



## Local authority municipal waste management report for Wales, 2015-16

6 October 2016  
SB 45/2016

Data on waste management are collected in order to monitor progress towards national and local targets; in particular against the requirements of the [Waste Framework Directive](#) and [Landfill Directive](#). In its current waste strategy "Towards Zero Waste", the Welsh Government set statutory targets of recycling 58 per cent of waste by 2015-16, and 70 per cent of waste by 2024-25. Data from this release form part of the Future Generations National Indicator on 'Amount of waste generated, that is not recycled, per person'

- The percentage of local authority municipal waste (excluding abandoned vehicles) that was reused, recycled or composted in Wales has continued to increase since 2000-01, with 60.2 per cent of waste reused/recycled/composted during 2015-16.



- During 2015-16, 19 of the 22 local authorities in Wales met or exceeded the statutory reuse/ recycling/composting target of 58 per cent.



- The total amount of local authority municipal waste (excluding abandoned vehicles) generated in Wales has generally fallen since its peak in 2004-05. However, the 1.59 million tonnes generated in 2015-16 represents an increase of 3 per cent on 2014-15.
- The amount of waste sent to landfill continued to fall, with 0.3 million tonnes (19 per cent) managed in this way during 2015-16.

### About this bulletin

This annual Statistical Bulletin presents final results for 2015-16 from the WasteDataFlow system monitored by Natural Resources Wales. The bulletin presents information on local authority municipal waste collected and sent for disposal from household and non-household sources during the year, as well as information for previous years.

### In this bulletin

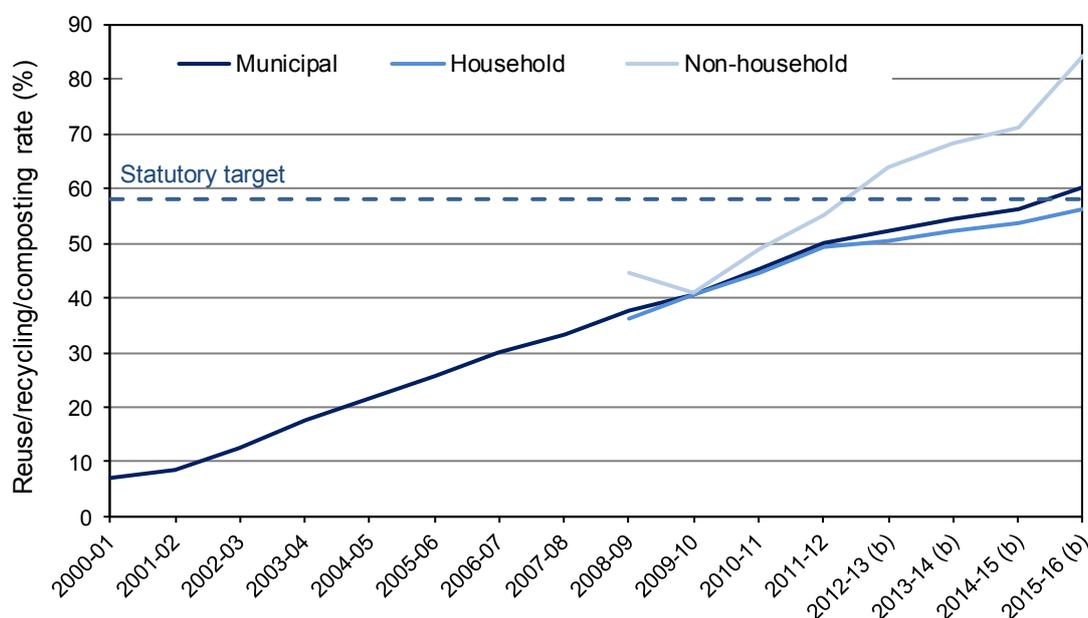
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# 1. Local authority municipal (household and non-household) waste prepared for reuse, recycled or composted

This section considers the combined preparation for reuse, recycling and composting rates for Wales (known as reuse/recycling/composting rates), where recycling differs from re-use because of the need to significantly reprocess the material, which often results in it being subsequently manufactured into a different product.

Chart 1 and Table 1 show the combined percentage of waste which was prepared for reuse, recycled or composted in Wales, by financial year. Data for years prior to 2012-13 are based on waste collected for disposal/treatment (i.e. old definition), whilst data for 2012-13 onwards are based on waste sent for disposal/treatment (i.e. new definition).

**Chart 1: Percentage of local authority municipal waste prepared for reuse, recycled or composted in Wales (a)**



Source: WasteDataFlow

(a) Includes household and non-household waste; excludes abandoned vehicles.

(b) New definition; data for 2012-13 onwards reflect waste sent for reuse/recycling/composting or other methods of disposal.

