

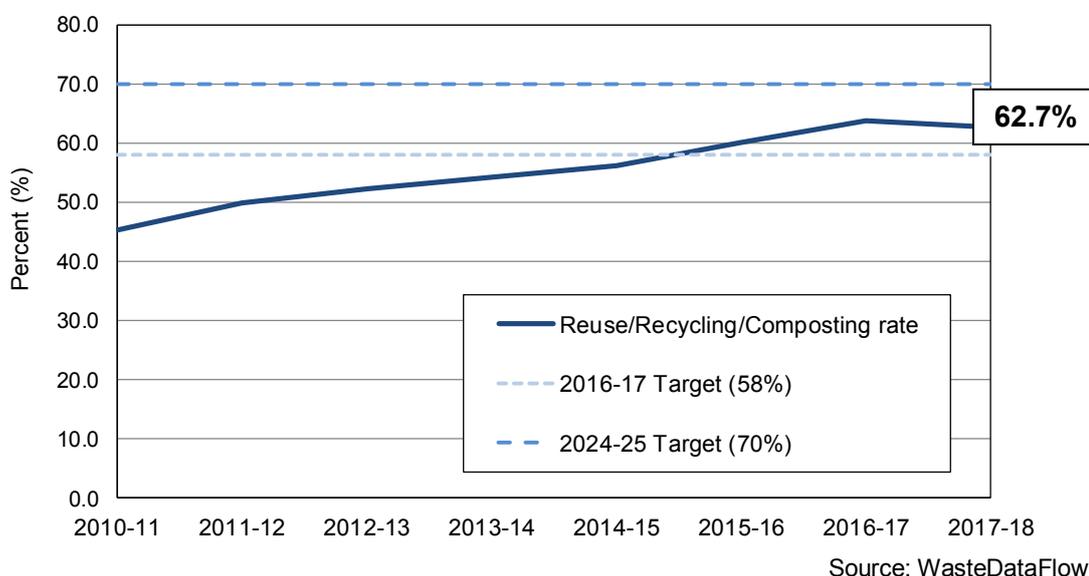


## Local Authority Municipal Waste Management, 17 October 2018 2017-18 SFR 94/2018

This annual statistical release reports on the municipal waste management of local authorities in Wales. In its current waste strategy “Towards Zero Waste”, the Welsh Government set statutory targets of recycling 58 per cent of waste by 2016-17, and 70 per cent of waste by 2024-25.

Please see [StatsWales](#) for additional data. A Quality Report is published alongside this document.

**Chart 1: Percentage of local authority municipal waste reused/recycled/composted by year**



### Key points

- The recycling rate (i.e. the percentage of local authority municipal waste that was reused, recycled or composted) has increased considerably during the last two decades (from around 5 per cent in the late 1990s). For the first time, there was a small decrease in the rate between 2016-17 and 2017-18 (from 63.8 to 62.7 per cent). However, this decrease is partly due to an improvement in the quality of reporting (see page 2).
- 17 of the 22 local authorities reported a decrease in their reuse/recycling/composting rates compared to 2016-17.
- The total amount of local authority municipal waste collected decreased by 40,111 tonnes (2.5 per cent) and the amount of waste sent for recycling dropped 43,304 tonnes, compared to 2016-17.

### About this Release

This annual Statistical release presents final results for 2017-18 from the Waste Data Flow system monitored by Natural Resources Wales. The release presents information on local authority municipal waste collected and sent for disposal from household and non-household sources.

We welcome feedback on the new format of this Statistical First Release (please see [Further Details](#)).

### In this Release

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## Local authority municipal (household and non-household) that was reused/recycled/composted

