

Rushcliffe Borough Council

Waste Strategy 2016 – 2020



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1. Foreword by Councillor Debbie Mason – Portfolio Holder for Communities and Leisure

The Rushcliffe Borough Council Waste Management Strategy 2016 – 2020 is a strategy for the future to allow for our continued commitment to recycle and compost, wherever possible, over 50% of the waste produced in Rushcliffe

Our previous waste strategy 2009 – 2015 built on the strong position the council were already in, having achieved Beacon Status for waste and recycling in 2006/2007. We have continued to develop the service moving forward, focusing on providing excellent customer care and choice, as well as continuing to invest in new technology to allow for efficient and effective collection services. We have continued to develop our services, and work with partners across Nottinghamshire in order to try and expand the range of services we can provide. We have shared our excellence across district borders and continue to work with partners such as Gedling Borough Council and Newark and Sherwood District Council.

However, we also face increasing pressures in the future to ensure we deliver sustainable and cost efficient services. To do this we will need to continue to work with partners, collaborate and ensure our costs are kept down whilst continuing to deliver our services

The council's priority will be to improve services within existing resources, and where possible our recycling and composting performance, plus increase waste minimisation awareness and encourage behavioural change. This waste management strategy will pave the way for Rushcliffe to continue to manage municipal waste and links to two of the Councils corporate priorities:

- a) **Maintaining and enhancing our residents' quality of life** – through the delivery of high quality waste collection service which is an important foundation of public health
- b) **Transforming the Council to enable the delivery of efficient high quality services** – through the on-going work to maximise the efficiency and effectiveness of waste collection services

The Councils role within the waste hierarchy is influenced by many stakeholders. So we will endeavour to work with all stakeholders from residents to manufacturers, retailers and national bodies who influence the waste industry. In doing so we will also collaborate with our partners, other district councils and Nottinghamshire County Council to deliver a waste collection service that we can all be proud of.

2. Our Past Achievements (Waste Strategy 2009-2015)

Our previous waste strategy covered the period 2009 through to 2015 and incorporated a comprehensive action plan to ensure the Council continued to maintain our high levels of performance. Key achievements during the lifetime of this strategy have included:

- Introduced a highly successful paid for garden waste scheme, helping to ensure the garden waste service remains sustainable whilst supporting recycling objectives
- Increased our income and maximised resources by working cross borders to collect garden waste in Newark and Sherwood
- Reduced our costs with an innovative co-operation agreement with Nottingham City Council who now maintain our fleet of refuse vehicles
- Following an in depth evaluation we have been able to extend the life span of our waste collection vehicles to maximise asset value and reduce capital expenditure
- Following a review of the health care waste service, successfully incorporated Gedling Borough Council's customers into our existing rounds, utilising any spare capacity and increasing income
- Completed a trial of on street recycling litter bins in central West Bridgford
- Continue to work with landlords and students (including attending landlord forums) to promote recycling and reduce contamination
- Continued to raise awareness of 'reduce, reuse and recycle' messages through the 'Are You Bin Smart?' and 'Bin There Done That' campaigns
- Ensure we practice what we preach by recycling as much waste as possible that is brought into our Abbey Road Depot
- Enhanced our glass recycling bring sites which now bring in more tonnes of glass than many other councils who operate more expensive doorstep glass recycling services
- Successful partnership working with trade waste service providers
- Carried out Nottinghamshire first TEEP assessment to ensure our services remained compliant with new legislation
- Invested in new 'in cab' technology to reduce the levels of missed collections and increase customer satisfaction
- Invested in our young people by launching waste and recycling apprenticeships
- Carried out a full review of our tanker waste service, increased our customer database and income ensuring the service was profitable
- Maintaining a high recycling and composting rate for each year and being the top performer across Nottinghamshire
- Contributed at a national level to the Pledge 4 Plastics campaign and Plastics Industry Recycling Action Plan aimed at packaging recovery
- Introduced a new working agreement in 2010 leading to more integrated team working and improved collection services

3. Purpose of this Waste Strategy.

There are currently no statutory targets set by the central UK government for recycling rates and whilst there is the overarching EU Waste Framework Directive target, this lack of direct targets, along with other factors such as good progress to date and reducing packaging on many products, is widely acknowledged to be contributing to the plateauing of recycling rates. It is therefore imperative that a suitable strategy and approach is determined in order to encourage recycling and where economically feasible maintain current performance levels.

The underlying core principle of sustainable wastes management is to follow the Waste Hierarchy. The Waste Hierarchy emphasis is prevention as a sustainable method of waste management rather than disposal, this strategy underpins the five principles.