The percentage of local authority municipal waste (including rubble, incinerator residues, matter from beach cleansing and plasterboard, but excluding abandoned vehicles) prepared for reuse, recycled or composted in Wales continued to increase to 60.2 per cent in 2015-16. This is above the statutory target for local authorities of 58 per cent.

The increase in reuse/recycling/composting rates since 2001-02 may have been influenced by the government's previous, and current, waste strategies and targets. The Welsh Government's current waste strategy "Towards Zero Waste" has set a target of 70 per cent recycling/composting of municipal waste by 2024-25. To help achieve this overarching target, Statutory Recycling Targets have been set during key years, for 2015-16 a target of 58 per cent is set for all local authority collected municipal waste.

Local authority municipal waste includes both household and non-household (e.g. from businesses, municipal gardens, schools etc.) waste, but excludes abandoned vehicles. As can be seen from Chart 1, above, the household reuse/recycling/composting rate for Wales follows the same trend as the overall reuse/recycling/composting rate. The general increase over time in reuse/recycling/composting rates for household waste may be affected by changes to household collections introduced by local authorities, particularly enhancing collections for dry and compostable materials.

**Table 1: Percentage of Local Authority Municipal (Household and Non-Household) Waste Prepared For Reuse, Recycled or Composted in Wales (a)**

	<i>Per cent</i>				
	2011-12	2012-13 (d)	2013-14 (d)	2014-15 (d)	2015-16 (d)
Household rate (b)	49.2	50.5	52.2	53.8	56.2
Non-household rate	55.1	63.7	68.3	71.2	84.2
<b>Local authority municipal rate (c)</b>	<b>50.0</b>	<b>52.3</b>	<b>54.3</b>	<b>56.2</b>	<b>60.2</b>

Source: WasteDataFlow

(a) Amount prepared for reuse/recycled/composted as a percentage of total waste.

(b) Includes regular, specific and special collections and civic amenity sites. Where local authorities collect non-household waste (i.e. from a business, school etc.) in the same collection round as household waste it may not be possible for them to provide an accurate split between the household and non-household waste collected.

(c) Includes household and non-household waste; excludes abandoned vehicles.

(d) These figures are based on the new definition (municipal waste 'sent' for reuse/recycled/composted).

Recycling rates for non-household waste are higher, and increasing more markedly, than for household waste. It is worth noting that non-household waste includes rubble and plasterboard collected by local authorities. These materials are relatively heavy and are mostly reported as being reused/recycled, which may influence the non-household recycling rate. In addition, local authorities introduce new schemes at various times, affecting the provision of residual waste and recycling services for businesses, which may also influence the non-household recycling trend.

It should be noted that where local authorities collect non-household waste in the same collection round as household waste, it may not be possible for them to provide an accurate split between household and non-household sources.

## Local authority municipal waste reuse/recycling/composting rates, by local authority

The reuse/recycling/composting rates reported below include rubble, incinerator residues, matter from beach cleansing and plasterboard, but exclude abandoned vehicles. Data for years prior to 2012-13 are based on waste collected for disposal/treatment (i.e. old definition), whilst data for 2012-13 onwards are shown under the new definition (i.e. waste sent for disposal/treatment)<sup>1</sup>.

**Table 2: Municipal waste reuse/recycling/composting rates, by local authority (a)**

	<i>Per cent</i>				
	2011-12 (b)	2012-13 (c)	2013-14 (c)	2014-15 (c)	2015-16 (c)
Isle of Anglesey	57.1	55.2	54.4	55.2	59.5
Gwynedd	48.1	51.2	54.0	55.1	58.7
Conwy	48.1	56.4	56.3	59.1	59.7
Denbighshire	55.7	58.0	63.2	65.9	62.4
Flintshire	48.3	54.9	55.1	55.0	58.5
Wrexham	53.3	52.8	54.7	56.4	62.3
Powys	42.6	50.9	52.5	52.1	59.1
Ceredigion	58.4	53.6	58.4	61.6	68.1
Pembrokeshire	50.0	53.1	60.3	65.4	64.9
Carmarthenshire	49.3	53.8	55.7	59.6	63.5
Swansea	45.2	47.9	52.8	56.7	59.5
Neath Port Talbot	43.9	48.3	54.0	58.1	58.3
Bridgend	56.3	57.1	56.5	57.1	59.0
Vale of Glamorgan	52.4	54.5	54.8	56.0	64.5
Cardiff	51.2	52.2	49.7	53.4	58.2
Rhondda Cynon Taf	47.3	46.2	49.3	53.8	60.5
Merthyr Tydfil	43.2	49.1	48.2	51.2	61.6
Caerphilly	59.1	57.1	57.6	54.6	61.9
Blaenau Gwent	42.3	51.2	54.8	50.3	48.7
Torfaen	47.5	47.1	52.3	52.7	57.4
Monmouthshire	55.3	55.5	62.9	63.2	61.9
Newport	48.2	49.2	51.7	52.0	57.1
<b>Wales</b>	<b>50.0</b>	<b>52.3</b>	<b>54.3</b>	<b>56.2</b>	<b>60.2</b>