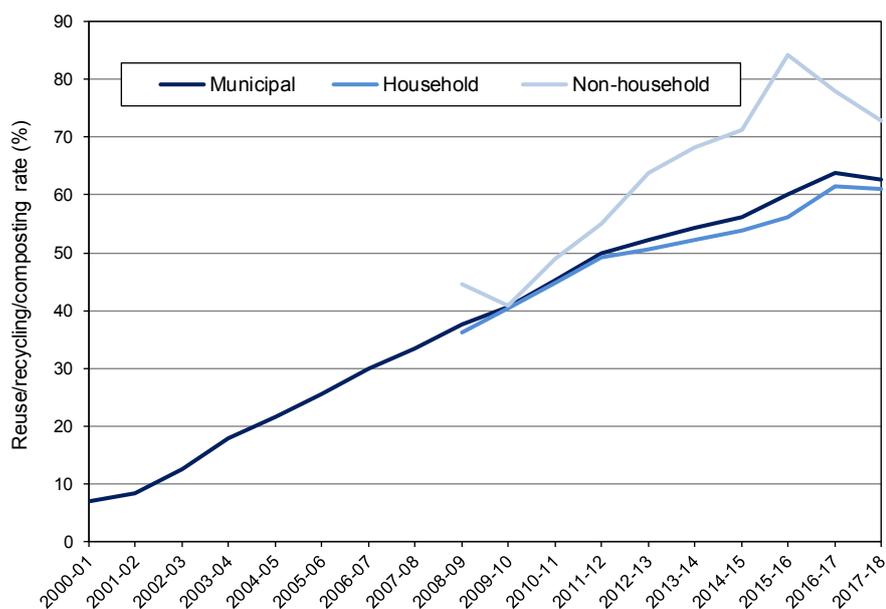
The *headline recycling rate* is defined as: the amount of local authority municipal waste (excluding abandoned vehicles) that was *sent* for reuse, recycling or composting divided by the total amount of waste in tonnes *collected* by or on behalf of local authorities. It includes both household and non-household waste.

The overall recycling rate for Wales decreased from 63.8 per cent in 2016-17 to 62.7 per cent in 2017-18. This is due to a combination of complex factors, including:

- (a) Improving the accuracy of wood end destination reporting in 2017-18 (estimated by Natural Resources Wales to contribute a 0.8 percentage point decrease in the overall rate). All Welsh local authorities are now accounting for, and reporting a proportion of rejects from intermediate wood sorting facilities to disposal. This is a change to reporting as opposed to any change in how this material has been managed by local authorities.
- (b) A drop of Incinerator Bottom Ash (including metals) reported as recycled compared with 2016-17 (estimated by Natural Resources Wales to contribute a 0.7 percentage point decrease in the overall rate). This is attributed to some local authorities sending more residual waste to landfill as opposed to incineration as a contingency, following closure of a facility. In addition, other Welsh local authorities generally sent less residual waste for incineration.

Other factors, including a reduction in the total amount of waste collected, led to an overall reduction of 1.1 percentage points.

**Chart 2: Percentage of local authority municipal waste prepared for reuse, recycling or composting in Wales, 2000-01 to 2017-18**

