

Warwickshire Waste Partnership

20th March 2019

HWRC Waste Composition – Residual Waste

Recommendations

- (1) The Waste Partnership is asked to note the overview of the recent Household Waste Recycling Centre waste composition analysis and to consider how this information can be used to improve waste management across Warwickshire.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 Warwickshire County Council commissioned a waste composition analysis to take place in Sept 2018 on behalf of the Partnership, using the same method as previous waste composition surveys.
- 1.2 The survey focused on the weight and composition of kerbside and HWRC residual waste, due to a slight delay in carrying out the HWRC analysis at one of the sites the data was not reported at the December waste partnership meeting alongside the kerbside data.
- 1.3 Residual waste from the HWRCs was sampled at Lower House Farm, Hunters Lane, Princes Drive and Burton Farm. In order to ensure an overall mix of waste material, Lower House Farm and Burton Farm sites had weekend waste surveyed, whilst weekday waste from Princes Drive and Hunters Lane was analysed. Data was provided for all sites along with an average across all the sites.
- 1.4 The key aim of the waste composition analysis is to understand the waste composition in Warwickshire and to provide information which could be used by the Partnership when planning future services and campaigns etc.

2.0 HWRC Residual Analysis Overview

- 2.1 The HWRC residual waste was sorted in a number of ways.
 - Firstly any black bags that were thought to be for the disposal of general household waste were removed from the skip and then the contents of the residual skip were sorted.

- Secondly the total amount of bagged household waste was weighed and the contents of the household bags were sorted to provide data on the composition of the household bags.
- Finally the waste was combined to give an overall composition of residual waste being disposed of at the HWRCs.

3.0 Materials in residual skip & quantity of household waste bags

3.1 Results from the survey showed that in 2018 the level of bagged household waste ranged between 21.66% at Hunters Lane and 16.18% at Princes Drive. The average bagged household waste over all four sites for the last three years is provided in the table 1. The amount of black bags in the skip has increased over the last 3 years.

Table 1 Percentage of household bags and loose material in the residual skip

	2016	2017	2018
Household bags	8%	11%	18%
Loose materials	92%	89%	82%

Loose materials in the residual waste skip

3.2 Taking the average data from across all four sites the recyclable materials with the highest percentage in the residual skip after the bagged household waste was removed for the last three years are provided in table 2.

Table 2 Top recyclable materials in the residual skip

Materials	2016	2017	2018
Paper/card	7%	4%	1%
Textiles	14%	7%	5%
Wood	12%	27%	14%
Rubble and bricks	6%	11%	3%
Metal	2%	4%	3%
Organics	4%	8%	2%

- 3.3 Using the average data across all four sites the amount of all recyclable material in the residual waste skip (not including the household bag contents) is provided in table 3. The amount of recyclable materials in the residual skip is down on previous years.

Table 3 Recyclable materials in residual skip

	2016	2017	2018
Kerbside recyclable	14%	11%	3%
Site recyclable	38%	50%	27%
Total recyclable	52%	61%	30%

4.0 Household waste bags

- 4.1 Compositionally bagged household waste is different to the rest of the material in the residual skip with a wider range of recyclable materials present. Taking the average data from across all four sites the recyclable materials with the highest percentage in the bagged household waste for the last three years are provided in table 4.

Table 4 Top recyclable materials in the household bags

Materials	2016	2017	2018
Paper/card	16%	15%	9%
Textiles	6%	3%	7%
Plastic	4%	6%	4%
Metal	3%	3%	3%
Garden & organics	4%	2%	18%
Food	23%	28%	16%

- 4.2 Using the average data across all four sites the amount of all recyclable material in the bagged household waste is provided in table 5. The amount of recyclables in the household bags is less than 2017.

Table 5 Recyclable materials in the household bags

	2016	2017	2018
Kerbside recyclable	50%	58%	50%
Site recyclable	11%	12%	13%
Total recyclable	61%	70%	63%

5.0 All materials combined

- 5.1 Taking the average data from across all four sites the recyclable materials with the highest percentage in the combined waste for the last three years are provided in table 6.

Table 6 Top recyclable material in the residual skip

Materials	2016	2017	2018
Paper/card	9%	4%	2%
Textiles	15%	8%	6%
Wood	12%	27%	14%
Rubble and bricks	6%	12%	4%
Metal	3%	4%	4%
Garden & organics	2%	2%	4%
Food	5%	5%	3%

5.2 Using the average data across all four sites the amount of all recyclable material in the combined household waste is provided in table 7. The amount of recyclable materials in the combined household waste is down on previous years.

Table 7 Recyclable materials in the combined household waste

	2016	2017	2018
Kerbside recyclable	18%	17%	12%
Site recyclable	40%	52%	29%
Total recyclable	57%	69%	41%

5.3 The composition data also shows that restricted materials (plasterboard, paint, pesticides and chemicals, asbestos and clinical waste) are not found hidden in the residual waste at the HWRCs. There are small amounts of small WEEE and household batteries in the residual waste.

6.0 Summary

6.1 The summary findings from the HWRC waste composition are as follows:

- The percentage of recyclables in household waste bags is 63%.
- The top recyclables in the household waste bags are garden waste and pet bedding (18%), food waste (16%), paper/card (9%) and re-usable clothing/clean bed linen, curtains, blankets & towels (7%).
- The percentage of recyclables loose in the residual waste container is 30%.
- The top recyclables loose in the skip are treated/non-recyclable wood (14%) and clothing/other recyclable fabrics (5%).
- The total percentage of recyclable in the residual waste skips is 41% - all of this material except 3% food waste is recyclable at the HWRC
- The top recyclables in the residual waste skip from all the materials combined are textiles (6%) and wood (14%).

6.2 Having an open bag or no black bag policy would encourage higher recycling.

Background Papers

1. None.

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