

Hertfordshire Waste Partnership

Annual Report – 2022/23



Remembering Councillor John Gardner

Stevenage Borough Council

17 May 1935 – 24 May 2023



The HWP would like to take the opportunity afforded by the 2022/23 annual report to remember one of its own; Cllr John Gardner from Stevenage who sadly passed on away on Wednesday 24th May 2023.

Cllr Gardner was the longest serving Member on the HWP Member Group initially joining in the mid 2000's. In addition Cllr Gardner also served on both Hertfordshire's Climate Change Partnership, the Infrastructure and Planning Partnership as well as on a number of East of England Regional Planning Bodies.

Paying tribute to his former colleague, Cllr Simon Speller notes that Cllr Gardner was always at the forefront of championing causes for both Stevenage as well as Hertfordshire on any issue related to improving the environment, adding that over many years of service Cllr Gardner's contributions were always very salient and wise, based on many years of experience; experience which will be missed as local authorities move into the final implementation stages of the Government's Resources & Waste Strategy.

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Foreword



**Cllr Eric Buckmaster
(Chair)**

Executive Member for
Environment
Hertfordshire County council



**Cllr Tim Hoskin
(Vice-Chair)**

Executive Member for
Environmental Sustainability
East Hertfordshire District
Council

HWP reports in recent years have noted significant fluctuations in the amount of overall tonnage handled each year.

This continued in 2022/23 which saw significant changes in waste arisings due to the cost-of-living crisis and the impact of a long hot summer, as well as continuing changes in a post Covid world. Both total household waste and residual household waste per household fell to their lowest level in the last 13 years. Whilst this is welcome news the Partnership is aware of the economic difficulties that sit behind some of these numbers and the challenging circumstances households across the county find themselves in.

This is why colleagues across the Partnership have been working hard to embed new household behaviours and support these through initiatives such as the HWP's new #WorthSaving campaign, designed to tackle avoidable food waste, which could help save households up to £720 per annum – see page 19.

Whilst the HWP also saw the first drop in its overall recycling rate since 2017/18 coming in at 51.2%, there is no evidence that this fall represents a slackening of interest or commitment to recycling on the part of residents. In March 2023 a waste composition study in Watford found encouragingly that the capture rate for targeted dry recyclables overall was 83.5%, with the capture of some commodities such as plastic bottles, at more than 90%.

As always the HWP would like to hear from any of our stakeholders on the work we do and the information we provide to help support public confidence in the services provided by the Partnership.

Hertfordshire Waste Partnership – Annual Report 2022/23

1. Background

The Hertfordshire Waste Partnership (HWP) was formed in 1992 bringing together the ten borough and district councils in their capacity as waste collection authorities and the county council as Hertfordshire's waste disposal authority (referred to as the 'partner authorities') and is one of 50 such partnerships throughout the UK.

During 2022/23 the HWP dealt with 471,499 tonnes of local authority collected waste, down 31,691 tonnes compared to the previous year at a combined cost of £91.28 million. Of this £49.9 million was spent on waste treatment and disposal with the remainder spent on collection services and street cleansing.

In 2016 the HWP's remit was expanded to cover operation of the award-winning Hertfordshire Fly Tipping Group, a multi-agency task force which, in addition to Hertfordshire's local authorities, also includes the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, the Hertfordshire Constabulary, the Environment Agency and the National Farmers' Union.

The Partnership is overseen by the HWP Member group made up of councillors from each of the partners who hold the relevant portfolio for waste. The Member group is supported by the Strategic Waste Group which includes Directors, Heads of Service and Waste Managers from each of the partner authorities and includes both client officers from boroughs and districts with private sector providers as well as those running in house services.

The HWP has no authority over individual services and instead considers matters of strategic importance and opportunities for joint working. It makes recommendations about the long-term development of waste services in pursuit of targets, objectives and principles detailed in the Hertfordshire Waste Partnership Agreement signed in January 2012 and in response to legislative changes such as those due to be implemented shortly as part of the Government's Resources & Waste Strategy. The HWP unit is jointly funded by the partners and employs a Partnership Development Manager and two WasteAware Co-ordinators.

WasteAware is the public face of the HWP and concentrates on changing 'waste behaviour' by focusing on the 4Rs: reduction, reuse, recycling and recovery. With emphasis on actions before waste is generated the HWP is working to reduce the amount of waste that needs to be recycled or disposed of.

2. Summary

2.1 Performance at a glance – all figures are in tonnes (green represents improvement, red indicates deterioration)

Boroughs & Districts	2021/22	2022/23	Change	%age
Dry recycling	105,055	99,298	-5,757	-5.48%
Reuse	252	254	+2	0.79%
Composting	117,834	101,411	-16,423	-13.94%
Residual waste	209,809	204,626	-5,183	-2.47%
Total...	432,950	405,589	-27,361	-6.32%
Combined Borough Recycling Rate	51.5%	49.5%	- 2.0%	-3.88%

County Council	2021/22	2022/23	Change	%age
Dry recycling	32,192	31,998	-594	-1.85%
Reuse	1,982	1,646	-336	-16.95%
Composting	7,660	6,651	-1,009	-13.17%
Residual waste	28,123	25,614	-2,509	-8.92%
Total...	69,957	65,909	-4,048	-5.79%
Recycling Centre Recycling Rate	59.8%	61.1%	1.3%	2.17%

HWP Totals	2021/22	2022/23	Change	%age
Dry recycling	137,247	131,296	-5,951	-4.34%
Reuse	2,234	1,901	-333	-14.91%
Composting	125,494	108,062	-17,432	-13.89%
Residual waste – EfW	158,030	178,174	+20,144	12.75%
Residual waste – landfill	78,692	50,495	-28,197	-35.83%
Residual waste – other	1,245	1,563	+318	25.54%
Non Compostable Waste	248	8	-240	-96.77%
Total...	503,191	471,499	-31,691	-6.30%
HWP overall recycling rate	52.7%	51.2%	-1.5%	
HWP landfill diversion rate	84.1%	89.0%	+4.9%	

2.2 Waste Minimisation

The HWP recognises the need to reduce waste in the long term. For this reason, each year the HWP tracks total waste per household. Long term success measured by this indicator, especially under a climate

change context, is overall waste levels falling with an increasing percentage recycled.

Table 1 below looks at total waste per household over the last eight years.

Table 1: Total household wastes (kilograms per household)

Year	Broxbourne	Dacorum	East Herts	Hertsmere	North Herts	St Albans	Stevenage	Three Rivers	Watford	Wel / Hat	Herts CC	H W P
2022/23	785	840	824	816	770	798	788	830	765	763	130	929
2021/22	897	891	882	885	829	855	863	881	798	828	139	1,001
2020/21	950	933	917	930	864	943	896	910	858	876	120	1,029
2019/20	865	838	867	854	795	825	814	862	802	781	139	969
2018/19	871	851	884	863	803	838	829	864	810	800	143	985
2017/18	916	873	901	899	866	859	846	899	841	788	144	1,013
2016/17	923	895	889	904	872	868	861	907	859	821	145	1,024
2015/16	907	895	910	912	875	869	881	927	858	871	141	1,031

(source: WasteDataFlow – includes updated figures for previous years where available)

2022/23 has seen the biggest reduction in total household waste since the Partnership's first annual report back in 2010/11. This was driven by a significant reduction in the amount of organic waste tonnage collected due to the very hot summer in 2022. Combined with smaller drops of 6,285 tonnes and 7976 tonnes in dry recycling and residual waste respectively, total household

waste per household reduced from 1001 kilograms per household in 2021/22 to 929 kilograms in 2022/23, a reduction of 7.19%. Reductions were seen in both the amount of tonnage collected from households (27,645 tonnes) and at the network of Recycling Centres provided by the County Council (4048 tonnes).

2.3 Recycling & Composting

The percentage of household waste recycled (including composting) is a national indicator which the community recognise as a measurement of success and one which continues to feature heavily in national statistics when it comes to judging the efficacy of regional and national waste management strategies.

2022/23 was notable with reductions in recycling performance in 9 of the partner authorities with only Broxbourne and the County Council managing to improve performance. However, as noted above the main driver was significant reductions in the amount of garden waste collected for recycling which reduced significantly due to the hot summer in 2022 and something

which clearly could not be controlled by the partner authorities.

However, even with the reductions noted in Table 2 below 6 partner authorities were able to maintain a 50%+ recycling rate with St Albans and Three Rivers continuing to lead locally, regionally and nationally with recycling rates in excess of 60%. St Albans and Three Rivers have between them taken the number one spot for local authority recycling in England three times in the last five years; with top ten performances forecast again for 2022/23 and due to be confirmed in December 2023 when DEFRA release official figures for all local authorities across England.

Table 2: Changes in recycling and composting 2021/22

Authority	2021/22	2022/23	Change
Broxbourne	41.8%	42.7%	0.9%
Dacorum	52.7%	50.5%	-2.2%
East Herts	46.3%	43.5%	-2.8%
Hertsmere	44.3%	43.1%	-1.2%
North Herts	57.7%	55.2%	-2.5%
St Albans	62.5%	60.1%	-2.4%
Stevenage	39.7%	37.0%	-2.7%
Three Rivers	63.5%	61.5%	-2.0%
Watford	51.7%	50.2%	-1.5%
Wel / Hat	50.6%	47.6%	-3.0%
Herts CC	59.8%	61.1%	+1.3%
HWP	52.7%	51.2%	-1.5%

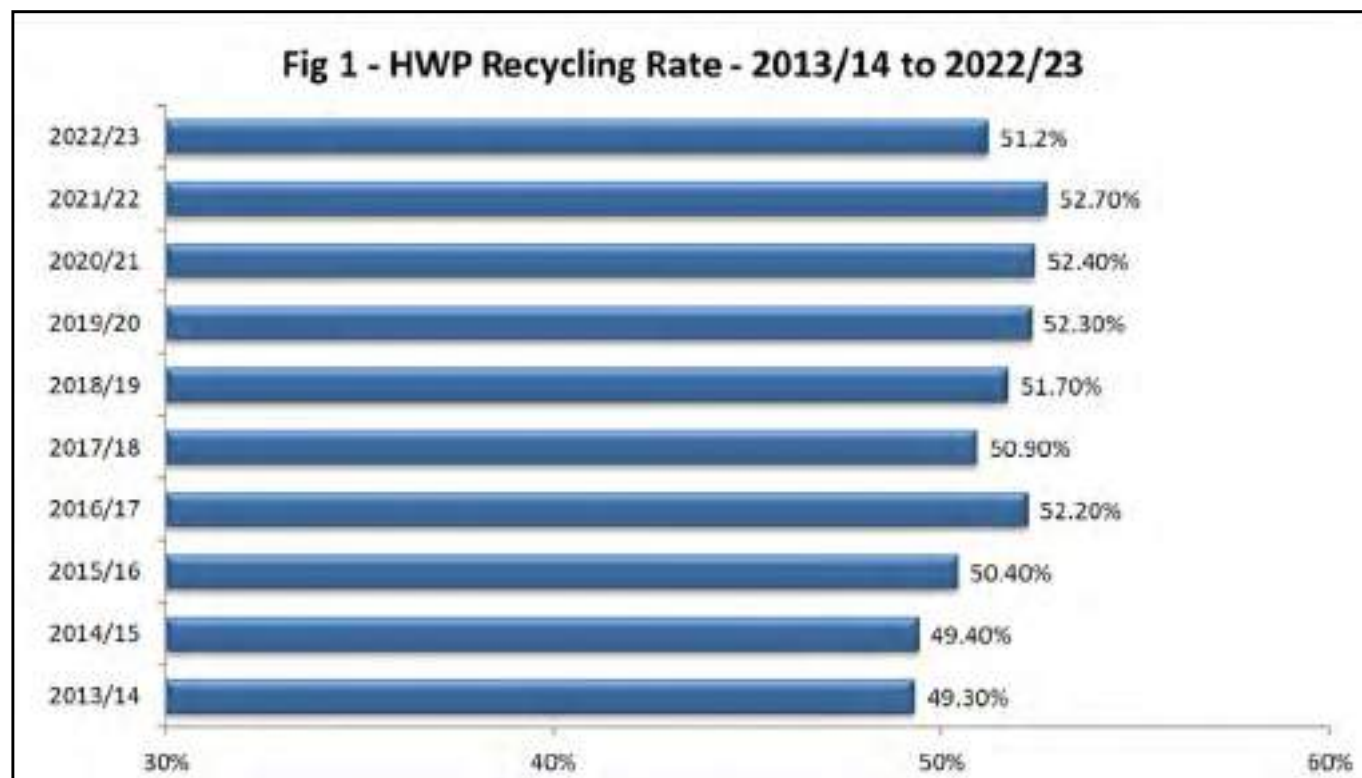
(source: Hertfordshire Waste Partnership) Recycling rates in excess of 50% shown in bold

Table 3: Partner Authority and HWP recycling percentages

Year	Broxbourne	Dacorum	East Herts	Hertsmere	North Herts	St Albans	Stevenage	Three Rivers	Watford	Wel / Hat	Herts CC	H W P
2022/23	42.7	50.5	43.5	43.1	55.2	60.1	37.0	61.5	50.2	47.6	61.1	51.2
2021/22	41.8	52.7	49.2	44.3	57.7	62.5	39.7	63.5	51.9	50.6	59.8	52.7
2020/21	42.4	54.5	51.5	44.4	55.9	64.2	40.2	63.1	50.0	47.8	56.9	52.4
2019/20	41.5	52.8	50.7	44.4	57.5	63.0	39.5	64.1	45.3	46.6	58.7	52.3
2018/19	42.0	52.3	49.9	44.3	56.8	62.1	40.0	63.0	45.1	45.4	57.5	51.7
2017/18	41.8	52.5	49.4	43.6	57.5	59.5	38.3	62.4	44.3	43.4	56.3	50.9
2016/17	41.1	51.1	51.2	43.4	58.9	57.5	39.8	61.9	42.9	53.0	60.8	52.2
2015/16	40.3	49.1	48.4	42.1	57.6	52.2	39.4	59.4	40.1	48.5	62.8	50.4

(source: WasteDataFlow – includes updated figures for previous years where available)

The same data from an HWP perspective can be seen in Fig 1 below:



2.4 Residual Waste

As noted above 2022/23 was characterised by further reductions in the amount of residual per household either collected from the kerbside or taken by residents to the network of Recycling Centres operated by the County Council.

