



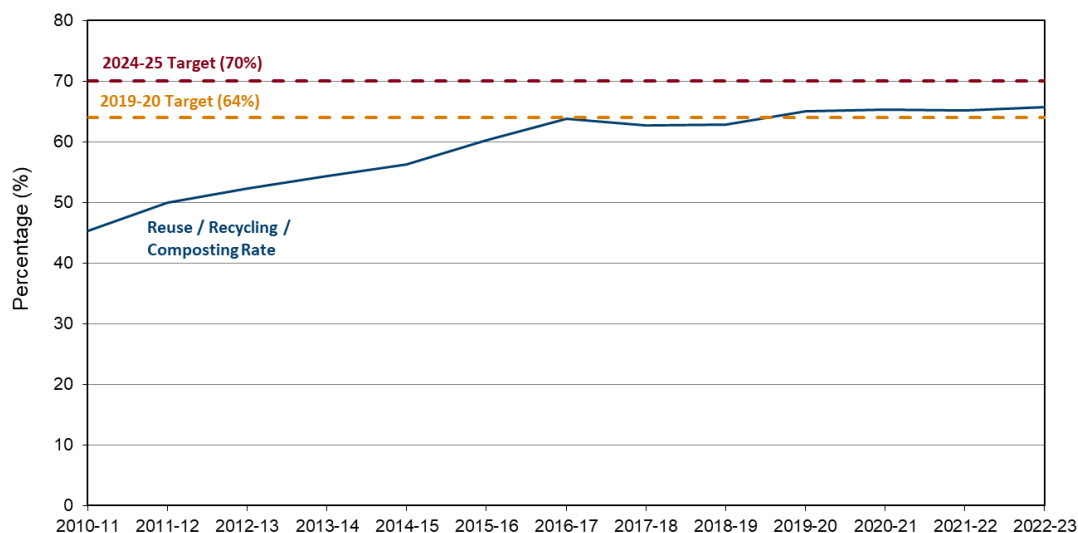
Local Authority Municipal Waste Management, 2022-23

7 December 2023
SDR 106/2023

This annual statistical release reports on the municipal waste management of local authorities in Wales in 2022-23. In its current waste strategy '['Beyond Recycling' \(2021\)](#), the Welsh Government set statutory targets of recycling a minimum of 64% of waste by 2019-20, and 70% of waste by 2024-25. '['Beyond Recycling' \(2021\)](#), also includes other targets including one to reduce the total amount of household waste collected by 2050.

Please see [StatsWales](#) for additional data at a national and local authority level. A [Quality Report](#) is published alongside this document.

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



Description of Chart 1: A line chart to show the percentage of local authority municipal waste reused/recycled/composted between 2012-13 and 2022-23. The chart shows that the recycling rate has generally increased since 2010-11 and meets the required target rate.

Source: WasteDataFlow

Highlights

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% in the late 1990s).

- The recycling rate (percentage of local authority municipal waste that was reused/recycled/composted) increased slightly from 65.2% in 2021-22 to 65.7% in 2022-23. This Wales average exceeds the 2019-20 target of 64%

About this Release

This annual Statistical release presents final results for 2022-23 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 format of this Statistical First Release (please see [Further Details](#)).

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set in the '[Beyond Recycling](#)' (2021) Strategy, which must be met by all local authorities each year until 2024-25.

- 7 of the 22 local authorities exceeded the 64% target.
- 12 of the 22 local authorities reported an increase in their recycling rate compared to 2021-22.
- 1.4 million tonnes of local authority municipal waste were generated in 2022-23, a decrease of 7% on 2021-22, and the lowest recorded since 2001-02.
- Residual household waste per person decreased by 5.5%, falling from 182kg in 2021-22 to 172kg in 2022-23.

Impact of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic

The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic had an impact on the collection and management of Welsh local authority municipal waste during 2020-21 and 2021-22.

During this period, the difference in how local authorities have been able to recover from the pandemic and the rate at which they have been able to do this varies. This should be taken into account when comparing the data with pre-pandemic periods, and between local authorities.

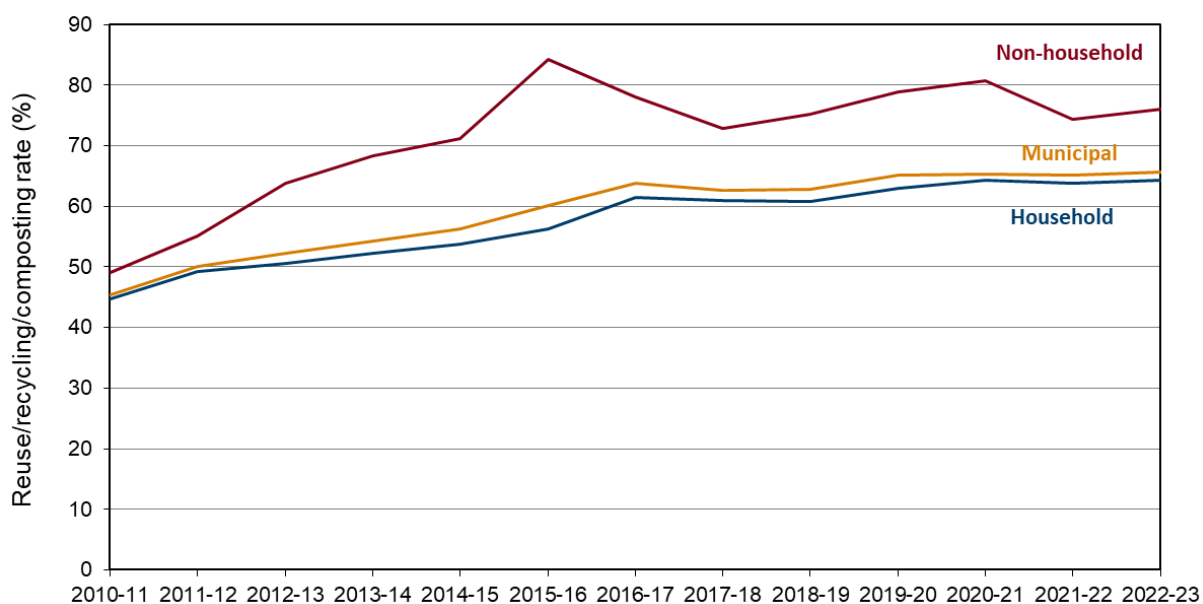
Information on COVID-19 restriction is available in this [timeline](#).