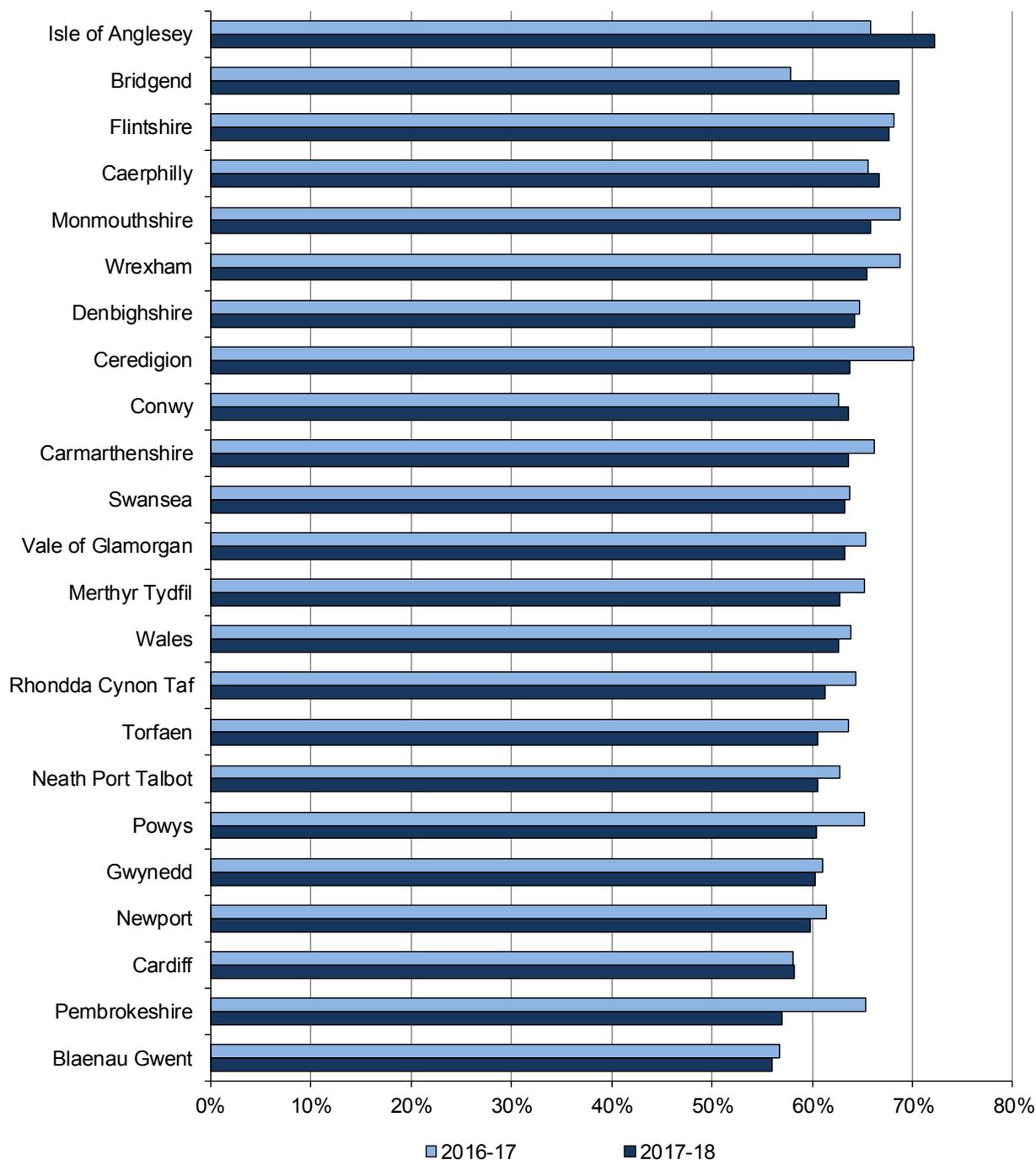


↓ The household recycling rate in Wales decreased slightly to 61.0 per cent in 2017-18, from 61.5 per cent the previous year.

↓ The non-household recycling rate in Wales decreased by 5.3 percentage points to 72.8 per cent, but is still considerably higher than the household recycling rate.

The decrease in the non-household recycling rate is likely to be due to the drop in rubble and incinerator bottom ash being recycled as a whole compared to 2016-17.

**Chart 3: Combined local authority municipal waste reuse/recycling/composting rates, by local authority, 2016-17 and 2017-18**



- 17 of the 22 local authorities reported a decrease in their reuse/recycling/composting rates compared to 2016-17 (Chart 3). This is mainly due to a combination of the drop in Incinerator Bottom Ash (IBA) reported as recycled and improvements in the accuracy of wood reporting.
- Isle of Anglesey had the highest rate of all the 22 local authorities in Wales in 2017-18, with 72.2 per cent of waste reused/recycled/composted.
- Bridgend reported the largest increase in their reuse/recycling/composting rate; rising to 68.6 per cent. This represents an increase of 10.7 percentage points compared to the previous year. The increase was attributed to the roll out of a new kerbside collection scheme which included limiting residual waste that householders could put out.