All partner authorities saw reductions in the residual they handled with notable reductions in Broxbourne, Hertsmere, St Albans and

across the Recycling Centre network. As a result 2022/23 saw residual wastes dropping to their lowest level since publication of the annual report started back 2010/11 coming in at 453.88kgs per household compared to 473.68 in 2021/22 – a reduction of 4.18%. Continued reductions in 2022/23 are welcome putting residual waste back on a downward trend following the temporary increases noted during the pandemic.

Table 4: Residual waste per household (kgs)

Year	Broxbourne	Dacorum	East Herts	Hertsmere	North Herts	St Albans	Stevenage	Three Rivers	Watford	Wel/Hat	Herts CC	H W P	WCA Average
2022/23	449	416	466	464	345	318	497	320	381	400	50	453.88	406
2021/22	522	421	473	492	350	321	521	322	386	409	56	473.68	422
2020/21	547	424	468	517	381	338	535	336	429	458	52	489.49	443
2019/20	506	396	433	475	337	305	493	309	438	417	57	462.06	411
2018/19	505	406	447	481	347	318	498	320	445	437	61	475.55	420
2017/18	534	414	461	507	368	348	522	338	468	446	63	497.29	441
2016/17	544	438	434	512	358	369	519	346	491	386	57	489.68	440
2015/16	541	455	467	528	371	416	534	377	514	449	52	511.75	465

(source: WasteDataFlow – includes updated figures for previous years where available)

2.5 Diversion from landfill

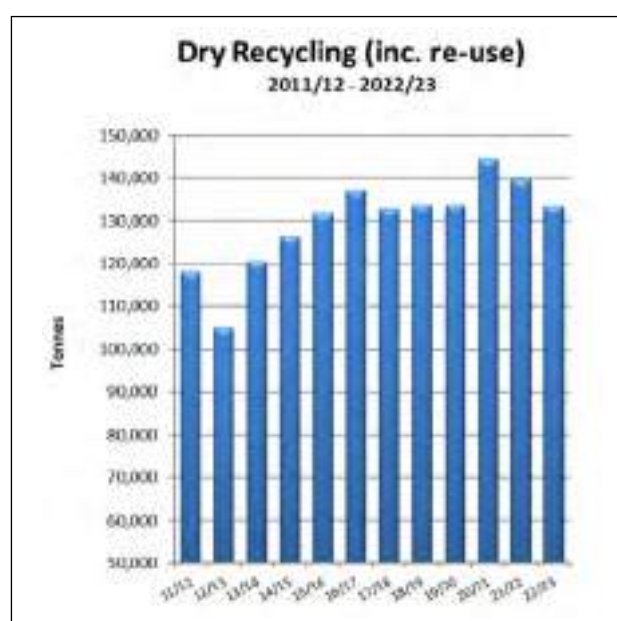
In line with previous years 2022/23 saw continued use of a number of waste to energy facilities across the region (see Chapter 5 – final destinations – page 39). However, 2022/23 was significant as a result of the notable rise in the amount of residual waste sent for energy recovery with 178,174 tonnes sent for waste to energy incineration

compared to 158,030 tonnes the year before. Combined with a 28,197 tonnes reduction in the amount sent to landfill plus recycling, composting and reuse operations, 2022/23 saw 89% of household waste arisings in Hertfordshire diverted from landfill, the best result to date for this metric.

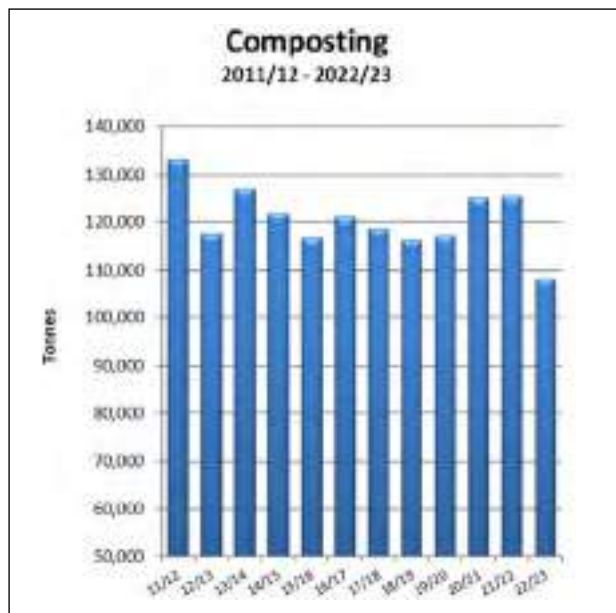
Table 5: Diversion from landfill

Tonnes	2021/22	2022/23	Change
Recycled	137,247	131,296	-5,951
Composted	125,494	108,062	-17,432
Re-used	2,234	1,901	-333
Energy recovery	158,030	178,174	+20,144
Residual waste (other)	1,245	1,563	+318
Non-compostables	248	8	-240
Totals...	424,498	421,004	-3494
Landfill diversion rate	84.1%	89.0%	+4.9%

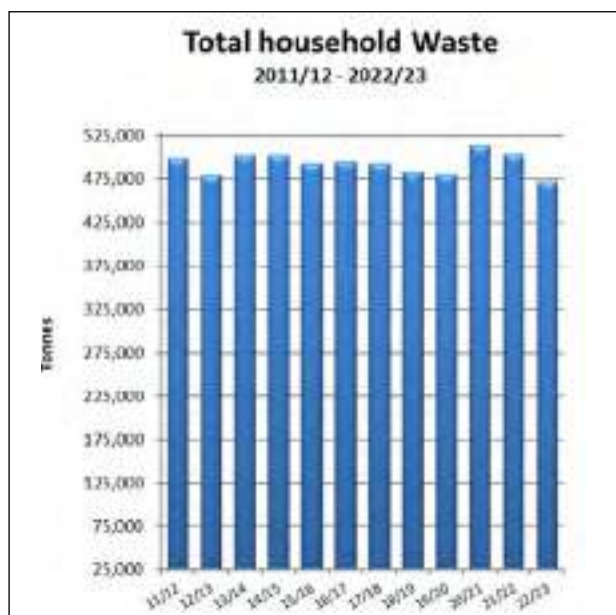
(source: Hertfordshire Waste Partnership)



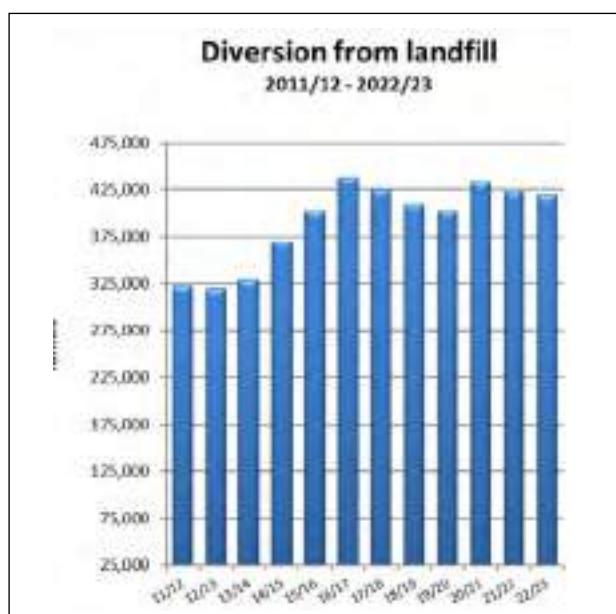
For the second year in a row the amount of dry recyclables both collected at the kerbside and delivered by residents to the recycling centre network fell by almost 6000 tonnes to 131,296 tonnes. The HWP considers the changes are due to more people moving to hybrid working as well as the impact of the cost of living crisis, which has, and continues, to push consumption on a downward trend. The key going forward will be to understand how to embed some of these behaviours to keep all forms of waste on a downward trend as the economic outlook improves.



Organic tonnages, including separately collected food and garden wastes across Hertfordshire during 2022/23 declined significantly compared to the previous 12 months. This included a reduction of around 15,300 tonnes in the tonnage of garden waste captured for composting driven largely by prevailing weather patterns including the hot summer of 2022. However, there was also a reduction of around 2118 tonnes in the amount of separately collected food waste.



With reductions in recycling and organic tonnage, plus an almost 8000 tonnes reduction in residual waste, total household waste in 2022/23 fell by 31,691 tonnes. This is the second annual reduction in a row following the highs experienced during COVID which saw significant increases in the amount of residual waste tonnage handled by the Partnership. However, it now appears total household wastes have returned to their previous downward trend.



Overall tonnage diverted from landfill during 2022/23 fell by 3494 tonnes. However, this included a significant increase of 20,144 tonnes in the amount of residual waste sent to energy from waste facilities. This increased energy from waste tonnages to 178,174 tonnes up from 158,030 tonnes in 2021/22. The net impact of these changes including reductions in recycling, organics and other waste streams resulted in 89% of household waste arisings being diverted from landfill; the highest landfill diversion ever achieved in Hertfordshire.

3. Highlights – 2022/23

3.1 Dacorum Zero Waste Initiatives 2022

In August 2022, Dacorum Borough Council launched a new 'Zero Waste Map' ([Reduce, recycle and save money with new Zero Waste Map \(dacorum.gov.uk\)](https://www.dacorum.gov.uk)) to help residents to reduce waste, recycle more and, in many cases, save money. The online map pinpoints locations at which different items can be recycled across the borough including recycling centres, neighbourhood recycling sites - as well as 'Terracycle' drop-off points - and retail take-back schemes which offer a solution for items that cannot be recycled from the home. Residents are now able to locate an abundance of second hand, charity and antique shops along with refill shops where customers can take their own containers for food, cleaning products and toiletries, avoiding single-use plastic. The map also shows where residents can go to get a variety of items repaired and options for hiring instead of buying.

Following the launch of the 'Zero Waste Map', nearly 200 people supported 'circular' fashion by choosing to 'swap not shop' at Dacorum Borough Council's autumn Sustainable Clothes Swaps – the fourth year these events have taken place. The clothes swaps, held at Berkhamsted Civic Centre in September 2022 and The Forum, Hemel Hempstead, in October 2022, were organised to give residents the opportunity to see that second-hand doesn't mean second-best and that you can easily update your wardrobe with no cost to you, or the environment. 'Swappers' could bring a maximum of 10 good quality items to exchange for items of clothing which were new to them. Participating in the swaps was completely free of charge – this helped to ensure that as many people could take part as possible.



Figure 2 – Clothes swappers in Dacorum

More than 1,400 items of clothing were brought along by the 'swappers', with 96 per cent of these garments successfully swapped to end up with a new owner. This made the 2022 swaps the most successful yet in the event's four-year history. By donating 1,432 items of clothing to be swapped instead of buying new, residents prevented approximately 8.5 tonnes of CO₂e that would have been used to produce new items. That's the equivalent carbon emissions of driving around the equator! (source: calculated using the using the DEFRA GHG 2022 conversion figures <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/greenhouse-gas-reporting-conversion-factors-2022>).

At the end of the October event, an additional opportunity was provided to residents in particular financial need to be given clothes without prior donation. This was well-received, with 40 items of clothing being given out. The remaining winter clothes were donated to the Air Ambulance and Cancer Research UK charities to help them raise vital funds. The summer clothes were retained by the Council to be put back up for swapping at the next Sustainable Clothes Swaps in 2023.