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. More information about recycling rates can be found on the [My Recycling Wales](#) website.

The overall recycling rate for Wales increased slightly from 65.2% in 2021-22 to 65.7% in 2022-23.

Chart 2: Percentage of local authority municipal waste prepared for reuse, recycling or composting in Wales, 2010-11 to 2022-23



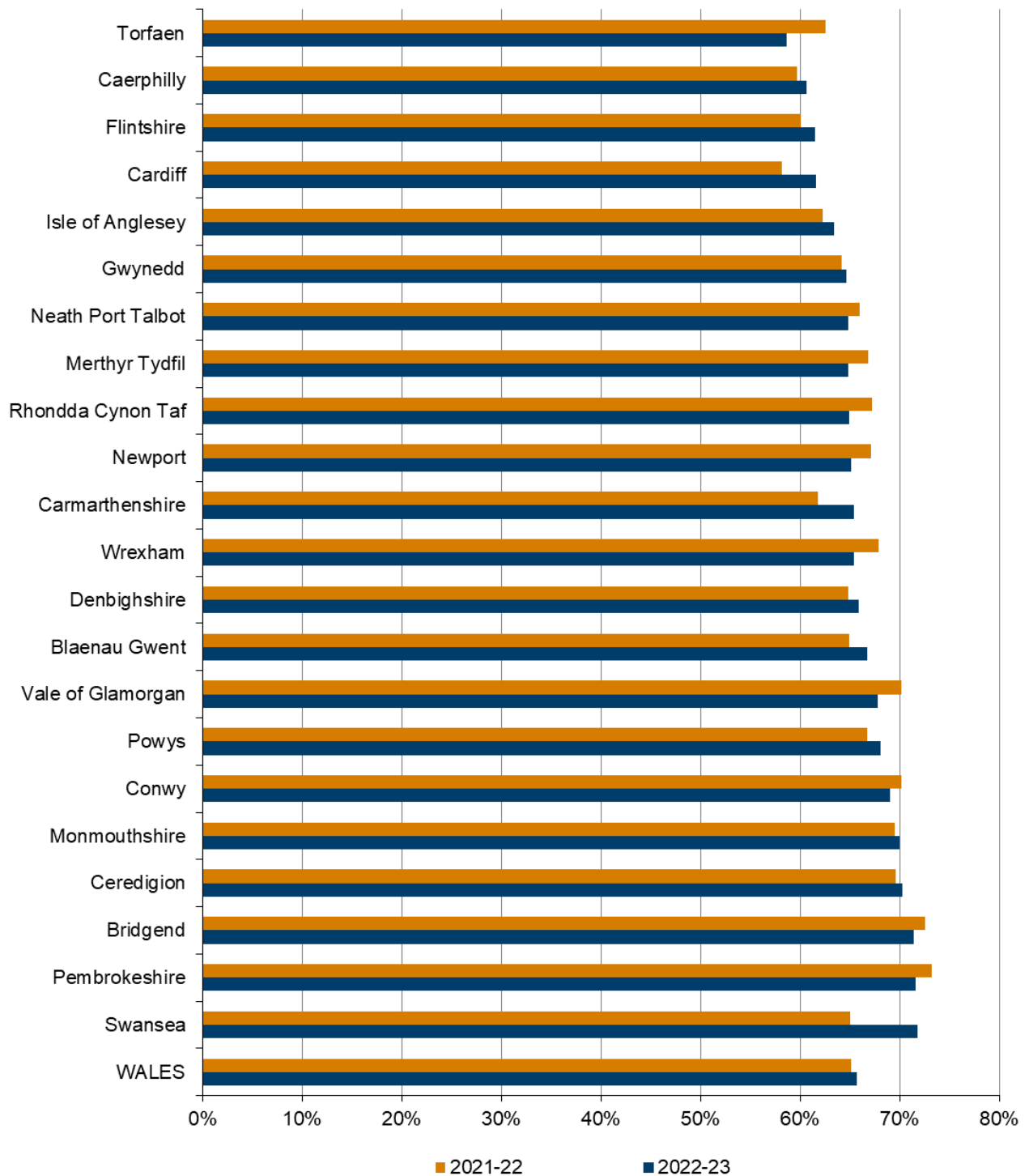
Description of Chart 2: A line chart to show the percentage of local authority municipal waste prepared for reuse, recycling or composting in Wales between 2010-11 and 2022-23. The chart shows that both generally both household and non-household recycling rates have increased.

