



12 May 2021

## Statistics on waste managed by local authorities in England for April to June 2020 PROVISIONAL DATA

This release relates to the collection and management of waste under the possession or control of local authorities in England. It covers three principal measures as summarised in the table below.

This is an ad hoc release making available waste & recycling figures showing the effects of the Covid-19 first national lockdown. The figures contained in this notice are provisional and will be subject to revision when data for the 2020/21 financial year is complete. The accompanying datasets at National and Local Authority level are provisional also, and the data they are based on will be subject to revision.

### What data is contained in this release?

Measure	Time Period
Waste from households This is the official recycling measure that was used as the basis for reporting at a harmonised UK level against the Waste Framework Directive when this was in place during April to June 2020.	Publication of provisional figures for April to June 2020.
Local authority collected waste This is all waste within the remit of local authorities. It includes household waste plus other non-household waste collected by local authorities.	Publication of provisional figures for April to June 2020.
Household waste This is broader than 'waste from households', and includes waste from street bins, street sweepings, and parks and grounds. It does not include metals from incinerator bottom ash.	Provisional quarterly local authority level data is being published.

For more information about what data is included in the three measures listed in the table above, please refer to the section on 'Glossary of terms'. A reference [document](#) giving an explanation of what recycling is and comparing measures across England, Wales, Scotland and N Ireland is available.

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These statistics have been produced to the high professional standards set out in the Code of Practice for Official Statistics, which sets out eight principles including meeting user needs, impartiality and objectivity, integrity, sound methods, and assured quality, frankness and accessibility. More information on the Official Statistics Code of Practice can be found [here](#).

## PROVISIONAL DATA

All data relating to April to June 2020 in these statistics notice and accompanying datasets are provisional.

While data has undergone validation checks at the time of submission, it has not undergone the full quality assurance process that Defra carry out for the annual statistical release. Because of this we are considering these statistics to be experimental, and detailed question level data is not being released at this time.

The figures for England shown in this statistical notice and accompanying datasets are based on returns from 335 local authorities representing around 98 per cent of coverage of local authority waste in England. An estimate for 3 local authorities who were not able to report their data has been incorporated, based on changes observed between April to June 2019 and April to June 2020 for those local authorities who did submit figures.

These figures will be revised when the annual National Statistics notice and datasets for 2020 and 2020/21 financial years are issued.

### Key points

The period covered by these statistics was affected by the Covid-19 epidemic and the first national lockdown. The effect on local authorities varied, but generally there were disruptions and some cancellations of kerbside collections of recycling and garden waste. There were also widespread closures of HWRCs.

The changes detailed below are based on unrounded figures.

### England Waste from Households: April to June 2020 (Table 1)

- The provisional England 'waste from households' recycling rate for April to June 2020 was 45.0 per cent, down 3.4 percentage points from 48.4 per cent in April to June 2019.
- Metal recovered and then recycled from waste that has been through incineration (IBA metal) added approximately 1.1 percentage points to the recycling rate in April to June 2020, compared to 0.8 percentage points in April to June 2019.
- In April to June 2020, total 'waste from households' decreased by 3.3 per cent to 5.7 million tonnes from 5.9 million tonnes April to June 2019. This is equivalent to 102 kg per person, down from 105 kg per person in April to June 2019, a decrease of 3.3 per cent.
- The amount of residual waste treated was 3.1 million tonnes, up by 2.8 per cent from 3.0 million tonnes in April to June 2019. This reflects increased tonnages collected at kerbside being partially offset by a large decrease in tonnages from HWRCs.

- The total amount of waste recycled decreased. In April to June 2020, it was 2.6 million tonnes, down from 2.9 million tonnes in April to June 2019. This was a decrease of 10.1 per cent.
- The amount of dry material recycled in April to June 2020 was 1.4 million tonnes, down from 1.5 million tonnes in April to June 2019, a decrease of 8.1 per cent.
- The tonnage of separately collected food waste sent for recycling was 120 thousand tonnes, an increase of 12.2 per cent from 107 thousand tonnes in April to June 2019.
- ‘Other organic’ waste sent for recycling was 1.1 million tonnes, a decrease of 181 thousand tonnes or 14.3 per cent on April to June 2019. Whilst there were disruptions to garden waste kerbside collections, this fall reflects a large decrease in tonnages from HWRCs.

### **England Local Authority and Household Waste: April to June 2020** (Table 2)

- In April to June 2020, total local authority managed waste was 6.3 million tonnes. This was 0.5 million tonnes lower (7 per cent) than in April to June 2019.
- 6.5 per cent of all local authority waste (0.4 million tonnes) was disposed of via landfill in April to June 2020. This was down 0.2 million tonnes (34 per cent) from April to June 2019.
- Waste sent for incineration increased by 0.2 million tonnes (7.5 per cent) to 3.0 million tonnes in April to June 2020 compared to 2019. It was the disposal method used for 48.0 per cent of all local authority waste.
- There are no changes to definitions or methodology for all local authority and ‘household waste’ recycling figures; IBA metal is not included.
- 2.7 million tonnes of local authority waste was sent for recycling in April to June 2020, a decrease of 0.5 million tonnes or 15% compared to April to June 2019.
- Amongst the 335 reporting local authorities in England, there is considerable variation in ‘household waste’ recycling rates, ranging from 15.8 to 66.9 per cent in April to June 2020.

