

# Agenda Item 9



**LINCOLNSHIRE WASTE PARTNERSHIP**

**9<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2023**

<b>SUBJECT :</b>	<b>Performance measure update (Best viewed/printed in colour due to charts)</b>
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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). These KPIs relate to four strategic themes:

- Waste Hierarchy – How we are prioritising waste minimisation and recycling
- Contamination – Recycling contamination rate (kerbside recyclables)
- Carbon – Overall LWP waste management carbon footprint (per head)
- Customer friendly – Satisfaction with waste collections / HWRCs

It should be noted that, whilst this report covers the KPIs previously agreed by the LWP officers have, as part of their review of the JMWMS, identified that good data is crucial both in developing strategy and in monitoring progress. In light of this, officers will bring recommendations to a future LWP meeting their recommendations for any changes to the list of KPIs.

## **OVERVIEW**

The details in this report need to be considered in light of a number of external factors including:

- Less green waste – The record-breaking Summer 2022 temperatures meant less garden growth and less waste to compost. Whilst that's reduced our recycling rate, it's better (in line with the Waste Hierarchy) that the waste wasn't produced at all.
- Cleaner recyclables – Collecting paper and card separately has improved quality (less contamination) to the extent that, by sending it to a paper mill in Norfolk (it now meets their exacting standards), it gets recycled more times into higher quality products and contributes to a UK Circular Economy.
- A "new normal – Following the covid pandemic, and with the cost of living crisis, householders are presenting their waste in new ways (less to HWRCs, more at kerbside), although the quantity of non-recyclable waste (which had increased in 2021/22) has fallen back to pre-covid levels.

## KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (BY TOPIC)

### **Topic – Waste Hierarchy**

Two KPIs have been agreed by the LWP:

- Recycling rate of “waste from households” (percentage); and
- Household Waste Collection (kilograms per household).

Performance against these is shown on the below charts (next page) as follows:

- Up to and including 2021/22 = Confirmed actual performance
- 2022/23 = Projections based on year to date (Apr to Dec) performance
- Targets = Agreed by LWP in November 2019 and reaffirmed in July 2022

### **Recycling rate of “waste from households” (percentage)**

Overall our recycling rate is forecasted to be 1.0% less in 2022/23 than in the previous year. Whilst this may seem like bad news, it should be noted that this fall results from the record-breaking hot Summer of 2022 as this resulted in less growth in gardens and 8,000 tonnes less green waste to compost. Thus:

- The fall in recycling rate was beyond our control;
- If we had received and composted the “missing” 8,000 tonnes, our recycling rate would have been higher than last year; and
- In line with the Waste Hierarchy, it’s actually better that the waste wasn’t produced in the first place than that we had to recycle it.

In terms of specific waste streams:

- Green waste – Contributed 1.6% less to overall recycling rate (see Chart 3).
- Kerbside dry recycling – Contributed the same as last year, although the fall in contamination means improved quality (Chart 2).
- Other dry recycling – HWRC recycling continues to grow but is still well short of pre-covid levels (Chart 4).
- Non-recyclables – A lower quantity has boosted recycling percentage and reduced the impact of the fall in green waste (Chart 4).

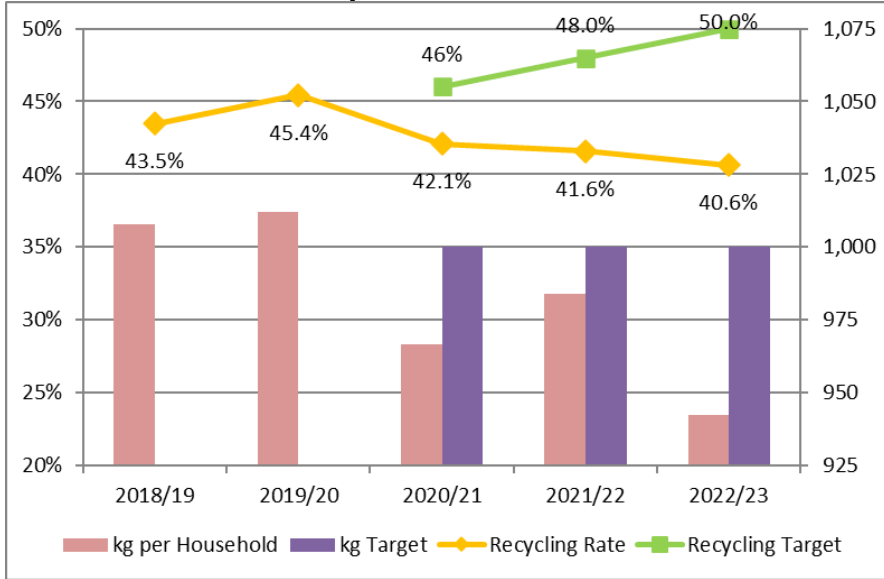
### **Household Waste Collection (kilograms per household)**

Overall this has reduced considerably, and we are doing much better than our target to keep below 1,000kg per household. Whilst, as already described, much of the fall (8,000 tonnes of green waste) was due to the hot Summer, other reductions have contributed to a forecasted drop in household waste of nearly 15,000 tonnes (including the 8,000 tonnes of green).

