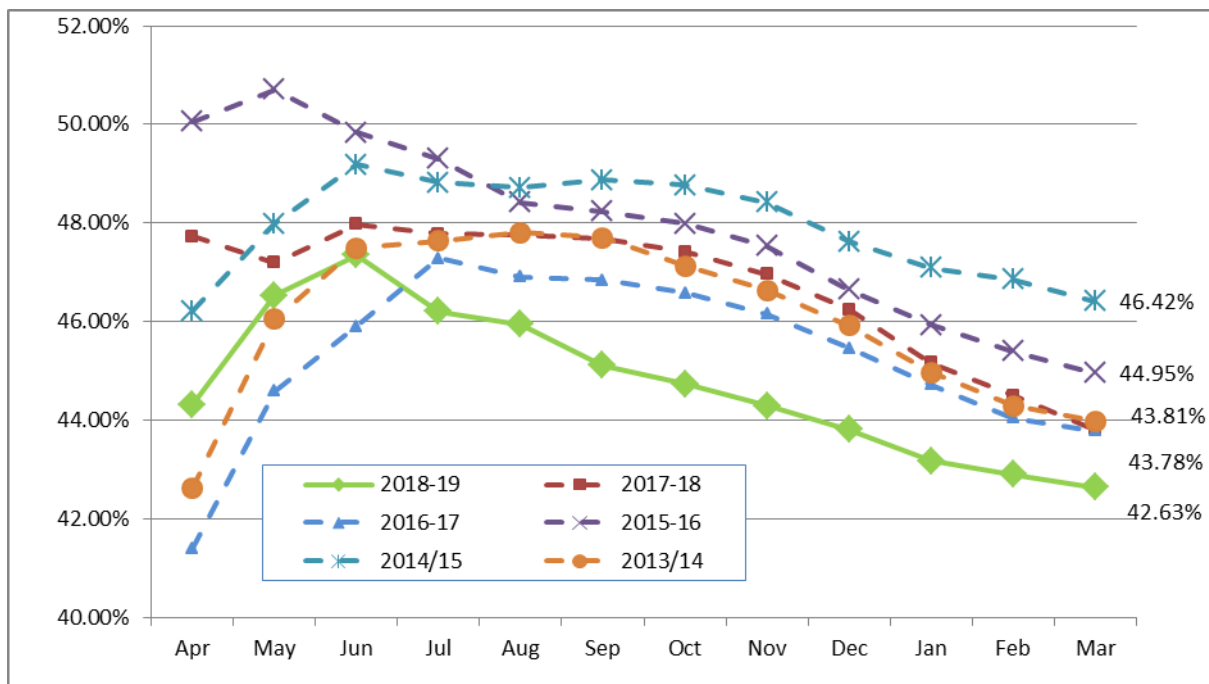


Figure 3. Recycling and composting as percentage of household waste, 2013-2019

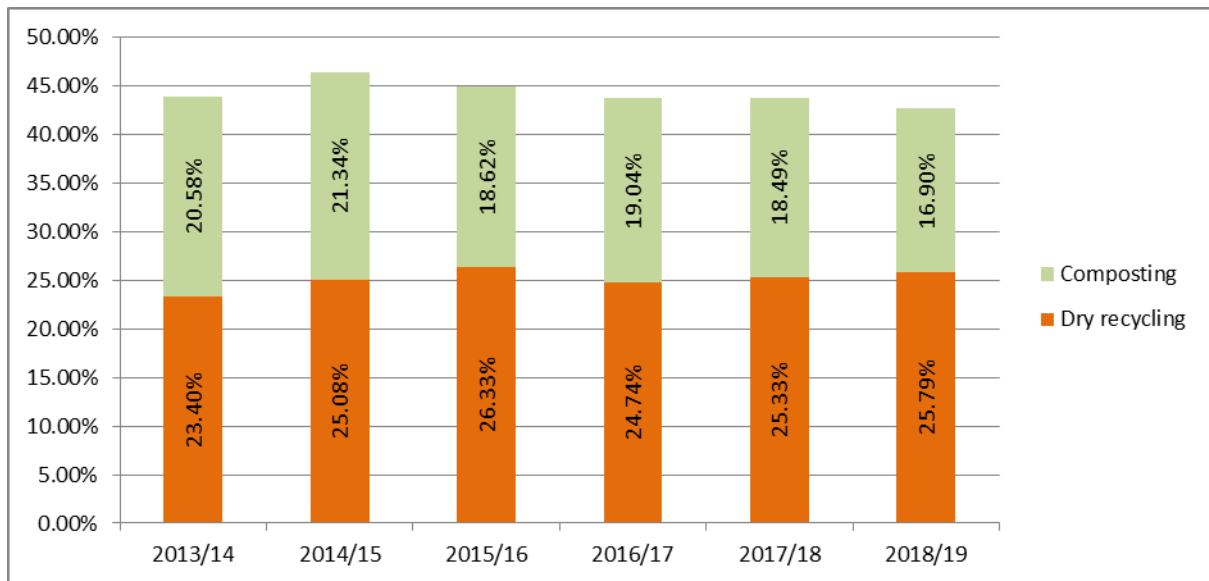


Figure 4: Recycling and composting as percentage of household waste, 2013-2019

4.1 Kerbside Recycling Collections

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

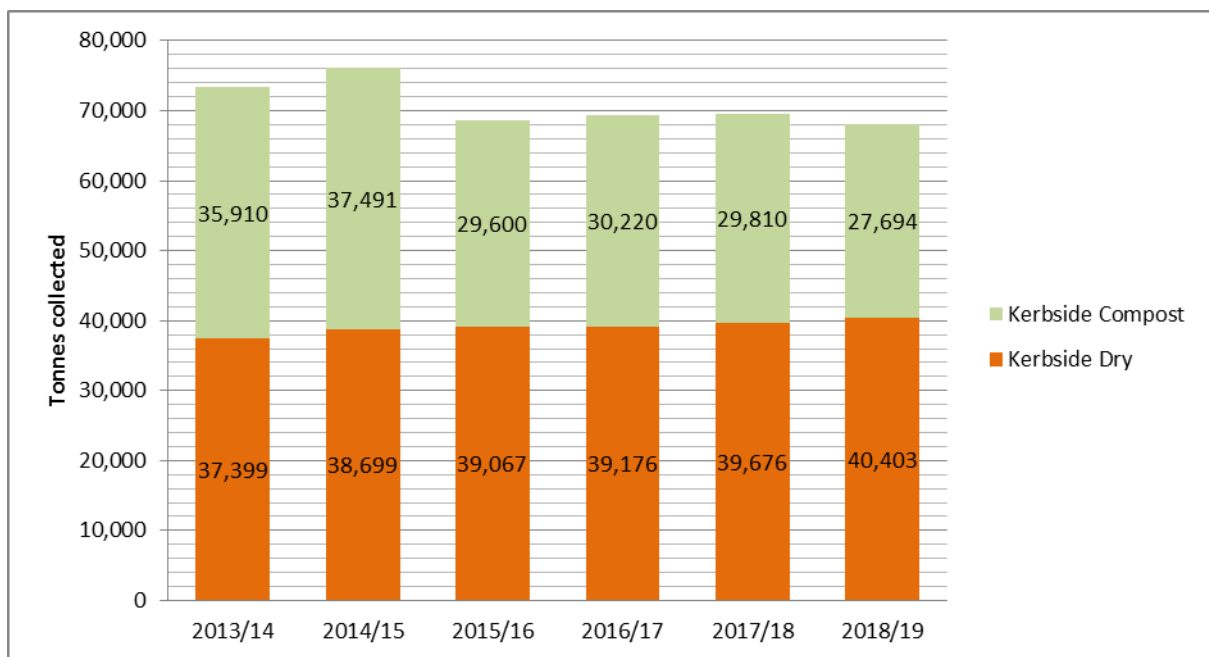


Figure 5: Tonnes of kerbside recycling, 2013-2019

The amount of recycling and garden waste collected at the kerbside has decreased since a peak in 2014/15. The reduction in garden waste between 2014-15 and 2015-16 can be explained by the introduction of chargeable kerbside collections of garden waste. Fewer people are now using this service compared to when the service was free of charge and therefore less garden waste is 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 consumer 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 35% 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 6: Percentage of recyclable waste found in non-recyclable waste bins.