Source: WasteDataFlow

Main points

- The household recycling rate increased slightly from 63.8% in 2021-22 to 64.3% in 2022-23.
- In the same period, the non-household recycling rate increased by 1.7 percentage points to 76.0%.
- Household waste accounts for the majority of all municipal waste collected (88%), and therefore changes in household recycling rates have a greater impact on the overall recycling rate than the non-household recycling rate.

Chart 3: Combined local authority municipal waste reuse/recycling/composting rates, by local authority, 2021-22 and 2022-23 [note 1]



[note 1] - Local Authorities are listed in order of municipal waste reuse/recycling/composting rates based on 2022-23 figures.

Description of Chart 3: A comparative bar chart to show the combined local authority municipal waste reuse/recycling/composting rates by local authority for the years 2021-22 and 2022-23. The chart shows that 12 local authorities reported an increase in recycling rates compared to 2021-22.

Source: WasteDataFlow

Main points

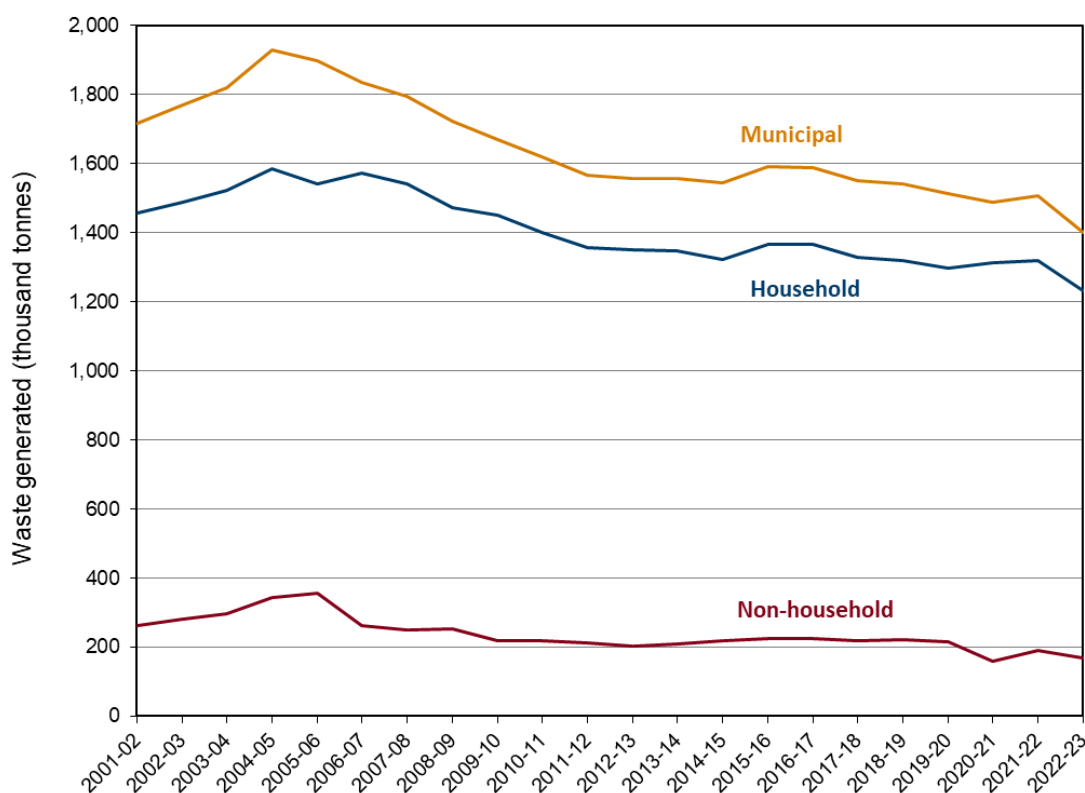
- As previously mentioned, differences in recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic may make comparisons between 2021-22 and 2022-23 for each of the local authorities challenging.
- 12 of the 22 local authorities reported an increase in their recycling rate compared to 2021-22 (Chart 3).
- Recycling rates across the local authorities varied from 58.7% in Torfaen to 71.8% in Swansea.
- Under the "[Beyond Recycling' \(2021\)](#), strategy, recycling rate target for 2019-20 (64%) must be met by each local authority every year until the target increases to 70% (2024-25 onwards).
- 17 of the 22 local authorities met the statutory target of recycling at least 64% in 2022-23. The five that did not meet the target were: Torfaen, Isle of Anglesey, Flintshire, Caerphilly and Cardiff.
- Flintshire, Torfaen, Caerphilly, Cardiff and Isle of Anglesey also did not reach the target in 2021-22. Carmarthenshire fell below the target in 2021-22 but has now exceeded it.
- 5 of the 22 local authorities have already met the 2024-25 statutory target of 70%: Swansea, Pembrokeshire, Bridgend, Ceredigion and Monmouthshire. Of these four authorities, only Swansea was below 70% in 2021-22, at 65%. In 2021-22 Conwy also met the 70% target rate however are slightly below this year at 69%.

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), 2001-02 to 2022-23



Description of Chart 4: A line chart to show the total local authority municipal waste generated in Wales in thousands of tonnes between 2001-02 and 2022-23. The chart shows that there has generally been a decrease in waste generated, however a larger proportion of all municipal waste is generated from household waste.

