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**STATISTICAL RELEASE**

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**LOCAL AUTHORITY COLLECTED WASTE MANAGEMENT STATISTICS FOR  
ENGLAND – PROVISIONAL RELEASE OF QUARTER 3 2011/12**

These provisional results summarise waste collected and managed by local authorities in England in the 12 months from January to December 2011. They are based on quarterly data submitted by local authorities to [WasteDataFlow](#).

The quarterly datasets for national and regional data up to Quarter 3 of 2011/12 are available to [download](#). In this statistics release comparisons are generally made between the financial year April 2010 to March 2011 (the most recent final annual results) and the rolling year January to December 2011, to minimise the effects of seasonal fluctuations.

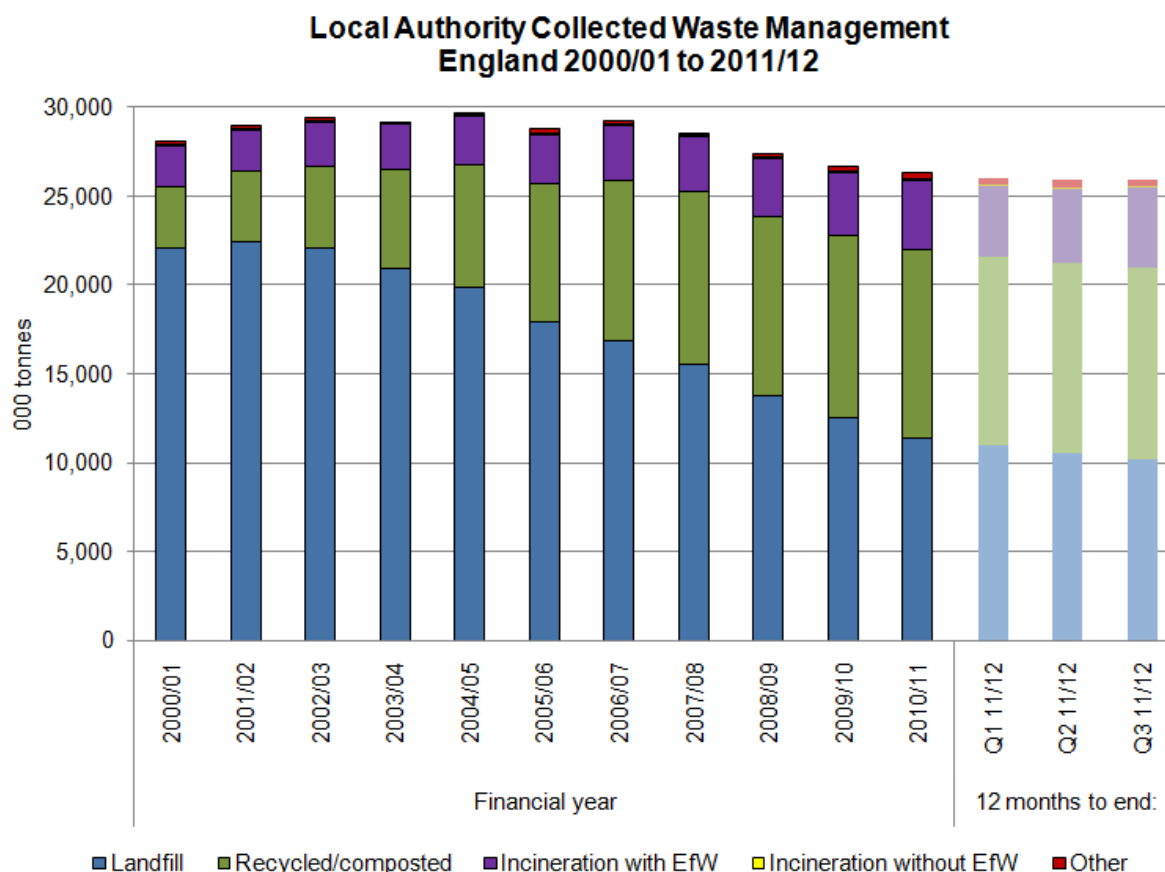
**Headline results**

- ***Household recycling has increased*** The proportion of household waste sent for recycling, composting or reuse between January to December 2011 in England was 42.9 per cent, increasing from 41.5 per cent in the financial year April 2010 and March 2011.
- ***Household waste generation has decreased*** The generation of household waste continued to decrease between the financial year 2010/11 and the rolling year January to December 2011, with a 0.9 per cent reduction to 23.2 million tonnes.
- ***Waste generation per person has decreased*** The weight of household waste generated in the year January to December 2011 in England, in kilograms per person, was 445 kg per person. Of this total, 191 kg was recycled, composted or reused whilst 254 kg was not.
- ***Local authority collected waste sent to landfill has declined*** The tonnage of local authority collected waste being sent to landfill by local authorities has

decreased by 11 per cent to 10.1 million tonnes between the financial year 2010/11 and the rolling year January to December 2011.