4.2 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 are able to 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.

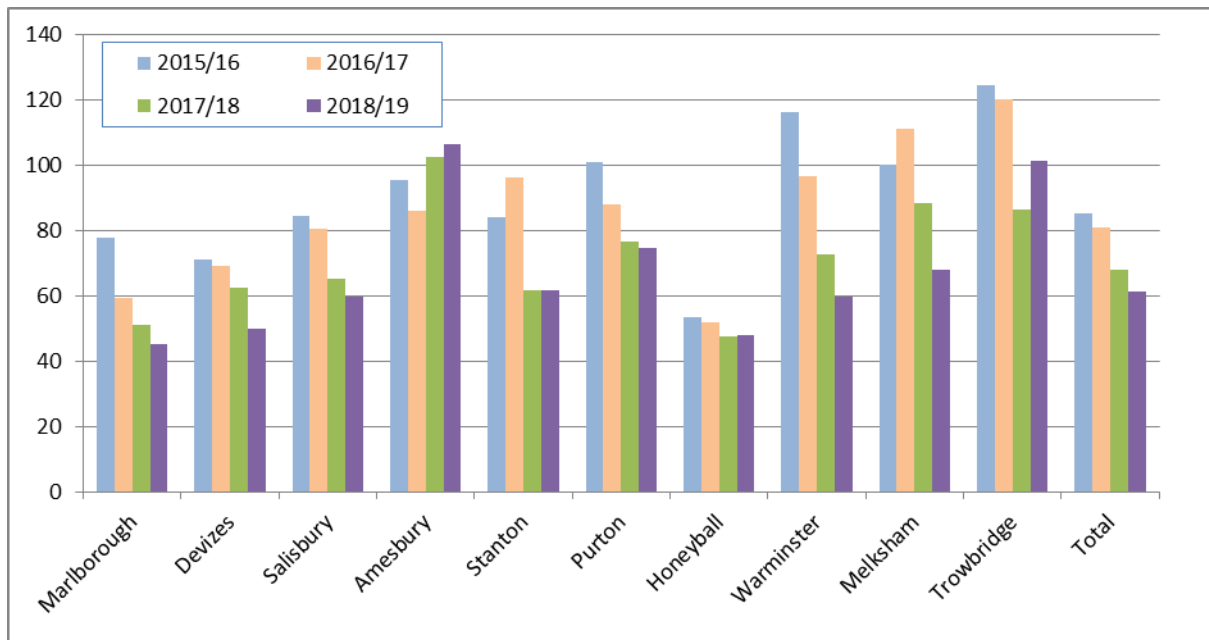


Figure 7. HRC visitors per hour by site, per annum (July 2015 – June 2019).

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 commercial waste to the sites;
- Asking visitors who are suspected of bringing commercial waste to the sites to complete a disclaimer form in order to limit the illegal use of the sites
- Checking visitors' proof of address to ensure those using the sites are Wiltshire residents.

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.

HRC	July 2018 - June 2019		
	Total waste (tonnes)	Total waste diverted from landfill (tonnes)	Landfill Diversion rate
Trowbridge	8,046	6,645	83%
Marlborough	3,450	2,885	84%
Melksham	5,930	4,902	83%
Warminster	6,046	4,976	82%
Stanton	7,066	5,732	81%
Purton*	2,888	2,247	78%
Devizes	4,164	3,396	82%
Salisbury	6,682	5,487	82%
Lower Compton, Calne*	2,880	2,081	72%
Amesbury	4,905	3,937	80%
TOTAL	52,057	42,289	81%

Figure 8. Waste taken to household recycling centres which is diverted from landfill. (Note: * Tonnes of soil and rubble which are used as landfill cover are excluded from these figures to produce a realistic comparison between sites.)