Source: WasteDataFlow

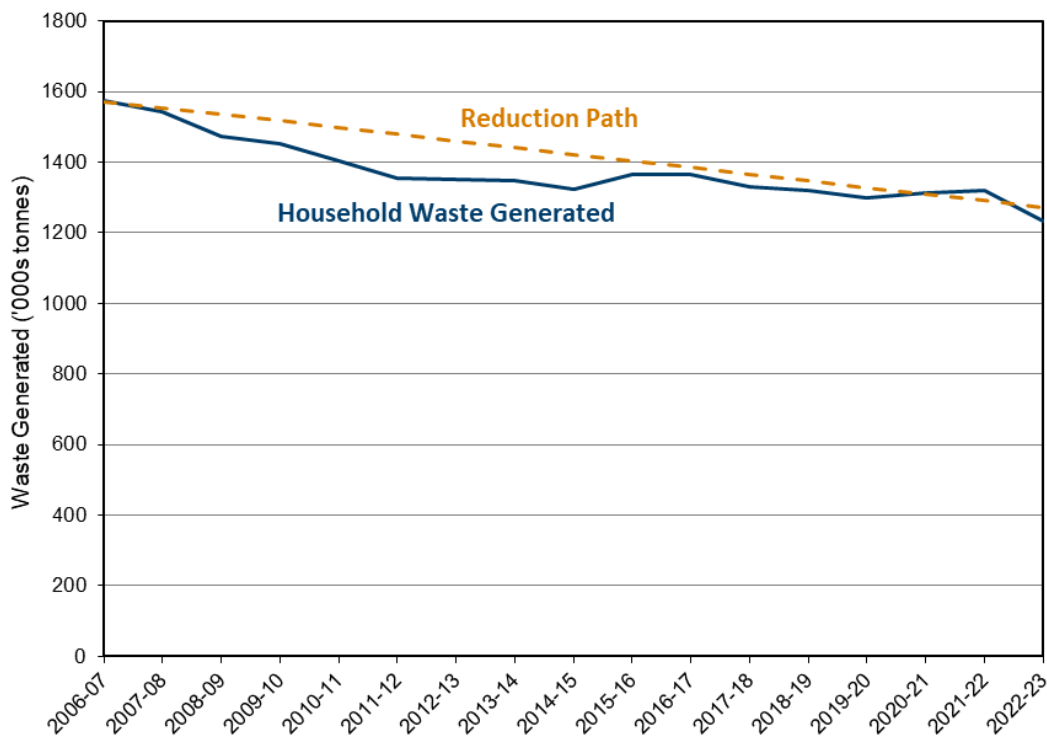
Main points

- 1,400 thousand tonnes of municipal waste was generated in Wales in 2022-23. This is the lowest total recorded since 2001-02. Household waste has decreased more in this period than non-household waste, accounting for 70% of the total decrease.

- Since 2001-02, municipal waste has decreased by 318 thousand tonnes, from 1,718 thousand tonnes to 1,400 thousand tonnes in 2022-23. This is a 18.5% decrease.
- Over the past year, the total amount of local authority municipal waste generated in Wales decreased by 108 thousand tonnes, from 1,508 thousand tonnes in 2021-22 to 1,400 thousand tonnes in 2022-23 (Chart 4). This equates to a 7.2% decrease.
- Between 2021-22 and 2022-23, the volume of household waste generated in Wales decreased by 6.6% whilst the volume of non-household waste decreased by 11.4%.
- The fall between 2021-22 and 2022-23 is partially caused by readjustments following COVID-19 restrictions being eased, however it is still a significant fall from pre-pandemic levels.

As part of the [‘Beyond Recycling’ \(2021\)](#), strategy a target was introduced to reduce the total amount of household waste collected to 761 thousand tonnes by 2050. A reduction path was implemented from 2006-07 to reduce household waste by 18 thousand tonnes each year, starting in 2006-07 at 1,572 thousand tonnes, in order to reach the target. [Chart 5](#) shows the actual amount of household waste collected compared to the reduction path.

Chart 5: Household waste collected in Wales from 2006-07 to 2022-23 (thousand tonnes) compared to the reduction path from 2006-07