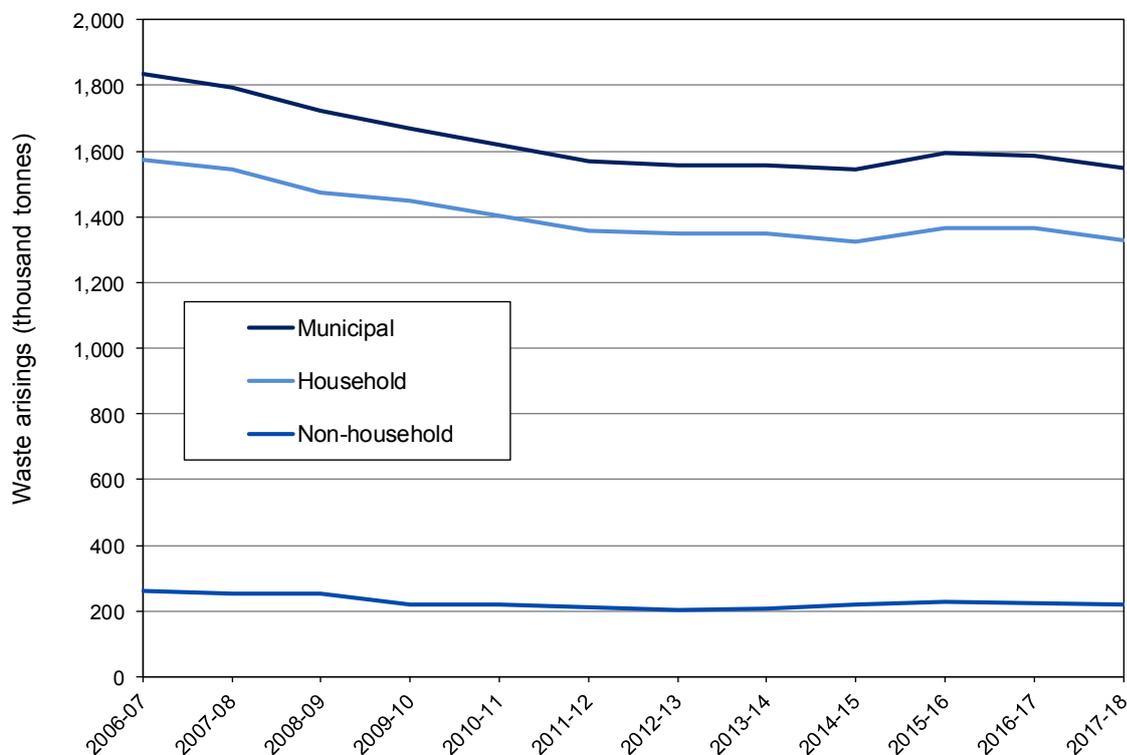
## Waste generated (collected)

'Waste generated (collected)' is defined as waste collected directly, or from sites, by local authorities. There are sometimes differences in the amount of waste *generated* and the amount of waste *sent* for disposal by a local authority. This is due to stockpiling of waste collected in a previous year, delays in reporting across periods, inconsistencies in measurement as waste is weighed when it is collected and again when it is sent for treatment, and loss in weight through various treatment processes.

In general, the total amount of local authority municipal waste generated has gradually decreased in Wales since the early 2000's (with some fluctuation in recent years).



**Chart 4: Total local authority municipal waste generated in Wales (Thousand Tonnes), 2006-07 to 2017-18**



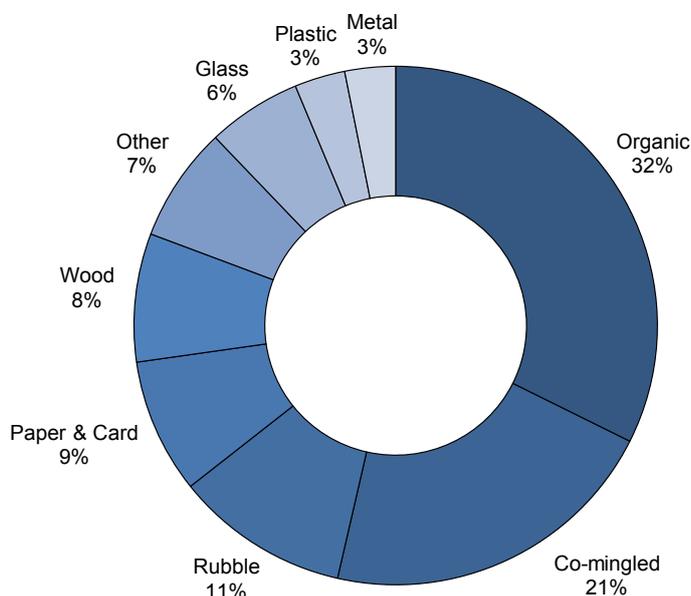
↓ The total amount of waste generated in Wales decreased by 40 thousand tonnes in 2017-18, dropping to 1,550 compared to 1,590 thousand tonnes in 2016-17 ([Chart 4](#)). This represents a decrease of 2.5 per cent.