5. Energy from waste performance

Much of the non-recyclable household waste collected on behalf of Wiltshire Council is sent to plants which use the waste to generate energy 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. At this plant the waste is dried and shredded to create a fuel. The contract year runs from November to November and 2018/19 is year 6 of the contract.

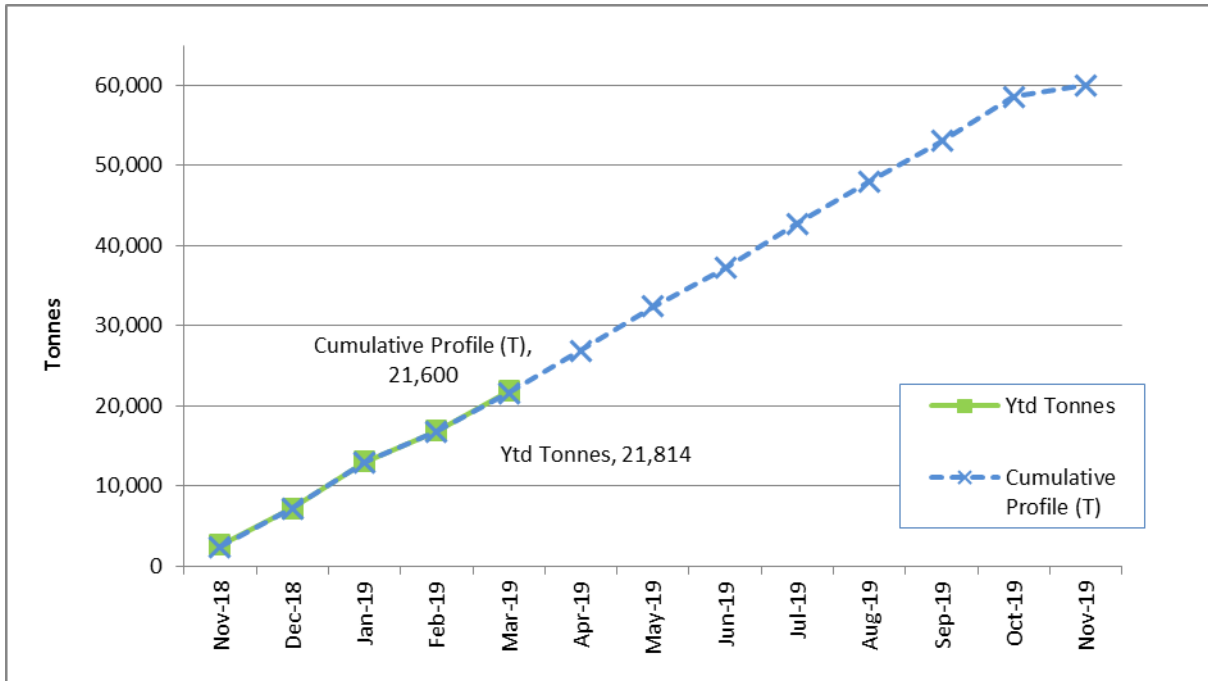


Figure 9: Tonnes of waste sent to Northacre Resource Recovery Centre, 2018/19. The council also has a 25 year contract to send 50,000 tonnes of non-recyclable waste to Lakeside Energy from Waste Plant, Slough. At this plant the waste is incinerated to generate power. 2018/19 is year 10 of the 25 year contract.