3.2 Dacorum introduces a garden waste subscription service

As part of the Dacorum Waste Services transformation programme, in line with industry best practice, the Authority initiated a range of projects, including route optimisation, to support their goal to reach net-zero emissions by 2030.

As part of this transformation, the decision was made in November 2022 to change the garden waste collection service from a discretionary service to a paid subscription service. Residents were able to purchase their subscriptions from January 2023 ready for collections restarting at the end of February 2023. The annual price for the service is £45 with a concessionary rate of £35 for residents who are in receipt of certain benefits.

To ensure that residents were informed of the changes, a leaflet was produced by the Council's communications team and delivered to all households by a contracted

company. The leaflet included information about the service, reasons for the change, what goes in the bin and alternatives to paying for the service such as composting or taking garden waste to recycling centres.

A multi-channel communications campaign supplemented the leaflet, including vehicle artwork, press releases, social media posts, articles in the digital Dacorum Life weekly newsletter, text message alerts and a bin hanger with a cut-out-and-keep reminder of what can go into the green-lidded garden waste bin.

Once residents signed up to the service, a permit was delivered which needed to be affixed to the green-lidded garden waste bin. By March 2023, 30 per cent of households in the borough had signed up to the service, reaching Dacorum's initial subscriptions target.



Figure 3 – Dacorum's garden waste subscription leaflet

3.3 East & North Herts Chewing Gum Taskforce

North and East Herts successfully bid for grant funding from Keep Britain Tidy Chewing Gum Task Force. The Chewing Gum Task Force was set up by DEFRA and chewing gum manufacturers, with Keep Britain Tidy as administrator, to award grants that allow councils to clean up historic gum litter staining, alongside behavioural interventions to encourage people to bin their gum.

The Chewing Gum Task Force has decided on a 5 year, up to £2million per year, grant scheme, where councils have flexibility to propose how the clean-up and behaviour change activities will take place.

After an initial detailed application made by the Shared Waste team, the team were pleased to be awarded £60k to procure a Gladiator gum removal machine, training and various supporting campaign materials. These have enabled both councils to work with their private sector service partner Urbaser in providing the services.

Utilising the Gladiator gum machine has not been without its challenges however, the funding enables the councils to carry out more deep cleaning to remove chewing gum from pavements in our town centres, and to install new signage to encourage long-term behaviour change.



Figure 4 – Chewing gum removal in East and North Herts

3.4 Service updates in East and North Herts

Following a review in the latter half of 2022, in October 2022 East and North Herts Councils agreed to a number of changes that would both improve service alignment – in respect to aspects such as bin sizes and colours – as well as lay important foundations for the next procurement phase of the East / North Herts joint waste contract.

Stock replacement bins has recently been an issue, with global shortages of plastic polymer and continued supply chain impacts significantly increasing the cost of bins as well as availability and delivery lead times. With limited storage space for wheeled bins, aligning bin types across both councils will provide greater resilience.



Figure 5 – realignment of bin colours across East and North Herts

As part of the changes, it was agreed that standard residual waste bins in East Herts will be reduced from 240L to 180L. This will apply to all new build houses and any replacement bins. Reducing the residual waste bin size supports waste minimisation principles and is known to impact on the waste produced, with North Herts seeing a drop of 4,600 tonnes of residual waste when making a wholesale change to 180L residual waste bins back in 2012/13.

This being a gradual change, it will not impact as significantly on recycling rates until a larger proportion of residual waste bins are 180L. Since the implementation of the smaller bins, the demand for replacement bins has decreased in East Herts, in part

because residents do not wish to receive a smaller bin but also because of a programme of repairing damaged bins. Larger bins will remain available for households who need them, such as those living in larger households, those with multiple children using nappies or people with other special waste needs.

This alignment will also see North Herts residents move from a solid purple bin, to a black bodied bin with a purple lid. Recycling bins will have a blue lid (as East Herts does now), and both authorities will also have brown lidded 240 litre bins for garden waste. Residents were notified via social media and with a flyer delivered with their bin to help them understand the changes.

3.5 A special visit

Louis' mother reached out to East Herts Council to enquire about a special visit from her refuse crew. She explained that her son Louis adored watching his refuse get collected and with his birthday coming up, she decided this would be the perfect way to make turning 7 memorable.

Urbaser were more than happy to facilitate a special visit of a waste collection vehicle for this special surprise. A thrilled Louis not only got to look around the vehicle, but also got to load in his waste and sit in the driver's seat. Crew members, Jamie, Danny and Dan were so impressed with Louis that he was gifted some Urbaser branded items. This special experience was captured on camera and shared with residents of East Herts who were quick to congratulate the future young operative! It was lovely for us all to celebrate Louis birthday treat and for the waste team it was wonderful to receive such positive feedback on our hardworking crews.



Figure 6 – Louis becomes a social media star

3.6 Recycling on the go



Figure 7 – New on-the-go recycling bins in East Herts

East Herts introduced recycling on the go bins in the district in Autumn 2022. Each new bin has two separate compartments - one for recyclable waste such as cans, plastic bottles, newspapers and card; the other for general litter such as non-recyclable crisp packets, sweet wrappers and food. These additions to town centre high streets will enable residents and visitors alike to recycle on the go and do their bit to help reduce the amount of high street generated waste going to landfill and we would urge people to use them correctly.

The new recycling facilities installed in 5 locations across the district will give residents the opportunity to separate their recyclable and general waste when they are visiting the town centres. The shared waste team will continue to monitor the bins to ensure the correct materials are captured and hope more on the go recycling bins will be installed in the future.

3.7 Tackling Period Poverty

In March 2022 the Hertfordshire Waste Partnership launched 'HERTS Sustainable Periods'. The scheme is designed to raise awareness of the availability of reusable period products, waste issues around disposable items and to help reduce costs for those wanting to switch to more sustainable, reusable period products. A 15% discount is [available](#) for Hertfordshire residents to purchase a range of items with 10 participating suppliers.

However, even with the discount, many families in Hertfordshire are unable to afford period products. In fact, research showed that during lockdown 30% of girls in the UK aged 14-21 years struggled to afford or access period products (source: [3 in 10 girls struggle to afford or access sanitary wear during lockdown | Plan International UK \(plan-uk.org\)](#)). With reusables, they are always available.



Figure 8 – WasteAware's new Reusable Period Products initiative has proved very popular

Each period using disposable products can cost on average £10, that's £130 a year and £4940 over a lifetime. In comparison, a menstrual cup costs around £25 and lasts up to 10 years offering an enormous saving.

The HWP put aside funding to support those struggling with period poverty by offering a selection of items to them for free. Over the year we have approached a number of groups and organisations who are working directly with families who need support, such as the cost-of-living task force, Herts Young Homeless and Sustainability Partnership. An amended version of the Herts Sustainable Periods leaflet has been created to be given directly to individuals in need. This might be at food banks, women's shelters, in schools or other locations yet to be discovered. A referral from such an organisation is the only requirement to access the free products, which will be capped at a certain amount of money initially so we can be sure that the items are actually put to use by those who are interested.

The scheme has also attracted external funding which has been put forward from three different groups to support up to around 150 individuals. Once we have analysed the take up and feedback from this pilot, we will amend the offer as required.

The HWP has worked with these organisations to identify a suitable mechanism for buying and storing items at the locations themselves, ready to hand out to individuals, should the conversation result in interest in using the items. This will reduce barriers (time, ordering, using a discount code, choice of items etc) and provide items in the moment while the resident is engaged which is most likely lead to the products being used. Usage and washing guidance are offered with each donation.

The next phase was to offer training to the support workers so they have basic knowledge about the products and issues related to use of traditional products so that they can speak with confidence and answer any questions they might receive. This training was delivered working in partnership with WEN, the Women's Environment Network. The next round of training takes place in October 2023 and will focus on education professionals. To date, around 50 schools have received this training and a free kit of products to use as demonstration items when teaching about menstruation in school.

The Sustainable Periods Discount Scheme is still running well with awareness being raised around these products, which are still relatively new. New suppliers have been added over the year, and residents are stating they have heard about the scheme from an increasing range of locations thanks to our posters being displayed behind toilet doors in many cubicles across the county.

3.8 #WorthSaving – the HWP's new avoidable food waste campaign

Much of the focus for WasteAware over 2022/23 has been a major collaboration, working with the Sustainable Hertfordshire team, on reducing edible food waste. The project “#WorthSaving: Save Food, Save Money” aims to empower householders to reduce avoidable (or edible) food waste in Hertfordshire. Throwing away edible food costs householders up to £720 a year (source: WRAP August 2022)

The campaign stems from a waste composition analysis carried out in late 2020. The analysis assessed the composition of waste generated by a representative sample of households from across Hertfordshire by collecting the content of bins from identified streets, on the usual day of collection. Once collected the samples were taken to a facility in the south of the county where

a specialist team sorted the waste materials into 55 different categories in line with accepted best practice.

The analysis found that nearly a quarter (24%) of the waste typically thrown in the bin, was “avoidable” food waste - food that could have been eaten. Across Hertfordshire this amounts to around 39,000 tonnes of edible food being thrown away a year resulting in a sizeable but ultimately unnecessary carbon footprint.



Figure 9 – Young chefs from West Herts College showing how to get more from the food you buy

Further waste composition analysis in March 2023 established that typically two-fifths to two-thirds of food waste in food waste recycling collections is also avoidable food waste rather than the inedible unavoidable scraps, skins, peel, shells, cores, leaves, grounds, stones, pips and bones for which the recycling schemes are designed.

Tackling avoidable food waste is included in no less than four UN – programmes, Environment, Climate Change, Food & Agriculture and Sustainable Development . Indeed reducing the waste of edible food could be more effective in tackling the climate crisis, than the combined impact of electric cars, solar panels and plant-based diets. HWP started by undertaking original research in this area including survey work and engagement with different stakeholder groups. This led us to identifying 4 steps to save – simple switches or checks that anyone can undertake daily to reduce food waste and from this the HWP's new #WorthSaving campaign was born. The campaign was tested first in a 6-month pilot that took place in the Three Rivers District council area (no.1 in England for recycling 2019/20 and 2021/22) before being rolled out across the county.

The #WorthSaving campaign offers a bright, bold and engaging brand with real members of the community sharing their tips and hacks for saving food and saving money. We've created a host of assets which are freely available to community groups to use, including posters, a leaflet, social media content, games and activities, presentations and event displays.



Figure 10 – WasteAware's new avoidable food waste campaign - #WorthSaving – which was piloted in Three Rivers District Council. The food depicted was "rescued" by WasteAware personnel from actual waste under analysis during the March 2023 composition study

Through our iterative process over the 6-month pilot, we engaged 33 community groups, 2 schools, and over 1000 residents at events, in magazines/ newsletters and online. 52 subscribed to our 5-week e-bulletin and many lessons were learnt to take forward to the next phase of the project. A repeat waste composition analysis at the end of the trial revealed that we successfully reduced the amount of edible food being thrown away by 15%. (A

baseline reduction of 4% was seen in the control district, which can be attributed to the cost-of-living crisis, against a 19% reduction in the trial area).

Based on the strength of this pilot, we are looking forward to rolling this out across the county and developing more materials to create greater engagement.

3.9 The County Council's Reuse Shops

The popularity of the County Council's Reuse Shops bounced back following the pandemic and in 2022/23 diverted 524 tonnes of good quality reusable items from going to waste. The shops expanded their offer by employing staff to carry out safety checks on electrical items which has saved 1193kg of electrical items such as TVs, kettles and lamps from being destroyed between June 2022 (when the initiative started) and the end of March 2023. The shops also introduced the really popular Paint Reuse Scheme where customers can take away donated paint free of charge. A new pop-up Reuse shop was also introduced at the Stevenage Recycling Centre.

In addition to selling good quality items the Reuse Shops also donate items to charities, community groups and good causes. Since HCC took over the operation of the service in November 2020, the Reuse Shops have donated £7,875.50 worth of items to schools and community groups such as Hertfordshire Disability Sports Foundation, who receive used bicycle donations, and Tools for Self Reliance (TFSR)/the Rotary Club of Ware who receive old tools which are refurbished by people with physical and mental disabilities and sent to Africa. In February 2023 the shops donated five petrol lawnmower units to Explorer Scouts in Watton at Stone for the group to dismantle and put back together! Feedback was positive saying they really enjoyed the experience. One young girl who had recently joined (13yrs old), was so excited that she'd had the opportunity to take something apart!



Figure 11 – Scouts learning how to repair lawn mowers

The Reuse Shops were also featured at the County Show in May 2022. This proved to be very popular with over 4,000 people visiting the pop-up shop over the weekend and income from sales totalling over £4,500 was donated to charity.



