



LINCOLNSHIRE WASTE PARTNERSHIP

28 March 2024

SUBJECT :	Performance Measure Update
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BACKGROUND INFORMATION

This is the latest in a series of regular updates on the suite of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) which measure progress against the vision and objectives set out in the LWP's Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (JMWMS). In addition to the KPIs previously agreed by and reported to the LWP, this report includes a new measure on quality of recyclables to highlight the improvements achieved through twin-stream collections and the 'Right Thing, Right Bin' campaign.

OVERVIEW

The figures presented in this report were calculated using data received up to the end of Quarter 3 (December 2023) and thus, where a total for 2023/24 is stated, this is a forecast which is liable to change once data is available for the full year.

The figures presented in this report arise from the following headlines in terms of the main waste streams presented to us by the public:

- Green waste – 2023/24 has seen a return to previous levels presented for composting following a fall last year due to less garden growth during the record-breaking Summer 2022 temperatures. Whilst improving our recycling rate, this has increased total waste per household.
- Dry recyclables – The quantity of recyclables presented this year has been very similar to the previous year. There has, however, been another improvement in the quality of material collected with more non-recyclable waste being diverted out of recycling collections.
- Non-recyclable waste – We have seen an increase in the quantity of non-recyclable waste produced by each household. In spite of this, by finding alternative destinations during the annual EfW shutdown, we have managed to avoid landfilling all but a tiny quantity of this waste.

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Performance against these is shown on the below charts as follows:

- Up to and including 2022/23 = Confirmed actual performance
- 2023/24 = Projections based on year to date (Apr to Dec) performance
- Targets = Agreed by LWP in November 2019 and reaffirmed in July 2022

Waste Hierarchy – Minimisation

Household Waste Collection (kilograms per household)

We continue to process less waste than our target of 1,000kg per household, which is good given that waste minimisation is top of the 'waste hierarchy'. Whilst the figure has increased compared to last year, that's largely down to a return to "normal" levels of green waste after a reduced quantity in 2022/23.

In terms of specific waste streams:

- Green waste – 38kg per household more due to a return to "normal" levels after a fall in the record-breaking hot Summer of 2022 (see Chart 3).
- Kerbside dry recycling – Similar quantity in recycling collections but with a further reduction in contamination by non-recyclables (see later section on 'Quality').
- Non-recyclables – Although we have seen an increase overall, by finding alternative destinations during the annual EfW shutdown, we have managed to avoid landfill for all but a tiny quantity of this waste (Chart 4).

Waste Hierarchy – Recycling

Recycling rate of "waste from households" (percentage)

Overall our recycling rate is forecasted to be 0.9% more in 2023/24 than in the previous year thanks to an increase in green waste composting and steady levels of other recycling. Unfortunately, due to an increase in non-recyclable waste presented to us, the forecast rate of 41.1% still remains lower than two years ago.

It should be noted, however, that the material we are collecting for recycling is of a much higher quality thanks to the improvements seen via our twin-stream collections and the 'Right Thing, Right Bin' campaign. This allows it, in particular the paper and card, to be recycled into higher quality products and thus pass around the recycling loop more times.

In terms of specific waste streams:

- Green waste – Returned to "normal" levels after a fall last year (see Chart 3).
- Kerbside dry recycling – Contributed slightly less than last year to the percentage recycling rate, largely because of the increase in the overall quantity of waste (Chart 2).
- Other dry recycling – HWRC recycling has settled at a level well short of pre-covid (Chart 4).
- Non-recyclables – The higher quantity has restricted the increase in our recycling rate (Chart 4).

