

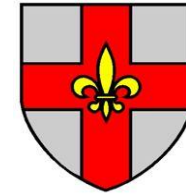


Lincolnshire Waste Partnership

Annual Review 2021/22



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



CITY OF
Lincoln
COUNCIL



North Kesteven
DISTRICT COUNCIL



SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL



Introduction

Welcome to the Lincolnshire Waste Partnership's annual report which covers the year to March 2022.

Whilst things have gradually returned to relative normality, it is important to remember that parts of the year were still very much shaped by Covid-19, including the Delta Variant. We remain indebted to all those, both staff and public, who have helped keep our services running smoothly through difficult times.

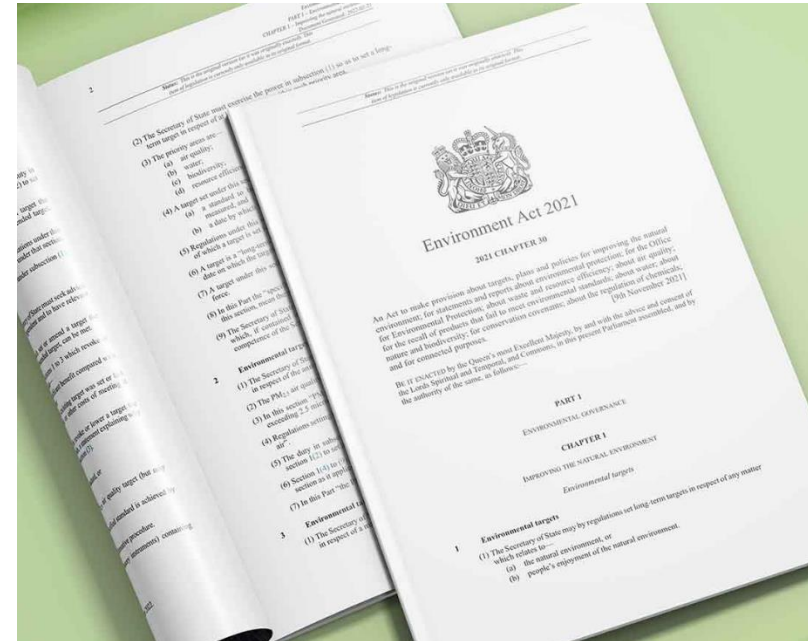
As set out in more detail throughout this report, we have:

- **Collected and processed over 350,000 tonnes of household waste** – See page 2 and the back page of this report for more details.
- **Continued planning how we can make our future services even better** – Including aligning with emerging national policies (see page 3).
- **Made changes which are already helping to support a UK circular economy** – Twin-stream collections (see page 5).
- **Supported work tackling waste crime** – Through the new Lincolnshire Environmental Crime Partnership (see page 6).
- **Kept you informed** – Including the launch of our countywide “Right Thing, Right Bin” campaign and increased use of social media (see page 7).

We look forward to continuing to improve our services in the coming year and beyond, particularly in light of the new Environment Act which became law in late 2021 and provides a framework for us to work towards.

Cllr Daniel McNally

Chair of the Lincolnshire Waste Partnership



Working Together

Partnership and our shared Waste Strategy

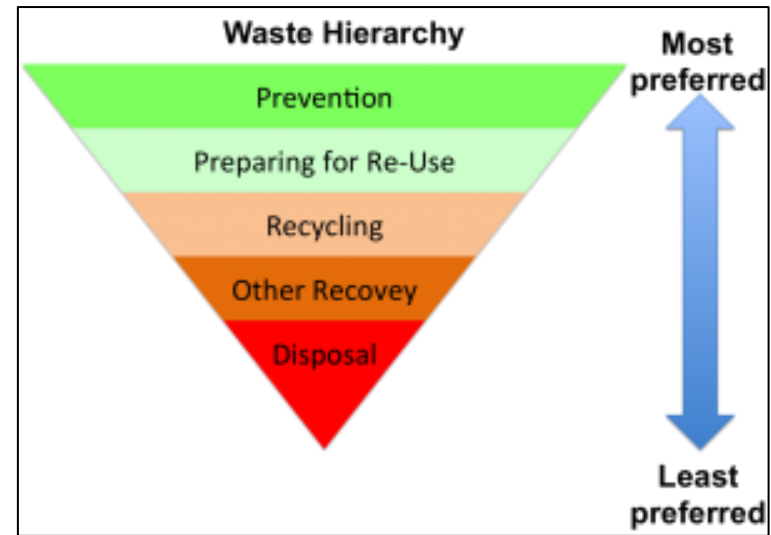
Between us, the eight councils who make up the Lincolnshire Waste Partnership (LWP) handle some 350,000 tonnes of household waste every year —that’s around half a tonne for each resident!