Figure 12 – Reuse as the main theme of County Council's tent at the 2022 county show.

3.10 Recycle your Cycle

Recycle your Cycle is a charity that collects broken or unwanted bikes and takes them to HM prisons across the country where they are repaired by inmates. As part of this rehabilitation programme, jobs are created alongside training for future employment upon release. The refurbished bikes are then given to charities who sell them on to raise vital funding.

Hertsmere had worked previously with Recycle your Cycle – allowing them to collect any discarded/broken bikes that had been collected from fly tips, etc that we had stored in our yard but we decided to go one step further and hold a bike collection event.



Figure 14 – Temporary collection point for bicycles



Figure 13 – Recycle Your Cycle combining the repair skills with rehabilitation opportunities

New bikes are often bought for Christmas so it seemed like a good time to arrange an event in early December 2022. It was a success, we collected 15 bikes and for very minimal effort; it was a case of a timeslot in a car park with a van to take the collected bikes back to the depot.

We repeated the event in Bushey in January 2023 and got a further 21 bikes.

We hope to hold another similar event in Borehamwood later this year and continue our relationship with Recycle your Cycle.

3.11 Eco-friendly recycling vehicle in St Albans

An eco-friendly recycling vehicle with high-tech safety equipment went on trial in St Albans District. The eCollect is an all-electric refuse collection vehicle, an emissions free alternative to conventional diesel-powered trucks.

St Albans City and District Council and its waste contractor Veolia have been testing the vehicle which has been designed to be cost-efficient, improve local air quality by reducing emissions and help the Council towards its target of carbon neutrality by 2030.

The eCollect can take 20 tonnes of waste on board during an eight-hour shift before it needs

recharging which can be done overnight. It is also fitted with five cameras to improve safety, giving drivers a 360 degree view when turning or reversing and allowing them to monitor the work area. The vehicle is produced by Dennis Eagle, a UK-based original equipment manufacturer.

If the trial proves successful, the Council and Veolia may look to move towards an all-electric fleet of waste and recycling collection vehicles. Councillor Dr Allison Wren, formerly Lead Councillor for Waste and Recycling, saw the eCollect in action during a garden waste round in Redbourn.



Figure 15 – Cllr Alison Wren with one of the new ecollect vehicles

She said:

This is an excellent innovation by a British manufacturer that fits in with our priority of improving the local environment. As a Council, we have recognised the climate emergency and are taking numerous actions to reduce our reliance on fossil fuels and increase the amount of waste that we recycle. Using electric vehicles wherever possible is one of the ways to reach our target and it was very useful for me to see this vehicle in operation.

Nikki Mills, Contract Manager for Veolia St Albans, said of the eCollect vehicle:

We are pleased to be trialling this brand new technology with our partners at St Albans City and District Council. The vehicle is a big leap forward in helping to deliver a cleaner and greener recycling industry, and is one of the many innovations Veolia is exploring to help the District reach its net zero carbon emissions target by 2030.

The Council has previously trialled an all-electric street washer which was used in St Albans City Centre and is to trial an electric barrow bike that can be used to empty litter bins.

3.12 Fairlands Community Woodland Stevenage

During the Winter of 2022-23, schools, councillors and the local community took part in an exciting project to help plant a new woodland in the Southfield of Fairlands Valley Park in Stevenage. As part of our commitment to helping to combat climate change, around 1 hectare of new woodland has been planted with help from the community.



Figure 16 – The creation of new woodland in Stevenage bringing the community together

Most of the woodland was planted with whips – small tree seedlings aged around 2-3 years old. In contrast, some larger trees over two metres tall were also planted around the perimeter. The trees planted are species mainly native to the UK and consist of, Field Maple, Hornbeam, Silver Birch, Rowan, Hazel, Hawthorn, Wild Cherry, Crab Apple, Walnut, Sweet Chestnut and Oak.

Delivering such a large project required much planning. Once the site was prepared, schools and the community were invited to help plant the new woodland. To kick off the project, dignitaries planted seven Silver Maple Trees to mark Queen Elizabeth II's 70th Jubilee.

Following this, a massive effort from ten Stevenage schools helped to plant the woodland. Over 200 pupils, teachers, parents, and guardians took part, planting around 1,300 trees. A further 80 local community members, councillors and staff also participated in the woodland planting event.

The public were asked to help find a name for the new woodland. There were 84 suggestions put forward which were shortlisted to 10 by councillors. The public and local community were then invited to vote for their favourite name for the new woodland. An event formally opening and naming the woodland took place in Autumn 2023.

It will take several years for the woodland to develop into maturity. A mosaic of different habitats will enhance biodiversity, such as woodland glades, naturally regenerating scrub/woodland, and complimentary meadow grasslands. Planting trees is just one way we can help reduce the effects of climate change, with benefits ranging from providing oxygen to breath and homes for wildlife to storing carbon and keeping towns cool.

3.13 Digital Transformation Waste Projects in Stevenage

During 2022-23, two digital transformation waste projects got underway, with the aim of improving access to services online, reducing use of paper-based forms and streamlining admin processes.

The first of these was the assisted waste collection service. The service was reviewed in 2022 for the first time since 2016. Research was undertaken on how other local authorities in the County are running assisted collections. With input from the Digital Platform team and Customer Service Centre, we developed a new streamlined online form.

Following the review, the number of assisted collections has been reduced from 1,100 households to fewer than 500 households. This means the waste collection crews are assisting with fewer collections, increasing their efficiency. The back-office process is now completely transformed from a manual telephone and paper-based process to an online self-service process for customers.

Removing the need of input from back-office staff, now gives the Support Team more capacity to focus on other projects and support Service Managers.

During January 2023, a review of the trade waste service began, with a bin audit carried out, visiting around 80% of our customer's sites. The aim of this project is to automate invoicing of our trade waste customers by linking the back-office system used to manage the trade service with our finance management system. This will prevent data entry duplication and improve efficiency to spend more time on account management and debt recovery.

An online form to enable customers to self-serve and request extra collections outside of office hours is also being developed. It is hoped this will both improve the customer user experience and assist the Support Team by streamlining the administration of the service.

3.14 #WorthSaving food waste campaign piloted in Three Rivers

This year, Three Rivers acted as the pilot district for the new #WorthSaving food waste campaign, supporting in the market research and development of branding and assets as well as rolling out the campaign. The Council rolled out the campaign across social media platforms and newsletters, at several community events, for example the Rickmansworth Festival and Autumn Community Fair, where residents pledged to reduce food waste, and told us what they would spend the saved cash on as well as discussing some of the items they throw away most and why. In addition, school assemblies and classes were attended to discuss food waste with young people, with the hope they would take their leaflets back to their parents, which resulted in a significant number of QR code scans, and an eco-council creating posters for their canteen to remind their classmates to reduce food waste during their lunches. Delivering campaign leaflets door to door was found to be the most successful method of sharing the campaign, seeing a 5% scan rate of the QR code. The campaign saw a huge amount of interest from all different ages and demographics due to the fun, eye-catching artwork, and messaging addressing the financial impact of wasting food.



Figure 17 – WasteAware's new #WorthSaving campaign being trialled in Three Rivers

A waste compositional analysis was carried out following the pilot, which saw a 12.1% decrease in edible food waste in residual bins compared to the analysis carried out in 2020, against a 2.6% increase in the control District, making the pilot a success and resulting in the campaign being rolled out County-wide.

3.15 Fast Fashion conference and waste education in Three Rivers

A Fast Fashion conference was held to help raise the profile of the environmental issues associated with the textiles industry, and fast fashion in particular. The sell-out event started with several short clips to show the scale of the issue and explore some of the possible solutions and was followed by short presentations and a Q&A session. The panellists included local resident Gillian Watt, who has over 20 years working in sustainable fashion, the Chief Executive of the Charity Retail Association, Shelly and Nikki from LovedUp ReLoved, a local business selling, swapping and upcycling clothes, and an officer from Three Rivers District Council discussing what happens to textiles collected for recycling in the district.

The event saw everyone from school students studying textiles, and those with a history of working in the industry, to those who knew very little about fast fashion and

how it impacts our planet. Following the event, other community groups were inspired to spread the message with their own communities, resulting in a stunning fashion show using second hand and upcycled clothes in a local community hall, sharing facts and history about clothing and the impact on the planet.

Further events have taken place across the District to encourage everyone to think more about the impact consumption has on the world around us, for example a free screening of Disney's WALL.E, which saw a huge number of families attend with literature shared with each attendee on what they can do at home to reduce not only food waste through the #WorthSaving campaign, but reduce consumption of other items such as plastics, period products, clothing, nappies and more.



Figure 18 – Three Rivers DC tackling fast fashion

3.16 Watford's Waste and Fly Tipping Project

Veolia and Watford Borough Council embarked on a project targeting waste and fly tipping in a high footfall area called St Albans Road in Watford. St Albans Road is a busy area with multiple uses including residential and business such as retail, charity shops, restaurants, takeaways and a church.

It is an area of high density housing, with side streets of terraced houses, low rise flat blocks, flats above shops, Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO's) and generally a high proportion of short term rental properties. It is multicultural and has a high transient population.

The socio-demographics of the area poses many challenges including overflowing waste, bins on pavements, contamination and fly tipping. Recent work in other areas has shown that this can be as a result of inadequate bin facilities, lack of knowledge of how to/or where to put their waste, high levels of rental resulting in a regular turnover of residents, and areas with sack collections. Waste that is either left in the street for collection (sack collections) or dumped in the street (often by Council waste bins) encourages further waste to be dumped and also provides some opportunities for commercial businesses to reduce their waste costs.



Figure 19 – Watford's project to tackle fly tipping

The objectives of the project were to:

- Identify current issues that prevent residents or businesses from correctly disposing of their waste.
- Identify actions to improve the area and take actions to ensure that any improvements are sustainable. Including
 - Raise awareness of what fly tipping is and communicate the penalties for fly tipping.
 - Correct waste disposal options for all residential properties by project end.
 - To provide a toolkit that can be used for future similar projects/areas.

The project covered 15 roads (St Albans Road and its off-shoots) and they were split into six sections and targeted for three months at a time with Veolia's Education, Communications and Veolia Watford Outreach Team and the Council's Environmental Enforcement team. The three month targeted work included:

1. Desktop survey (group roads into sections)
2. Data gathering - look through issues in the area via reports and trends.
3. Residents and business survey
4. Audit area (businesses and residential)
5. Improve waste provisions
6. Raise awareness of fly tipping through letter and leaflet drop and school talks
7. Investigate
8. Review.

The results of the project have been highly successful with all of the objectives achieved and close working relationships with the Environmental Enforcement Team and the managing agents established. The area has seen the following results:

- Fly tipping reduced by 64%
- Contaminated bins reduced by 64%
- Bins on pavements reduced by 59%
- Five £300 Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) were issued during the project.

The project was planned to take 18 months but has actually taken four years due to issues with staffing resources during the Covid-19 pandemic.

3.17 Watford's first Young Green Mayor

Veolia launched an exciting new initiative in search of Watford's first Young Green Mayor to help tackle the climate emergency.

Secondary schools across Watford were invited to nominate a Young Green Mayor and a Deputy Mayor to represent the voices of young people in their community, and to champion a green initiative that local schools or the borough could benefit from. The initiative is part of Veolia's Sustainable Schools Programme.

Watford's first Young Green Mayor was awarded to 16 year old Muhammed Safa Kaya (known as Safa) and his Deputy Mayor, Adam Hasan from Watford Grammar School for Boys. They were elected based on their impressive eco-manifesto and green initiative, Plant for Life which they will deliver during their Mayoral Term.



Figure 20 – Watford's first Youth Mayoral team introduced to help tackle climate change

This project will deliver a school presentation pack to all infant and primary schools in Watford. The pack includes a packet of Crab Apple seeds or wildflower seeds and communicates the value of planting them for their contribution to increasing biodiversity by supporting pollinating insects. Their project further supports both Watford Borough Council's Environmental Strategy and Veolia's purpose to deliver ecological transformation through increasing biodiversity within the communities we work with, every day.

In their roles, Safa and Adam will be mentored by Veolia Watford's Education, Communications and Outreach team, receive local democratic training from Watford Borough Council and have the opportunity to shadow the work of Elected Mayor of Watford, Peter Taylor and attend public engagements. They have also received support from Veolia's Sustainability Fund to deliver their project and help their ideas thrive during their Mayoral term.

The Young Green Mayor initiative aims to mentor and empower the future generation of environmental leaders in local and central government.

3.18 Compost Giveaway 2023 in Welwyn Hatfield

This year, Welwyn Hatfield supported residents in their gardening endeavours by providing 10 tonnes of compost, courtesy of Severn Trent Green Power in on March 18th, 2023, in Lagoon Car Park, Welwyn Garden City. The event was as popular as previous years with the compost collected by borough residents within an hour.