Chart 1 – Overall LWP performance

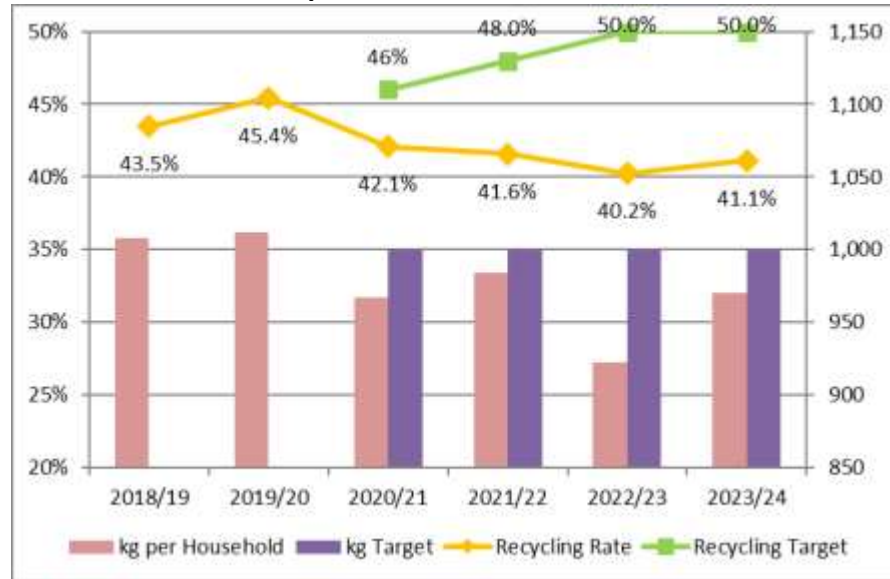
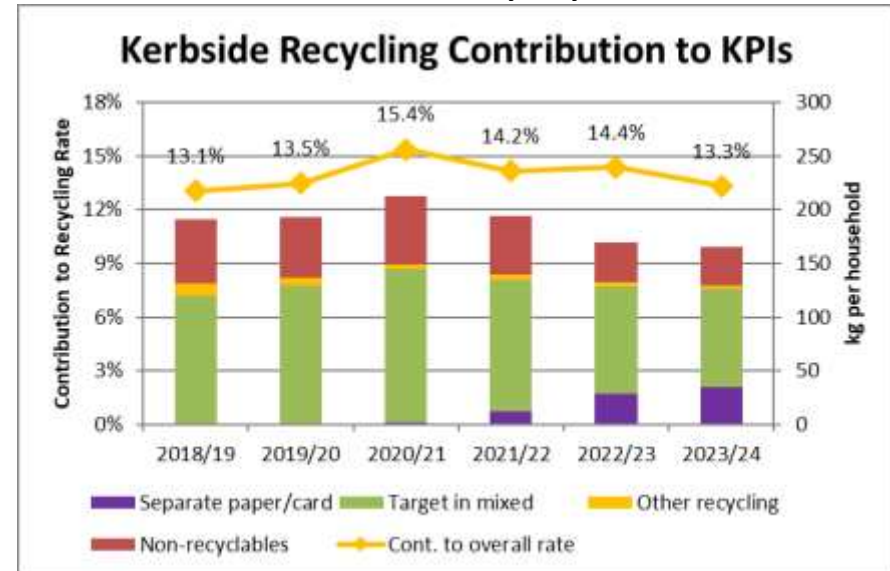


Chart 2 – Contribution of kerbside dry recyclables



Targetted recyclables = paper; card; plastic (bottles, pots, tubs, trays); metal cans; glass
 Other recyclables = other recycled plastics (film, rigid); other metals; small paper
 Non-recyclables = fines; other non-recycled material

Chart 3 – Contribution of composting

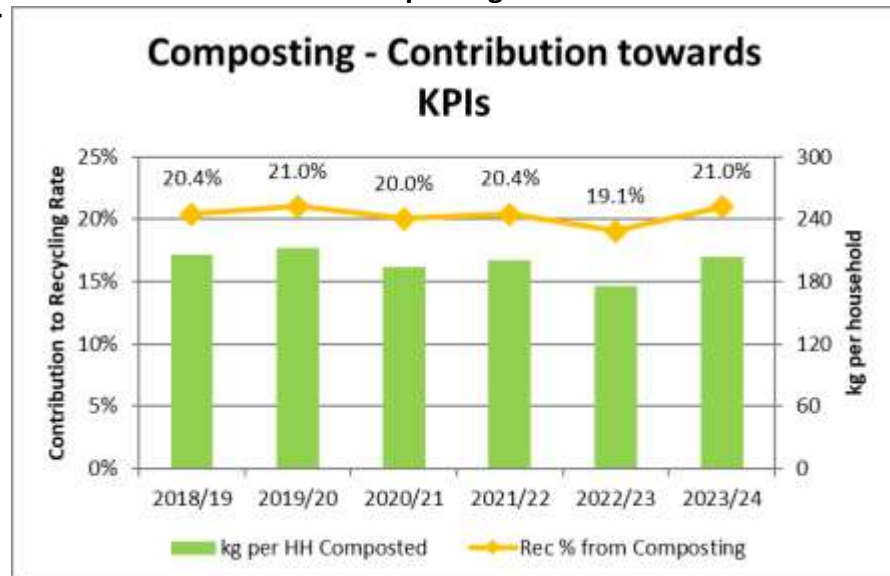
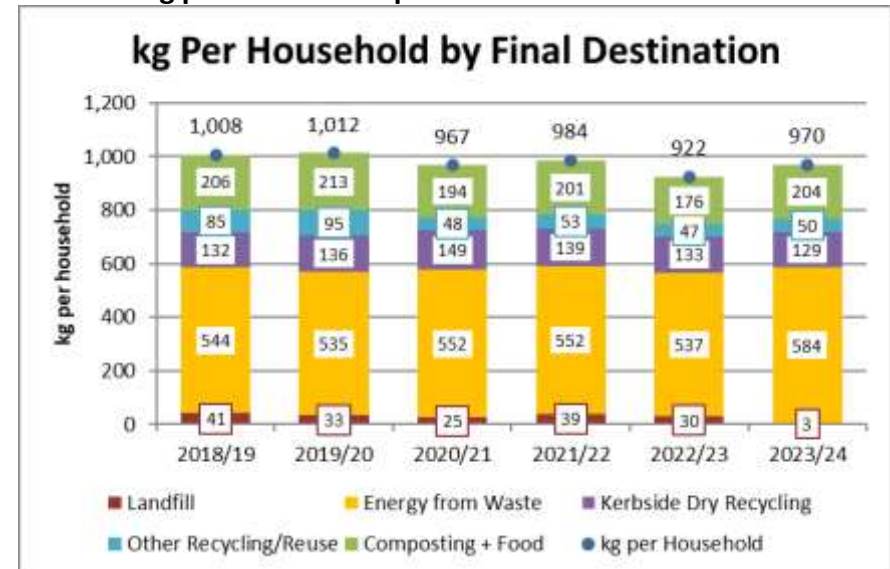