Data at local authority level—including the ex-National Indicator measures—are available at the gov.uk [website](#).

### **Data Revisions**

There are no revisions to historic data presented in this notice.

## **Recycling Explainer**

A [document](#) giving an explanation of what can be counted as recycling, different national recycling measures and summarising how measures across England, Wales, Scotland and N Ireland differ is available.

## **Give us feedback on this notice**

To help us understand your information and data needs, please complete the [short survey](#) consisting of 4 questions. (This link opens in google forms).

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## 1 Waste from households

### 1.1 Waste from Households (Table 1)

'Waste from households' was the measure introduced by the UK in 2014 to provide a harmonised UK indicator for reporting recycling rates at a UK level. It excludes local authority collected waste not considered to have come directly from households, such as street bins, street sweepings, parks and grounds waste, and compost-like output.

For more information, refer to the [Data and Methodology](#) section of this notice.

**Table 1: Composition breakdown and recycling rate of 'waste from households' in England, April to June 2018, 2019 and 2020, (thousand tonnes)**

Waste type	April to June 2018	April to June 2019	April to June 2020	% change April to June 2020 over April to June 2019
<b>Total Recycling of which:</b>	<b>3,049</b>	<b>2,869</b>	<b>2,581</b>	-10.1%
Dry recycling of which:	1,543	1,490	1,370	-8.1%
IBA Metal	50	48	63	30.9%
Separately collected food waste	102	107	120	12.2%
Other organics recycling	1,403	1,272	1,090	-14.3%
<b>Total Residual</b>	<b>3,191</b>	<b>3,046</b>	<b>3,132</b>	2.8%
<b>Total Waste from Households</b>	<b>6,252</b>	<b>5,932</b>	<b>5,735</b>	-3.3%
<b>Waste from households recycling rate (including IBA metal)</b>	<b>48.8%</b>	<b>48.4%</b>	<b>45.0%</b>	<b>-3.4 percentage points</b>
<b>Waste from households recycling rate (excluding IBA metal)</b>	<b>48.0%</b>	<b>47.6%</b>	<b>43.9%</b>	<b>-3.7 percentage points</b>

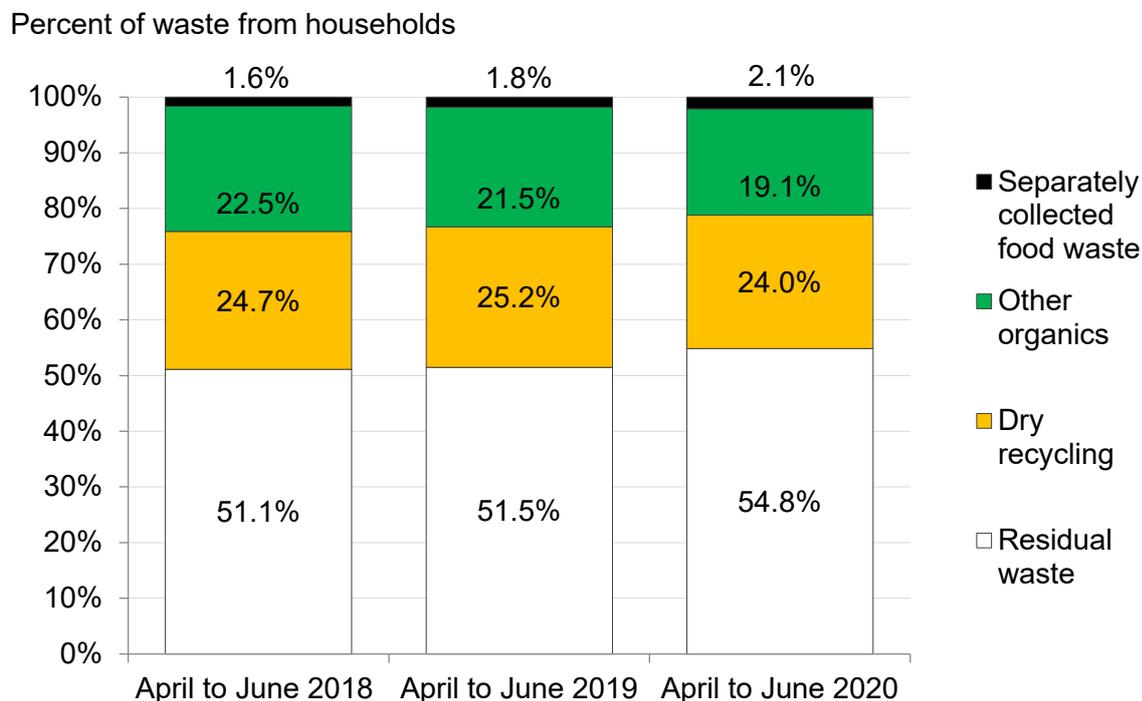
#### Notes:

- April to June 2020 figures** are provisional, based on around 98% of local authority waste in England grossed up to give an estimate for total local authority waste in England. Data will be subject to revision when annual figures are produced.
- Total waste from households** includes dry recycling/preparing for reuse and organics. It also includes residual waste (or 'black bag' waste) and rejects from recycling. IBA metal is included in the recycling figures.
- Numbers may not add to exact totals.** This is due to rounding.