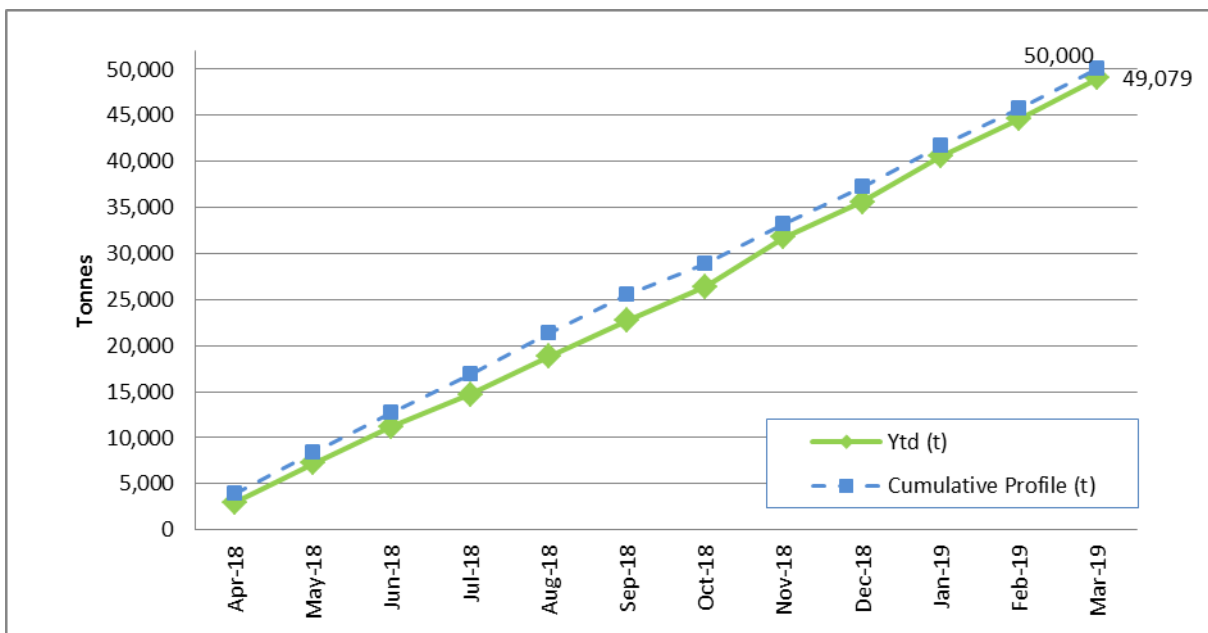


Figure 10: Tonnes of waste sent to Lakeside Energy from Waste Plant, 2018/19.

6. 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 designed to ensure that the amount of waste sent to landfill is reduced.