Chart 4 – kg per household split to show final destination



Waste Hierarchy – Reduced Landfilling

Whilst not an officially-approved LWP measure, reducing landfilling is a key aim of the waste hierarchy. Thus, it is important to note that, as reported in the Lincolnshire County Council Corporate Plan, we are forecasting that of all the waste handled by the LWP in 2023/24 only around 0.3% will be sent to landfill. This represents a large improvement on 2022/23 thanks to new arrangements to send waste to an alternative Energy from Waste (EfW) facility when Hykeham EfW closes for maintenance.

Recycling Quality

The quantity/percentage of material recycled only tells part of the story. Cleaner, higher quality recyclables can be recycled into better quality products, and thus pass around the recycling loop multiple times, supporting a circular economy.

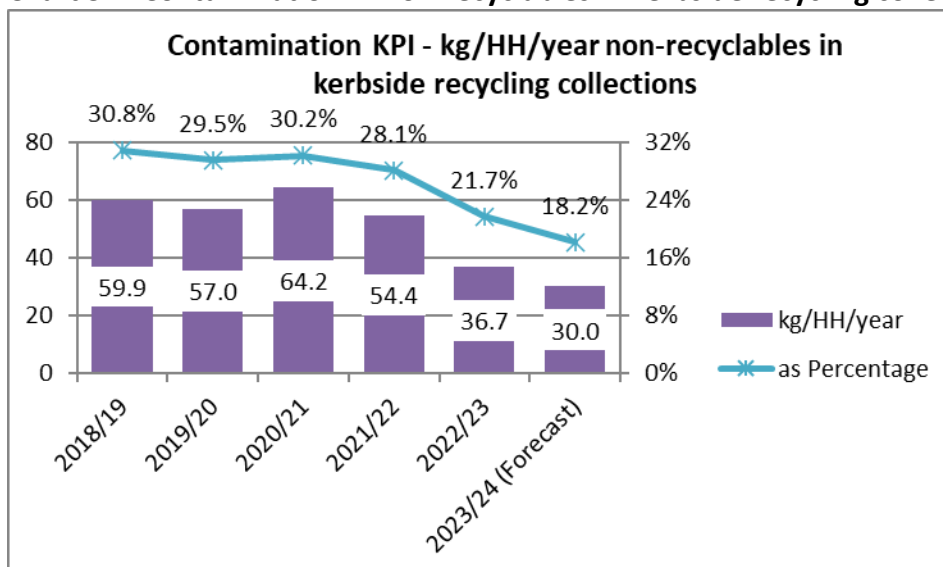
Recycling quality can be measured in several different ways, and the following charts show:

- ‘Contamination’ = Quantity/percentage of non-recyclable waste put into recycling collections **in error**. This is what we have used previously to show trends on an annual basis.
- ‘Quality’ = Percentage of recyclable materials **correctly** put into recycling collections. As well as highlighting a more positive message, we have been able to break this down in greater detail to show the impact of twin-stream collections where they’ve been rolled out.