- In April to June 2020, the total weight of 'waste from households' in England was 5.7 million tonnes, down from 5.9 million tonnes in April to June 2019. This decrease is due to falls in the tonnage of waste collected at HWRCs and other waste services, offsetting increases in the tonnage of waste from regular household kerbside collections.
- The weight of waste sent for recycling was 2.6 million tonnes in April to June 2020, a 10.1 per cent decrease from 2.9 million tonnes in April to June 2019.
- Residual waste was 3.1 million tonnes in April to June 2020, up from 3.0 million tonnes in April to June 2019. This was an increase of 2.8 per cent. This reflects increased tonnages collected at kerbside being partially offset by a large decrease in tonnages from HWRCs.
- The 'waste from households' recycling rate was 45.0 per cent in April to June 2020, a decrease of 3.4 percentage points from April to June 2019 when the rate was 48.4 per cent.
- Metals that had been recovered from incinerated waste and then recycled (IBA metal) contributed 63 thousand tonnes, up from 48 thousand tonnes in April to June 2019. This was an increase of 31 per cent.
- When IBA metal is excluded, the 'waste from households' recycling rate was 43.9 per cent in April to June 2020, a decrease of 3.7 percentage points from the April to June 2019 rate of 47.6 per cent.
- Dry recycling (including IBA metal) decreased by 8.1 per cent to 1.4 million tonnes in April to June 2020.
- Separately collected food waste rose by 12.2 per cent to 120 thousand tonnes in April to June 2020 from 107 thousand tonnes in April to June 2019. However, it remained only a small proportion of total 'waste from households,' at 2.1 per cent.
- The tonnage of other organics decreased by 0.2 million tonnes or 14.3 per cent to 1.1 million tonnes in April to June 2020. Whilst there were disruptions to garden waste kerbside collections, this fall reflects a large decrease in tonnages from HWRCs. This fall has the impact of reducing the overall recycling rate by around 1.7 percentage points.

## 1.2 Waste from Households: Waste Streams (Figure 1)

**Figure 1: Waste composition: Waste stream proportions as a percentage of total 'waste from households', April to June 2018, 2019 and 2020, England**



### Notes

**Residual waste** includes residual 'waste from households' regular collections (black bags), bulky waste, residual waste from civic amenity centres, and rejects from recycling. It excludes waste diverted for recycling from residual waste.

**Dry recycling** includes paper and card, glass, plastic, waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE), scrap metals including those reclaimed from incinerator bottom ash as well as other materials.

**Other organics** includes green garden waste, mixed garden and food waste, wood for composting and other compostable waste.

**Numbers may not add to exactly 100.** This is due to rounding.

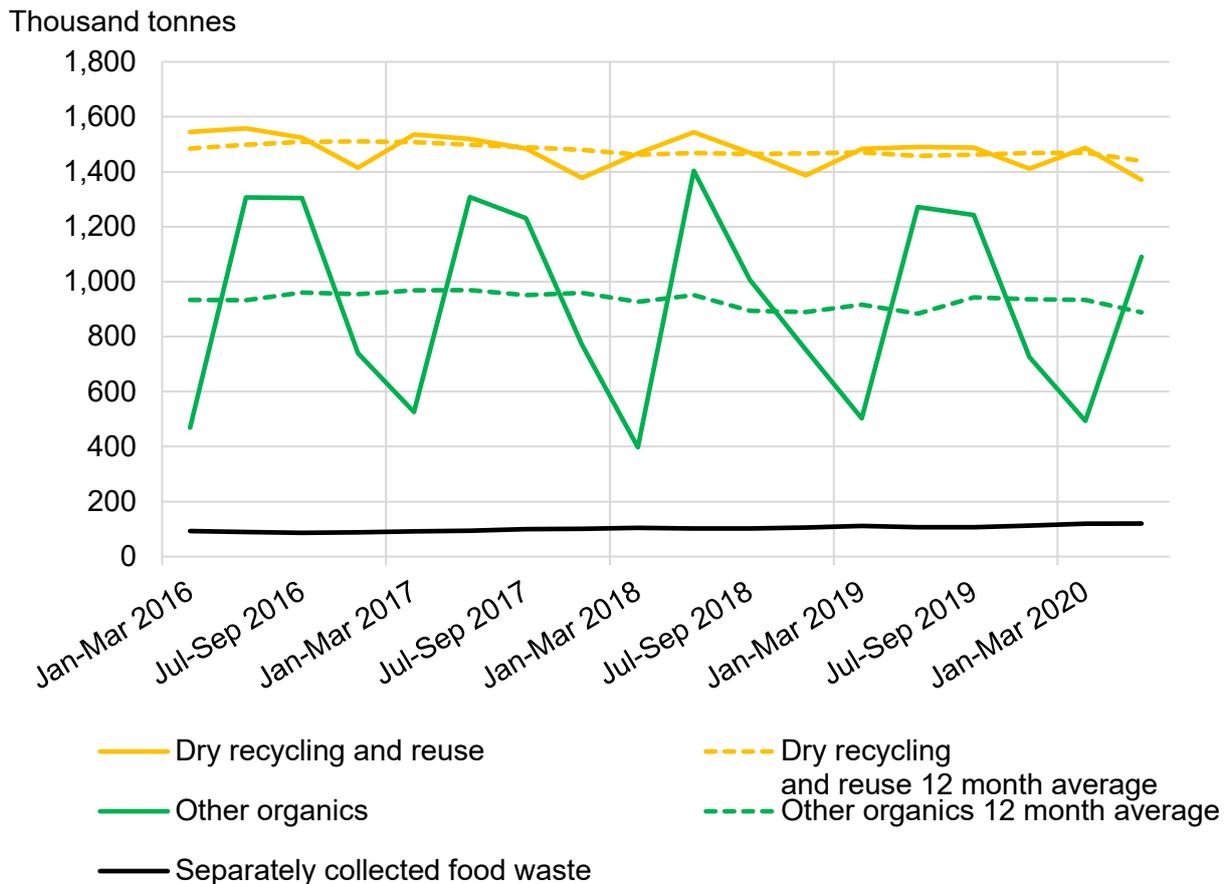
- The impact of the Covid-19 outbreak on the relative proportions of different waste from household waste streams can be seen in Figure 1.
- The proportion of residual waste was 54.8 per cent, 3.3 percentage points higher in April to June 2020 than in April to June 2019.
- There was a decrease of 1.2 percentage points in the proportion of dry recycling down to 24.0 per cent, and a 2.4 per cent decrease in other organics - including green garden waste and mixed garden and food waste to 19.1 per cent.
- The proportion of separately collected food increased slightly to 2.1 per cent.

