













Lincolnshire Waste Partnership

Annual Review 2022-23



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Introduction

CLlr Daniel McNally

Chair of the Lincolnshire Waste Partnership

Welcome to the LWP's annual report which covers the financial year from April 2022 to March 2023.

As LWP Chair, I am privileged to work with an excellent team of Elected Members and staff from across the eight councils who work together to manage our county's household waste.

I am also very grateful to the efforts of the people of Lincolnshire who, even more so than ever, are taking care to adhere to our 'Right Thing, Right Bin' campaign which supports us all to recycle as much as possible.

As set out in more detail throughout this report, with your help the LWP has:

- Collected and processed nearly 350,000 tonnes of household waste (page 4)
- Reaffirmed that our strategic objectives still point us in the right direction – including aligning with emerging national policies (page 6)
- Improved the quality of our recyclables, supporting a more 'circular economy' through twin-stream collections (pages 7 and 8)
- Looked at how we can do better – pushing waste up the 'waste hierarchy' (pages 9 and 10)
- Worked to tackle waste crime through the Lincolnshire Environmental Crime Partnership (pages 11 and 12)
- Delivered "Let's Talk Rubbish" workshops to over 700 primary school children, investing in the future generation (page 14).



Better together: What is the Lincolnshire Waste Partnership?

In 2022/23, the eight Lincolnshire Waste Partnership (LWP) councils handled nearly 350,000 tonnes of waste — that's equivalent to...



The weight of 200 elephants - every day.



The weight of a car per household each year.



Enough waste to fill Lincoln Cathedral every two months.

Managing all this waste is a mammoth operation. Between us, the seven waste collection authorities (your district, borough or city council) and the waste disposal authority (county council) provide:

- More than 130 refuse trucks collecting from over 350,000 households,
- Litter collection, street sweeping and flytip clearance,
- 11 Household Waste Recycling Centres located around the county, and
- Getting your waste to where it can best be recycled or disposed of.

In order to ensure these services operate as efficiently and effectively as possible, the eight councils work together as the LWP. Our Waste Strategy for Lincolnshire sets out our shared vision:

“To seek the best environmental option to provide innovative, customer-friendly waste management solutions that give value for money to Lincolnshire.”

Our Strategy also defines 10 strategic objectives which describe how we aim to handle your waste in a way that fulfils that vision and aligns with national policy as it changes over time. The main purpose of this Annual Review is to let you know about the progress we're making towards those objectives, and it also gives us a chance to reflect on how we can best continue to do so going forwards. Further [details about the LWP and Waste Strategy for Lincolnshire](#) can be found on the county council's website, including [details of LWP meetings](#).

The national picture: emerging government policies

From their 2018 'Resources and Waste Strategy for England', to the 2021 Environment Act, UK government policy has sought to follow several key principles including:

- **Waste hierarchy**: Sets out an order of preference for waste management from waste reduction, through reuse and recycling, down to disposal (landfill).
- **Polluter pays**: Those responsible for waste take responsibility for funding the handling of it.
- **Circular economy**: Moving from a linear approach – “take, make, dispose” – to a circular one, and thus reduce the need for new raw materials.

The Environment Act reflects these principles through several key policies and, although we await final details of how they'll work, we already know the impacts some of these will have on the LWP:

1. **Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)**: In line with 'polluter pays', companies producing packaging will pay towards the costs of collecting and recycling/disposal of that packaging. Funding to councils is currently set to begin in 2024 with payments dependent on meeting targets for an “efficient and effective” service.
2. **Deposit Return Scheme (DRS)**: Consumers will pay a deposit on drinks containers (plastic or metal) to be claimed back when returned to host retailers for recycling. Due to begin in 2025 it is hoped that, in line with the 'waste hierarchy', it will recycle bottles and cans currently disposed of as litter. It also is also set to divert items already recycled through LWP collections.
3. **Collections Consistency** – The aim is that all households and businesses in the UK should receive the same waste collections, increase the quantity and quality of recyclables, and thus encourage a UK 'circular economy'.

The proposals include:

- The same list of recyclables to be collected nationwide – The good news is that the LWP already recycles everything on the initial list, but we'll need to add others later.
- Food waste collections – The proposal is for these to be provided to all households from 2026, but we await final confirmation. Details of how we're working towards this are on page 15.

We're on the right track: reviewing our Waste Strategy

The world of waste never stands still. Changes in legislation or available technology mean that we need to regularly review not only our progress against the objectives we've set in our Waste Strategy for Lincolnshire (that's the purpose of this Annual Review), but also to check that those objectives still reflect what we want to achieve.