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

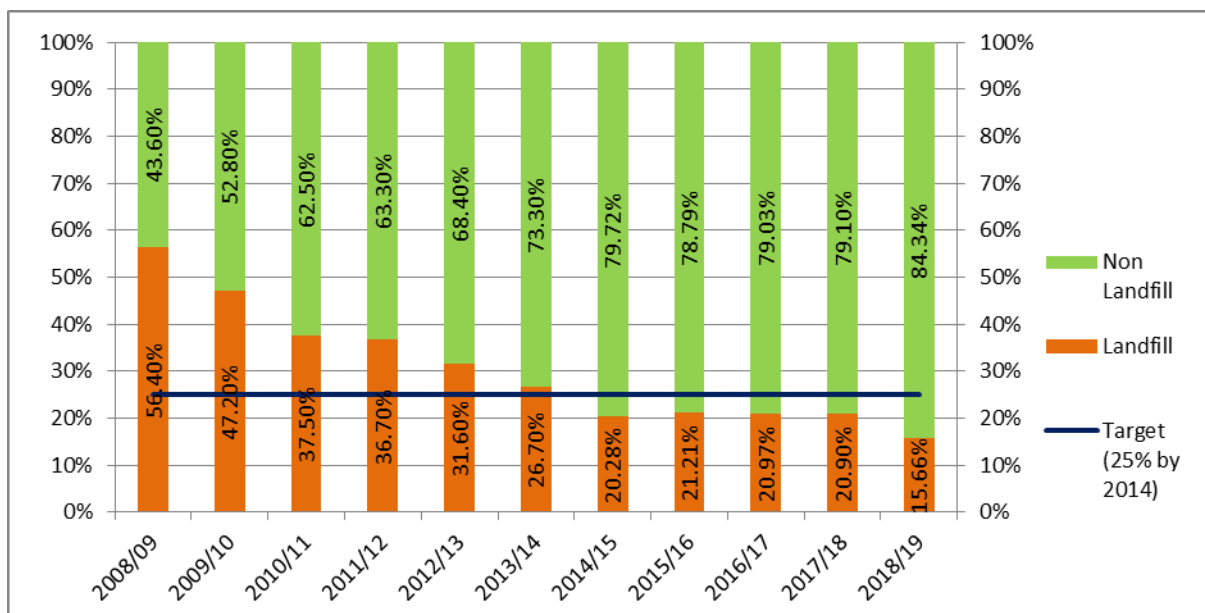


Figure 11: Percentage of waste sent to landfill in Wiltshire, 2008-2019.

7. Litter

Litter includes mainly synthetic materials, often associated with smoking, eating and drinking, that are improperly discarded by members of the public. Detritus comprises dust, mud, soil, grit, gravel, stones, rotted leaf and vegetable residues, fragments of twigs and leaf and blossom falls.

Over the four year period from 2014-15 to 2018-19 there was a significant improvement in the percentage of Wiltshire roads which were predominantly free of litter and detritus.

The reduction in standard of roads predominantly free of litter in 2017/18 was due to more litter being deposited. The council increased spending on this to address the issue in 2018/19.

The reduction in standard of roads predominantly free of detritus in 2014-15 and 2015-16 was due to the reduction in the number of sweepers. We now have six sweepers (five Ringway road sweepers and one Idverde pavement sweeper) compared to a total of 21 sweepers in 2013/14. We amended the schedules for sweeping to focus on rural roads and away from residential areas again in 2018/19, to address the problem with detritus.

Annual Indicators	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19
% Wiltshire roads predominantly free of litter	68%	75%	86%	81%	86%
% Wiltshire roads predominantly free of detritus	60%	59%	87%	69%	80%

8. Fly-tipping

Over the last year reports of fly-tipping have fallen in contrast to the trend in previous years. Figure 12 below compares the cumulative fly tip report totals between April 2015 and July 2019. When we compare total reports year on year for the period April to July we received 988 reports in 2018/19 compared to 893 in 2019/20, this represents a 10% fall in reports. Of the 893 reports received, 217 (24%) have been on private land or were not the responsibility of Wiltshire Council. 2018/19 saw overall reports fall 11% when compared to 2017/18.