- Compared to the previous year, household waste generated in Wales decreased slightly more than non-household waste in 2017-18 (2.6 per cent and 2.1 per cent respectively).
- The total amount of waste generated in Wales in 2017-18 was the second lowest total that has been recorded since 2000-01.

### Chart 5: Waste collected for reuse/recycling/composting in Wales by material, 2017-18 (%)

This section reports on the tonnage of waste that was generated/collected for reuse/recycling/composting in terms of material type.

- Almost a third of all material collected for reuse/recycling/composting in Wales in 2017-18 was 'Organic' material (32 per cent).
- The category 'Co-mingled' (mixed) was the second highest material collected in Wales in 2017-18, representing 21 per cent.
- The two categories 'Plastic' and 'Metal' had the lowest percentage of materials collected for reuse/recycling/composting in 2017-18; both contributing 3 per cent.



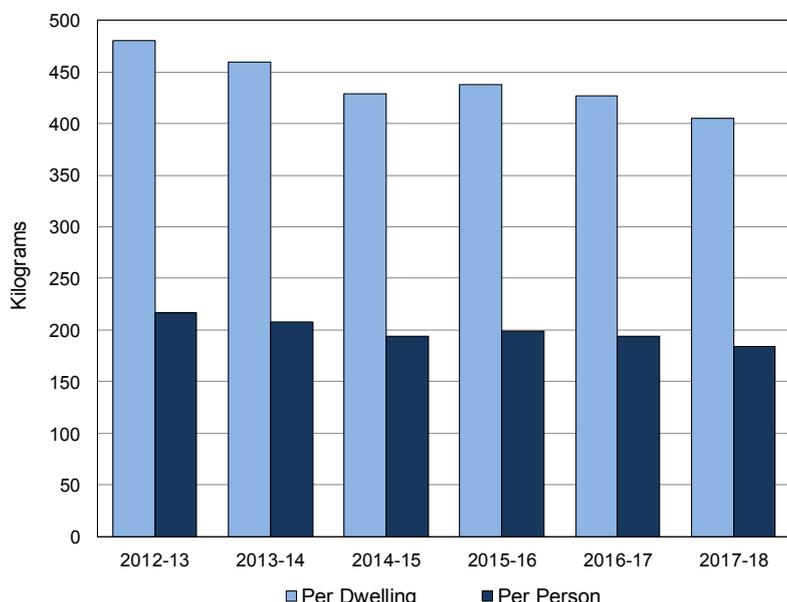
### Residual household waste

'Residual household waste' is waste generated that is not included in separate recycling or composting collection rounds. That is, household waste that is not prepared for reuse, recycling or composting. The amount of residual household waste per person forms one component of the Wellbeing of Future generation's indicator on waste (see [Related Statistics](#) section).

The amount of residual household waste generated in Wales has continued to fluctuate over recent years.



### Chart 6: Residual household waste in Wales (Kilograms), 2012-13 to 2017-18



**In 2017-18:**

↓ Wales had on average 184kg of residual household waste per person, a decrease of 5 per cent compared to 2016-17 (a reflection of the decrease in the total waste generated rather than an increase in recycling rates).