### Local authority collected waste generation and management

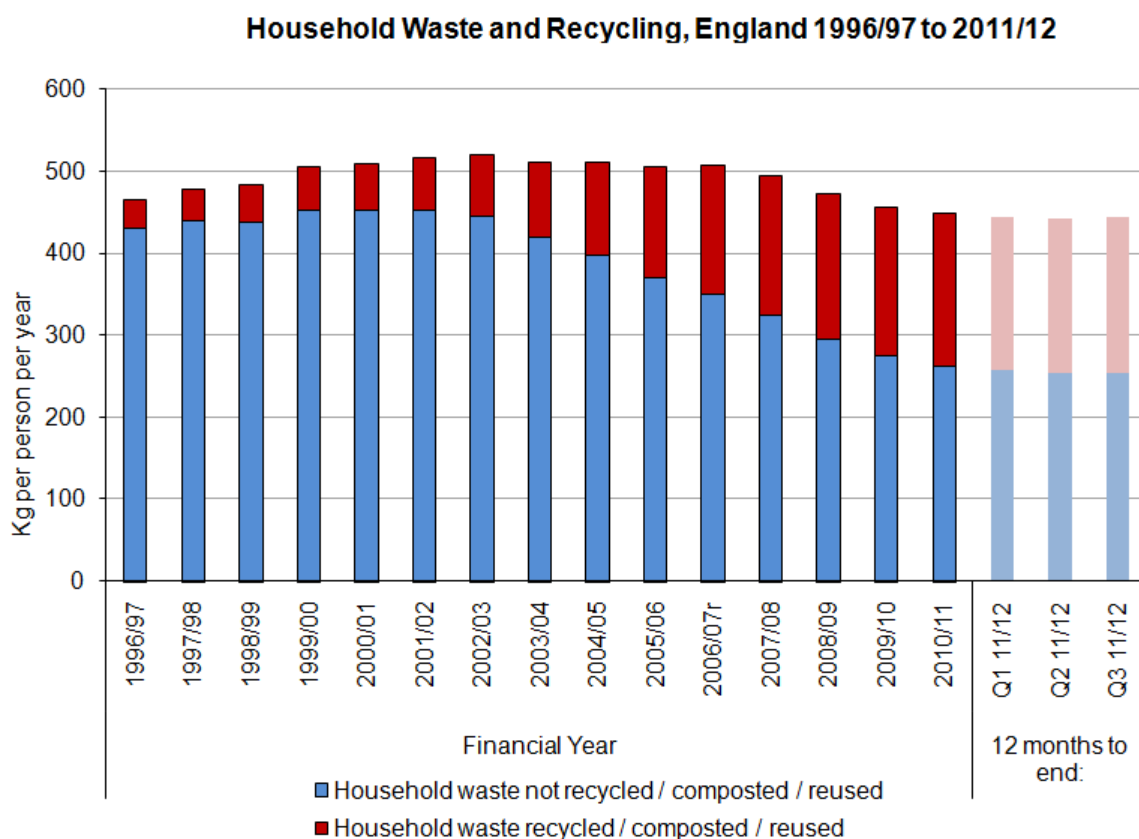
- The total amount of local authority collected waste generated has decreased by 1.4 per cent to 25.8 million tonnes between the financial year 2010/11 and the year January to December 2011.
- The proportion of local authority collected waste being recycled, composted or reused continued the long term trend, increasing from 40.4 per cent in the financial year 2010/11 to 41.9% in the year January to December 2011.
- The proportion of local authority collected waste disposed of into landfill between January to December 2011 was 39 per cent, half of the 78 per cent disposed in 2001/02. In tonnage terms, more waste was recycled, composted or reused (10.8 million tonnes) than was landfilled (10.1million tonnes).



### Household waste and recycling

- In the period January to December 2011, household sources accounted for 90 per cent of all local authority collected waste.

- The amount of waste collected from household sources in the calendar year 2011 was 23.2 million tonnes. This is a small increase (0.3 per cent) on 2010, and a small decrease (0.9 per cent) compared to financial year 2010/11. On a financial year basis household waste generation has been decreasing annually since 2006/07 with an average annual decrease of 1.6 per cent. As data for 2011/12 is provisional it is not possible to say for certain that the decline has slowed in this year.
- The proportion of household waste recycled (including composting and reuse) in 2011 was 42.9 per cent – nearly 10 million tonnes of waste, and 0.5 million tonnes more than in 2010. Quarterly recycling rates vary seasonally, but there is a continuing upward trend.
- The amount of household waste generated per person per year in kilograms in 2011 was 445 kg, of which 191 kg was recycled.