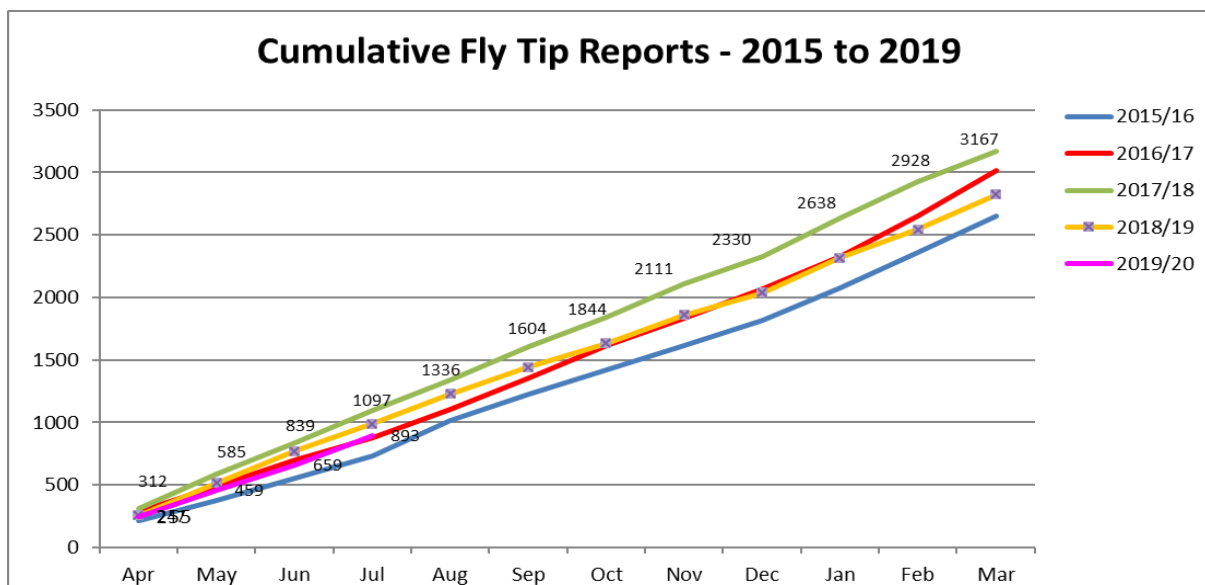


Figure 12: Number of fly-tipping incidents reported, 2015-2019.

Report levels for a county the size of Wiltshire remain relatively low with on average six reports per thousand residents in 2017/18. This is based on the latest data set released by Defra. Figure 13 below details the comparisons made between reports in Wiltshire Council's administrative area and those in other local authority areas that are close geographically, based on data submitted to Defra for the 2017/18 return.

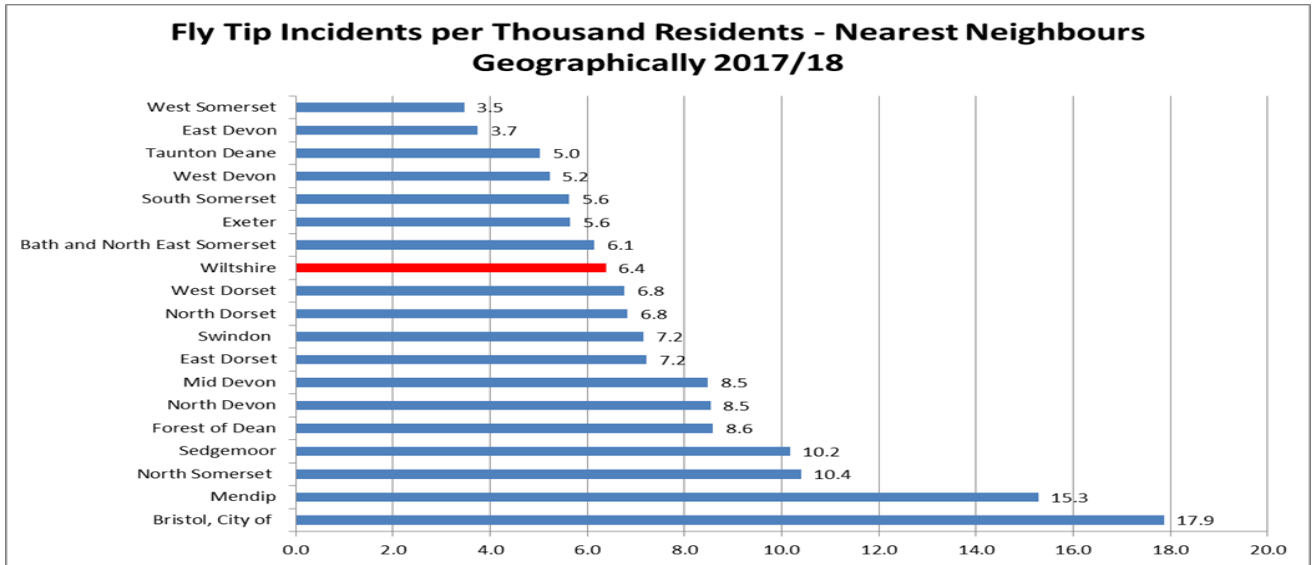


Fig 13.