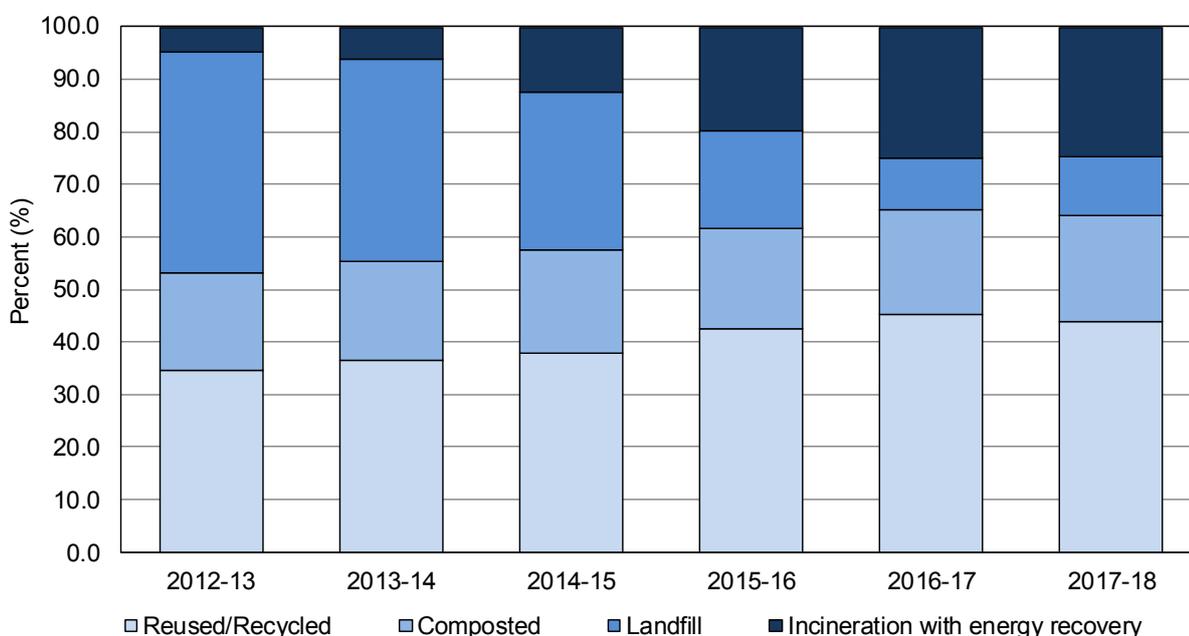
↓ Residual household waste per dwelling also decreased by 5 per cent, reaching 405kg of waste per dwelling.

## Waste management (sent)

'Waste management' data is based on the amount of waste *sent* for disposal/treatment, rather than the amount of waste *generated (collected) by local authorities*. The treatment of waste can consist of physical, thermal, chemical or biological processes, including sorting, that change the characteristics of the waste in order to reduce its volume or hazardous nature, facilitate its handling or enhance recovery.

There are sometimes differences in the amount of waste *generated* and the amount of waste *sent* for disposal by a local authority. This is due to stockpiling of waste collected in a previous year, delays in reporting across periods, inconsistencies in measurement as waste is weighed when it is collected and again when it is sent for treatment, and loss in weight through various treatment processes.

**Chart 7: Waste sent for disposal/treatment by management method (%), 2012-13 to 2017-18 (a)**



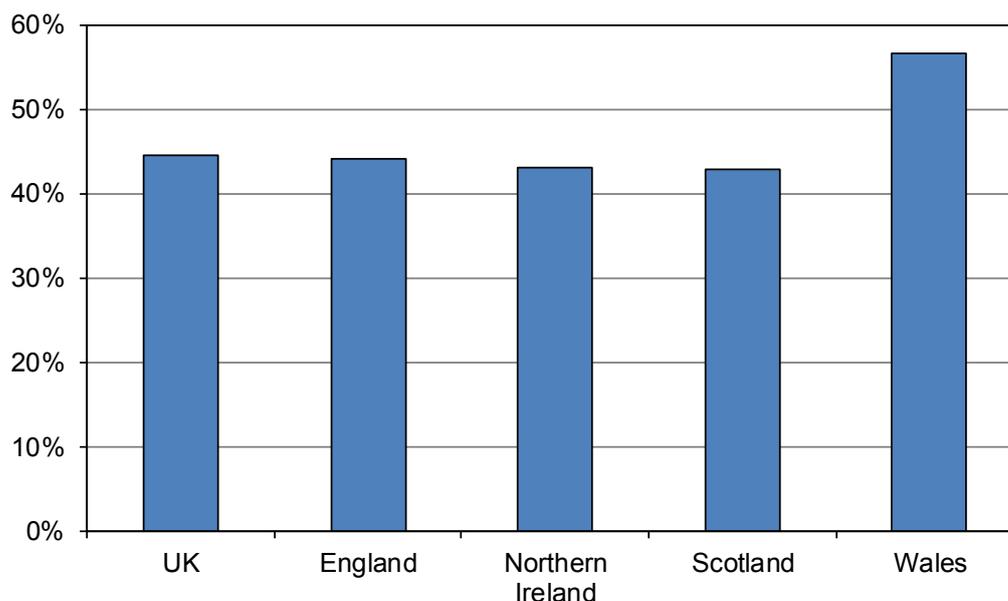
(a) Chart 7 is a summary of all waste managed during the period. It uses the total waste managed as a denominator as opposed to the total waste generated, therefore recycling and landfill percentages are not directly comparable to national performance and local authority strategic indicators.