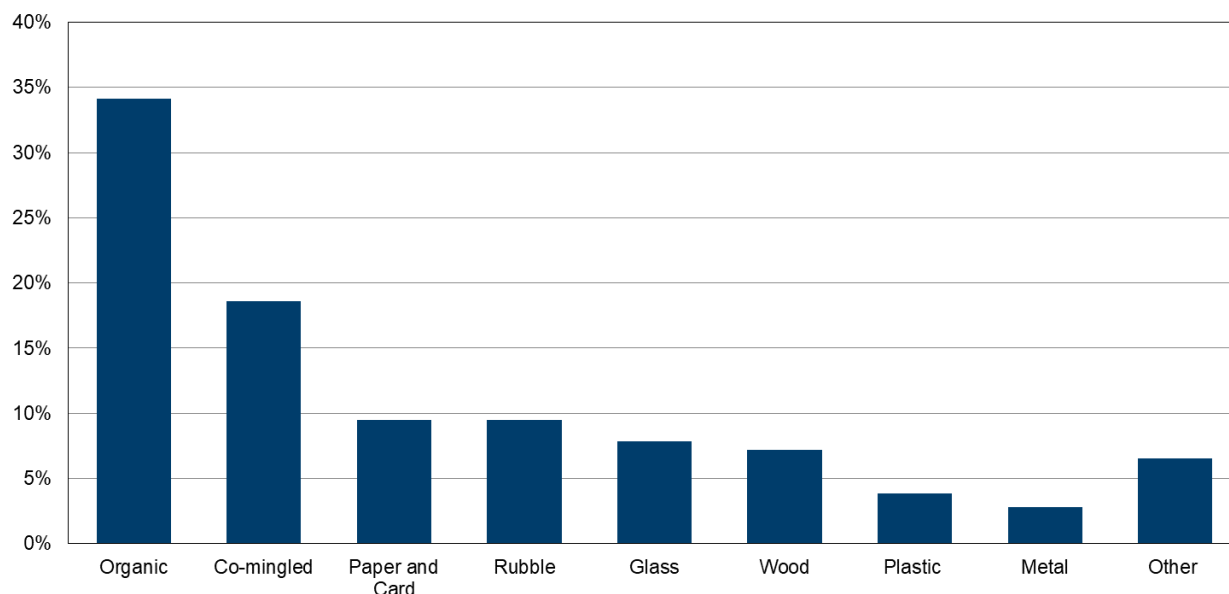
Description of Chart 5: Household waste collected in Wales from 2006-07 to 2021-22 in thousand tonnes compared to the reduction path of a 1.2% decrease in household waste collection from 2006-07. The chart shows that the amount of household waste collected has decreased with a similar trend to the reduction path, however in recent years the amount of household waste collected has stayed at a similar rate rather than decreasing.

Source: WasteDataFlow

Main points

- The amount of household waste collected gradually decreased between 2006-07 and 2022-23, from 1,572 thousand tonnes to 1,231 thousand tonnes.
- The reduction in waste collected can be seen to generally follow the reduction path.
- Initially, the reduction in household waste was slightly larger than the steady decrease of the reduction path, peaking in 2011-12 when the amount of waste collected was 7.8 percentage points lower than the reduction path. In 2022-23, the amount of waste collected was 3.1% lower than the reduction path.

Chart 6: Waste collected for reuse/recycling/composting in Wales by material, 2022-23 (%)



Description of Chart 6: A bar chart to show the waste collected for reuse/recycling/composting in Wales by material for the year 2022-23.

Source: WasteDataFlow

Main points

- The material distribution this year is very similar to last year, with only minor changes for some materials.
- A third of all material collected for reuse/recycling/composting in 2022-23 was 'Organic' material (34.1%). Organic waste includes food, green (garden) and other compostable waste.
- 'Co-mingled' materials accounted for 18.6% of all waste collected of reuse/recycling/composting.
- Just 6.7 per cent of waste collected for reuse/recycling/composting was classified as 'Plastic' or 'Metal'. 'Metal' and 'Plastic' make up the lowest identified material collected for reuse/recycling/composting.
- Plastic, metals, paper and glass are co-collected by some local authorities, and therefore are included in the 'co-mingled' category in [Chart 6](#).

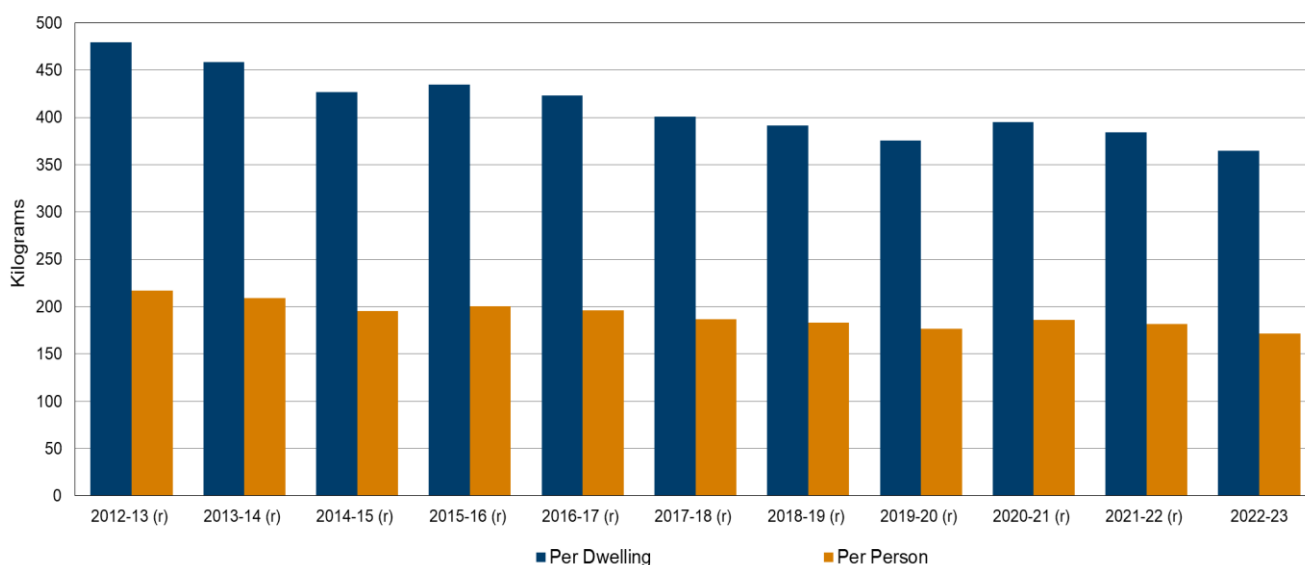
Residual household waste

'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).