Source: WasteDataFlow

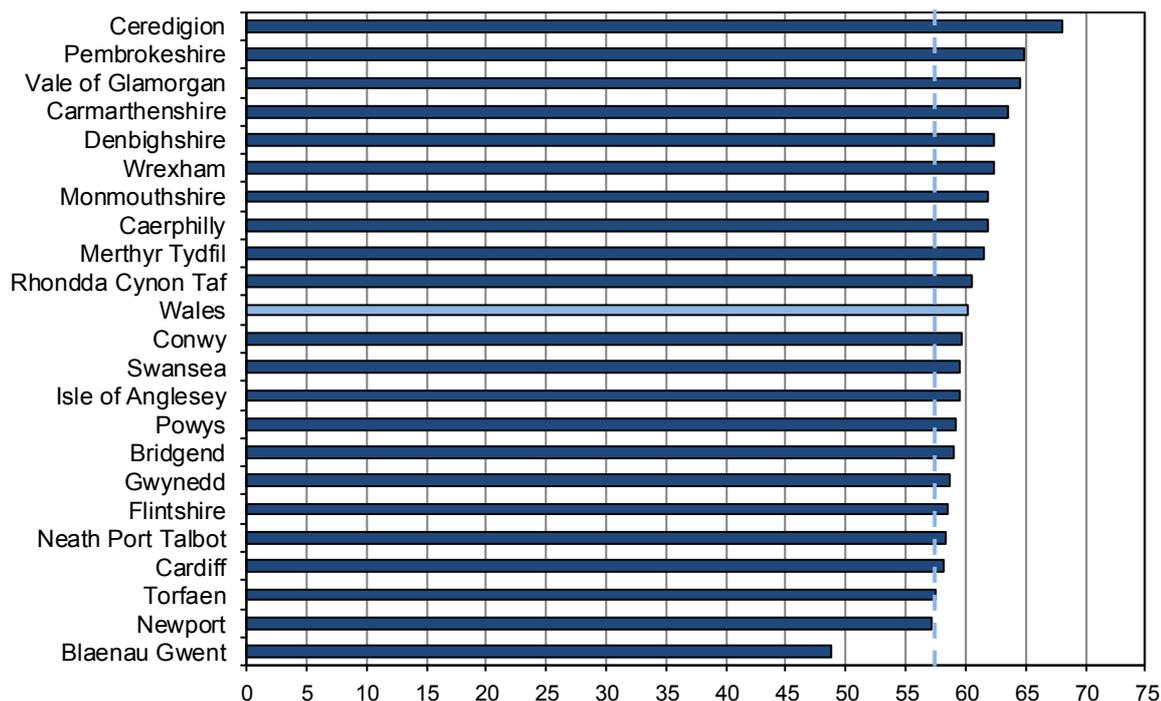
(a) Household and non-household waste, excluding abandoned vehicles.

(b) Figures prior to 2012-13 do not match the old National Strategic Indicator (NSI) definition; they include the same materials as the new NSI definition, but are based on waste collected, rather than sent for reuse/recycling/composting.

(c) These figures are based on the new definition (municipal waste 'sent' to be reused/recycled/composted).

<sup>1</sup> Further details on the change of definition can be found in the Key Quality Information section at the end of this bulletin.

**Chart 2: Local authority municipal waste prepared for reuse/recycling/composting rates by local authority, 2015-16 (a)(b)**



Source: WasteDataFlow

- (a) Percentage of household and non household waste (excluding abandoned vehicles) that have been reused, recycled or composted. The chart is ranked by the recycling rate for 2014-15.
- (b) These rates are calculated using the new definition (i.e. waste sent for disposal/treatment).

There has generally been an upward trend in the percentage of local authority municipal waste reused, recycled and composted across Wales. In 2015-16, 19 of the 22 local authorities in Wales reported reuse/recycling/composting rates that were higher than the statutory target of 58 per cent, set out in the current waste strategy “Towards Zero Waste”.

The local authority with the highest reuse/recycling/composting rate in Wales was Ceredigion (68.1 per cent). Blaenau Gwent had the lowest rate (48.7 per cent), followed by Newport (57.1 per cent) and Torfaen (57.4 per cent).