In light of that, this year the LWP looked at all ten of the strategic objectives we set ourselves in 2019, and the good news is that they all still broadly align with our aspirations. However, we have identified small changes which help to clarify some of them.

Objective 2

What it now says...

To further explore our common set of recycling materials in line with government legislative changes.

Why?

We've already met our original objective to "move towards" a consistent list of recyclables countywide. This new wording reflects our commitment to recycle any materials added to the national list.

Objective 3

What it now says...

To consider the introduction of separate food waste collections where technically, environmentally and economically practicable and in line with government legislative changes.

Why?

In line with our original objective, we undertook a trial of food waste collections in the South Kesteven area. We learned a lot but, now that government have specified that these will be mandatory for all councils, we await clarification of the details including start-date and funding.

Moving forwards together: Cleaning up our recyclables

In seeking to recycle as much as possible, there is a danger of losing sight of the quality of what is collected. Cleaner materials can be recycled into better quality products, and thus can go around the recycling loop many more times.

Thus, in 2019 we set ourselves a strategic objective “to improve the quality... of our recycling”, and this has since been reinforced by other drivers for recycling quality (details on page 5) including:

- The desire for a more ‘circular economy’;
- The proposal that EPR funding to councils will depend on the quality as well as quantity of recyclables; and
- The Environment Act indicating that each recyclable material should, where practicable, be collected separately.

In light of that, the LWP agreed that the priority is to collect paper and card separately from other recyclables – mixing with glass and food residue left in containers reduces the quality of paper and card – and, following an initial trial, we began rolling out these ‘twin stream’ collections more widely. During 2022, West Lindsey DC and East Lindsey DC joined Boston BC and North Kesteven DC in operating these collections, and our other partners are considering the introduction of twin-stream collections in their areas.

Whilst each Waste Collection Authority organises their own collections, working together through the LWP has enabled us to:

- Learn from each other’s experiences;
- Share consistent communications; and
- Use disposal savings to fund new bins and a team of staff to help explain the new system to householders.

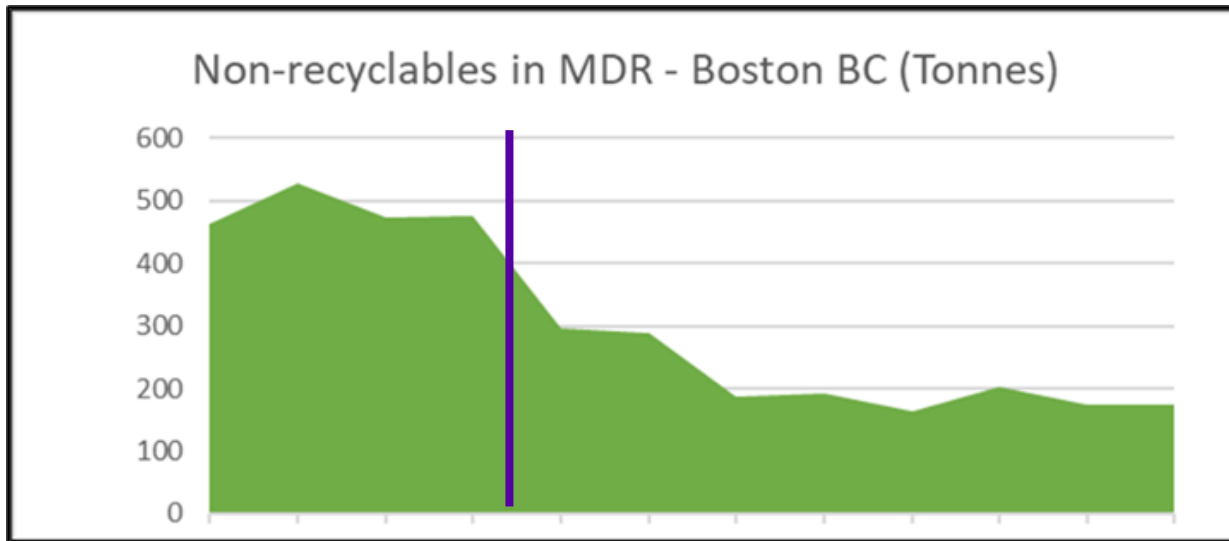
cont.

The results of these new collections, accompanied by our “Right Thing, Right Bin” communications campaign (see page 13), have been very impressive. We’ve seen:

- A dramatic improvement in the quality of paper and card sent for recycling – This enables it to be recycled more locally and to create a higher standard of recycled material;

and

- A significant reduction in the quantity of non-recyclables contaminating the collections of our other recyclables – the chart below shows that effect for Boston Borough Council who were the first to adopt the new collections.