Residual household waste per dwelling is calculated using dwelling stock estimates obtained from [StatsWales](#).

Residual household waste per person is calculated using population estimates obtained from the [Office for National Statistics \(ONS\)](#).

Chart 7: Residual household waste in Wales (Kilograms), 2012-13 to 2022-23 [note 1]



[note 1] – Following the 2021 Census, population estimates for previous years were adjusted, going back to 2012-13. Therefore, the averages in the above chart might be different from the averages provided in previous bulletins.

Description of Chart 7: A bar chart to show the residual household waste per person and per dwelling in Wales in Kilograms between 2014-15 and 2022-23. The chart shows that there has been a decrease in waste produced per person and per dwelling.

Source: WasteData Flow, Welsh Government and Office for National Statistics

Main points

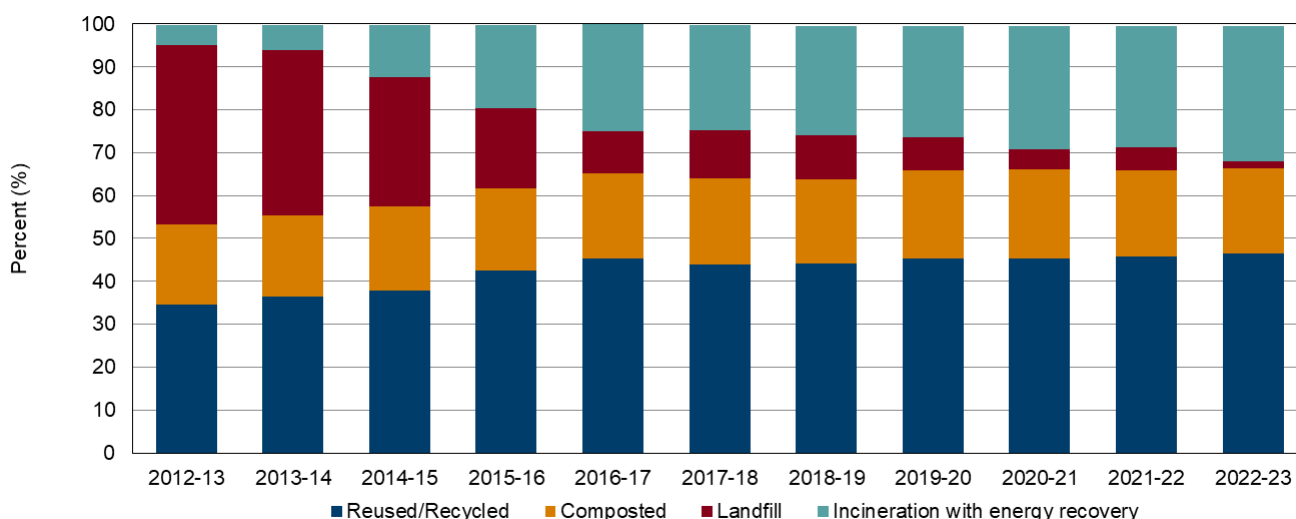
- Residual household waste per person decreased by 5.5%, falling from 182kg in 2021-22 to 172kg in 2022-23.
- Residual household waste per dwelling also decreased by 5.0%, falling from 384kg in 2021-22 to 365kg in 2022-23.

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 8: Waste sent for disposal/treatment by management method (%), 2012-13 to 2022-23 [note 1]



[note 1] - Chart 8 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.

Description of Chart 8: A stacked bar chart to show the waste sent for disposal/treatment by management method as percentages between 2012-13 and 2022-23. The chart shows that the percentage of waste disposed at landfill sites has decreased whilst there has been a significant increase in waste disposed of through incineration and the percentage of waste being reused/recycled/composted has remained the same.

Source: WasteDataFlow

Main points

- Between 2012-13 and 2022-23, the amount of waste sent for disposal/treatment has declined by 7%. However, there have been some considerable changes in management method.
- There has been a significant decrease in the proportion of waste disposed of via landfill (falling from 42.0% in 2012-13 to 1.6% in 2022-23).