Contamination

In the longer term, our aim is to do more of our own sampling, and thus get more detailed data to help focus our efforts on specific locations/contaminants. In the meantime, we have compiled the figures received from sampling by our MRF contractor of our mixed recyclables, and we have added to this the data from separate collections of paper and card where they have been introduced. The below chart shows this data both in kg per household and as a percentage of the total collected across mixed dry recycling and paper and card collections.

Chart 5 – ‘Contamination’ = Non-recyclables in kerbside recycling collections



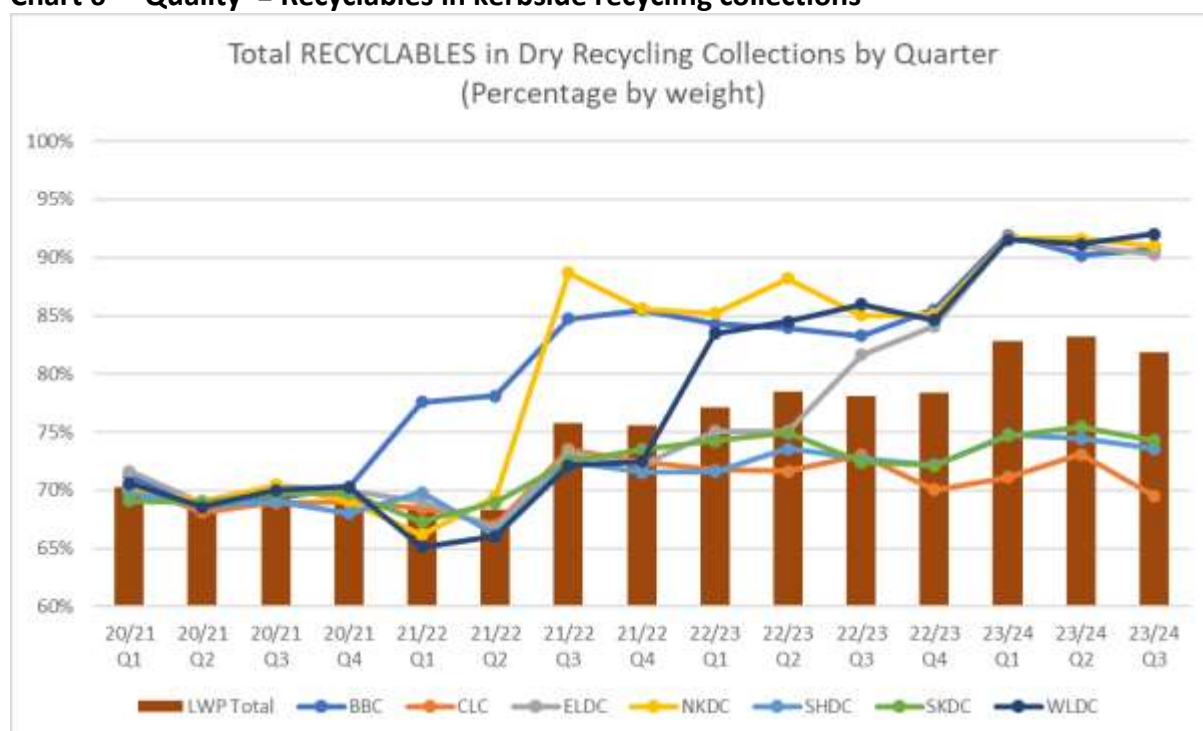
Supported by our “right thing, right bin” campaign, and engagement with the public during collection rounds, contamination has fallen significantly as twin-stream collections have rolled out. This is largely due to the remarkably clean paper and card, but the remaining mixed recyclables are also cleaner than before.

Also, working with our recycling contractor and in line with legislation about how to record “fines” (particles too small to identify), we’ve seen a decrease in the reported contamination level of all our mixed dry recyclables in 2023/24.

Quality

As well as switching to a more positive measure (increasing quality rather than decreasing contamination), we’ve been working to break down the data in more detail. This has allowed us to show the trend for each WCA separately, and thus the impact of rolling out twin-stream collections in each area.

Chart 6 – ‘Quality’ = Recyclables in kerbside recycling collections



It can be seen that, whilst ‘quality’ started out at around 70% across Lincolnshire, each WCA has seen a dramatic improvement coinciding with the introduction of twin-stream collections as follows:

- Boston Borough Council = Spring 2021 (Q1 2021/22)
- North Kesteven District Council = Autumn 2021 (Q3 2021/22)
- West Lindsey District Council = Spring 2022 (Q1 2022/23)
- East Lindsey District Council = Autumn 2022 (Q3 2022/23)

OPTIONS

No options proposed.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the LWP notes the charts and commentary provided.

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