Merthyr Tydfil’s reuse/recycling/composting rate increased by 10.4 percentage points during the latest year, to exceed the statutory target. Increased amounts of rubble being sent for recycling contributed to this increase, along with a move to kerbside sorting of recyclables by the authority in 2015.

Vale of Glamorgan’s reuse/recycling/composting rate increased by 8.5 percentage points to become one of the highest in Wales (64.5 per cent); this has been influenced by an increase in sending incineration bottom ash for recovery.

Whilst four authorities reported lower rates than in 2014-15, only one of these reported a reuse/recycling/composting rate below the statutory target (Blaenau Gwent).

The overall rates and how they vary across local authorities are likely to be affected by people’s willingness to separate waste for recycling, but also by the various collection/recycling schemes

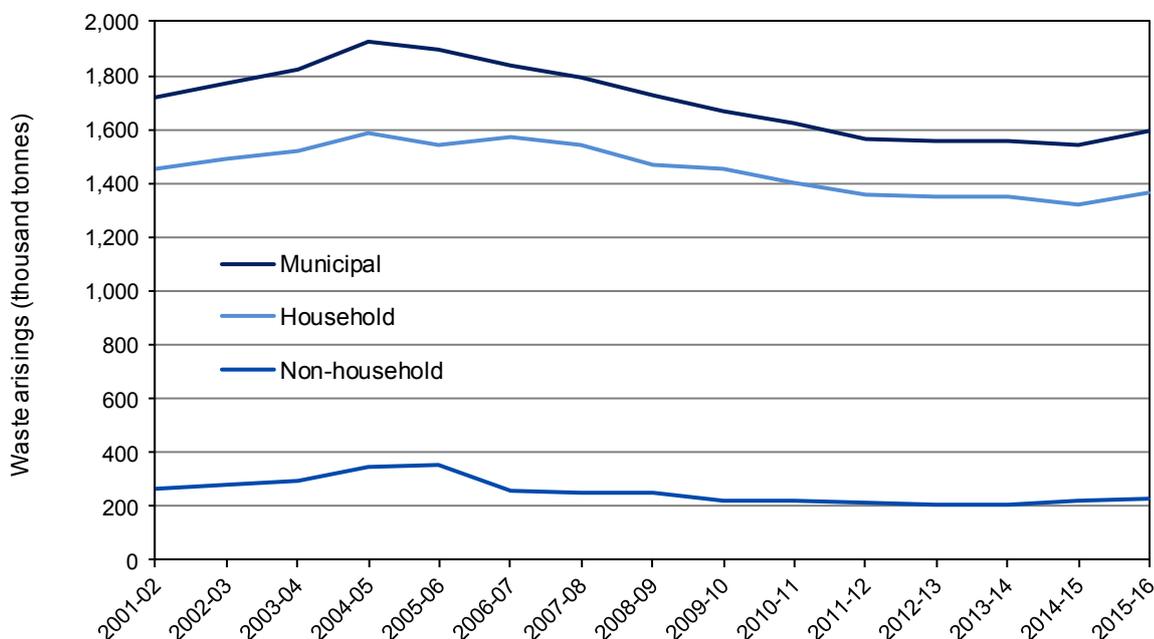
that have been introduced. These schemes will differ, due to cost and contracts, and will have been introduced on different dates depending on the local authority.

## 2. Local authority municipal (household and non-household) waste generated

This section provides information on the total amount of local authority municipal waste (including household and non-household waste) that is collected, directly or from sites, by local authorities.

There are sometimes differences in the amount of waste collected and sent for disposal by a local authority, due to stockpiling of waste collected in a previous year and delays in reporting across periods. Therefore, waste sent for reuse/recycling/composting (new definition) during a particular year may have been collected in a previous year.

**Chart 3: Total local authority municipal waste generated in wales (thousand tonnes)**  
(a)



Source: WasteDataFlow

(a) Local authority municipal waste includes household and non-household waste, but excludes abandoned vehicles.

Following a steady historical increase, the total amount of local authority municipal waste (excluding abandoned vehicles) generated in Wales peaked at over 1.9 million tonnes in 2004-05, coinciding with the peak in household waste generated. The amount of local authority municipal waste generated in Wales has since been generally falling. During 2015-16, the amount of waste generated increased by 3.2 per cent, with 1.59 million tonnes generated. This was due to a 3.2 per cent increase in the amount of household waste generated and a 3.0 per cent increase in the amount of non-household waste generated during 2015-16.