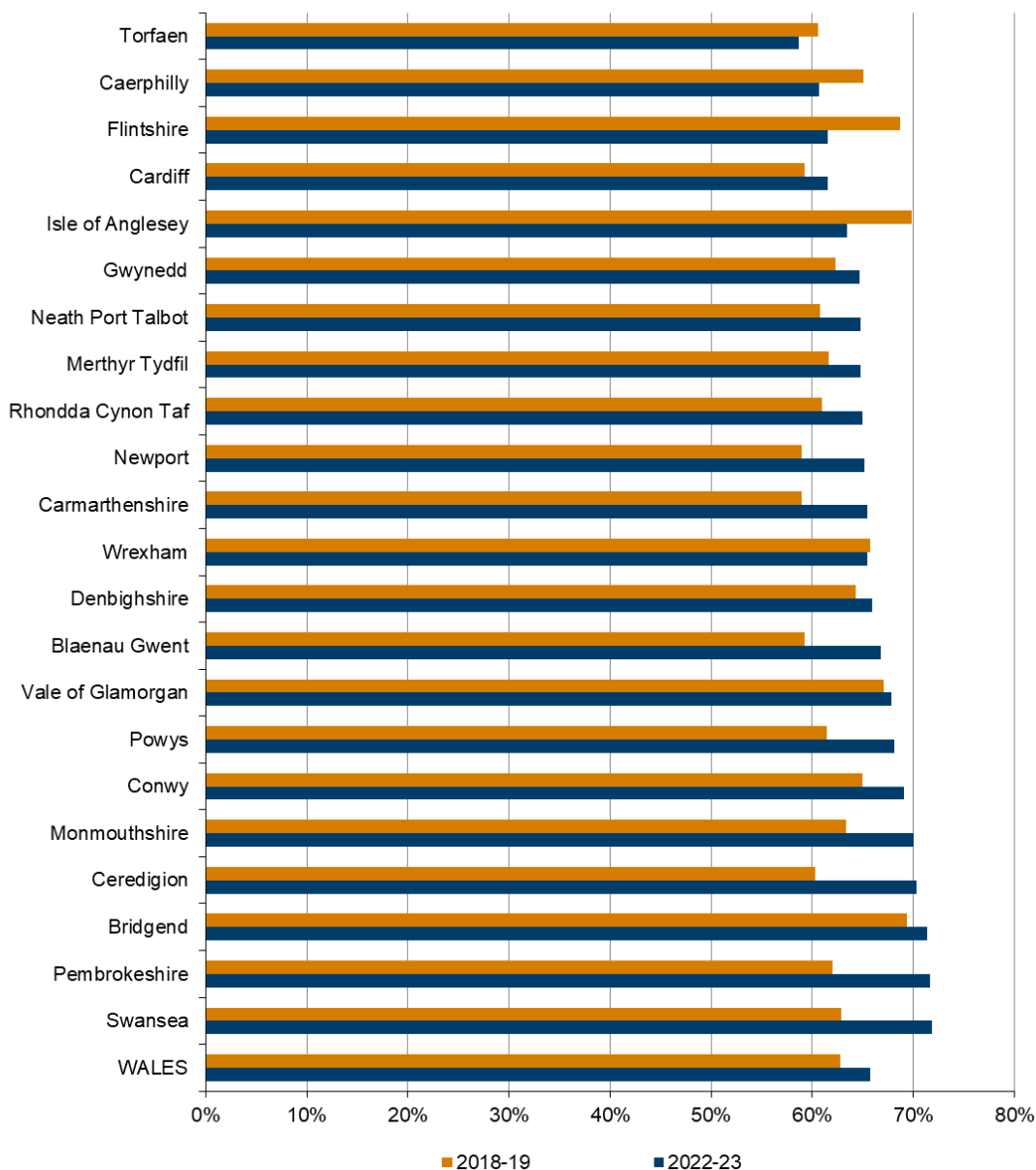
- In contrast, there has been a substantial increase in the proportion of waste disposed of via incineration with energy recovery (rising from 4.7% in 2012-13 to 31.6% in 2022-23). The percentage of waste disposed of via incineration decreased by 0.3 percentage points compared to last year.
- Of all waste sent for disposal/treatment in 2022-23, a total of 920 thousand tonnes were reused/recycled/composted. This is a slight increase on the amount of waste reused-recycled compared to last year rising from 45.7% in 2021-22 to 46.4% in 2022-23.

Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic

Between 2020 and 2022, various public health interventions were implemented by the Welsh Government to curb the spread of COVID-19, which included the closure of recycling centres and restrictions on waste collection. While these interventions had been lifted by 2022-23, many local authorities are still dealing with their impact.

To assess the impact of the pandemic on local authority municipal waste recycling rates, a comparison is made between data from 2022-23 and data from 2018-19. The year 2018-19 was chosen due to it being the year before the pandemic began.

Chart 9: Combined local authority municipal waste reuse/recycling/composting rates, by local authority, 2018-19 and 2022-23 [note 1]



[note 1] - Local Authorities are listed in order of municipal waste reuse/recycling/composting rates based on 2022-23 figures.

Description of Chart 9: A comparative bar chart to show the combined local authority municipal waste reuse/recycling/composting rates by local authority for the years 2018-19 and 2022-23. The chart shows that 17 local authorities reported an increase in recycling rates compared to 2018-19.