- Between 2012-13 and 2017-18, the amount of waste sent for disposal/treatment has remained fairly stable (around 1.5 to 1.6 million tonnes). However, there have been considerable changes in the management method.
- There has been a considerable decrease in the proportion disposed of via landfill (from 42 per cent in 2012-13 to 11 per cent in 2017-18).
- In contrast, 25 per cent of waste in Wales sent for disposal/treatment was disposed of via incineration in 2017-18; almost all of which was recovered with energy. This compares with 5 per cent in 2012-13.
- Of waste that was sent for disposal/treatment in Wales in 2017-18, a total of 971 thousand tonnes was for reuse/recycling/composting. This represents a decrease of 4 per cent when compared to the previous year.

## Related statistics

1. UK Data: Municipal waste management statistics are also published for other parts of the UK. The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs publish an annual [UK Statistics on Waste](#) data set, which includes a 'Waste from households' recycling rate for each UK country. This is based on a methodology that is as consistent as possible across the UK, but differs slightly from the Wales household recycling rate appearing earlier in this release. Latest data shows that the Waste from households recycling rate for Wales is considerably higher than for the other UK countries.

**Chart 8: Recycling rate by UK country, 2016-17 (%)**



2. Wellbeing of Future Generations: One of the national indicators relates to waste '[Amount of waste generated that is not recycled, per person](#)'. This is defined as the total amount (kg) of residual waste (i.e. waste that is not collected for reuse, recycling or composting) in Wales, by all sectors, on a per person basis. This indicator is calculated from three separate elements – Household waste, Construction & Demolition (C&D) Waste and Industrial & Commercial (I&C) Waste. Whilst the household element is updated quarterly, the latest [Construction & Demolition](#) and [Industrial & Commercial](#) data relate to 2012. The amount of waste generated that was not recycled, per person in 2012 was 794kg. Of the total 2,440 thousand tonnes of waste not recycled, 667 thousand was from household waste, 240 thousand from Construction and Demolition waste and 1,533 thousand from Industrial and Commercial waste.
3. Landfill Allowances Scheme: Natural Resources Wales publish an annual report on the [Landfill Allowances Scheme](#). The purpose of the scheme is to ensure diversion of biodegradable municipal waste (BMW) from landfill. Welsh Government sets limits on the amount of BMW waste that local authorities in Wales can landfill.
4. [Local Authority Recorded Fly Tipping](#): A summary of fly-tipping incidents, enforcement actions and prosecution outcomes is published annually by the Welsh Government.

## Key Quality Information

Detailed Quality Information, including the context of the release, its uses, strengths and limitations, data processing cycle and administrative data quality assurance information are available in the accompanying Quality Report.

## National Statistics status

The [United Kingdom Statistics Authority](#) has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the [Code of Practice for Statistics](#).

National Statistics status means that official statistics meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality and public value.

All official statistics should comply with all aspects of the Code of Practice for Statistics. They are awarded National Statistics status following an assessment by the UK Statistics Authority's regulatory arm. The Authority considers whether the statistics meet the highest standards of Code compliance, including the value they add to public decisions and debate.

It is Welsh Government's responsibility to maintain compliance with the standards expected of National Statistics. If we become concerned about whether these statistics are still meeting the appropriate standards, we will discuss any concerns with the Authority promptly. National Statistics status can be removed at any point when the highest standards are not maintained, and reinstated when standards are restored.

## Well-being of Future Generations Act (WFG)

The Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 is about improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. The Act puts in place seven well-being goals for Wales. These are for a more equal, prosperous, resilient, healthier and globally responsible Wales, with cohesive communities and a vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language. Under section (10)(1) of the Act, the Welsh Ministers must (a) publish indicators ("national indicators") that must be applied for the purpose of measuring progress towards the achievement of the Well-being goals, and (b) lay a copy of the national indicators before the National Assembly. The 46 national indicators were laid in March 2016 where one relates to waste, namely 'Amount of waste generated that is not recycled, per person'. This indicator covers the total amount (kg) of residual waste (i.e. waste that is not reused, recycled or composted) in Wales by all sectors, on a per person basis. Information included within this release is used to calculate the 'Local Authority residual household waste' component of the national indicator. Information on waste from the industrial and commercial sector and the construction and demolition sector are not reported in this statistical release.