### 1.3 Waste from Household recycling trends (Figures 2 and 3)

Quarterly trends from January to March 2016, are shown in Figures 2 and 3.

Figure 2 shows a historical series of quarterly recycling tonnages. The tonnage for April to June 2020 is the lowest reported for that quarter in the Waste from Households time series starting in 2010.

**Figure 2: 'Waste from households' quarterly recycling volumes by waste type, England, with 12 month moving averages (thousand tonnes)**



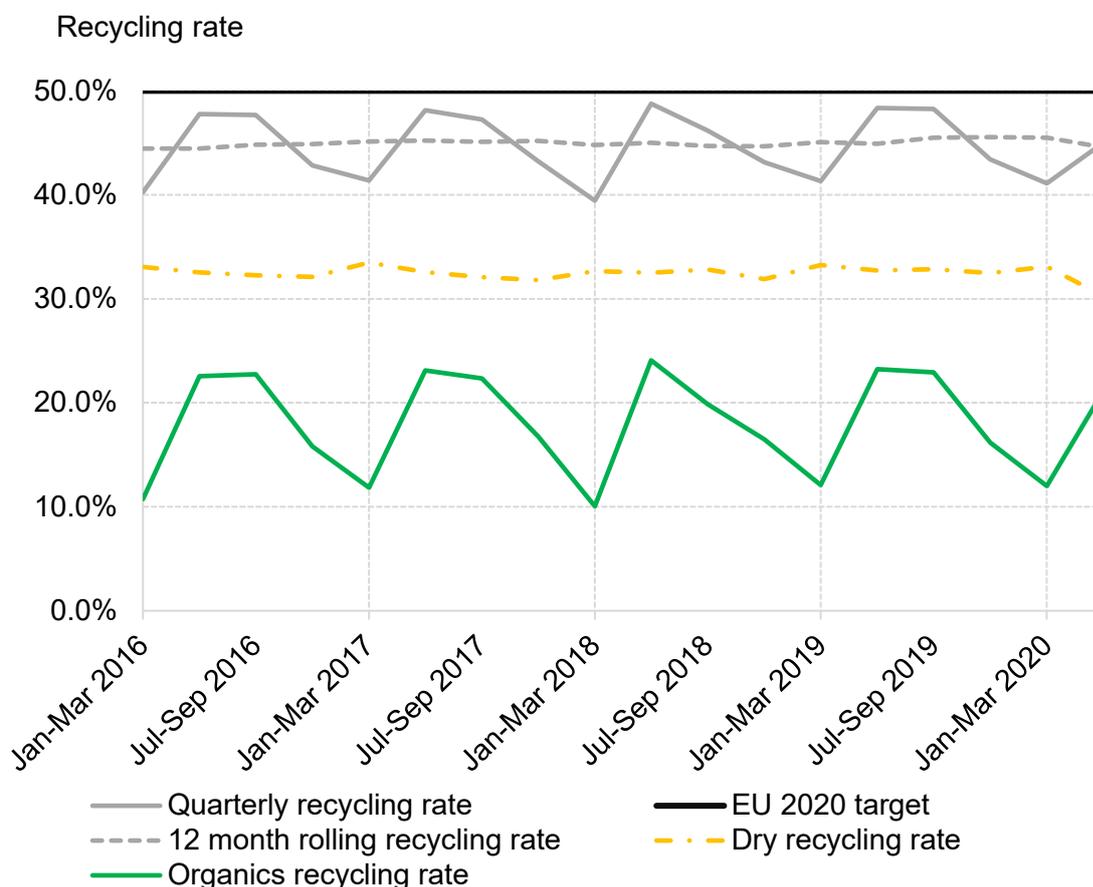
**Notes**

**Dry recycling** includes paper and card, glass, plastic, waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE), scrap metals including those reclaimed from incinerator bottom ash as well as other materials.