**Table 3: Local authority municipal (household and non-household) waste generated in wales**

	<i>Thousand tonnes</i>				
	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
<b>Household waste (a):</b>					
Prepared for reuse/recycled/composted	667	684	708	723	750
Residual household waste	689	667	642	601	616
<b>Total household waste</b>	<b>1,356</b>	<b>1,351</b>	<b>1,349</b>	<b>1,324</b>	<b>1,366</b>
<b>Non-household waste:</b>					
Prepared for reuse/recycled/composted (b)	117	116	127	130	142
Residual non-household waste	95	87	81	89	84
<b>Total non-household waste</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>226</b>
<b>Municipal waste:</b>					
Prepared for reuse/recycled/composted (c)	784	800	834	853	892
Residual municipal waste	784	754	723	690	700
<b>Total municipal waste (d)</b>	<b>1,567</b>	<b>1,554</b>	<b>1,557</b>	<b>1,543</b>	<b>1,592</b>

Source: WasteDataFlow

(a) Household waste includes regular household collections, civic amenity site waste, waste collected for recycling or composting and waste from special collections such as collections of bulky household waste. Where local authorities collect non-household waste (i.e. from a business, school etc.) in the same collection round as household waste it may not be possible for them to provide an accurate split between the household and non-household waste collected.

(b) Includes local authority collected materials for recycling from commercial sources.

(c) Includes waste collected for reuse/recycling/composting plus waste collected by private and voluntary organisations.

(d) Includes household waste plus waste collected from non-household sources but excludes abandoned vehicles.

The majority of local authority municipal waste generated continued to be household waste during 2015-16. Waste which is not prepared for reuse/recycling/composting and is, therefore, disposed of via landfill or other methods of disposal/treatment is known as residual waste. As can be seen in Table 3, above, there was previously more residual waste than waste that was collected in preparation for reuse, recycling or composting. However, in recent years residual waste accounted for less than half of all waste generated.

### 3. Local authority municipal waste management

This section reports how local authority municipal waste is disposed of, or treated. The figures shown in Table 4 relate to waste sent for disposal/treatment and will differ from those shown in Table 3, which is based on municipal waste generated and collected for disposal/treatment. The differences are mainly due to timing. For example, local authorities may have collected waste during the previous year, but stockpiled it for disposal/treatment at a later date. It should be noted that the statutory target for reuse/recycling/composting is the percentage of all local authority municipal waste generated that is sent for reuse/recycling/composting.

**Table 4: Management of local authority municipal waste by management methods (a)**

	<i>Thousand tonnes</i>			
	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Composted (Statutory) (b)	283	288	296	299
Recycled (Statutory)	529	558	572	659
Incineration with energy recovery	72	90	183	302
Incineration without energy recovery	-	-	-	1
Landfill	641	587	453	289
Other recovery (c)	2	5	5	4
<b>Total (d)</b>	<b>1,527</b>	<b>1,528</b>	<b>1,510</b>	<b>1,554</b>

Source: WasteDataFlow

(a) Includes household and non-household waste; excludes abandoned vehicles.

(b) For the purpose of the statutory targets, 'composting' includes both composting and anaerobic digestion processes.

(c) This includes other waste sent for recycling and/or composting that is not included in the statutory target definitions.

(d) Note that the total is the total amount of waste sent and will therefore differ to the total given in Table 3.

The amount of waste disposed of in landfill continued to fall in 2015-16, decreasing by 36 per cent compared to the previous year, to under 0.3 million tonnes. In 2001-02, 92 per cent of waste was disposed of at landfill sites, whereas in 2015-16, only 19 per cent was disposed of via this method. This is largely due to the increase in the amount of waste sent for composting or recycling, which when combined, accounted for 62 per cent<sup>2</sup> of local authority municipal waste management in 2015-16.

Local authorities may have been able to reduce the amount of waste they send to landfill because of the availability of funding from the Welsh Government, since 2001-02, to improve recycling collections. Landfill tax, payable by local authorities, is also an incentive to reduce the amount of waste disposed of in this way.

<sup>2</sup> This percentage differs from the statutory target rate as it includes recycling/composting of waste outside of the statutory target definition ('Other recovery'), and is based on all waste sent for management, rather than all waste generated.

Further to the increase in recycling and composting of local authority municipal waste, there has also been an increase in the use of incineration in recent years, more than 99 per cent of which was incineration with energy recovery. The amount of local authority municipal waste disposed of via this method increased during 2015-16, reaching 19 per cent. One reason for the increased use of incineration, particularly for waste that cannot be recycled, could be that the use of landfill sites is discouraged in the Welsh Government waste strategy and has become more expensive for local authorities due to the landfill tax. As well as this, a new energy recovery facility, Viridor Cardiff, has started operating and taking residual waste from 5 Welsh local authorities, with others sending waste abroad, to produce refuse derived fuel.