Non-recyclables in MDR (mixed dry recycling) in Boston Borough

Non-recyclable products in recycling bins drops from over 500 tonnes to a low of less than 200 tonnes.

The purple line shows where the new, separate collections caused the amounts of non-recyclables contaminating recycling bins to fall.

What does 'good' look like?

Is recycling always the best thing?

For many years, recycling rate has been seen as the headline measure for waste management – i.e. recycling more is always a good thing. However, whilst recycling is still important, this is now being re-examined through the lens of the waste hierarchy.

The waste hierarchy makes it clear that, although recycling is a good thing, there are better ways to manage waste:

- Better = Preparing for re-use.
- Best = Prevention.

Interestingly, either of these better options can, by reducing waste, reduce our recycling rate, making it look like we're performing badly! Indeed, in 2022/23, our overall recycling rate fell by around 1.5% not because we failed to recycle what we received but rather because the record-breaking heatwave in 2022 meant there was less growth and less garden waste. Whilst we can't claim credit for 'preventing' that waste, neither was it down to poor performance!

In order to find ways to shift the focus higher up the waste hierarchy, in 2019 we set ourselves a strategic objective "to find the most appropriate ways to measure our environmental performance, and set appropriate targets". The UK government has also indicated this as a priority, and has started to set different targets to reflect that.

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Thus, to better measure good performance, we are:

- Already measuring total waste produced by each household and have seen this reduce over the last few years.
- Considering following the government example of setting national targets to reduce non-recycled waste – that can be achieved by prevention, reuse or recycling.
- Looking at quality as well as quantity of recycling (see page 7).
- Seeking to measure and reduce our carbon footprint.

Whilst we remain committed to recycling as much as possible of the waste which we receive, this new focus will help us to promote new projects such as:

- Reuse – We are looking to trial a new initiative at our Tattershall Household Waste Recycling Centre.
- Prevention – New food waste collections (see page 15) will be accompanied by waste reduction messages.

Tackling waste crime: Together on the 'ECP bus'

Whilst the LWP's focus is on the waste which our householders present us with, we also have a part to play in tackling illegal waste activity.

Our Waste Collection Authorities have a duty to collect waste which has been flytipped on public land but, rather than seeing it as something inevitable, it's much better to seek to prevent the crime happening in the first place. However, because waste criminals don't limit themselves to one particular kind of crime or location, it's important that we collaborate on this with other organisations.

We do this both by taking action as individual councils and through membership of the Lincolnshire Environmental Crime Partnership (ECP) which brings together a wide range of organisations with an interest in preventing flytipping. In their 2022 Annual Report, their Chair describes the ECP thus:

I always describe it as the ECP bus. We are all going to the same destination (which is akin to the same ambition to tackle fly tipping) and whilst we haven't got to the destination yet, we are making great progress! By sharing and travelling together, we are more effective in tackling environmental crime within Lincolnshire.



Images of flytipped waste in West Lindsey.

cont.

Highlights in the report include:

- Sharing best practice = Through Environmental Crime Officers Working Group and training events.
- Multi-agency operations = Council officers working together with Environment Agency, Police, Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency and His Majesty's Revenue and Customs to stop and check vehicles carrying waste.
- Communicating as a partnership = A shared communications strategy and social media campaigns.

These coordinated actions have led to numerous convictions achieved by partners across the county. These have resulted in fixed penalty notices, costs sought up to thousands of pounds and sanctions including a six-month suspended prison sentence.

Further details, including the ECP's Annual Report, can be found at: [Lincolnshire Environmental Crime Partnership \(lincolnshire-pcc.gov.uk\)](https://www.lincolnshire-pcc.gov.uk).



The front cover of the Lincolnshire Environmental Crime Partnership annual report 2022.

Unified communications: Helping you help us

The eight LWP councils continue to work together to give consistent messages countywide to let you know what we're doing and how you can help us. Our 'Right Thing, Right Bin' campaign, enabled by achieving our JMWMS objective "to move towards a common set of recycling materials", continues to be the focus of our work and is helping to reduce contamination and is helping to recycle more quality materials.

Why are we doing it?

Since launching the campaign, we have seen some amazing results which are helping us to recycle more of the right materials. In areas where the twin stream initiative has been embedded, around 90% of all the items put in residents' recycling bins at home is exactly the right materials.

What are we doing?