We will be running this event a little differently next year to ensure the compost goes further, but the main takeaway is that this event is obviously much needed and appreciated by residents of the borough – this has cemented how important this event is in our calendar. We are excited to continue to improve this event for future years and give back to the hard working and diligent recyclers in our area.



Figure 21 – Compost Giveaways continue to be a popular event in the partner authorities



4. The Hertfordshire Fly Tipping Group

4.1 Background

The Hertfordshire Fly Tipping Group (FTG) is a multi-agency taskforce including the Boroughs, Districts and County Council as well as Hertfordshire Constabulary, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, the Environment Agency and the National Farmers Union. These organisations have come together to improve how Hertfordshire responds to fly tipping. The FTG's work programme is delivering improvements in enforcement capability across the county.

The FTG is also behind the award winning #SCRAPflytipping campaign, which is used across Hertfordshire to help educate residents and businesses and is now supported by 129 local authorities across the UK as a part of the FTG's efforts to work with like-minded stakeholders across the country.

The FTG also maintains a watching brief on the state of legislation relevant to fly tipping and remains ready to engage with legislators when it considers there are deficiencies in either the way the law is constructed or is being applied by the courts.

4.2 2022/23 in numbers

In contrast to the very significant rise in fly tipping during 2020/21, in line with final numbers for 2021/22, 2022/23 saw another reduction in the number of reported incidents. By March 2023 fly tipping across Hertfordshire had reduced by 8.9%, 14,330 fly tipping incidents reported across the county as illustrated in Fig 22 below.

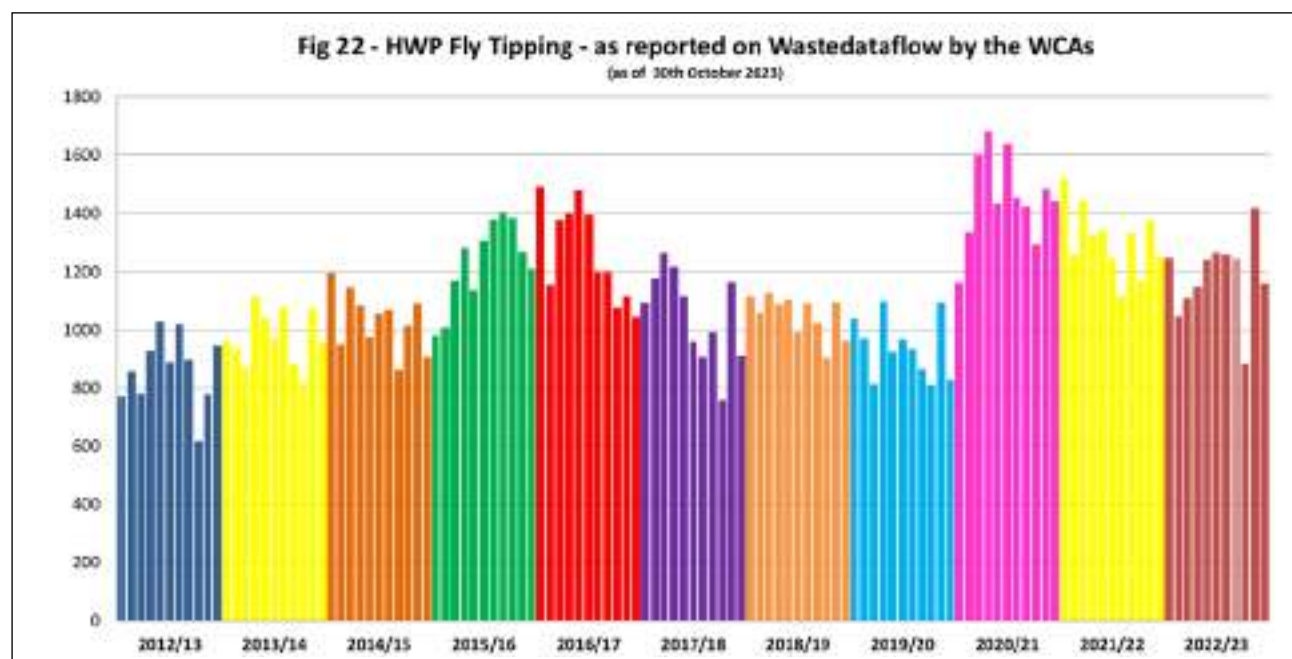


Figure 22 – monthly fly tipping totals reported by Hertfordshire's boroughs and districts over the last 11 years

4.3 Breaking down the numbers

Each year borough and district councils log reported incidents on an online database called WasteDataFlow (WDF) which is run by the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. In order to be able to compare fly tipping reports across the country WDF uses standard definitions when it comes to the type, location and size of reported incidents. Using these categories fly tipping in Hertfordshire can be broken down as detailed in Table 6 and Fig 23 below:

Table 6 – breakdown and comparison of fly tipping by category 2022/23 v 2021/22

Number of incidents by primary waste type	2022/23	2021/22	Difference	Percentage
Animal Carcass	46	26	+20	+76.9%
Green	665	760	-95	-12.5%
Vehicle Parts	187	170	+17	+10.0%
White goods	687	784	-97	-12.4%
Other electrical	329	242	+87	+36.0%
Tyres	202	209	-7	-3.3%
Asbestos	77	56	+21	+37.5%
Clinical	11	14	-3	-21.4%
Construction / demo / excav.	860	1,056	-196	-18.6%
Black bags – commercial	163	194	-31	-16.0%
Black bags – household	2,119	2,104	+15	+0.7%
Chemical drums, oil, fuel	93	87	+6	+6.9%
Other household waste	7,565	8,720	-1,155	-13.2%
Other commercial waste	714	709	+5	+0.7%
Other (unidentified)	612	598	=+14	+2.3%
Total	14,330	15,729	-1,399	-8.9%

Fig 23: Fly Tipping in Hertfordshire 2022/23
(source: Wastedataflow - as submitted by the Boroughs and Districts)

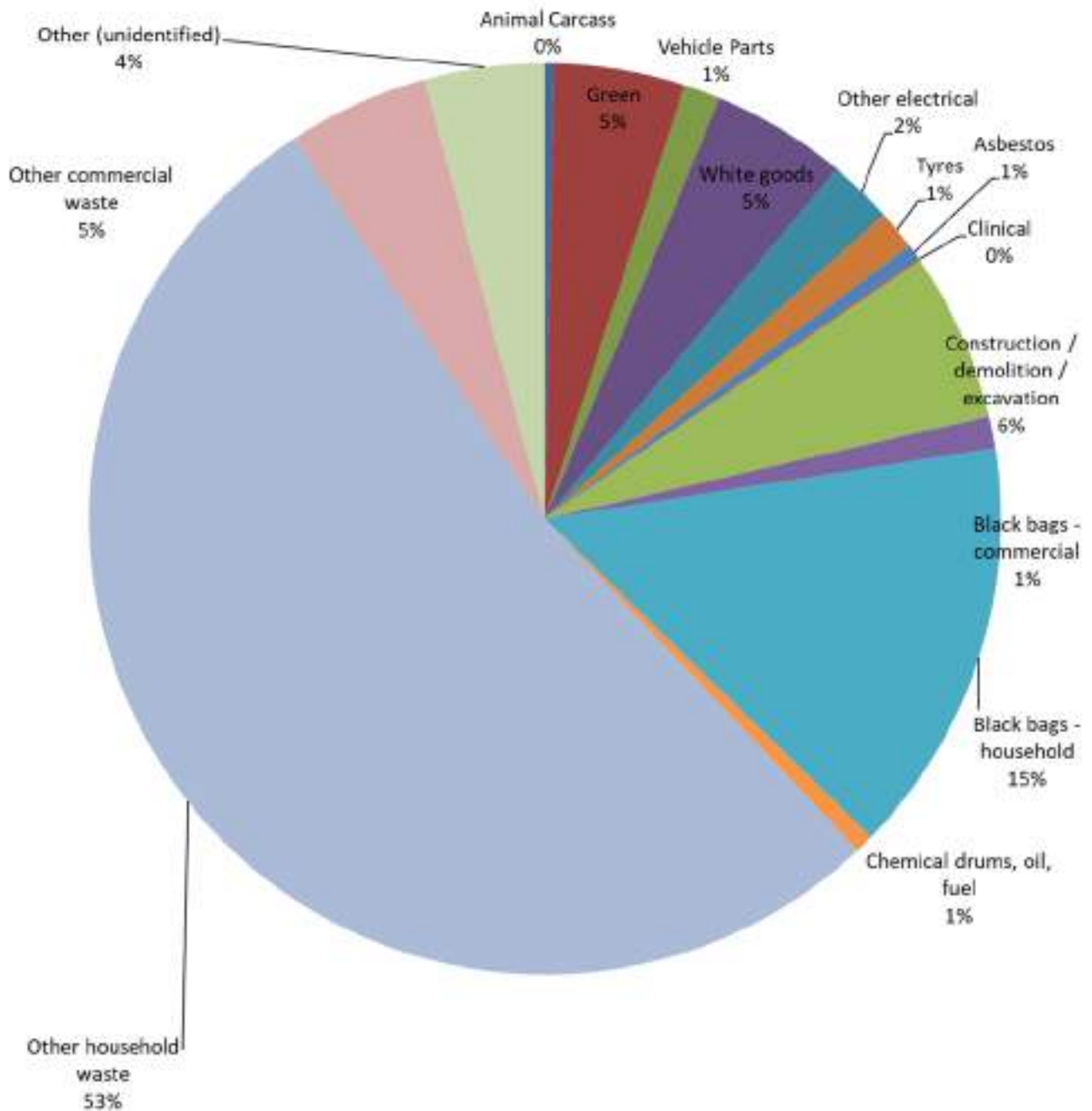


Fig 23 shows that most fly tipping originates from domestic sources and accounts for around two thirds of the incidents reported each year. This is consistency with previous years and aligns with the national picture. This emphasises the importance of continued investment in the education of the public in how to deal with their waste disposal needs without resorting to actions that either inadvertently or deliberately lead to a fly tipping incident.

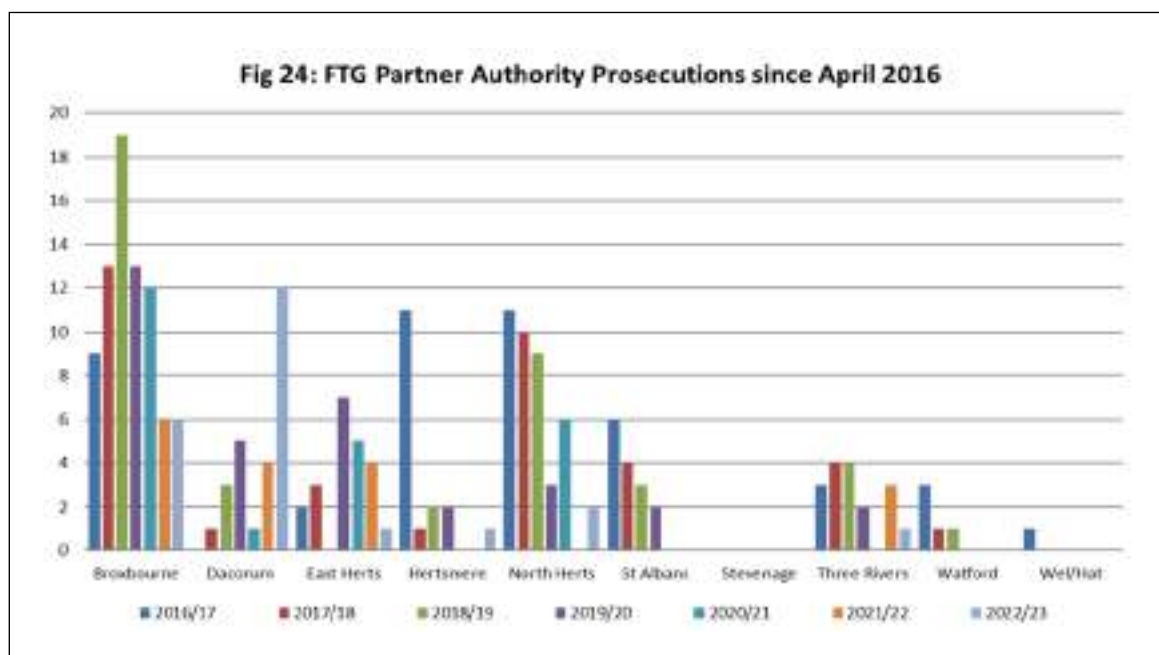
4.4 Enforcement Activity

Enforcement activity in response to fly tipping takes 2 main forms including issuing fixed penalty notices (FPNs) for low level incidents and prosecutions for more serious offences. 2022/23 saw an identical number of combined number of Section 33 (Fly Tipping) and Section 34 (Duty of Care) FPNs issued compared to the previous year. Table 7 below provides the relevant breakdown.