**Other organics** includes green garden waste, mixed garden and food waste, wood for composting and other compostable waste.

Figure 3 shows quarterly dry and organic recycling as a proportion of total 'waste from households' and a smoothed 12-month rolling average for the overall recycling rate. The smoothed 12-month rolling average 'waste from households' recycling rate has ranged from between 44.4 and 45.5 per cent over this time period.

**Figure 3: 'Waste from households' quarterly recycling rate, England, Jan to Mar 2015 to April to Jun 2020**



**Notes**

**Recycling** is recycling, composting and anaerobic digestion, and preparing for reuse.

**1.4 Waste from Household recycling composition**

- The majority (53.1 per cent) of 'waste from households' recycling in April to June 2020 was dry recycle.
- As a proportion of total recycling, 'other organics' comprised 42.3 per cent in April to June 2020, a decrease of 2.0 percentage points from 44.3 per cent in April to June 2019.
- Separately collected food waste comprised 4.7 per cent. This is 1.0 percentage points higher than April to June 2019.
- Organic waste tonnages are linked to the season and are mainly affected by variations in the weather. However in April to June 2020 the Covid-19 outbreak and national lockdown disrupted kerbside collections of organic waste. Many household

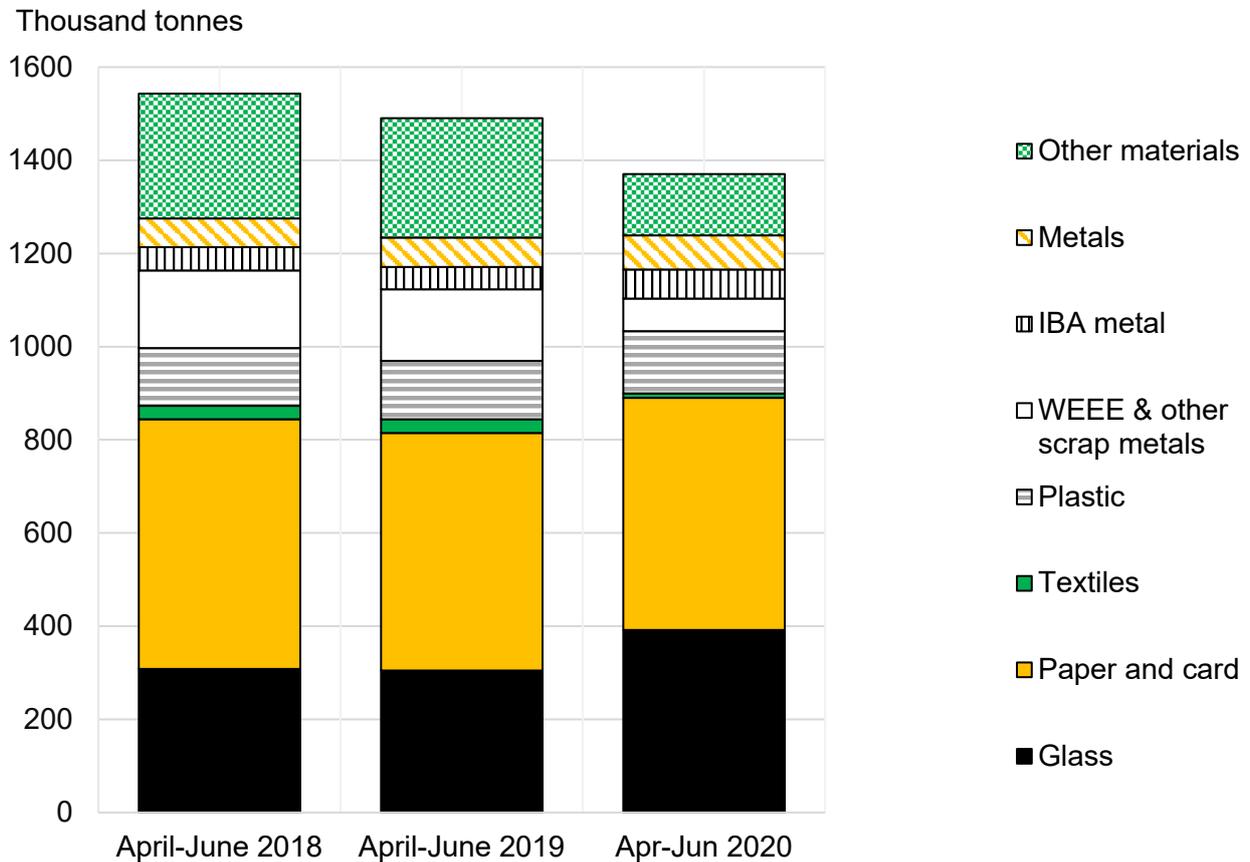
waste recycling centres (HWRC) were subject to temporary closure and had limitations on use on reopening. Both these factors had an impact on the tonnages of “other organics”.