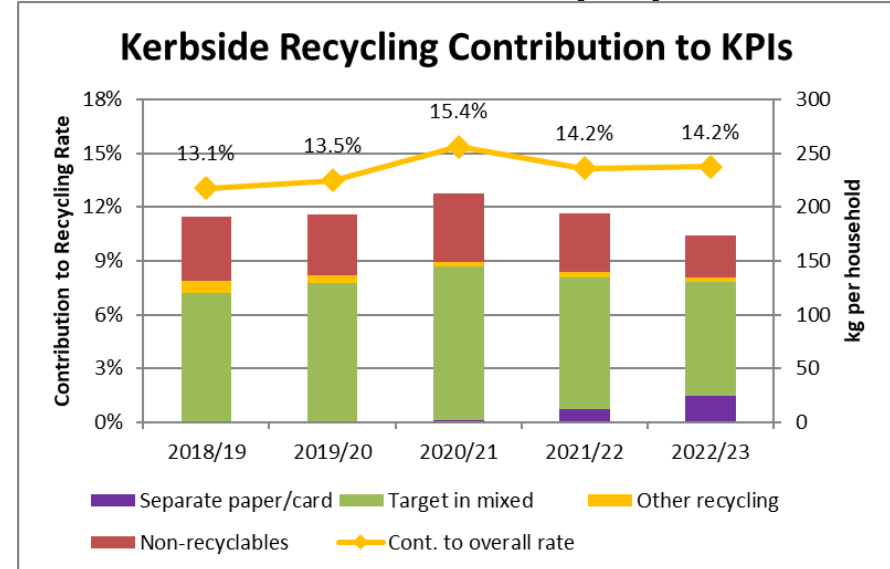
In terms of specific waste streams (2022/23 forecast compared to 2021/22):

- Green waste – 40kg per household less due to hot Summer of 2022 (see Chart 3).
- Kerbside dry recycling – Similar quantity of recyclables but 15kg per household less non-recyclable contamination (Chart 2).
- Non-recyclables – Rather than our “right thing, right bin” campaign simply diverting non-recyclable contamination from recycling collections to residual waste, there has been a genuine fall of 15kg per household (Chart 4).