Table 7: No. of Section 33 / 34 FPNs issued

Authority	Section 33				Section 34			
	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Broxbourne	22	26	38	25	11	7	3	1
Dacorum	31	44	38	21	14	5	5	11
East Herts	12	16	19	5	18	21	28	14
Hertsmere	4	0	5	10	0	0	2	9
North Herts	9	9	10	6	9	18	15	5
St Albans	12	10	4	20	0	11	0	6
Stevenage	8	1	14	4	0	0	0	4
Three Rivers	2	4	3	7	6	2	1	3
Watford	18	3	10	30	1	0	0	6
Wel/ Hat	5	16	5	12	0	0	0	<u>1</u>
Totals...	123	129	146	140	59	64	54	60

In addition to FPNs issued in 2022/23, the FTG also secured 23 prosecutions for fly tipping, 6 more than in 2021/22. Since April 2016 Hertfordshire's local authorities have secured 222 prosecutions for fly tipping as illustrated in Fig 24 below:



With the number of reported incidents declining by 1399 during 2022/23 costs attributed to fly tipping detailed on the Wastedataflow website, which reflect data entered by the boroughs and districts, also shows a welcome reduction as noted in Table 8 below:

Table 8: Annual Estimated Costs of Fly Tipping in Hertfordshire

Year	No. of Fly Tipping incidents recorded on WDF	Estimate cost of clearance and disposal	Estimate cost of actions taken (investigations etc)	Total Costs	Total Cost per incident
2015/16	14,710	£804,153	£296,566	£1,100,719	£74.83
2016/17	15,216	£822,105	£315,013	£1,137,118	£74.73
2017/18	12,485	£737,039	£313,012	£1,050,051	£84.11
2018/19	12,687	£921,317	£292,996	£1,214,313	£95.71
2019/20	11,208	£722,700	£309,166	£1,031,866	£92.07
2020/21	17,963	£1,256,701	£315,260	£1,571,961	£87.51
2021/22	15,729	£1,008,635	£258,389	£1,267,024	£80.55
2022/23	14,330	£816,004	£267,460	£1,083,464	£75.61

4.5 FTG Communications - #SCRAPflytipping Campaign

During 2022/23 efforts continued on growing the #SCRAPflytipping campaign further with six additional local authorities joining throughout the year. By the end March 2023, including the Hertfordshire partner authorities, 129 local authorities had rolled out the campaign.

At the time of writing the FTG is currently in dialogue with 78 additional local authorities, 23 of which have been granted access to the campaign assets and who are due to rollout within the next 12 months. Figure 25 below shows where in England the campaign is being used.

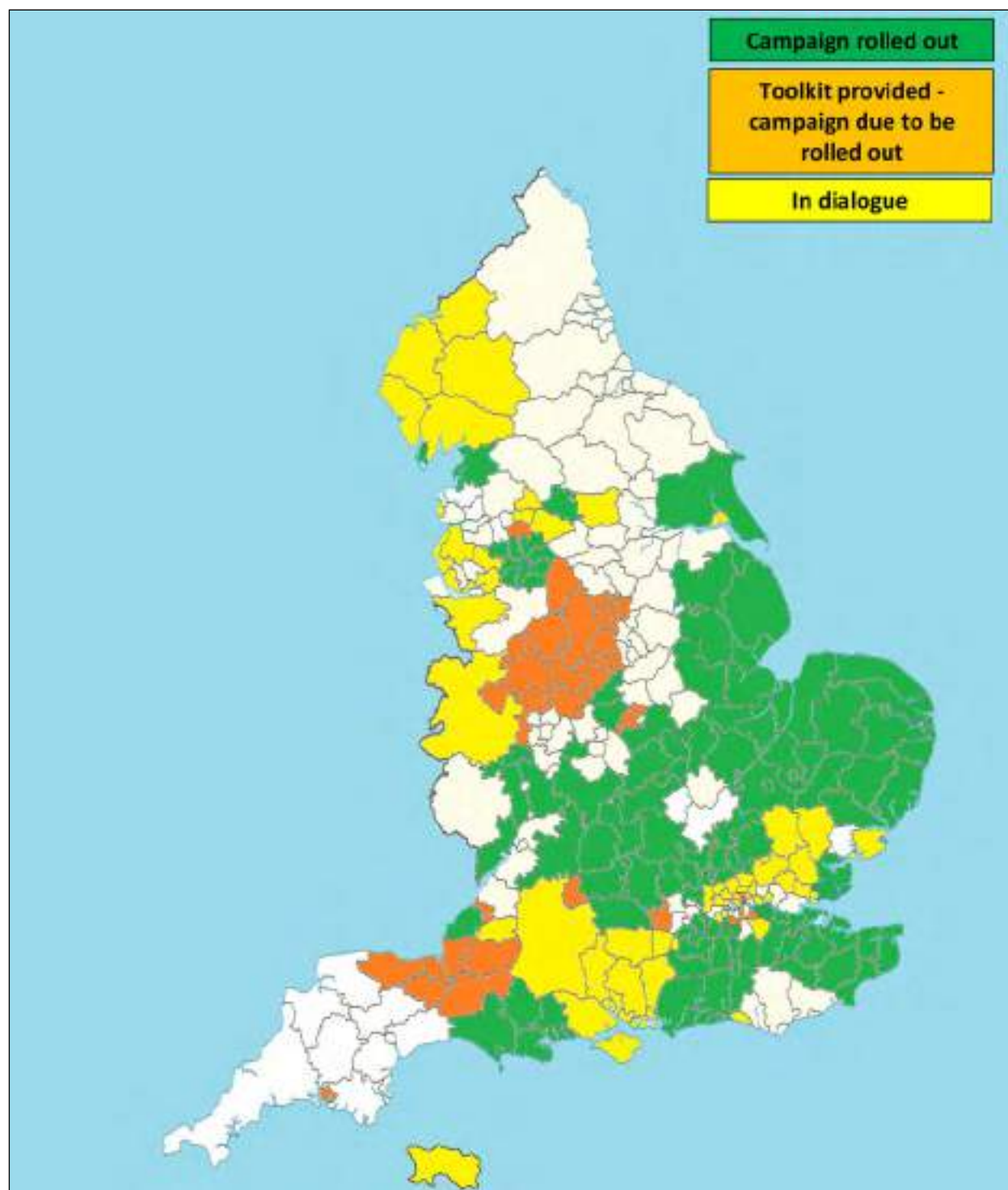


Figure 25 – latest coverage map for the #SCRAPflytipping campaign (as of August 2023)

4.6 FTG in 2022/23

Fly Tipping Hotspots

During 2022/23 the FTG began looking at different data sources that could be used to identify potential fly tipping hotspots in Hertfordshire. This included comparing different datasets on certain types of fly tipping, such as those related to cannabis, to see if sufficient detail could be extracted to allow the data to be mapped.

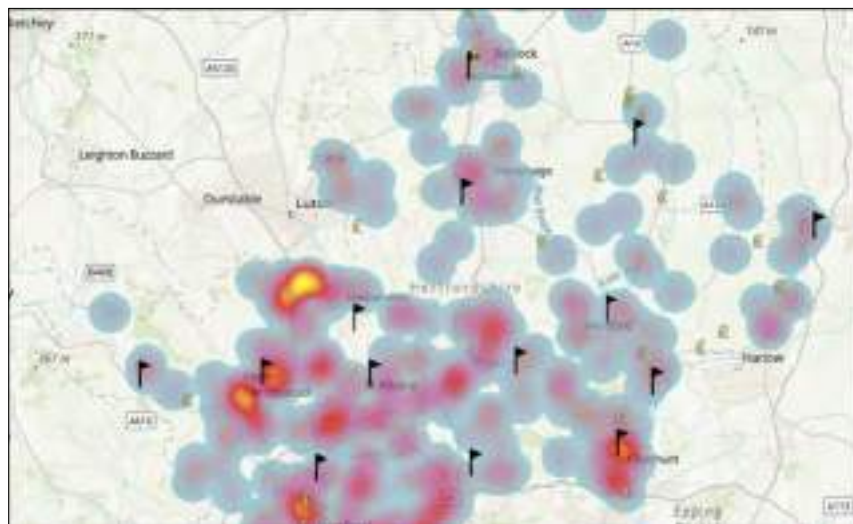


Figure 26 – fly tipping being mapped across Hertfordshire

Initial results from the exercise suggests that perceived hotspots with respect to fly tipping activity can be influenced based on the dataset being used.

This in turn underlines the need for the relevant agencies including Hertfordshire's local authorities, the Environment Agency and the local Constabulary to share their fly tipping data with one another in order to put together an accurate picture of a particular type of activity as shown in the example

noted in Fig. 26 above. Once an accurate picture is established then the agencies can determine the best approach to tackling the issue.

Whilst local authorities are not required in law to clear fly tipping on private land, the partner authorities recognise the need to support local landowners with respect to carrying out investigations into fly tipping on private land, especially when the waste in question potentially contains evidence to suggest where the waste came from which can ultimately lead enforcement officers to identify those responsible for the fly tipping.

However, recognising that the approach in Hertfordshire does vary during 2022/23 the partner authorities initiated work on a new FTG protocol designed to equalise to a minimum standard the response that private land owners can expect when it comes to a local authority enforcement response. Subject to final agreement it is hoped this work can be completed during 2023/24.

Government consultations

In April 2022 the FTG submitted partnership responses to two important Government consultations which propose significant changes to the current carriers, brokers and dealers regime as well as Government proposals for a new digital waste tracking service.

Successful implementation of both sets of proposals should result in better regulation of the waste sector including making it easier to identify illegal waste transactions and movements. The Government response to both consultations is due by the end of 2023.



Figure 27 – FGovernment consultations on Carriers, Brokers & Dealers & Digital Waste Tracking

5 End Destinations – where does our waste go?

5.1 Introduction

The Annual Report provides an important opportunity for the HWP to show where each of the waste streams: residual waste, organics and recycling are dealt with. The HWP believes such information can build confidence in the Hertfordshire public that the waste and recyclables they put out for collection are properly handled.

This chapter summarises the final destinations for each major waste stream during 2022/23. Overviews are provided for residual wastes and organics where the logistics and treatments are relatively straightforward. A more detailed analysis is provided for recycling where the range of materials collected is much more varied and where the final destinations are part of international markets in the trade of raw materials.

5.2 Residual Waste

Residual waste is waste not separated for recycling or organic treatment. In 2022/23 the HWP collected 230,200 tonnes of residual waste. Of this, 77% (178,000 tonnes) was treated at Energy from Waste (EfW) plants, in which the waste is combusted to generate electricity for the National Grid. Only 22% (50,500 tonnes) of the HWP's residual waste was sent to landfill.

This is a significant further shift towards EfW treatment and away from landfill for residual waste, even compared with 2021/22 in which 66% of residual waste went to EfW while 33% was landfilled, and is very much in line with the HWP's aspiration to send zero waste to landfill by 2030.

However, as Figure 28 below indicates, the Energy from Waste plants and landfill sites used for the final treatment and disposal of Hertfordshire's residual waste lie outside the county, albeit in neighbouring areas. So, while the waste does not travel great distances, its management is dependent on arrangements with non-Hertfordshire waste facilities.