### **1.5 Waste from Households: Dry Recycling Composition (Figure 4)**

- In April to June 2020, dry recycling tonnages were impacted by the Covid-19 outbreak and national lockdown. Some local authorities reported disruption to weekly kerb side collections and bulky waste collection services. Increased time at home may also have affected the amount of dry recyclate generated. Closures and restricted opening of HWRC's also impacted on the amount of waste managed and recycled.
- Dry recycling including IBA metals was 1.4 million tonnes in April to June 2020, compared to 1.5 million tonnes in April to June 2019. It made up 24.0 per cent of total 'waste from households' and 53.1 per cent of all 'waste from households' recycling, compared to 51.9 per cent in April to June 2019.
- Comparing April to June 2020 against the same period in 2019 there were increases of 87 thousand tonnes (29 per cent) in the tonnage of glass, 9 thousand tonnes (7 per cent) in Plastics, 10 thousand tonnes (16 per cent) in the tonnage of metals, and 15 thousand tonnes (31 per cent) in the tonnage of metals recovered from IBA.
- There were decreases in paper and card of 12 thousand tonnes or 2 per cent, WEEE and other scrap metals decreased sharply by 84 thousand tonnes or 55 per cent. Other materials were down by 125 thousand tonnes or 49 per cent.
- Textiles collected for recycling or preparation for reuse decreased by 20 thousand tonnes or 69 per cent. This was due to disruptions to collections, HWRC closures and charity shop closures during lockdown.

Figure 4 shows the England 'waste from households' dry recycling composition from April to June 2018.

**Figure 4: 'Waste from households' dry recycling composition, England, April to June 2018, 2019 and 2020 (thousand tonnes)**



**Notes**

**Other materials** includes batteries (both automotive and post-consumer), bric-a-brac, chipboard and MDF, composite food and beverage cartons, composite wood materials, fire extinguishers, furniture, ink and toner cartridges, mattresses, mineral oil, paint, tyres (car, large vehicle, van and mixed tyres), vegetable oil, video tapes, DVDs and CDs, wood, and other.

## 2 Management of All Local Authority Collected Waste, April to June of 2018, 2019 and 2020 (Table 2)

Local authority collected waste consists of all 'waste from households', street sweepings, municipal parks and gardens waste, beach cleansing waste, and waste resulting from the clearance of fly-tipped materials plus some commercial and/or industrial waste. For further information, see the [definition of terms](#) on gov.uk.

- Total local authority managed waste in April to June 2020 was 6.3 million tonnes, down by 0.5 million tonnes from April to June 2019. This is a decrease of 7.4 per cent.
- 6.5 per cent of all local authority collected waste was sent to landfill in April to June 2020. This was a total of 0.4 million tonnes, and 0.2 million tonnes lower (a decrease of 34.0 per cent) than in April to June 2019.
- 64.1 per cent (264 thousand tonnes) of the waste sent to Landfill was sent direct in April to June 2020. This is a decrease from April to June 2019, when 76.8 per cent of all local authority collected waste sent to landfill was sent directly.
- 48.0 per cent of all local authority waste was incinerated<sup>1</sup> in April to June 2020. This was a total of 3.0 million tonnes, and an increase of 0.2 million tonnes (7.5 per cent) from 2019. This increase was off-set by reductions in waste going to landfill.
- 68.9 per cent (2.1 million tonnes) of waste sent to incineration was sent direct in April to June 2020, compared to 68.6 per cent in April to June 2019/19 when 1.9 million tonnes of local authority collected waste was sent direct to incineration.
- The amount of local authority collected waste sent for recycling in April to June 2020 was 2.7 million tonnes, down 0.5 million tonnes from 2019. Waste sent for recycling comprised 42.5 per cent of all local authority waste, a decrease of 3.8 percentage points from 2019.
- The tonnage of non household waste managed by Local authorities decreased by 163 thousand tonnes (60.5 per cent) in April to June 2020 compared to 2019. This is likely to have been mainly due to the closure of commercial & Industrial premises during national lockdown.
- Table 2 shows the tonnage of local authority collected waste sent to landfill, incineration, or recycling in April to June for the past three years.

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<sup>1</sup> Incineration with energy recovery/without energy recovery includes incineration bottom ash (IBA) and metals from IBA.

**Table 2: Management of all Local Authority collected waste in England, April to June 2018, 2019 and 2020 (thousand tonnes)**

<b>Waste disposal method</b>	<b>April to June 2018</b>	<b>April to June 2019</b>	<b>April to June 2020</b>	<b>April to June 2020 % Change from 2019</b>
Landfill	900	625	412	-34.0%
Recycled/composted of which:-	3,334	3,149	2,677	-15.0%
Household waste	3,053	2,879	2,569	-10.8%
Non household waste	281	270	107	-60.3%
Total incineration of which:-	2,757	2,812	3,024	7.5%
Incineration with EfW	2,709	2,767	2,980	7.7%
Incineration without EfW1	48	45	44	-2.4%
Other	199	220	192	-12.6%
<b>Total local authority waste managed</b>	<b>7,190</b>	<b>6,806</b>	<b>6,305</b>	<b>-7.4%</b>
<b>Recycled/composted waste as percentage of total</b>	<b>46.4%</b>	<b>46.3%</b>	<b>42.5%</b>	<b>-3.8 percentage points</b>

**Notes**

**April to June 2020 figures** are provisional, based on around 98% of total waste tonnages for England they have been grossed up to give an estimate for England. Data will be subject to revisions when annual figures are produced.