We gather all this waste by providing:

- More than 130 refuse trucks collecting from over 350,000 households,
- 11 Household Waste Recycling Centres located around the county, and
- Litter collection, street sweeping and flytip clearance.

All our waste operations are planned and run in line with national policies including setting ourselves an objective in our JMWMS (see below) to follow the 'Waste Hierarchy' which, as shown here, sets out waste management options in order of preference, and promoting a 'Circular Economy' (see page 3).

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



Further information on the LWP, including the Waste Strategy for Lincolnshire and previous LWP Annual Reports, can be found online at www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/recycling-waste

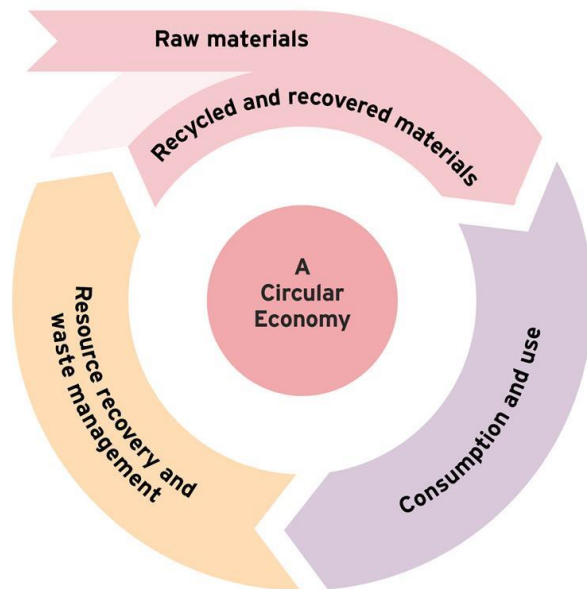
Details of LWP public meetings, including agendas and minutes, are available at: www.lincolnshire.moderngov.co.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CId=164&Year=0

The Wider Picture

Supporting a “Circular Economy”

A key factor in how we manage our services, both today and into the future, is emerging national policy.

In 2018, the government published their ‘Resources and Waste Strategy for England’ which set out their commitment to move the UK economy from a linear approach – “take, make, dispose” – to a “Circular Economy”.



This ambition has been further developed, through a series of consultations, into the Environment Act which came into force in

2021. Whilst we await final details from Defra, the main policies which affect our services, and the waste we collect and process, are:

1. Enhanced Producer Responsibility (EPR) – Companies producing packaging will pay the costs of collecting and recycling/disposal of that packaging. It has recently been announced that payments to local authorities, subject to complying with various rules, will be phased in starting from 2024.
2. Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) – Consumers purchasing a drink will be charged a deposit which can be claimed back when the empty container is returned for recycling. We now know that this will include cans and plastic bottles but not glass. We await details of the start date, 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 – The good news is that the LWP already recycles everything on the initial list.
 - Food waste collections – These will have to be provided to all households but we await confirmation of a deadline to do so. Details of how we’re working towards this are on page 9.

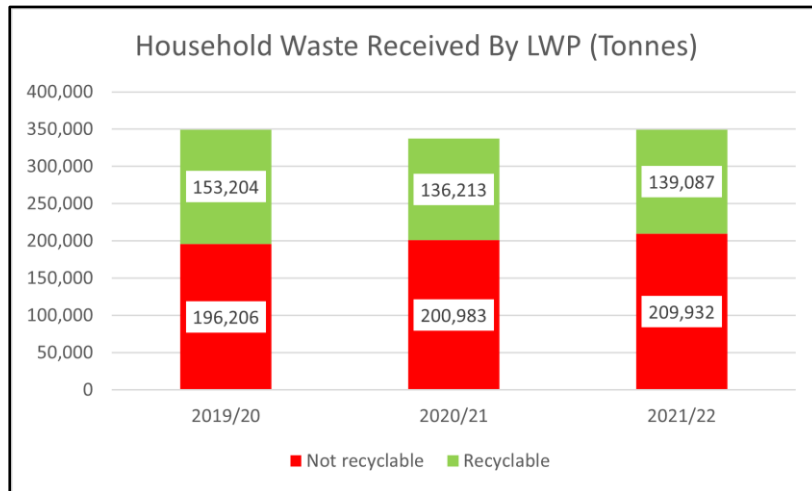
Maintaining Essential Services

From Covid-19 to a “new normal”?

