

LINCOLNSHIRE DOES

**Lincolnshire Waste Partnership
Annual Review 2020/21**

The Lincolnshire Waste Partnership is made up of these eight councils working together.



Introduction

Welcome to the Lincolnshire Waste Partnership's annual report.

We wanted to capture some of our key reflections on the past 12 months, which have been rather different due to Covid-19! Please note that this report covers the period up to March 2021 and thus does not refer in detail to anything happening between then and the actual publication of the report.

As set out in more detail throughout this report, we have:

- since the beginning of the Covid epidemic ***focused, quite rightly, on keeping our waste services running throughout a difficult and ever-changing situation.*** We are grateful to the people of Lincolnshire for helping to keep our services Covid-safe by following new rules, and to our staff who, like other essential workers, have kept working.
- ***continued with projects we had already been planning to improve the services which we deliver.*** This has included the rollout of twin-stream collections to improve the quality of material which we send for recycling.
- ***looked at how we can do even better in the future.*** We are seeking to influence national policy by responding to government consultations, and are developing plans to meet proposed future policies such as mandatory food waste collections.

- ***kept open lines of communication.*** We are seeking not only to tell you what we are doing but also to listen to your views on the best way to do things.

As things hopefully begin to return to "normal", we look forward to the coming year and an even greater focus on improving our services for the future.

Cllr Daniel McNally

Chair of the Lincolnshire Waste Partnership



Working Together

Our Waste Strategy for Lincolnshire

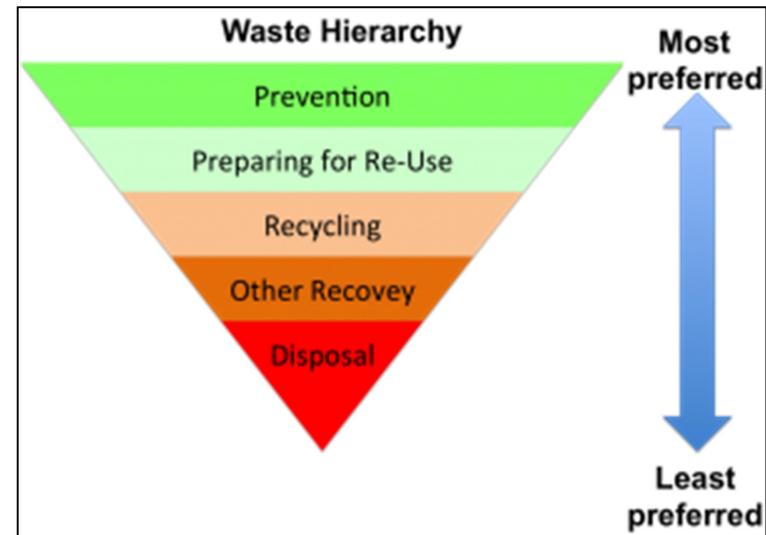
Between us, the eight councils who make up the Lincolnshire Waste Partnership (LWP) handle some 350,000 tonnes of household waste every year —that’s around half a tonne from every resident!

We gather all this waste by providing:

- More than 120 refuse trucks collecting from 340,000 homes,
- 11 Household Waste Recycling Centres located around the county, and
- Litter collection, street sweeping and flytip clearance across the county.

All our waste operations are planned and run in line with the government's requirement that we follow the 'Waste Hierarchy' which, as shown here, sets out waste management options in order of preference.

To help us to coordinate our efforts to achieve all this effectively, the LWP have a shared Waste Strategy for Lincolnshire, and the main purpose of this Annual Report is to reflect on the progress made towards fulfilling the objectives set out in that Strategy.



Further information on the Lincolnshire Waste Partnership (LWP) can be found online at www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/recycling-waste

Details of LWP public meetings, including agendas and minutes, are available at:

www.lincolnshire.moderngov.co.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?Cid=164&Year=0

Maintaining Essential Services

Overcoming the impact of Covid-19

Clearly, the Covid-19 pandemic has had a huge impact on the work of the LWP during 2020/21. We have seen significant differences to previous years, including the quantity and type of waste generated and how it is presented to us.