These five principles will consistently run through all of the Council's policies which contribute to waste minimisation in its broadest interpretation. The adoption of these principles will ensure that the Council conforms to the Government's requirements

The aim of this strategy is to work with partners to encourage waste minimisation and where economically feasible increase recycling and composting rates in Rushcliffe Borough Council to exceed local recycling & composting targets of 50% by 2020 whilst taking into account any future legislative requirements.

Rushcliffe will, through publicity and promotion actively look at reducing levels of dry recycling contamination, and continue to promote the recycling2go service. We will continue to explore the technical and economic feasibility, with partners, of collecting and recycling other waste types.

4. Residual Wastes. (The Grey Bin)

The Council operates an alternate weekly residual waste collection service 'normal' domestic waste. Capacity is a 240/1100 litre wheeled refuse container with a closed lid policy (no side waste). For a small number of properties who do not have sufficient space or access for a wheeled bin, a grey plastic sack collection system is in place. The Council has responded to the differing needs of its residents and are able to supply additional residual waste bins for those families of five or more or those families who have two or more children in nappies, as well as one bin between two students at student properties. Regular reviews take place at such properties ensuring that recycling is also taking place wherever possible, and that the circumstances are still applicable.

Table 1 below details residual waste tonnage for the last 6 years. As property growth continues in Rushcliffe overall tonnage will increase however due to local and national measures to minimise waste and smaller households it is expected that Kg's of residual waste per household (Table 2) should remain relatively consistent and ideally reduce. It is however noted that consumer buying habits change for many reasons and nationally residual waste per household is beginning to rise again which can be linked to the country's improving financial position and the way this indicator is recorded can change such as the inclusion of street sweepings in 2013/2014

Table 1 – Residual Waste Tonnages

Tonnages	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Energy from Waste	14,447	18,184	18,570	17,718	18,520	18,134
Landfill	4,687	1,183	920	2,103	1,413	2,472
Total	19134	19367	19490	19821	19933	20606

Table 2 – Residual Waste Kg/per household

	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
KG's of residual waste per household	453	442	436	442	455

Future Focus

Over the lifetime of this Strategy the Council will;

- a) Work with key partners and stakeholders to encourage waste minimisation
- b) Seek to maximise the transfer of recyclable material from the residual waste stream (grey bin) to the blue bin, green bin or other recycling routes

5. Recyclable Wastes.

5.1. Kerbside Collections: (The Blue Bin)

The Council operates an alternate weekly collection of mixed dry recyclables (paper, card, mixed food & drinks cans and plastic bottles as well as yoghurt pots/margarine tubs) using 240/1100 litre wheeled refuse containers. For a small number of properties that are unable to house wheeled bins alternative arrangements are in place. Flat packed cardboard can also be placed next to the blue wheeled bin on collection day. The Council will also provide an additional blue bin to help increase recycling and meet customer needs where requested. Regular monitoring of the blue bin takes place to ensure that contamination levels are kept to a minimum. These measures are key to ensure the Council have a robust checking system to help meet the requirements of the revised Waste Framework Directive Regulation 12. As can be seen from table 3 below overall dry recycling tonnages are on the decrease. This trend is occurring across country and is in line with national guidance on reducing packaging thus meeting the waste hierarchy of reduction before recycling.

Table 3 – Recyclable Materials Tonnage

Tonnages	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
MRF Input	8,727	8,599	8,275	7,943	7,714	7,642
Contamination	226	223	215	206	317	458
Recycled	8,500	8,375	8,060	7,736	7,397	7,184

However when comparing this data alongside table 1 for overall residual waste tonnages there is an obvious potential for recycling rates to be put under pressure as can be seen in table 4 below

Table 4 - Council Recycling Rates

	Ashfield DC	Bassetlaw DC	Broxtowe BC	Gedling BC	Mansfield DC	NSDC	Rushcliffe BC
2010/11	34%	23%	43%	37%	41%	26%	54%
2011/12	34%	23%	42%	37%	39%	26%	51%
2012/13	34%	22%	41%	36%	36%	24%	51%
2013/14	33%	21%	40%	37%	38%	26%	51%
2014/15	33%	19%	39%	36%	36%	27%	49%

Note this data includes green waste (where applicable) where tonnages can fluctuate dependent on weather conditions

Future Focus

Over the lifetime of this Strategy the Council will;

- a) Seek to reduce contamination levels through publicity and promotion and targeting areas where contamination is particularly prevalent
- b) Investigate methods to support good recycling practice in multiple household situations e.g. provision of 1100 litre bulk containers with clear windows to help reduce contamination levels
- c) Working with key partners to expand the current MRF input specification to allow for a broader range of materials to be recycled

5.2. Bring Site Collections:

The domestic waste collection service provides residents with the opportunity to recycle and compost their waste however this service is further supplemented by a network of over 60 bring sites which are located across the Borough.