Covid-19 restrictions were still in place for some of 2021/22, and that had an impact on the quantity and type of waste generated and the way it was presented.

Compared to pre-Covid (2019/20) we saw a similar total tonnage of household waste but:

- Type of waste (total from all sources incl. kerbside & HWRC) –
 - Over 14,000 tonnes **less** waste which was recyclable
 - Nearly 14,000 tonnes **more** waste which was **not** recyclable
- How we collected it –
 - 27,000 tonnes (38%) less at Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC)
 - 24,000 tonnes (9%) more in kerbside collections



The removal of national restrictions has allowed our services to return to pre-Covid arrangements – e.g. removal of the online booking system at Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs).

Although our services have returned to the way they were before the pandemic hit, waste levels haven't. For example, comparing the first three months of 2022 with the same months in 2020:

- Kerbside collections remained 3% up on pre-Covid
- HWRC material tonnages are gradually increasing but are currently just under 80% of pre-Covid levels
- We are collecting more non-recyclable waste and less recyclable waste than before

We will need to monitor whether any of these changes are permanent – for example as a result of increased homeworking – and, if so, the service changes needed to accommodate them, and how they may align with emerging national policies – see page 3.

Improving Services

Better quality recyclables

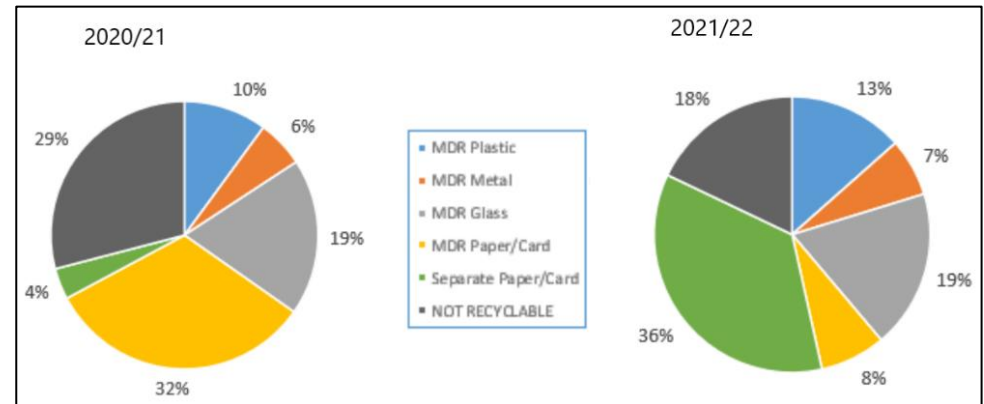
We need to align our services with the desire to stimulate and support a circular economy. We have also set JMWMS objectives *“to improve the quality... of our recycling”* and *“to seek to reduce our carbon footprint”*.

The Resources and Waste Strategy (RAWS) for England, brought into law through the Environment Act, specifies that, to improve the quality collected for recycling, each material should be collected separately, although there are exceptions if a local authority can show that collecting mixed recyclables is either not practicable or not the best environmental solution.

As a result of RAWS, the LWP assessed that the priority was to collect paper and card separately from other recyclables – mixing with glass reduces the quality of product– and in 2019 began a trial in three areas of the county. This demonstrated that separate collections were possible as a twin-stream arrangement alongside mixed recyclables **and** significantly improved the quality both of paper and card and of the remaining mixed recyclables.

In light of the successful trials, the LWP agreed to roll out collections more widely and, during 2021/22, both Boston BC and North Kesteven DC have started twin-stream collections along with a “Right Thing, Right Bin” communications campaign (see page 7) to help reduce high kerbside recycling contamination levels.

The results have continued to be impressive as shown in these pie charts for Boston BC in the years before and after twin-stream collections started in April 2021.



Before twin-stream, kerbside mixed recyclable collections contained around a third each of paper/card, other recyclables and non-recyclables. Now, for the same material (combined figures for paper/card and mixed recyclables), we’ve improved each third:

- Non-recyclables = Around half of contamination diverted to general waste collections where it belongs
- Paper & card = Formerly low quality material from mixed collections now clean enough to recycle at a local paper mill
- Other recyclables = Cleaner target-recyclable materials creating a more desirable mix for reprocessors

The clean paper and card is particularly important because it can pass around the recycling loop multiple times, and thus supports a UK circular economy. We hope that soon many more Lincolnshire residents will have twin-stream collections.