Kerbside collected waste increased by around 7% compared to 2019/20 and, alongside staffing absences and additional measures to make collections Covid-safe for crews, this has put significant pressure on our Waste Collection Authorities. Remarkably, despite these pressures, collections have largely continued as normal, although we are grateful for the public's patience when some services were briefly suspended or changed during crisis periods.



Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) have, conversely, been less busy than in 2019/20. Having initially closed completely in response to the government's ban on all "non-essential" journeys, the HWRCs reopened as soon as they were added to the official "essential" list. To ensure a Covid-safe environment, both for the public and for staff, new measures were introduced:

- Online booking system – limiting the number of visitors on site at any one time.
- Restrictions on waste types, vehicle types and trailers– reducing the length of time each visitor would be on site.

Whilst individual booking slots at busy sites and popular times have sometimes been full, the system has continued to have availability at quieter sites/times. Some restrictions have already been released, and the booking system will end in September 2021.

Overall, the greatest impact on the LWP's performance compared to targets has been because of the greatly reduced tonnage of waste at HWRCs:

- Waste produced per household – the reduced throughput at HWRCs has been larger than the increase at kerbside, leading to a lower overall total.
- Recycling rate – because HWRCs can recycle a wider range of materials, the recycling rate there is higher than at kerbside. The lower HWRC contribution to tonnage has reduced our overall recycling rate.

Improving Services

Better quality recyclables

Although we have needed to focus this year on maintaining essential services, we have also continued to work together to make improvements.

A key example of this has been the move towards twin-stream collection of recyclables where each household receives a separate purple lidded bin for collection of paper and cardboard.



The reasons for this project are:

- Government policy prefers that each material is collected separately for recycling

- One of our strategic objectives is to improve the quality and therefore commercial value of our recycling stream, and thus offset other costs
- The quality and recyclability of paper and card is significantly improved by separating it from other mixed recyclables including glass (which should be in the mix) and food (a common contaminant in mixed recycling collections).
- It is also hoped that, with increased public engagement, we'll be able to improve the quantity of material we recycle.

In September 2019, we began a trial to test out both the benefits of twin-stream collections and how best to run them. The trial confirmed that the quality of paper and card improved so much that we are now able to sell it direct to a paper mill. In addition, by supporting households with better information on what to put into which collection, we have also seen a marked reduction in non-recyclable waste in the mixed recycling! The trial data and the initial results from the roll out in the first waste collection authority show that contamination in the mixed dry recycling has been reduced by over 40%.

In light of the success of the trial, each LWP council is now considering introducing twin-stream collections. Boston Borough Council were the first to go District-wide from April 2021 with North Kesteven District Council planning their implementation to commence in Autumn 2021.

Tackling waste crime

Working beyond the LWP

Whilst the LWP provides a forum for the eight Lincolnshire councils to work together in dealing with household waste, there are issues where it is vital that we cooperate with an even broader spectrum of organisations.

One of these is waste crime, and in particular flytipping which blights our communities, both rural and urban. Indeed, this year we have had to contend with a large increase in flytipping.

A new group - the Lincolnshire Environmental Crime Partnership - has been set up to bring together representatives from organisations including:

- the eight councils of the LWP,
- North Lincolnshire and North East Lincolnshire Councils,
- Lincolnshire Police,
- Environment Agency,
- the National Farmers Union,
- other key stakeholders.

This group will enable us to understand the overall picture better through the sharing of intelligence and data. We will then be able to plan a strategic approach to ensure that waste criminals are not able to slip through the cracks between the areas of our individual responsibilities, or simply to move from one area to another.



Unified communications

Working with one voice across the county

Supporting our workforce #wavetothewagons

Covid has been difficult on so many levels – physically and emotionally, so we created #wavetothewagons, a campaign to bring community awareness to the work our waste collection staff do, regardless of issues such as pandemics.

This was used across county to help boost both public and staff morale.

Lincolnshire Recycles

Evolving from the national Recycle Now concept, the LWP has adopted the Lincolnshire Recycles marque. It uses colours, typography and style from the national branding, making it easily recognisable. An example is on the front cover of this report.