**Incineration with energy recovery/without energy recovery** includes incineration bottom ash (IBA) and metals from IBA.

**Recycling** figures in this table do not include metals recovered from IBA.

**Numbers may not add to exact totals.** This is due to rounding.

### **3 Local authority level quarterly datasets.**

The accompanying dataset to this publication shows quarterly data by local authority. This data is provisional and will be subject to revision during preparation of the annual statistical notice. For this reason, raw data for April to June 2020 is not available for public download from the WasteDataFlow website at this time.

Quarterly recycling rates at individual local authority level vary considerably under normal circumstances, mainly due to tonnages of organics and the effect of the weather upon growing conditions in any given year or season.

The effect of the Covid-19 outbreak and national lockdown in April to June 2020 means that for many authorities there is greater variation between years than usual in the April to June 2020 data. This largely depended upon the impact to an individual local authority's kerbside collections, HWRC's and the level of commercial & Industrial and non household waste they handle.

When thinking about how this data may relate to the rest of the 2020/21 year users should consider the changing Covid-19 situation. The changes presented in this notice or accompanying datasets should not be regarded as indicative of waste tonnages or recycling rates for the 2020/21 year a whole.

#### **3.1 Local authority data: April to June 2020 compared to April to June 2019**

335 Waste Authorities reported their waste collection and disposal data for this period.

Of the 305 waste collection authorities (WCA) and unitary authorities (UA) who reported in April to June 2020:

- Changes in recycling rates for April to June 2020 compared to April to June 2019 ranged from between falls of up to 30 percentage points to increases of up to 13 percentage points.
- Some of those authorities with the largest decreases in rates reported cancellation or major disruption to collections (particularly of organics) and HWRC closures.
- 280 (92%) authorities had an increase in the tonnage of Kerbside collected residual waste. Many of these increases were significant with the largest increase in tonnage being 82% higher than in April to June 2019.
- Growing conditions for plants during April to June 2020 were more favourable than in April to June 2019, and where there was minimal disruption to collections of green waste, tonnages collected increased compared to April to June 2019. In total 174 authorities reported an increase.
- 211 (69%) of authorities reported an increase in the tonnage of dry recycling collected.

106 (31%) of WCA and UA authorities had an increase in their recycling rate.

Of these authorities:

- 96 reported increases in the tonnage of “green recycling” sent for composting or Anaerobic digestion.
- 96 reported increases in the tonnage of “Dry recycling or reuse”
- 86 reported an increase in the tonnage of regular residual waste collections, 20 reported a decrease in this tonnage.

199 (65%) WCA and UA authorities had a decrease in their recycling rate.

Of these authorities:

- 121 reported a decrease in the tonnage of “green recycling” sent for composting or anaerobic digestion.
- 84 reported a decrease in the tonnage of “Dry recycling or reuse”
- 194 reported an increase in the tonnage of regular residual waste collections, 5 reported a decrease in this tonnage.

## 4 Data and Methodology

Including information on data uses, feedback, revisions policy, methodology, glossary of terms and measures, and references. More detail can be found in the latest annual statistics release and accompanying [methodology document](#) for the annual release.

### 4.1 Estimates for missing data

The figures for England are based on returns from 335 local authorities representing around 98 per cent of coverage of local authority waste in England. There were 3 Local authorities: Isle of Wight, Sheffield City Council and Swindon Borough Council who were not able to report their data in time for production of these statistics. An estimate for the 3 has been calculated based on changes observed between April to June 2019 and April to June 2020 for those local authorities who did submit figures.

### 4.2 Covid-19 – The impact of the epidemic on these statistics.

The latest data shown in this publication covers the 3 months from April 2020 to June 2020 the first national lockdown introduced in March 2020 meant that Waste collection was heavily disrupted during this period. Some local authorities were unable to maintain collections of dry recyclates, and there was suspension of garden waste collections and widespread closure of HWRCs. This was due to staff shortages and the introduction of changes to working practices. The national lockdown and rules for the operation of some commercial enterprises had a significant impact on the generation of waste during this period.

The national lockdown and demands on local authority services due to staff absence or redeployment also had a major impact on the ability of some authorities to report their waste data.

ADEPT ran a [survey](#) of local authorities in 2020 and 2021 which estimated the impact of Covid-19 and the national lockdown on waste services.

Whilst there were some difficulties reported by local authorities e.g. obtaining data from smaller businesses e.g. such as charity shops (who provide reuse outlets for clothes etc) many local authorities reported that the quality of the data, for this period, was unaffected by the situation.

The relaxing of the lockdown rules during the summer of 2020 and the return to a full national lockdown during the winter months means that the trends shown in these stats should not be regarded as indicative for the year as a whole. However, it is likely that the period April to June 2020 saw the biggest impact to waste collections and commercial waste as Local authorities and businesses acclimatised to and became used to working under national lockdown and Covid-19 epidemic conditions.

### 4.3 Data uses

Data on waste management is used to monitor policy effectiveness and to support policy development. The underlying data held in WasteDataFlow is also used extensively by local and central government, the waste industry, and the public. Data is reported by all local

authorities, often from management information supplied by their waste management contractor.