These statistics are provisional. The next statistics release will be the final annual results for 2011/12. These will be released in November 2012.

Quarterly local authority level [data](#) up to 2010/11, a [statistical summary](#) note and information on local authority waste [policies](#) and the [Waste Review](#) are also available. Additional analyses can also be produced via the reporting tool on the [WasteDataFlow website](#).

## **Appendix 1 - Notes**

1. These tables are the provisional release of data from WasteDataFlow for Quarter 3 of 2011/12 and are national and regional estimates based on local authority returns in England. Results are produced from a snapshot of the database taken in July 2012, however changes may be made to the data after this copy has been taken and these will be reflected in the final 2011/12 publication in November 2012.
2. For Quarter 3 of 2011/12 there was a 100% response rate on WasteDataFlow. The data entered into WasteDataFlow are also used by the Environment Agency to monitor biodegradable local authority collected municipal waste sent to landfill by local authorities under the Landfill Allowances Trading Scheme (LATS).
3. There have been seven annual sets of results produced from the WasteDataFlow system. Some care should be taken when comparing 2004/05 onwards with previous years' results from the Municipal Waste Management Surveys.
4. Household waste includes household collection rounds ('bin' waste), other household collections such as bulky waste collections, waste from services such as litter collections, waste from civic amenity sites and wastes separately collected for recycling or composting through bring/drop off schemes, kerbside schemes and at civic amenity sites. Local authority collected waste is that which comes under the possession or control of the Local Authority and includes household waste and other wastes collected by a waste collection authority or its agents, such as municipal parks and gardens waste, beach cleansing waste, commercial or industrial waste, and waste resulting from the clearance of fly-tipped materials.
5. The amount of waste sent for reuse, recycling and composting is that which is accepted by the reprocessor. 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.
6. WasteDataFlow is a UK wide system managed by Defra in collaboration with Devolved Administration partners. Statistics for other UK countries are published by the relevant organisation.

<b>Scotland</b> (SEPA, Scottish Government)	<a href="http://www.sepa.org.uk/waste/waste_data/waste_data_digest.aspx">http://www.sepa.org.uk/waste/waste_data/waste_data_digest.aspx</a>
<b>Wales</b> (Welsh Government)	<a href="http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/theme/environment/wasterecycle/?lang=en">http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/theme/environment/wasterecycle/?lang=en</a>
<b>Northern Ireland</b> (DOENI)	<a href="http://www.doeni.gov.uk/index/information/asb/statistics.htm#environmentalstatistics">http://www.doeni.gov.uk/index/information/asb/statistics.htm#environmentalstatistics</a>

## **Appendix 2 – Notes on definitions of terms**

This note sets out the background to the change in terminology and definition of ‘municipal waste’ reporting in statistical terms.

Previously the term ‘Municipal Waste’ as used in the UK was used in 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 which is similar in nature and composition, which will include a significant proportion of waste generated by businesses and not collected by Local Authorities. In 2010, negotiations with the EU Commission and consultation with the waste community redefined national targets and the effects of this change in relation to the EU Landfill Directive targets.

To remove ambiguity, in the future references to ‘municipal waste’ will refer to the new definition. Therefore there is a need to define a new term to describe the data collected by WasteDataFlow. The agreed terminology arises from Defra’s response to the 2010 consultation on meeting the EU Landfill Diversion Targets in England.

### **Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste (LACMW)**

LACMW refers to the previous ‘municipal’ element of the waste collected by local authorities. That is household waste and commercial and industrial waste where collected by the local authority and which is similar in nature and composition as required by the Landfill Directive. This is the definition that will be used for LATS allowances. It excludes C&D waste

### **Local Authority Collected Waste (LACW)**

All waste collected by the local authority. This is a slightly broader concept than LACMW as it would include both this and non municipal fractions such as construction and demolition waste. LACW is the definition that will be used in statistical publications, which previously referred to municipal waste.

### **WasteDataFlow Statistics**

Since 2011, statistical releases and outputs from WasteDataFlow have been branded as Local Authority Collected Waste. This reflects the coverage of the data collected. Previous outputs may be found which are described as ‘municipal waste’ but will purely reflect the old description – the data will not have changed and will only cover LA activity. We expect it will take some time for the new terminology to become established.

#### A National Statistics publication

National Statistics are produced to high professional standards set out in the National Statistics Code of Practice. They undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure they meet customer needs.

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