Information on the indicators, along with narratives for each of the well-being goals and associated technical information is available in the [Well-being of Wales report](#).

As a national indicator under the Act they must be referred to in the analyses of local well-being produced by public services boards when they are analysing the state of economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being in their areas.

Further information on the [Well-being of Future Generations \(Wales\) Act 2015](#).

The statistics included in this release could also provide supporting narrative to the national indicators and be used by public services boards in relation to their local well-being assessments and local well-being plans.

## Further details

The document is available at:

<http://gov.wales/statistics-and-research/local-authority-municipal-waste-management/?lang=en>

## Useful links

Current Welsh Government waste strategy "[Towards Zero Waste](#)".

More general information can be found on the [Natural Resources Wales website](#).

## Next update

Local Authority Municipal Waste, April to June 2018 – due to be published November 2018

Local Authority Municipal Waste, 2018-19 – due to be published September 2019

## We want your feedback

We welcome any feedback on any aspect of these statistics which can be provided by email to [stats.environment@gov.wales](mailto:stats.environment@gov.wales).

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## **Glossary**

### **Co-mingled**

Recyclate consisting of different types of recyclable materials that are mixed together or unsorted such as paper, metal, plastic and glass.

### **Composting**

An aerobic, biological process in which organic wastes, such as garden and kitchen waste, are converted into a stable granular material which can be applied to land to improve soil structure and increase the nutrient content of the soil.

### **Compost-like output**

When mixed municipal solid waste is biologically treated in Mechanical Biological Treatment (MBT) plants, the output is known as a 'compost-like-output'.

### **Dry recycling**

The recycling of dry materials, such as paper, card, cans, plastic bottles, mixed plastic and glass.

### **Household waste**

Materials collected directly from households (kerbside collections), taken to bring sites (including civic amenity sites) or collected by private and voluntary organisations not included elsewhere.

### **Incinerator bottom ash**

The ash that is left over at the bottom of an incinerator after waste is burnt.

### **Landfill sites**

Any areas of land in which waste is deposited are termed landfill sites. They are often located in disused mines or quarries. In areas where these are limited or no ready-made voids exist, the practice of landraising is sometimes carried out; waste is deposited above ground and the landscape is contoured.

### **Local authority municipal waste**

Household and non-household waste that is collected and disposed of by local authorities. It includes regular household collections, specific recycling collections, special collections of bulky items, waste received at civic amenity sites and waste collected from non-household sources (e.g. rubble, incinerator residues, matter from beach cleansing and plasterboard). Local authority municipal waste excludes abandoned vehicles.

### **Non-household municipal waste**

All waste collected by an authority or its contractors, other than wastes within Schedule 1 and 2 of the Controlled waste Regulations 1992. This includes any other wastes collected by an authority, such as municipal parks and gardens waste, industrial or commercial waste and waste resulting from the clearance of fly-tipped materials.

## **Preparation for re-use**

Local authority municipal waste is prepared for re-use for the purpose of the targets when:

- (a) a waste product or component of a waste product has undergone a checking, cleaning or repairing recovery operation; and
- (b) the waste product or component of a waste product can be re-used for its original purpose.

## **Recycling**

Any recovery operation by which waste materials are reprocessed into products, materials or substances, whether for the original or other purposes. It does not include energy recovery and the reprocessing into materials that are used as fuels of backfilling operations.

## **Residual waste**

Waste that is not prepared for reuse, recycling or composting.

## **Reuse**

The use of household waste removed from the local authority collected municipal waste stream (e.g. furniture from households, including that collected on behalf of a local authority by third parties) for its original or a different purpose, without processing or treatment in a waste recovery operation, other than one which has the purpose of repairing or refurbishing the household waste.

## **Reuse/recycling/composting rate (statutory target definition)**

Percentage of local authority municipal waste generated that is recycled, reused or composted, calculated at time of distribution to landfill or recycling/composting contractors. This is, therefore, based on the amount of waste sent for reuse, recycling or composting, rather than collected for the purpose of being reused, recycled or composted.

## **Treatment**

Physical, thermal, chemical or biological processes, including sorting, that change the characteristics of the waste in order to reduce its volume or hazardous nature, facilitate its handling or enhance recovery.