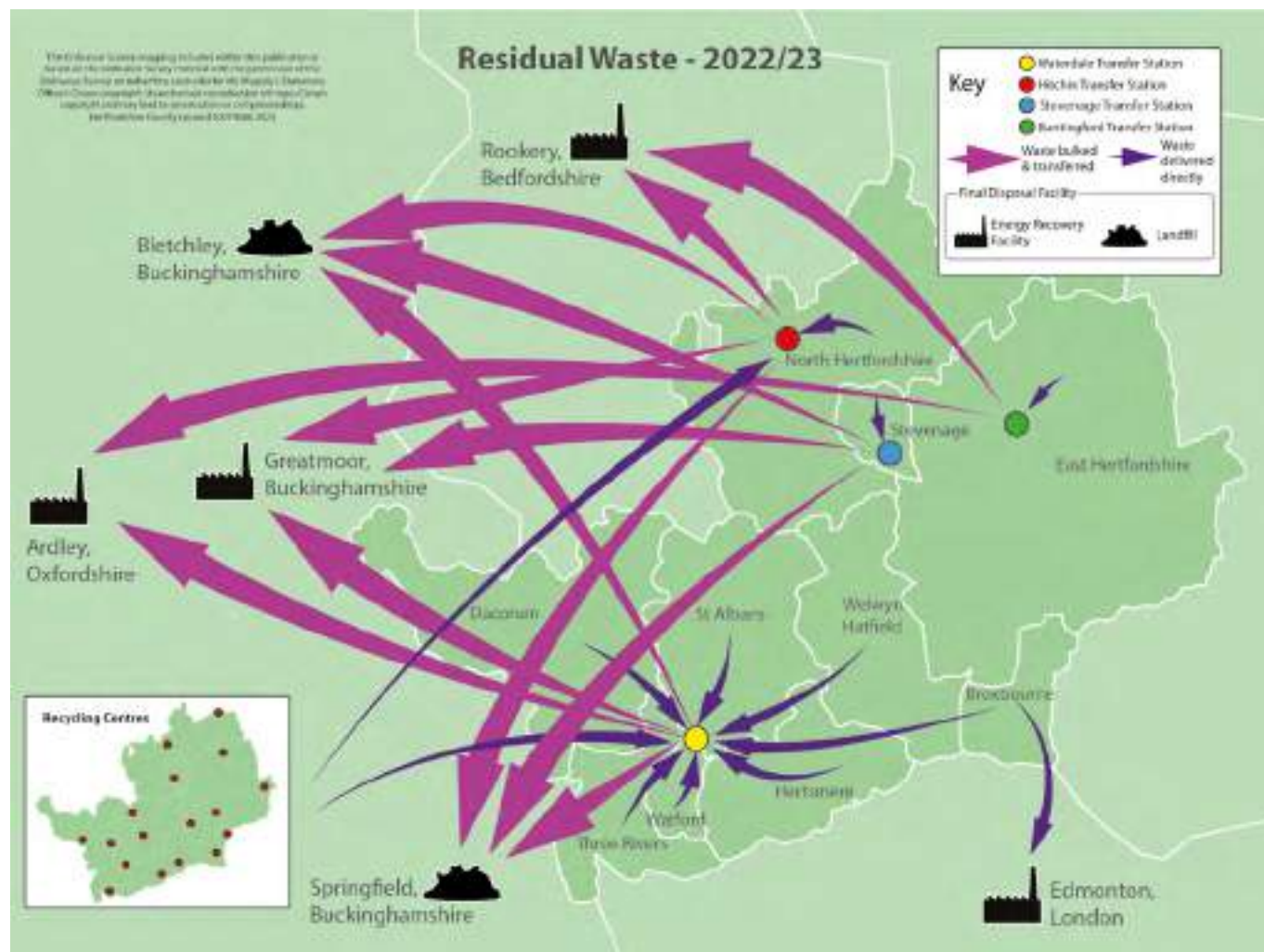


Figure 28 – the vast majority of the residual waste generated in Hertfordshire currently has to be sent outside of the county for treatment and final disposal.

5.3 Organic Waste

Organic waste in the HWP is made up of food waste and green garden waste from households, together with compostable street sweepings.

In 2022/23 the HWP collected 108,062 tonnes of organic material. 23,756 tonnes (22%) of this was separately collected food waste; 18,944 tonnes (17.5%) consisted of mixed garden and food waste. The biggest component was garden waste, 61,022 tonnes (56.5%), comprising material from council garden waste collections and garden waste taken to HCC Recycling Centres by residents themselves. 4,341 tonnes (4%) was compostable street sweepings collected by HWP Councils.

As can be seen from Fig 29 three Anaerobic Digestion plants and two In Vessel Composting facilities within Hertfordshire itself were used for HWP organic wastes in 2022/23 along with two Open Windrow facilities in adjacent areas. (The compostable street sweepings collected by Hertfordshire Councils in 2022/23 were treated at facilities at Ware in Hertfordshire, and in Sussex and the West Midlands').

Seven of the ten HWP boroughs and districts already offer separate weekly food waste collections. In line with the Government's recently published Simpler Recycling objectives which stipulate minimum standards for the provision of local authority recycling services, the remaining three HWP authorities are due to implement separate collections by early 2026.

5.4 Recycling

In 2022/23, maintaining a trend of recent years, over 70% of recyclates and reuse items collected by the HWP reached a processing Final Destination¹ in the UK, as outlined in Table 9 below.

Table 9: Proportion of recyclates and reuse items collected by the HWP and processed at Final Destinations in UK

Year	Tonnes for recycling and reuse	% Reaching Final Destinations in UK
2020/21	144,106	72.55%
2021/22	139,526	74.34%
2022/23	133,197	72.71%

5.5 Final Destinations by Commodity

Several recycle commodities collected by the HWP are wholly reprocessed at Final Destinations in the UK as indicated in Table 10 below. In 2022/23 these commodities represented 48% of total HWP recycling.

Table 10: Commodities 100% reaching processing Final Destinations in UK²

	2020/21		2021/22		2022/23	
Commodity	Total Tonnes collected by HWP	% Total overall Recycling Tonnage	Total Tonnes collected by HWP	% Total overall Recycling Tonnage	Total Tonnes collected by HWP	% Total overall Recycling Tonnage
Glass	39,053.58	27.10%	36,404.26	26.09%	34,016.50	25.54%
Wood	14,028.45	9.73%	16,613.77	11.91%	16,350.58	12.28%
Scrap Metal	4,566.36	3.17%	5,188.42	3.72%	4,733.90	3.55%
Waste Electrical & Electronic Equipment	3,805.75	2.64%	4,699.43	3.37%	4,512.03	3.39%
Metals – Steel Cans	3,858.42	2.68%	3,420.17	2.45%	See table 11	See table 11
Recyclable Street Sweepings	4,920.49	3.41%	2,460.93	1.76%	3,010.62	2.26%
Miscellaneous Recyclables and Reuse items³	1,015.78	0.70%	1,093.27	0.78%	1,463.06	1.10%

Some materials are however sent to Final Destinations overseas for reprocessing, as shown in Table 11 below. Almost all the separately collected card and cardboard across the HWP was sent overseas for processing, together with 70% of the separately collected paper and 54% of the card, cardboard and paper collected mixed.

In contrast while some plastics, steel cans and aluminium cans were processed overseas in 2022/23, over 90% of each of these commodities collected across the HWP found a reprocessing Final Destination in the UK.

1. Final Destination is defined as the point at which materials collected for recycling are deemed to become a usable resource as per WDF guidance – https://www.wastedataflow.org/documents/guidancenotes/SystemManual/GN4_Section_8_Question_by_question_guidance_v2.0c.pdf
2. For full details see Table 12
3. Consisting of Batteries (household), Books, Bric-a-brac, Car batteries, Ink & Toner cartridges, Mattresses, Mixed cans, Mineral Oil, Vegetable Oil, Video tapes & CD/DVDs. For full details see Table 12

Most of the textiles and footwear reaching Final Destinations overseas is to supply second-hand clothing markets, while textiles remaining in the UK are mainly used to make bedding, insulation materials etc.

Table 11: Final Destination summary of other Commodities⁴

	2021/22			2022/23		
Commodity	Total Tonnes collected by HWP	% to Final Destination in UK	% to Final Destination overseas	Total Tonnes collected by HWP	% to Final Destination in UK	% to Final Destination overseas
Card, Cardboard & Paper Mixed	24,939.50	50.66%	49.34%	25,896.28	45.88%	54.12%
Paper	17,484.83	38.86%	61.14%	13,569.70	29.36%	70.61%
Plastics	13,378.58	91.51%	8.49%	12,986.21	90.18%	9.82%
Card and Cardboard	10,052.25	1.64%	98.36%	9,743.98	1.20%	98.80%
Metals – Steel Cans	3,420.17	100%	0%	3,180.77	95.51%	4.49%
Textiles & Footwear	1,817.63	14.23%	85.77%	1,864.40	42.02%	57.98%
Metals – Aluminium Cans	1,811.36	93.58%	6.42%	1,540.17	90.19%	9.81%
Tyres	150.23	33.38%	66.62%	148.81	49.84%	50.16%
Beverage Cartons	12.22	69.39%	30.61%	12.32	59.24%	40.76%

Table 12 and Figure 29 below summarise the Final Destinations by material and by country or continent. The trend evident for several years of fibre materials (paper, card and cardboard in various combinations) being processed in the paper and board mills of Asian countries, particularly India, continued in 2022/23. Thailand, Turkey and Vietnam also receive substantial quantities, as do Germany and Spain in Europe.

Table 12 shows that several countries also receive plastics, but only Ireland and the Netherlands receive sizeable quantities, with over 90% of plastics continuing to supply reprocessing Final Destinations in the UK. Similarly cans both and aluminium and steel see small quantities exported to European countries. Textiles and footwear largely supply reuse markets mainly in West Africa.

4. For full details see Table 12

Table 12 Final Destinations of HWP material sent for reuse and recycling 2022/23

Final Destination Material by Country	Address Zone- No.(-)	Inventory Containers	Batch	Stitch Label	Cap Size Range	Carton Configuration	Color Codes & Paper Weight	Class	Set & Toner Configuration	Reference No.	Accession Class	Model - Part & Kit Code	Initial - Final Code	Mixed Oil	Paper	Features	Capacity in Barrel in Liters in Gallons	Cap Material	Insulation & Protection	Type	Integration with CRM	Video Tutorial URLs, FAQs, GDS	Waste Recycling Schedule in Days	Threat by Country	No. of Recycling by Country
Brazil																			275.74				275.74	0.27%	
Cameroon																			152.81				152.81	0.08%	
Gabon																			88.33				88.33	0.02%	
Ghana																			252.91				252.91	0.23%	
Kenya																			143.38				143.38	0.05%	
Niger																			164.74				164.74	0.12%	
India		2.16				1485.16	2442.21							0.115.08		203.48			74.16				74552.71	11.78%	
Indonesia						33.48	82.00																97.38	0.08%	
Malaysia						552.22	145.34																752.36	0.22%	
Pakistan																							8.44	0.00%	
Philippines						658.98	183.07																552.96	0.53%	
Taiwan						771.27	98.97																38.71	0.00%	
Thailand						8018.20	682.27																2888.36	2.16%	
Turkey		0.48				658.98	658.27									203.48	2.38						1071.47	1.81%	
Vietnam						1642.91	550.27																2888.20	1.73%	
Austria																	6.28						6.28	0.00%	
France						17.72	122.88										10.22						103.38	0.12%	
Germany		0.48				244.28	552.28									102.93	74.88						1238.38	0.30%	
Greece																							81.96	0.04%	
Ireland																	340.00						340.00	0.17%	
Netherlands						175.18	96.00									102.81							552.96	0.48%	
Poland																							8.44	0.00%	
Slovakia																	8.41						8.41	0.01%	
Spain						93.28	375.34										37.80						482.90	0.37%	
Overseas Various																			-0.41				1150.81	1.54%	
UK Hertfordshire									0.87								147.98						43.76	0.07%	
UK Essex			340.81			31.42	658.66		0.42							208.17	65.00						1038.36	0.07%	
UK Elsewhere		7.16				85.91	552.34									42.07	341.12						3148.03	0.00%	
Total by Material		18.10	240.81	554.73	154.80	8342.96	2086.28		3.49							203.48	3815.12						4510.23	131048.06	65.00%