Bring sites provide an important service to facilitate textile & shoe reuse, food & drinks carton recycling and colour segregated glass recycling, there are some newsprint and card board recycling banks placed around the borough at our super bring sites to help with capacity for larger households. The bring sites feature external sound proofing measures where the need arises and acoustic measures fitted into glass recycling banks to reduce the noise of glass on glass resonating from the container.

In line with reducing the weight of the products they produce as part of their wider responsibilities, the glass industry have been reducing the amount of glass used in in number of glass bottle types which has played a significant contribution in the recent overall reduction in bring site tonnage as shown in Table 5.

Table 5 – Bring site Tonnage

Tonnages	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Bring Sites	3,002	2,735	2,700	2,480	2,545	2,342

Future Focus

Over the lifetime of this Strategy the Council will;

- a) Explore with partners the technical and economic feasibility for introducing new recycling streams at bring sites

6. Organic Wastes. (The Green Bin)

The Council operates an alternate weekly collection of garden waste. This is a discretionary opt in paid for service where residents are registered as members of the Rushcliffe Garden Waste Club. The green wheeled bin is collected on the same day as the blue bin and provides a 240 litre capacity for grass cuttings, leaves, twigs weeds etc. The Council also provides additional green bins up to a maximum of 4 per property again to help increase more efficient composting and meet customer demand. The current arrangements for green waste collections is to suspend them over the Christmas and New Year period to reflect the seasonal reduction in tonnage. In addition and for those who would prefer alternative disposal options, the Council continues to promote home composting and offers compost bins at competitive prices to residents of the Borough through a national framework agreement. The total annual tonnage for organic waste collected is detailed in Table 6.

The Council has also extended the club scheme to provide an alternate weekly collection subscription service for some areas of Newark & Sherwood District Council using a brown bin. This is a partnership agreement to help meet the demand for their residents as well as seeking to maximise the Council's own collection resources.

Table 6

Tonnages	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Rushcliffe	11,602	12,385	10,258	11,174	11,509	11,408
Newark & Sherwood						452

Future Focus

Over the lifetime of this Strategy the Council will;

- a) Identify future partners to further expand the current garden waste club scheme

7. Other Wastes

7.1. Healthcare Wastes:

Healthcare wastes generated at home is designated as either 'offensive' or 'infectious'. In essence this means most domestic generated healthcare waste can be classed as offensive and be disposed of through the residual (grey bin) wastes stream. The Council will provide additional residual waste containers based on assessed need for offensive domestic generated healthcare wastes, it also provides

a separate collection of infectious wastes on receipt of the healthcare professional's assessment.

7.2. Bulky Wastes:

The Council supports local residents to offer a collection service for items that are not normally disposed of during the normal collection arrangements. Large bulky items are collected by the Council for a small charge on a weekly basis. The Council also promotes re-use wherever possible and offers residents alternatives to disposal such as specific local charities that may be interested in such items.

7.3. Waste Electronic Electrical Equipment: (WEEE)

The Council promotes the use of local registered scrap metal dealers for residents to dispose of WEEE (fridges, washing machines, etc.) Details of such dealers are promoted on the Rushcliffe website.

7.4. Commercial Wastes:

The Council works with other providers to facilitate the delivery of a commercial waste service and encourages business to recycle their waste wherever practicable.

7.5. Effluent Wastes:

The Council provides an emptying service for private and commercial cesspools/grease traps and septic tanks within the Borough. A charge is levied for this service. We offer a 24 hour emergency call out service. The costs for the service vary and are detailed on the Council's website.

7.6. Battery Recycling:

The Council provides a kerbside collection battery recycling scheme in response to resident demand. Our battery recycling service compliments the existing network of recycling points located in many retailers across the borough resulting from the EU Battery Directive, which placed the onus on suppliers of batteries to offer bring back facilities.

Future Focus

Over the lifetime of this Strategy the Council will;

- a) Ensure that bulky waste is, working with local charitable groups, re-used wherever possible as an alternative to disposal

- b) Optimise and expand the number of tanker service customers across Rushcliffe and into other neighbouring districts where financially viable

8. New Developments

Developers are made aware, through the planning process, of the Council policy to charge for the provision of refuse wheeled containers.