Right Thing, Right Bin

With the help of a recently formed 'Residents Recycling Communications Panel', we've created, tested and developed a resident focused education/information campaign – Right Thing, Right Bin.

This helps give clear, consistent and recognisable messaging across the county. It is now being used across the partnership on marketing materials and social media.



Increasing Engagement

Specific and targeted campaigns

Working with individual communities across the county, understanding their surroundings and needs, we can help, guide and inform in meaningful and targeted ways.

By working with partners, and creating the right communications, we can create real, positive behaviour change.

Residents Recycling Communications Panel

Over 600 residents have joined our residents recycling communications panel, and regularly help us test our materials and provide a much-needed sounding board.

Increased social media content: sharing more and building networks

- Partners are sharing more content
- We're developing better relationships with admins of key Facebook groups to share our messages.
- We're creating better, more useful 'bitesize' content
- We're thinking wiser and creating more useful content
- #WasteWednesday running across socials looking 'behind the scenes' into a waste service e.g. HWRCs, Covid PPE and contamination



Positive Role Models: Working with Schools

We're proactively working with primary school aged children, through our engagement teams. We've seen first-hand the benefits this brings - particular through the paper and card roll out in Boston.

We worked with Staniland Academy, talked to them about recycling, worked with them and created a video together. This was shared with peers, parents, teachers and governors – really getting to the heart of the community.

2021/22 sees an ambitious schools engagement campaign.

Looking to the Future

The changing national picture

The UK Government published their Resources and Waste Strategy (RAWS) for England in late 2018, and this has a strong ongoing influence on the work of the LWP. The release of the RAWS was followed up by four consultations during 2019 on proposed policy details, and the LWP submitted a response to each of these to help shape the government's thinking.

The first of these proposals, a Plastic Packaging Tax, is due to be implemented in April 2022. The tax will only apply to packaging made from non-recycled plastics, and should thus help to encourage the use of recycled plastics, and thus stimulate a better market for plastics which the LWP collect for recycling.

The other three proposals, which impact more directly on local authorities, will all be subject to a further round of consultation during 2021 to develop the details. The LWP will seek to influence the final shape of these policies by responding to each consultation:

1. Enhanced Producer Responsibility (EPR) – This will charge companies producing packaging the costs of collecting and recycling/disposal of that packaging. Those costs will then be reimbursed to local authorities who currently foot the bill from the public purse. It is currently proposed that those payments will begin in late 2023.
2. Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) – Consumers will be charged a deposit, possibly 20p, when purchasing a drink. The deposit can then be

claimed back when the empty container (e.g. bottle) is returned for recycling. Details still under consideration include the start date (proposed as 2024), which types of container will be included, the deposit amount and how it can be reclaimed.

3. Collections Consistency – The aim is that all households and businesses in the UK should receive the same waste collections, and thus increase the quantity and quality of materials collected for recycling. The proposals include:
 - A specified list of materials to be collected for recycling from 2023 – the good news is that the LWP already recycles everything on the initial list.
 - Food waste collections from 2024 – the LWP have already started working towards this, including through trial collections in parts of the South Kesteven District Council area.



2020/21 IN NUMBERS

AN UNUSUAL YEAR



KERBSIDE
UP 18,600 TONNES (7%)



HWRCs
DOWN 46,900 TONNES (66%)



OTHER WASTE
UP 1,400 TONNES (9%)



TOTAL WASTE
DOWN 26,800 TONNES (7%)

WHERE DOES YOUR HOUSEHOLD WASTE GO?



20%
RECYCLED



20%
COMPOSTED



57%
TURNED INTO ELECTRICITY



3%
LANDFILL

KERBSIDE COLLECTIONS



131
BIN WAGONS



346 COLLECTION
STAFF



COLLECTIONS FROM
348,820 HOMES



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

DIGITAL



CAMPAIGNS
200,000 IMPRESSIONS



47 FACEBOOK
GROUPS ENGAGED



8 #WASTEWEDNESDAY
14,401 IMPRESSIONS



700 NEW SUBSCRIBERS
TO RESIDENT PANEL

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