## 4. Key Quality Information

1. Previously the term 'Municipal Waste' as used in the UK was used in waste policies and nationally reported data to refer to waste collected by local authorities. In fact the definition of municipal waste as described in the Landfill Directive includes both household waste and that from other sources similar in nature and composition, which will include a significant proportion of waste generated by businesses and not collected by local authorities. In 2010, discussions with the EU Commission led to the reinterpretation of the term 'municipal waste' and the definitions supporting national targets have changed to reflect this.
2. To remove ambiguity, for the purposes of this release, 'Local Authority Municipal waste' is as defined in the Waste (Wales) Measure 2010. This and other definitions can be found in the Glossary at the end of the bulletin.

### Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015

3. The Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 is about improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. The Act puts in place seven well-being goals for Wales. These are for a more equal, prosperous, resilient, healthier and globally responsible Wales, with cohesive communities and a vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language. Under section (10)(1) of the Act, the Welsh Ministers must (a) publish indicators (“national indicators”) that must be applied for the purpose of measuring progress towards the achievement of the Well-being goals, and (b) lay a copy of the national indicators before the National Assembly. The 46 national indicators were laid in March 2016. Information on indicators and associated technical information - [How do you measure a nation's progress? - National Indicators](#).
4. One of the national indicators relates to waste, namely ‘Amount of waste generated that is not recycled, per person’. This indicator covers the total amount (kg) of residual waste (i.e. waste that is not reused, recycled or composted) in Wales by all sectors, on a per person basis. Information included within this release is used to calculate the ‘Local Authority residual household waste’ component of the national indicator. Information on waste from the industrial and commercial sector and the construction and demolition sector (these are not reported in this statistical release).
5. Further information on the [Well-being of Future Generations \(Wales\) Act 2015](#).
6. The statistics included in this release could also provide supporting narrative to the national indicators and be used by public services boards in relation to their local well-being assessments and local well-being plans.

### Data source and coverage

7. From 1996-97 to 2003-04 data on municipal waste was collected through the Municipal Waste Management Survey. This survey was sent to all local authorities in Wales and England. From 1998-99 Wales achieved a 100 per cent response rate.

8. From 2004-05 this information was collected using an online reporting system for waste data called '[WasteDataFlow](#)'. In Wales this was formerly managed by the Environment Agency, now Natural Resources Wales, and the Waste Strategy Branch of the Welsh Government extract the information for the report from WasteDataFlow.
9. Under regulation 6 of the Landfill Allowances Scheme (Wales) Regulations 2004 (LAS Regulations) local authorities in Wales are required to report quarterly information on collected municipal waste; the amount of municipal waste sent to landfills and the amount of municipal waste sent to other facilities. This information is submitted by local authorities via WasteDataFlow. The monitoring authority (Natural Resources Wales) is then responsible for validation of this information.
10. WasteDataFlow guidance and factsheets are readily available to local authorities online. This guidance includes a system manual, list of all Wales specific questions and list of Wales specific guidance. Generally the questions are straightforward. However, further explanation for the more complex questions can be found in the general guidance. Furthermore, question-by-question guidance is being developed. Natural Resources Wales also supports Welsh local authorities on any local authority specific WasteDataFlow issues.
11. WasteDataFlow is subject to continual improvement and development that can impact on the way that data is entered and introduce new data reports based on new data requirements. The nature of introducing these changes can produce data interpretation issues, such as with historic data already in the system. Some changes can be complex in nature producing impacts in reporting that may not be fully realised initially. All changes to the system are carefully monitored for any discrepancies between data entry and reporting. In the event that discrepancies arise, the WasteDataFlow system is adjusted and any previously published data is revised or caveated accordingly.

### **National Statistics status**

12. The [United Kingdom Statistics Authority](#) has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the [Code of Practice for Official Statistics](#).
13. National Statistics status means that official statistics meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality and public value.
14. All official statistics should comply with all aspects of the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. They are awarded National Statistics status following an assessment by the UK Statistics Authority's regulatory arm. The Authority considers whether the statistics meet the highest standards of Code compliance, including the value they add to public decisions and debate.
15. It is Welsh Government's responsibility to maintain compliance with the standards expected of National Statistics. If we become concerned about whether these statistics are still meeting the appropriate standards, we will discuss any concerns with the Authority promptly. National Statistics status can be removed at any point when the highest standards are not maintained, and reinstated when standards are restored.

## Quality

16. These statistics adhere to the Welsh Government's [Statistical Quality Management Strategy](#).

## Symbols

17. The following symbols may have been used in this release:

- negligible (less than half the final digit shown)
  - .
  - ..
  - ~
  - \*
  - p
  - r
- not applicable
- not available
- not yet available
- disclosive or not sufficiently robust for publication
- provisional
- revised

## Comparability

18. From 1 April 2012, there were changes in definitions relating to local authority municipal waste generated and the percentage prepared for reuse, recycled or composted in Wales. As a result, from 2012-13 onwards, figures published within this annual statistical bulletin will be directly comparable with those in the quarterly statistical release and the National Strategic Indicator.