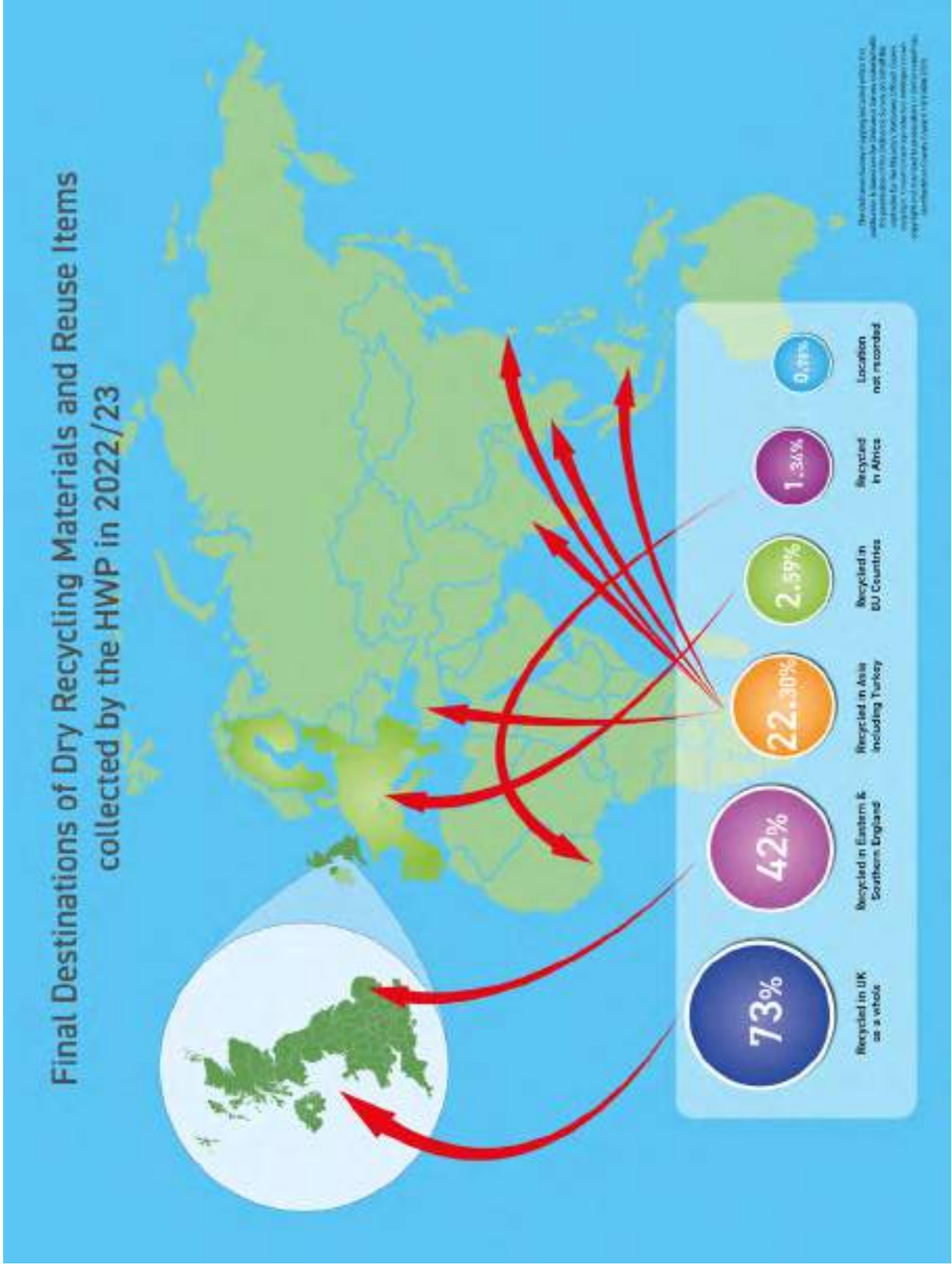


Figure 30 – Map showing Final Destination locations of dry recyclates and reuse items collected by HWP in 2022/23

Note that nearly 3% of commodities are reprocessed in Hertfordshire itself, including substantial quantities of Waste Electrical and Electronic equipment, and reuse items taken to the County Councils growing network of Reuse Shops. Meanwhile 39% of recyclates are processed at Final Destinations elsewhere in the nearby Eastern, East Midlands, London and Southern Regions of England (UK ESE in Table12) keeping delivery mileages down. A further 31% of recyclates are processed at Final Destinations elsewhere in the UK.

5.6 Audit Trail




Table 13 below shows that recyclates collected within the HWP were subject to over 2,000 individual transactions. In nearly 90% of cases these can be tracked to a specific Final Destination plant. Where specific address details are not available this is because the MRFs and international commodity brokers who find markets for HWP recyclates have supplied multiple locations.

Table 13: Availability of Full address details

	Trans-actions logged across HWP	Full Final Destination Address Details	% with Address Details
Batteries (household)	4	4	100.00%
Beverage Containers	9	9	100.00%
Books	3	3	100.00%
Bric-a-brac	4	4	100.00%
Car Batteries	4	4	100.00%
Card & Cardboard	283	283	100.00%
Card, Cardboard & Paper Mixed	365	176	48.22%
Glass	138	138	100.00%
Ink & Toner Cartridges	8	8	100.00%
Mattresses	4	4	100.00%
Metals – Aluminium Cans	65	54	83.08%
Metals - Steel & Alu Cans	9	9	100.00%
Metals – Steel Cans	153	151	98.69%
Mineral Oil	12	12	100.00%
Paper	130	130	100.00%
Plastics	351	335	95.44%
Recyclable Street Sweepings	36	36	100.00%
Scrap Metal	31	31	100.00%
Textiles & Footwear	285	270	94.74%
Tyres	12	8	66.67%
Vegetable Oil	4	4	100.00%
Video tapes, DVDs, CDs	8	8	100.00%
Waste Electricals/ Electronics	140	140	100.00%
Wood	4	4	100.00%
TOTALS	2062	1825	88.51%

6. So far in 2023/24...

The first 6 months of 2023/24 have seen HWP operations continue at a significant pace with a number of developments in key areas as noted below:

	<p>HWP consortiums see the partner authorities let joint contracts to deal with specific waste streams and was a key feature in the early part of 2023/24.</p> <p>Following a procurement process in the latter half of 2022/23 April saw the launch of a new textile consortium contract with new private sector partners East London Textiles. The consortium, originally started back in 2011/12, is now in its 4th phase and sees a return to proper market conditions following the highly unusual circumstances caused by the COVID pandemic.</p> <p>In addition to textiles the relevant partner authorities also agreed to launch a new procurement exercise later in 2023/24 to secure a new consortium contract covering newspapers, magazines and mixed paper grades still collected separately by some partner authorities. The contract, which will also include Chelmsford Borough Council from Essex, will have an initial duration of 2 years plus options for 2 annual extensions in order to provide additional flexibility linked to anticipated implementation of the Government's Consistent collections agenda.</p>
	<p>Staying with the theme of consortiums. In late 2022/23 and early 2023/24 the county council, as lead authority for the organic waste recycling, carried out a pre procurement market engagement exercise (PPME) to investigate how the market might respond to new HWP organic waste tenders due to be let by the end of 2023.</p> <p>The results of the PPME we shared with partner authorities which identified a need for transitional arrangements for those partner authorities who do not collect separate food wastes, but are likely to be mandated to do so by March 2025. The final procurement approach will need to consider likely impacts arising from Government policies that are driving the separation of food and garden wastes as identified by the PPME.</p>
	<p>In early 2023/24 the partner authorities, working with a private consultancy completed a review of local authority waste management arrangements in Hertfordshire.</p> <p>Whilst the final report from the consultants contained a significant range of recommendations, it was notable that none covered areas that had not already been considered by the HWP, were currently being worked on, or were due to be considered. A number of the recommendations were also linked to likely service changes that will arise once the Government publishes its Consistency response and proposed regulations.</p> <p>The final report also challenged the HWP to think about how closer joint working could be achieved going forward. These findings are currently being considered by the partner authorities.</p>

7. How to contact us

If you have any questions about this report or any other matter relating to the Hertfordshire Waste Partnership, please contact us via :-

-  www.wasteaware.org.uk
-  wasteaware@hertfordshire.gov.uk
-  **0300 1234 051**
-    [@HertsWasteAware](https://www.instagram.com/HertsWasteAware)

Sign up to the monthly WasteAware e-bulletin to get advance details of upcoming events straight to your inbox. Select 'Rubbish and Recycling'. <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/updates/>

You can also view our messages on [our website](#) and social media. We have a [Facebook](#) page, [Twitter feed](#) and [Instagram account](#). Follow us to see videos and photos, news stories, campaign updates and ways to make little changes to your life to reduce waste and recycle right.

We can all make a difference: share these details with family, friends and colleagues as well.

Alternatively you can write to:

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9. Glossary

Action Plan(s)	refers to the action plan published as part of the 2007 Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Hertfordshire;
Anaerobic Digestion	is a collection of processes by which microorganisms break down biodegradable material in the absence of oxygen. The process is used for industrial or domestic purposes to manage waste and/or to produce fuels;
Avoidable or Edible Food Waste	Food that was edible when brought into the household but which has been thrown in away in food waste recycling or residual bin waste rather than being eaten.
Commingled	Describes the practice of mixing 2 or more dry recyclables together for collection purposes;
Composting	means a biological process in which biodegradable waste, such as garden and food waste is decomposed in the presence of air to produce compost or soil conditioner;
Disposal	means any waste management operation serving or carrying out the final treatment and disposal of waste;
Dry Recycling	refers to recyclables materials normally collected at the kerbside include steel and aluminium cans, all grades of paper and cardboard, plastic bottles, pots, tubs and trays and glass;
EPA	means the Environmental Protection Act 1990;
Food Waste	biodegradable waste derived from food materials typically consisting of cooked and uncooked fruit and vegetables, meat and fish scraps, excess or spoiled prepared food and other discards from domestic kitchens;
Green Waste	biodegradable waste such as green catering waste (i.e. raw fruit and vegetables), vegetation and plant matter (includes trimmings, leaves, shrubs, plants, grass and trees etc.) from household gardens, local authority parks and gardens and commercial landscaping;
Household Waste	as defined in the Controlled Waste Regulations 1992 and includes waste from household collection rounds, street cleansing, bulky household waste collections, household hazardous waste and clinical waste;
Hertfordshire Waste Partnership Agreement / HWP	means the agreement signed by the county council and the 10 boroughs and districts in January 2012.

HWP	means the Hertfordshire Waste Partnership which includes Hertfordshire County Council as the waste disposal authority and the 10 district and borough waste collection authorities;
In Vessel Composting	generally describes a group of methods that confine the composting materials within a building, container, or vessel. In-vessel composting systems can consist of metal or plastic tanks or concrete bunkers in which air flow and temperature can be controlled, using the principles of a 'bioreactor'. Generally the air circulation is metered in via buried tubes that allow fresh air to be injected under pressure, with the exhaust being extracted through a biofilter, with temperature and moisture conditions monitored using probes in the mass to allow maintenance of optimum aerobic decomposition conditions.
Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy / JMWMS	means the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Hertfordshire agreed by the Partners in 2007;
Landfill	a landfill (also known as a tip, dump, rubbish dump or dumping ground) is a site for the disposal of waste materials by burial and is the oldest form of waste treatment;
Lead Officers Waste Management group (LOWM)	A group including Directors, Heads of Service and Waste Managers from the HWP's 11 partner authorities. The group currently meets bi-monthly.
Local Government Association	the LGA works with councils to support, promote and improve local government. It is a politically led, cross-party organisation that works on behalf of councils to ensure local government has a strong, credible voice with national government;
Materials Recycling Facility	a materials recycling facility is a specialized plant that receives, separates and prepares recyclable materials for marketing to end-users;
Member (Councillor)	an elected Member from one of the HWP's partner authorities;
Open Windrow Composting	is the production of compost by piling organic matter or biodegradable waste, such as animal manure and crop residues, in long rows (windrows). This method is suited to producing large volumes of compost. These rows are generally turned to improve porosity and oxygen content, mix in or remove moisture and redistribute cooler and hotter portions of the pile. Windrow composting is a commonly used farm scale composting method.
Organic Waste	Food waste and/or green waste collected by the WCAs pursuant to section 45 of the EPA;
Partner(s) or Party	means a party or partners to the Hertfordshire Waste Partnership Agreement;

Peer Review	a process to evaluate the work of an organisation or individual conducted by one or more people of relevant competence.
RCs	Recycling Centres;
RCS	Recycling Centre Service;
Recovery	means (i) the recovery of waste by means of recycling or, reuse or any other process with a view to extracting secondary raw materials; or (ii) the use of waste as a source of energy;
Recycling	means the collection and separation of selected materials and subsequent reprocessing to produce marketable products;
Recycling Centre Service	Refers to the network of recycling centres provided by the County Council
Reduce	means the reduction of waste at source by understanding and changing processes to reduce and prevent waste;
Residual Waste	waste other than that collected for reuse, composting or recycling;
Reuse	the use of items for their original or another purpose without reprocessing;
Revised Waste Framework Directive	means EU Directive 2008/98/EC which sets a framework for management in the EU, promoting both reuse and recycling, including energy recovery as a recovery activity within the revised waste hierarchy;
Social Media – Engagement	the number of people who have ‘engaged’ with a post, e.g. clicked on the post, clicked on a link in a post, liked, commented or shared;
Social Media – Impressions	‘X’ (formerly known as Twitter) impressions are described as the delivery of a post or tweet to an account;
Social Media – Reach	the number of people who have seen page content over a given time, either in a newsfeed or on the page itself;
Simpler Recycling	A government legislative programme that will set new standards for the collection and recycling of a national core set of dry recyclables and organics that all local authorities will be required to collect. Specific collection methods will remain at the discretion of individual councils.
Unavoidable food waste	The skins, peel, bones, cores, stones, nut and egg shells, tea leaves, coffee grounds and other inedible parts of foods removed before cooking or eating and suitable for food waste recycling.

Waste Collection Authority or WCA	means a waste collection authority pursuant to section 30(3)(a) of the EPA;
WasteDataFlow	means the online “WasteDataFlow” scheme established by the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs for the collation of the information returns (www.wastedataflow.org);
Waste Disposal Authority or WDA	means a waste disposal authority pursuant to section 30(2)(a) of the EPA;
Waste Resources Action Programme or WRAP	WRAP is a registered charity. It works with businesses, individuals and communities to achieve a circular economy through helping them reduce waste, develop sustainable products and use resources in an efficient way. WRAP