#### 4.4 Feedback

We welcome feedback on the data from all users, including how and why the data is used. This helps us to understand the value of the statistics to external users. Please take a minute to complete this [short survey](#) (this opens in google forms). Alternatively you can email the Waste Statistics team at [WasteStatistics@defra.gov.uk](mailto:WasteStatistics@defra.gov.uk).

#### 4.5 Revisions Policy

This is an experimental statistics release and the data it contains for April to June 2020 will be revised when the next annual National statistics publication is produced.

The figures in this statistical release were extracted in March 2021 from data reported by local authorities during 2020 and 2021.

#### 4.6 Methodology

Data from this release comes from a snapshot of the WasteDataFlow database taken in March 2021. [WasteDataFlow](#) is a UK-wide system managed by Defra in collaboration with Devolved Administration partners that is used to record the collection, treatment and disposal of local authority waste. First results using this database were produced for 2004/05 with earlier estimates of waste available from the Municipal Waste Management Surveys.

The tonnage of waste 'sent for reuse, recycling and composting' is that which is accepted by the re-processor. As such, it excludes any recycling rejects that occur during collection, sorting or further treatment. Waste diverted for recycling from the residual (or 'black bag waste') stream by further processing is included in the recycling tonnages.

#### 4.7 Data Quality Assurance

All local authorities provide data into WasteDataFlow. Several stages of data validation are carried out by the local authority submitting the data, the WasteDataFlow contractor and Defra, with input from the Environment Agency.

The WasteDataFlow contractors check each return for completeness and data consistency against key standardised validation checks. Data is checked against appropriate threshold values specified, which take into account the expected level of variance. There is an online validation process that compares the data for the current quarter against the data for the equivalent quarter in the previous year.

Once the data has been validated by the contractor, further validation checks of Local Authority level data are usually carried out by Defra – **This has not been done on the April to June 2020 data at this time and data for this period will be subject to revision.** Details of the validation process carried out by the contractor are available on the WasteDataFlow website.

## 5 Glossary of Terms and Measures

### ‘Waste from Households’

The ‘waste from households’ measure was introduced to statistical publications by Defra in May 2014. It is used to construct a harmonised UK indicator for reporting recycling rates at a UK level on a calendar year basis, providing comparable calculations across each of the four UK countries. ‘Waste from households’ is a narrower version of the ‘**household waste**’ measure that was used previously. The difference is that ‘waste from households’ excludes local authority collected waste types not considered to have come directly from households, such as street bins, street sweepings, parks and grounds waste, and compost-like output (CLO) from Mechanical Biological Treatment (MBT) plants. As explained methodology [document](#) for the annual release the ‘waste from households’ recycling calculation includes metal recovered after incineration (IBA metal). For further information on the calculations and differences between measures has been published on the gov.uk website and is summarised in the table below.

<b>Recycling (including composting and reuse)</b>	<b>Waste from Households recycling</b>	<b>Household waste recycling</b>
<i>from households and other premises similar to households, CA sites, Bring banks</i>	Y	Y
<i>from street bins</i>	N	Y
<i>from household-related parks and grounds</i>	Community skips only	Y
<i>from soil</i>	N	Y
<i>from rubble and plasterboard</i>	N	N
<i>from compost-like output from MBT plant</i>	N	Y
<i>from incineration bottom ash (IBA)</i>	N	N
<i>From metal recovered and recycled from incinerator bottom ash</i>	Y*	N
<i>other, from residual streams</i>	Y	Y
recycling rejects	N	N

<b>Residual waste</b>	<b>Waste from households residual</b>	<b>Household waste residual</b>
<i>from regular household collection</i>	Y	Y
<i>from civic amenity sites</i>	Y	Y
<i>from bulky waste</i>	Y	Y
<i>from other household waste</i>	Y	Y
<i>from street cleaning/sweeping</i>	N	Y
<i>from gully emptying</i>	N	Y
<i>from separately collected healthcare waste</i>	N	Y
<i>from asbestos waste</i>	N	Y

#### **Notes**

\* Revised to include IBA metal in 2017 and applied to data from April 2015.

The local authority recycling rate is based on the **NI 192 National Indicator** recycling calculation. The National Indicator calculation has been widely used by local authorities for many years for local strategic planning purposes, discussions with contractors and for benchmarking against other authorities and captures a broader scope of household waste than 'waste from households', e.g. it includes street sweepings and compost like output. This calculation is available as the NI 192 report on the WasteDataFlow [portal](#) and also on gov.uk [website](#). This is reported on a financial year basis to meet the needs of local authorities.

#### **Recycling rates across the United Kingdom**

As detailed above the 'Waste from households' recycling rate provides a consistent measure across England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland and allows reporting at UK level. However it should be noted that other National measures for Household recycling or recycling of all local authority collected waste differ across the devolved administrations. A [document](#) detailing these differences can be found here.

#### **6 Useful links**

[England Local Authority Waste – National statistics](#)

[Scottish Government Statistics](#)

[Welsh Government Statistics](#)

[Northern Ireland Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs Statistics](#)

[Eurostat](#)

[WasteDataFlow Portal](#)

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