19. The change in definition means data for 2012-13 onwards will differ from the figures previously shown in the annual statistical bulletin. The majority of information shown for earlier years in the bulletin relates to waste that was collected for disposal/treatment; however, under the new definition the figures relate to waste that was actually sent for disposal/treatment.

20. For further information on the specific details relating to the changes in definitions please refer to the Statistical Article accessed via the following link: [Local Authority Municipal Waste Management - Change in Definition](#). The article looks at historic data using both the previous and new definitions in order to make users fully aware of the impact these changes have on the data and how they use it.

21. Information on abandoned vehicles has previously been reported in the annual statistical bulletin. However, as abandoned vehicles are not recorded by all local authorities in WasteDataFlow (as they are not classed as local authority municipal waste) and due to possible concerns about the quality of the data, it has been decided to omit the information from this and future editions of the bulletin.

## Accuracy

22. There is an apparent inconsistency between the total waste figures given for 2008-09 to 2013-14 (old definition) in Tables 3 and 4. This is because there is a slight mismatch between the amount collected and the amount sent for treatment. This can be a matter of timing if, for

example, authorities stockpile waste for later treatment. There may also be some inconsistencies in the measurement, since the waste is weighed when collected and again when it is sent for treatment. In addition, there may also be loss in weight through various treatment processes. Natural Resources Wales validate all local authority returns and require that the difference between the amount collected and the amount sent for treatment must not differ by more than 10 per cent in any quarter, unless a valid explanation can be given. Natural Resources Wales have also placed more emphasis on authorities providing more evidence in relation to their waste statistics from 2012-13 onwards.

23. Where local authorities collect non-household waste (i.e. from a business, school etc.) in the same collection round as household waste, it may not be possible for them to provide an accurate split between the household and non-household waste collected. This may present an element of bias in the data.
24. In the tables where figures have been rounded to the nearest final digit, the constituent items may not add up exactly to the total.
25. In the past, data quality issues have arisen related to the mis-specification of data items in the returns and this has led to revisions of data for previous years. However, this mainly relates to information collected via the Municipal Waste Management Survey. More recently, mis-reporting of data is less of an issue, though it should be noted it is not always due to inaccurate reporting at the time, but for example if incidents occur which are out of the local authority's control.

## **Validation**

26. Under regulation 6 of the Landfill Allowances Scheme (Wales) Regulations 2004 (LAS Regulations), local authorities in Wales are required to report quarterly information on local authority collected municipal waste; the amount of local authority municipal waste sent to landfills and the amount of local authority municipal waste sent to other facilities. This information is submitted by local authorities via WasteDataFlow. The monitoring authority (Natural Resources Wales) is then responsible for validation of this information. Reporting requirements are detailed in the Natural Resources Wales reporting protocol published on WasteDataFlow 'LAS Guidance on reporting and notices', May 2008. It includes deadlines for when local authorities need to report prompt (Level 30) and accurate (Level 35) data and the deadlines for making changes to the data.
27. Natural Resources Wales (NRW) has six weeks to validate the data. Validation involves a procedure of checking that all relevant WasteDataFlow questions have been completed by the local authorities and any discrepancies in calculations between entered inputs and outputs are identified. Any anomalies are then communicated to the individual local authorities and remedial action is taken to resolve them. Post validation, NRW also request local authorities to provide evidence in relation to their waste data, which is an ongoing process throughout the scheme year.

## Revisions

28. If local authorities wish to change previously submitted data they must submit a roll back request to the Waste Strategy Branch of the Welsh Government and Natural Resources Wales, detailing the reasons for the changes. This prevents any alterations being made that the Welsh Government is unaware of and acts as an incentive for local authorities to enter accurate data.
29. In order to validate data for previous years, figures are prepared by reproducing calculations from raw data, where possible. This can uncover mistakes in the initial calculations. Where data has been revised it will be clearly marked with an (r).
30. We follow the Welsh Government's statistical [revisions policy](#).

## Accessibility

31. Additional data are available to download from our [StatsWales](#) interactive website. Data are available for annual municipal waste, quarterly municipal waste, Construction & Demolition waste, and Industrial & Commercial waste.

## Coherence with other statistics

32. There is a National Strategic Indicator (NSI), which is used to measure performance of local authorities at a national level, on the percentage of municipal waste prepared for reuse and/or recycled, including source segregated biowastes that are composted or treated biologically in another way. Prior to 2012-13, NSI figures will differ from those shown in this annual statistical bulletin, but from 2012-13 onwards, the NSI figures will be directly comparable with the figures shown in this statistical bulletin under the new definition.
33. The National Strategic Indicator data can be downloaded from the [StatsWales](#) website.