9. New Legislation

The Council will respond to any new legislation brought forward by central government. Rushcliffe Borough Council led on producing a TEEP assessment, (*technically, environmentally and economically practicable*) which became necessary as part of the revised Waste Framework Directive. This helps to provide evidence that the Council is providing the best type of recycling service to produce high quality recyclables.

10. Nottinghamshire County Council & Veolia ES

Whilst actual disposal of waste is controlled by Nottinghamshire County Council as the Waste Disposal Authority, landfill is not seen as a sustainable long-term option, this has already become established policy for Rushcliffe Borough Council which views materials collected as a resource rather than a waste.

The County Council are required to produce an annual Recycling and Composting plan to demonstrate work towards achieving the 52% Recycling and Composting target by 2020 set in the PFI Contract.

The Waste Reduction, Re-use and Composting Plan is drafted by the County Council and key stakeholders (Districts/Boroughs, Veolia and Defra) are able to feed comments/suggestions in to it

Rushcliffe will continue to work with Nottinghamshire County Council as a key partner and will continue to contribute to both the Nottinghamshire Waste Management Committee and the Nottinghamshire Joint Waste Officers Group.

11. Summary

Rushcliffe has an enviable record on waste and recycling and is the top performing collection authority in Nottinghamshire. However this strategy has sought to identify the pressures and constraints placed upon local authorities and key partners which in turn will ultimately shape future waste collection and recycling performance. In

particular as pressures on costs increase the Council will continue to look at ways of maintaining performance within existing resources whilst ensuring that customer service remains at the heart to what we do. Looking to the future we will continue to work closely with partners and explore further joint working opportunities in order to benefit both parties and where possible increase income.

Appendix A

WASTE ACTION PLAN		
	Key Actions	Outcomes
1	Review the TEEP assessment annually	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working with all districts to review the county wide TEEP assessment with a view to remaining compliant.
2	Communications campaigns – Promote and deliver <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bin There Done That – the councils newly launched campaign to reduce contamination and increase recycling. Love Food Hate Waste – national campaign to reduce food waste Recyclenow – use of the national resource to promote recycling where appropriate. On Pack Recycling Labels (OPRL) – making residents aware of what OPRL is on packaging labels and how it can assist when choosing whether to recycle something 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To continue to raise awareness of the recycling2go service and help to reduce residual waste, divert recyclable waste from the grey residual bin, increase recycling and reduce contamination levels
3	Expand the range of recyclable materials taken in the kerbside recycling schemes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The inclusion of ridged plastics would help to support residents making the right choice about which plastics can be recycled. Additional collection of lightweight plastics isn't likely to increase recycling tonnages and performance on its own however evidence does suggest an increase in overall service participation will increase material capture as a result 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhanced residents engagement with plastics recycling Increase recycling rates Decrease in contamination levels
4	Garden waste collections – Expand and promote the service <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creation of a garden waste members club, inclusion of added value to the service through voucher promotions. Target residual bins that have garden waste included. Raising awareness of the garden waste club benefits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase recycling rates Reduction in operational and back office costs during the renewal process
5	Explore the feasibility of textile recycling <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with Nottinghamshire County Councils as the disposal authority. Alternatively, work with schools to realise value. Raise awareness of the value to a school where parents bring textile to the school bank 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diversion of potential residual waste Increase in recycling rates
6	Explore the feasibility of food waste collections at the kerbside	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to work with Nottinghamshire County Council to establish a business case for the recycling of food waste.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raised recycling rates (by up to 6%)
7	Promote recycling initiatives in parish councils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create local area recycling champions to encourage recycling in villages • Potential for inter village competition to divert recyclables from the grey bin
8	Explore the recycling of large bulky items of furniture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that all waste collected as part of the 'bulky waste service' is recycled or re-used
9	On-going work with our own collection teams to improve customer service, reduce missed collections and decrease contamination levels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce contaminations at source rather than simply refusing to take a bin which, on the face of it, is not overly contaminated. • Reduce missed bins and increase levels of customer satisfaction
10	Work with Streetwise Environmental Services to ensure all waste delivered to our depot site is recycled wherever possible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practicing what we preach ensuring as little waste as possible from the depot is sent to energy from waste recovery or landfill

Appendix B - List of Consultees

1. All Parish and Town Councils
2. Environment Agency
3. Nottinghamshire County Council
4. Nottinghamshire District and Borough Councils
5. Rushcliffe Borough Council Environmental Sustainability Officer
6. West Bridgford Local Area Forum
7. Veolia Environmental Services Ltd
8. Streetwise Environmental Services Ltd