Tackling waste crime

Partnership working beyond the LWP

The LWP provides a forum for the eight Lincolnshire councils to work together in dealing with household waste. There are, however, 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.

Set up in 2020, the Lincolnshire Environmental Crime Partnership (ECP) brings together representatives from organisations including councils (the LWP and neighbours), the Police, the Environment Agency and other key stakeholders.

This group enables us to understand the overall picture better through the sharing of intelligence and data. We can then 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.

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

Highlights in the report include:

- Information sharing – A formal agreement (the first in England) to share intelligence, joint training sessions, and regular meetings both at strategic and practitioner level.

- Working together –
 - Operation Cyber Guardian = removing illegal waste service advertising on social media
 - Operation Asgard = will see the seizure of offenders' vehicles for forfeiture or destruction
 - Operation Clean Sweep = targeted action days coordinated with other key agencies (DVSA, HMRC) to disrupt and intervene against waste crime
- Leading to successful convictions – Numerous convictions have been achieved across the county. Many of these have resulted in fines of over £2,000 and sanctions including a suspended prison sentence and a driving ban.

This ground-breaking partnership ties in with our JMWMS objective **“to consider appropriate innovative solutions”**.



Unified communications

Right Thing, Right Bin

The eight LWP councils are working together to give consistent messages countywide to let you know what we're doing and how you can help us. The current focus is our 'Right Thing, Right Bin' campaign, enabled by achieving our JMWMS objective ***"to move towards a common set of recycling materials"***.

Why are we doing it?

Sampling of the waste delivered by our kerbside collection vehicles has revealed two significant issues:

1. On average, more than a quarter of what we were receiving in mixed recycling collections was material which we're not able to recycle, and
2. Our residual waste collections contained a significant quantity of material which we could have recycled if it had been put in a recycling bin/bag.

What are we doing?

In line with national policy, we've harmonised the list of recyclables accepted across Lincolnshire. 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!

We've also, with the help of our 'Residents Recycling Communications Panel', developed the resident focused 'Right Thing, Right Bin' campaign.

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.

Our thanks go to all of you who have got involved with this campaign including:

- Our Residents Panel who helped develop it,
- Those who've joined in like these children who made a video, and
- Anyone else who's looked at the campaign material.



Looking to the Future

Aligning with national policies

As described on page 3, the government are in the process of finalising a number of policies which we'll have to take account of in the services which we provide.

The most pressing of these, although the proposed deadline of 2025 has yet to be finally confirmed, is the requirement for all households to receive a separate collection of food waste to be sent for recycling. Because Lincolnshire is a two-tier area, it is vital that the LWP authorities cooperate in providing a joined-up approach to:

- Collections – These are the responsibility of the seven Waste Collection Authorities
And
- Recycling (via Anaerobic Digestion) – This is the responsibility of the County Council as Waste Disposal Authority

It is encouraging to note that, having already set ourselves a 2019 JMWMS objective ***“to consider the introduction of separate food waste collections”***, we ran trial collections which have provided us with insight into how this can work in Lincolnshire. Further preparatory work for food waste collections and recycling is already underway .



We'll also need to review our services as we see the details, and then impacts, of the other changes which the government are putting in place (see page 3 for details):

1. Enhanced Producer Responsibility (EPR) – Funding paid to councils will depend on services being “efficient and effective”. Although this has yet to be defined, it may mean doing some things differently.
2. Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) – This will divert some of the recyclables which we currently collect, and may affect how we best handle what we're left with.
3. Collections Consistency – As well as new collections of food waste, we await final confirmation of any other changes we'll be required to make.

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%)

KERBSIDE COLLECTIONS



131
BIN WAGONS



346
COLLECTION
STAFF



COLLECTIONS FROM
348,820 HOMES



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

WHERE DOES YOUR HOUSEHOLD WASTE GO?



20%
RECYCLED



20%
COMPOSTED



57%
TURNED INTO ELECTRICITY



3%
LANDFILL

DIGITAL



CAMPAIGNS
200,000 IMPRESSIONS



47 FACEBOOK
GROUPS ENGAGED



8 #WASTEWEDNESDAY
14,401 IMPRESSIONS



700 NEW SUBSCRIBERS
TO RESIDENT PANEL

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