## Users and uses

34. Waste statistics are important for policy development and planning the delivery of public services, such as waste management. Some of the uses include:
  - Monitoring of progress towards waste targets
  - Statutory requirements for reporting to the European Union
  - Policy development
  - Advice to Ministers
  - Informing debate in the National Assembly for Wales and beyond
  - Geographic profiling, comparisons and benchmarking
35. There are a variety of users of waste statistics including national and local government, researchers, students and individual citizens.
36. More specifically, data on waste management are collected in order to monitor progress towards national and local targets; in particular, against the requirements of the EU Landfill

Directive. The aim of this Directive is to reduce the amount of methane emitted from landfill sites by setting targets for Member States to reduce the amount of biodegradable municipal waste sent to landfill. Also in its current waste strategy, “Towards Zero Waste”, the Welsh Government set statutory targets of recycling 52 per cent of waste by 2012-13 and 70 per cent of waste by 2024-25.

### **Related statistics for other UK countries**

37. More information on municipal waste management statistics in England is available on the [Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs website](#).
38. More information on municipal waste management statistics in Scotland is available on the Scottish [Environment Protection Agency website](#).
39. More information on municipal waste management statistics in Northern Ireland is available on the [Northern Ireland Environment Agency website](#).

## **5. Glossary**

### **Composting**

An aerobic, biological process in which organic wastes, such as garden and kitchen waste, are converted into a stable granular material which can be applied to land to improve soil structure and increase the nutrient content of the soil.

### **Compost-like output**

When mixed municipal solid waste is biologically treated in Mechanical Biological Treatment (MBT) plants, the output is known as a 'compost-like-output'.

### **Dry recycling**

The recycling of dry materials, such as paper, card, cans, plastic bottles, mixed plastic and glass.

### **Household waste**

Materials collected directly from households (kerbside collections), taken to bring sites (including civic amenity sites) or collected by private and voluntary organisations not included elsewhere.

### **Landfill sites**

Any areas of land in which waste is deposited are termed landfill sites. They are often located in disused mines or quarries. In areas where these are limited or no ready-made voids exist, the practice of landraising is sometimes carried out; waste is deposited above ground and the landscape is contoured.

### **Local authority municipal waste**

Household and non-household waste that is collected and disposed of by local authorities. It includes regular household collections, specific recycling collections, special collections of bulky items, waste received at civic amenity sites and waste collected from non-household sources (e.g. rubble, incinerator residues, matter from beach cleansing and plasterboard). Local authority municipal waste excludes abandoned vehicles.

### **Non-household municipal waste**

All waste collected by an authority or its contractors, other than wastes within Schedule 1 and 2 of the Controlled waste Regulations 1992. This includes any other wastes collected by an authority, such as municipal parks and gardens waste, industrial or commercial waste and waste resulting from the clearance of fly-tipped materials.

### **Recycling**

Any recovery operation by which waste materials are reprocessed into products, materials or substances, whether for the original or other purposes. It does not include energy recovery and the reprocessing into materials that are used as fuels of backfilling operations.

## **Residual waste**

Waste that is not prepared for reuse, recycled or composted.

## **Reuse**

The use of household waste removed from the local authority collected municipal waste stream (e.g. furniture from households, including that collected on behalf of a local authority by third parties) for its original or a different purpose, without processing or treatment in a waste recovery operation, other than one which has the purpose of repairing or refurbishing the household waste.

## **Reuse/Recycling/Composting Rate (Statutory target definition)**

Percentage of local authority municipal waste generated that is recycled, reused or composted, calculated at time of distribution to landfill or recycling/composting contractors. This is, therefore, based on the amount of waste sent for reuse, recycling or composting, rather than collected for the purpose of being reused, recycled or composted.

## **Treatment**

Physical, thermal, chemical or biological processes, including sorting, that change the characteristics of the waste in order to reduce its volume or hazardous nature, facilitate its handling or enhance recovery.

## **6. Further details**

The document is available at:

<http://gov.wales/statistics-and-research/local-authority-municipal-waste-management/?lang=en>

## **Useful links**

Current [Welsh Government waste strategy "Towards Zero Waste"](#).

More general information can be found on the [Natural Resources Wales website](#).

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**Next update**

Local Authority Municipal Waste, April to June 2016 – due to be published 17 November 2016

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**We want your feedback**

We welcome any feedback on any aspect of these statistics which can be provided by email to [stats.environment@wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:stats.environment@wales.gsi.gov.uk).

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