**Chart 1 – Overall LWP performance**

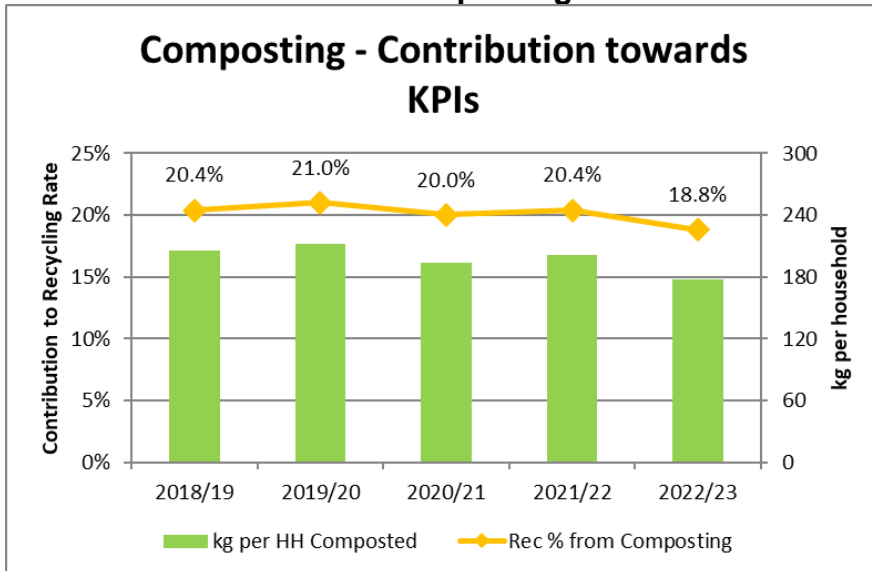


**Chart 2 – Contribution of kerbside dry recyclables**

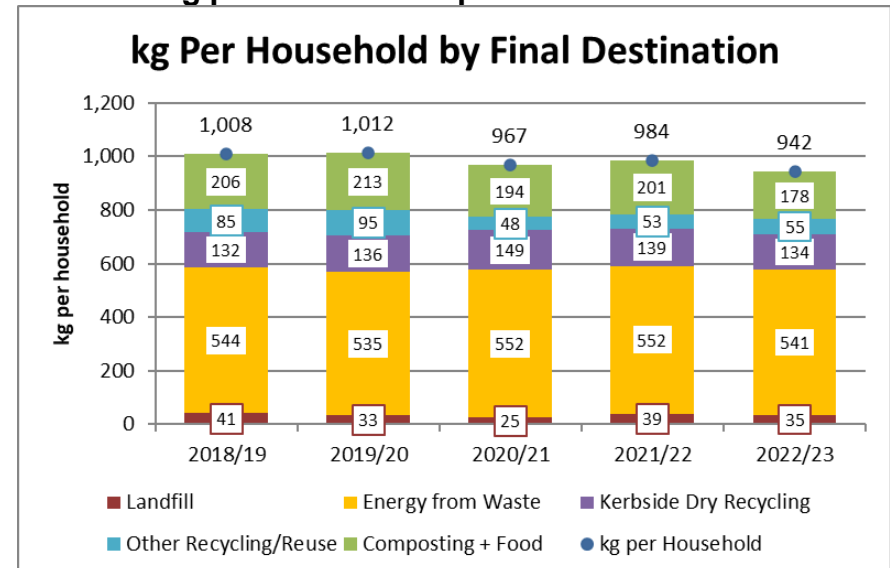


Targetted recyclables = paper; card; plastic (bottles, pots, tubs, trays); metal cans; glass  
 Other recyclables = other recycled plastics (film, rigid); other metals; small paper  
 Non-recyclables = fines; other non-recycled material

**Chart 3 – Contribution of composting**



**Chart 4 – kg per household split to show final destination**



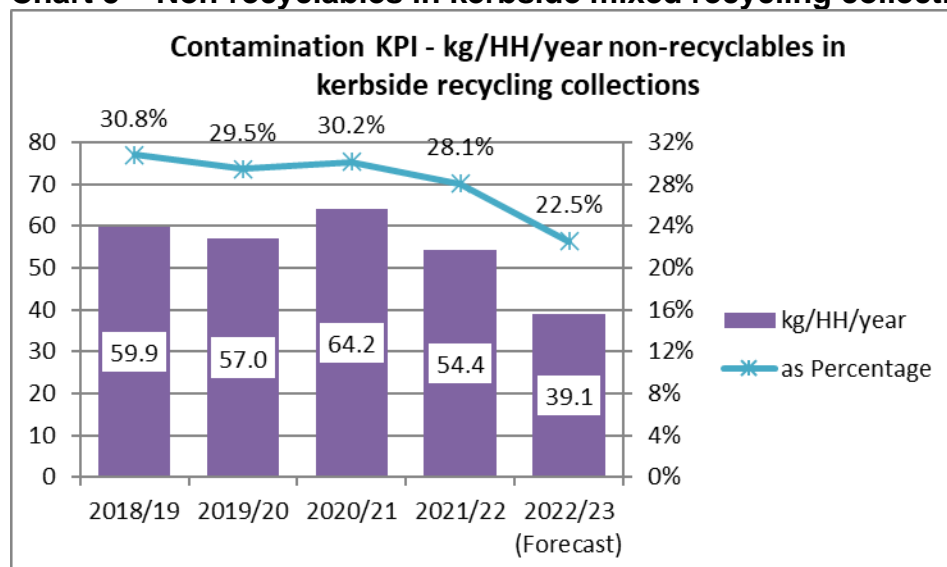
### **Topic – Contamination**

The sampling station at Boston WTS is allowing us to begin to analyse in more detail:

- The differences between our various waste streams – e.g. the impact of twin-stream collections, and
- Exactly what non-recyclables are in the recycling collections – That will better enable us to tackle the biggest issues.

In the meantime, we have compiled the figures received from sampling by our MRF contractor of the mixed recyclables which we send them, 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 – Non-recyclables in kerbside mixed recycling collections**



Supported by our “right thing, right bin” campaign, and engagement with the public during collection rounds, contamination has fallen significantly in areas where 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.

### **Topic – Carbon**

Having previously been mothballed in order to focus on maintaining services during the pandemic, work has now resumed on assessing our carbon footprint and how best to reduce this. It is hoped that an update will be available for the next LWP meeting.

As part of this work, we will attempt to assess the carbon benefits of twin-stream collections including:

- Reduced mileage – Paper and card are now recycled more locally in Norfolk.
- Closed loop recycling – Cleaner paper and card are able to be recycled into higher quality products and thus can go round the recycling loop more times.
- Less contamination – The process to separate out non-recyclables is energy-intensive so, by reducing contamination, we reduce the carbon footprint.

In the meantime, partners continue to work in other ways towards a reduced footprint – e.g. consideration of options for using sustainably-fuelled vehicles.

### **Topic – Customer-friendliness**

We continue to make customer engagement a focus of our services, particularly in the rollout of twin-stream collections. This has included working with our Recycling Panel of residents and asking questions through the County Views survey.

However, in light of services changes, including the twin-stream rollout and emerging national initiatives, it is recommended that each partner conducts their own research as and when they feel it is appropriate. Thus an LWP-wide survey is inappropriate at this time.

<b>OPTIONS</b>
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No options proposed.

<b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b>
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That the LWP (on each theme):

1. Waste Hierarchy – Notes the charts and commentary provided.
2. Contamination – Notes the improved performance in twin-stream areas.
3. Carbon – Notes that this work is ongoing.
4. Customer-friendliness – Notes the comments made above.

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