In line with national policy, we've harmonised the list of recyclables accepted across Lincolnshire and continue to review this regularly. This makes it easier for us to explain what should go in which bin. Each LWP council's website now features an A-Z search function where you can look up what to do with over 100 different types of waste ranging from aerosol cans to yoghurt pots – Both of those can be recycled as long as they're empty, by the way! The feature also allows residents to understand what they can take to the Household Waste Recycling Centres.



Pupils in Gainsborough help explain what goes in each bin.



LET'S TALK RUBBISH

School resource pack

community engagement

ed hard to develop a programme for primary
n and wider community groups called 'Let's

me is aimed at delivering clear and concise
s to help minimise waste, reduce contamination and
ecycle more of the "right things". The
has been delivered to:

primary school children, and
ately 40 community groups including residents
associations, parish councils, cubs and scouts and special
schools.

More information, specifically about the schools programme,
can be found at www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/letstalkrubbish

What happens next? Planning for the future

As described on page 5, the government has already given us a steer on some of the things we need to work on next. Although we await clarification on details such as what we'll be required to do and what central funding we'll receive for it, we've already started to plan for some of the key projects.

Food waste

The Environment Act 2021 states that every UK household must receive a separate, weekly collection of food waste. Councils will, at least initially, receive central funding for these extra collections but that funding will only become available once the government confirms a start date.

Although there are some things we can't do until we have that funding – e.g. buying new trucks to do the collections – the LWP is already working together to plan how the collections will work, including how the food waste will be recycled afterwards.

This planning is aided by the lessons we learned from our trial collections which operated in South Kesteven in line with our strategic objective “to consider the introduction of separate food waste collections”.



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Less waste in your bins?

The government's plan for a Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) for drinks containers looks certain to capture a considerable quantity of plastic bottles and metal cans which would previously have been handled via kerbside collections. This will have pros and cons – e.g. less waste to collect but lower recycling rate – for the LWP, and we're currently modelling what these impacts will be and whether we need to do anything to address them.



Funding for packaging waste

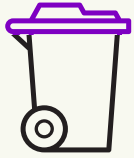
Under the 'polluter pays' principle, the costs for handling a waste item should be met by those originally responsible for producing the item. The government have already put a system in place which arranges this for electrical goods, and they are now doing so for packaging via their Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) system.

Whilst this will initially bring in additional funding for councils, that will depend on ensuring that our services are "efficient and effective". This will require us to do additional work including:

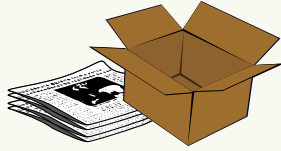
- Measuring exactly how much of each type of packaging we handle, and
- Meeting quality standards for recyclables – Our twin-stream collections are helping us to achieve that.

2022/23 IN NUMBERS

HIGH-QUALITY RECYCLING



OVER 200,000 HOMES
WITH PURPLE-LIDDED BINS



98% PAPER AND CARD
IN PURPLE-LIDDED BINS

**RIGHT
THING,
RIGHT
BIN**

CONTAMINATION DOWN
40% COUNTYWIDE*



9,000 TONNES LESS
ITEMS IN THE WRONG BIN*

*compared to 2020/21

KERBSIDE COLLECTIONS



OVER 130
BIN WAGONS



NEARLY 350
COLLECTION STAFF



COLLECTIONS FROM
OVER 350,000 HOMES



2 MILLION MILES DRIVEN
(4X TO THE MOON AND
BACK)

WHERE DOES YOUR HOUSEHOLD WASTE GO?



20%
RECYCLED



19%
COMPOSTED*



58%
TURNED INTO
ELECTRICITY



3%
LANDFILL

*affected by record hot summer

COMMUNICATIONS



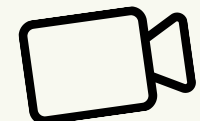
32 NEWS
RELEASES ISSUED



OVER 240,000
POST IMPRESSIONS



OVER 62,000
VIDEO VIEWS



18 VIDEOS PRODUCED

2022-23 in numbers

High quality recycling

- Over 200,000 homes with purple-lidded bins.
- Over 98% paper and card in purple-lidded bins.
- Contamination down 40% countywide, compared to 2020/21.
- 9,000 tonnes less items in the wrong bin, compared to 2020/21.

Where does your household waste go?

- 20% is recycled.
- 19% is composted (this has been affected by the record hot summer).
- 58% is turned into electricity.
- 3% is sent to landfill.

Kerbside collections

- Over 130 bin wagons.
- Nearly 350 collection staff.
- Collections from over 350,000 homes.
- 2 million miles driven (that's four times to the moon and back!).

Communications

- 32 news releases issued.
- Over 240,000 post impressions on social media.
- Over 62,000 video views.
- 18 videos produced.