

Warwickshire Waste Partnership

17th June 2015

Waste Composition Analysis

Recommendation

The Waste Partnership is asked to note the overview of the recent kerbside waste composition analysis.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 Warwickshire County Council commissioned a waste composition analysis to take place during a three week period in February/March 2015 (spring 2015) on behalf of the Partnership.
- 1.2 The analysis replicated the waste composition surveys undertaken in October/November 2012, February/March 2013 and February/March 2014 in order to provide comparable results.
- 1.3 The same households were surveyed during each waste analysis. The households were selected using Mosaic demographic profiles; so that results from each survey could be weighted to give the annual picture of the residual waste being collected within individual Waste Collection Authority's (WCAs), as well as across the County.
- 1.4 The latest survey, focused on the weight and composition of
 - kerbside residual waste containers
 - kerbside organic/green recycling containers
- 1.5 The data was split into primary categories and sub categories which are shown in **Appendix 1**.
- 1.6 The key aim of the waste composition analysis is to provide information which could be used by the Partnership when planning future services and campaigns etc.

2.0 Residual Kerbside Analysis

- 2.1 Where recorded, an average of 82% of households presented residual waste bins at the kerbside for collection (79% in 2014).

2.2 In terms of kerbside residual waste generation only, households were setting out an average of 5.94 kg/hh/wk for direct collection. This figure has decreased compared with the previous results which showed an average of 7.51kg/hh/wk in 2014.

2.3 Organics and Food

Food waste was seen to be the major component of residual waste forming 40.7% (39.6% in 2014) of the total, this equates to 2.42 kg/hh/wk (2.97 kg/hh/wk in 2014).

Up to 40% of this food waste is potentially home compostable (36% in 2014). This equates to 16% of the total residual waste (14% in 2014).

6.5% of all food waste in residual bins was still packaged (7% in 2014).

1.1% of residual waste was found to be garden waste (1.5% in 2014). Around 48% (45% in 2014) of this was soil and turf, with the remainder consisting of compostable garden trimmings.

2.4 Paper

9.3% of the residual waste in 2015 was paper items (9.1% in 2014). 41% of the paper or 0.23 kg/hh/wk was recyclable at the kerbside (48% or 0.33 kg/hh/wk in 2014). This equates to 3.8% of the total residual waste (4.4% in 2014).

2.5 Card and Cardboard

Card and Cardboard made up around 3.7% of collected residual waste (no change from 2014).

74.6% or 0.19 kg/hh/wk of card and cardboard was recyclable at the kerbside (79.5% or 0.22 kg/hh/wk). This equates to 2.8% of the total residual waste (2.9% in 2014).

2.6 Plastic

Plastics formed 13.1% or 0.78 kg/hh/wk of the residual waste (12.4% or 0.93 kg/hh/wk in 2014).

50% of plastic waste was due to plastic films representing 0.39 kg/hh/wk of residual waste. (48% or 0.45 kg/hh/wk in 2014).

67% of the remaining plastics consisted of recyclable bottles, tubs, pots and trays (52% in 2014). This equated to an additional 0.26 kg/hh/wk of recyclable material, forming 4.4% of the residual waste (0.25 kg/hh/wk or 3.4% in 2014).

2.7 Metal

2.8% of residual waste was metallic (1.9% in 2014).

66% of metallic or 0.11 kg/hh/wk was recyclable (79% or 0.11 kg/hh/wk in 2014). This equates to 1.8% of the total residual waste (1.5% in 2014).

2.8 Glass

Around 2.7% of residual waste was seen to be glass (2% in 2014).

82% or 0.13 kg/hh/wk of this glass was recyclable (83% or 0.13 kg/hh/wk in 2014). This equates to 2.2% of the total residual waste (1.7% in 2013).

2.9 Textiles

4.5% of residual waste was due to textiles (6.8% in 2014).

36% or 0.10 kg/hh/wk was seen to consist of re-usable clothing and shoes (67% or 0.34 kg/hh/wk in 2014). This equates to 1.6% of the total residual waste (4.6% in 2014).

2.10 Hazardous or Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE)

Just 1.6% of residual waste was deemed to be either Hazardous or WEEE (2% in 2014).

2.11 Disposable nappies

4.98% consisted of disposable nappies (5.38% in 2014).

2.12 Summary for kerbside residual waste

Overall 58.6% (57.9% in 2014) of collected residual waste could have been recycled at the kerbside – the equivalent of 3.48 kg/hh/wk (4.34 kg/hh/wk in 2014).

The potentially recyclable waste is largely made up of four material types; food waste 70% (68% in 2014), paper 7% (8% in 2014), plastic 5% (6% in 2014) and card/cardboard 5% (no change from 2014).

Residual waste collected from Warwickshire households was deemed to be around 68% biodegradable (66% in 2014).

Collected waste had a packaging content of 16%, or 0.97 kg/hh/wk; some of this is recyclable across the material types as noted above (13.2 % or 0.99 kg.hh.wk in 2014).

3.0 Organic Kerbside Analysis

3.1 Where data was available, 42% of households presented organic recycling bins at the kerbside (36% in 2014).

- 3.2 Households were setting out an average of 2.84 kg/hh/wk of organic recycling at the kerbside (5.23 kg/hh/wk in 2014).
- 3.3 Overall 43.1% (10.9% in 2014) of organic recycling waste collected from all properties was classified as contamination – the equivalent of 1.23 kg/hh/wk (0.57 kg/hh/wk in 2014). The majority of organic waste contamination was due to soil and turf; forming 93% of that presented (66% in 2014).
- 3.4 16% of food waste and 97% of garden waste was correctly captured (recycled) by households (12% of food waste and 99% of garden waste in 2014).
- 3.5 Warwickshire households diverted an average of 18.4% of their waste through these collections (36.6% in 2014).
- 3.6 Warwickshire households are therefore diverting around 1.62 kg/hh/wk of their total waste (8.82 kg/hh/wk) through their kerbside organic recycling collections (4.65kg/hh/wk of total waste (12.74kg/hh/wk) was diverted in 2014).
- 3.7 If all the organics available to current recycling schemes was captured and recycled then a diversion of 46.3% could currently be achieved (this was 60.4% in 2014).
- 3.8 If all food, garden and pet bedding organics recycled in all WCAs were fully captured; a potential diversion of 46.9% is possible (this was 62.2% in 2014).

4.0 Next steps

- 4.1 It is proposed that future communication campaigns target the recyclable material that is currently being disposed of in the residual waste at the kerbside.

Background Papers

None.

| | Name | Contact Information |
|--------------------|-----------------|--|
| Report Author | Tamalyn Goodwin | tamalyngoodwin@warwickshire.gov.uk |
| Head of Service | Mark Ryder | markryder@warwickshire.gov.uk |
| Strategic Director | Monica Fogarty | monicafogarty@warwickshire.gov.uk |
| Portfolio Holder | Jeff Clarke | jeffclarke@warwickshire.gov.uk |