Source: WasteDataFlow

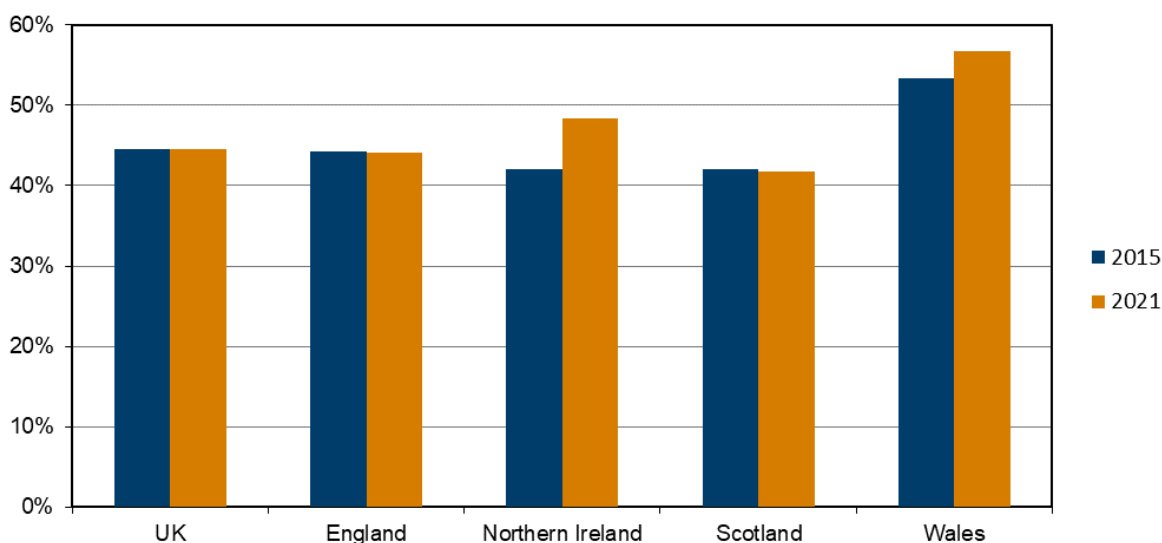
Main points

- Chart 9 compares the recycling rate of every local authority for 2022-23 with rates from 2018-19.
- The overall municipal waste recycling rate in Wales increased from 63% in 2018-19 to 66% in 2022-23.
- 17 of the 22 local authorities reported an increase in their recycling rate compared to 2018-19 (Chart 9).
- Pembrokeshire and Ceredigion saw the largest increase during this time, with Pembrokeshire going from 62% to 72%, and Ceredigion going from 60% to 70%. Swansea also saw a large increase, going from 63% to 72%.
- Torfaen, Caerphilly, Flintshire, Isle of Anglesey and Wrexham all saw a decrease in recycling rate between 2018-19 and 2022-23. Flintshire had the largest decrease, going from 69% to 62%, followed by Anglesey which went from 70% to 63%.

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 10: Recycling rate by UK country, 2015 and 2021 (%) [note 4] [note 5]



[note 4] – The most recent data on household recycling rates by UK country is from 2021. The bulletin will be updated once more recent data is available. In addition, the earliest data on the recycling rate of each UK country is from 2015, which is why comparisons are made between 2015 and 2021.

Description of Chart 10: A bar chart to show the recycling rate by UK country as a percentage of household waste generated in 2015 and 2021.

Source: The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Main points

- Wales is the only country in the UK with a household recycling rate higher than 50%.
- The household recycling rate in Wales has increased from 53.3% in 2015 to 56.7% in 2021.
- In England and Scotland the household recycling rate decreased between 2015 and 2021, going from 44.3% to 44.1% in England, and from 42.1% to 41.7% in Scotland.
- Northern Ireland saw the largest increase in household recycling rate, with it going from 42.1% in 2015 to 48.4% in 2021.

Waste collection and disposal are large devolved matters so there are difference in both policy and operation within the UK. The four countries have put together a document to show the similarities

and differences within the UK to help reach consistent UK statistics: [Local Authority Waste Statistics – Recycling Measures](#).

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 2019 and 2018 respectively. The amount of waste generated that was not recycled, per person in 2012 was 523kg. Of the total 1,650 thousand tonnes of waste not recycled, 545 thousand was from household waste, 138 thousand from Construction and Demolition waste and 966 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.

The continued designation of these statistics as National Statistics was confirmed in October 2020 following a compliance check by the [Office for Statistics Regulation](#). Since the latest review by the Office for Statistics Regulation, we have continued to comply with the Code of Practice for Statistics, and have made the following improvements:

- Explaining where there are differences between the different administrations in the UK and why these arise. The four countries have put together a document to show the similarities and differences within the UK to help reach consistent UK statistics: [Local Authority Waste Statistics – Recycling Measures](#).
- Explaining more about how the government statisticians engage with users to find out about and meet user needs.
- Explaining the impact of COVID 19 on the statistics.
- Improve the accessibility of the statistics to meet the new standards that came into force on 23 September 2020.

Well-being of Future Generations Act (WFG)

The Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 is about improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing of Wales. The Act puts in place seven wellbeing 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 wellbeing goals, and (b) lay a copy of the national indicators before Senedd Cymru. Under section 10(8) of the Well-being of Future Generations Act, where the Welsh Ministers revise the national indicators, they must as soon as reasonably practicable (a) publish the indicators as revised and (b) lay a copy of them before the Senedd. These national indicators were laid before the Senedd in 2021. The indicators laid on 14 December 2021 replace the set laid on 16 March 2016 and this release includes 1 of the national indicators 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 wellbeing 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.

The Act states national milestones must be set that “...the Welsh Ministers consider would help in measuring whether progress is being made towards the achievement of the well-being goals.” In

doing so Welsh Ministers must specify how we know that a national milestone has been achieved and the time by which it is to be achieved.

National milestones are not performance targets for any individual organisation, but are collective measures of success for Wales.

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 wellbeing assessments and local wellbeing plans.

Further details

The document is available here: <https://gov.wales/local-authority-municipal-waste-management>.

Useful links

Current Welsh Government waste strategy "[Beyond Recycling](#)' (2021).

Recycling in Wales '[My Recycling Wales website](#)'.

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

Next update

Local Authority Municipal Waste, 2023-24 – due to be published October 2024

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.

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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.

Organic

Organic waste includes food, green (garden) and other compostable waste.

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.