

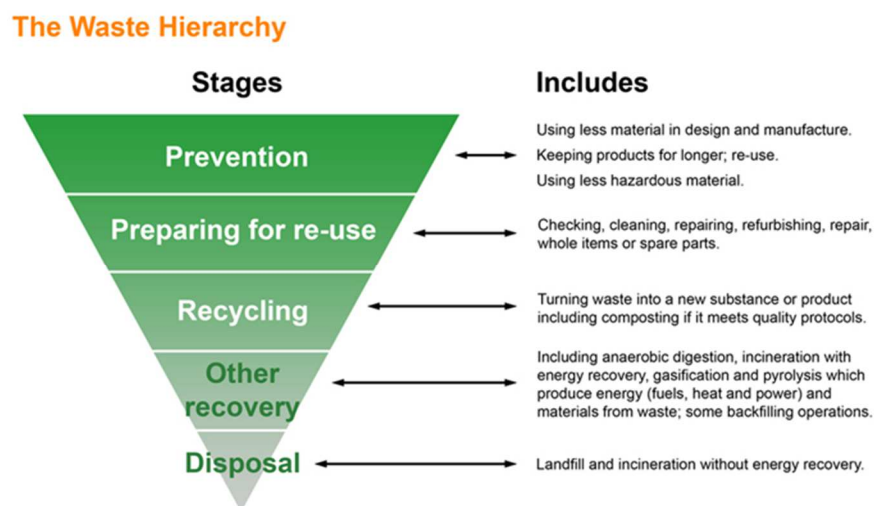


**NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
WASTE REDUCTION, RE-USE, RECYCLING
AND COMPOSTING PLAN
2018/19**

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The 2018/19 Nottinghamshire County Council Waste Reduction, Re-use, Recycling and Composting Plan is the fourth annual plan and builds on the activities in the 2017/18 plan. Defra require the County Council to provide an annual recycling plan to detail how year on year progress will be made in order to move towards achieving the PFI waste contract target of recycling and composting 52% of household waste by 2020, alongside achieving an overall tonnage reduction. This is a target that aligns with the EU Waste Framework Directive target of 50% by 2020 and recycling 65% of municipal waste by 2030.
- 1.2. The results of the 2017/18 plan will be covered in the Communities and Place Performance Report which will be published during the autumn of 2018 and made available via the County Council website. This plan will primarily focus on the key activities that are likely to take place during 2018/19 and will cover their expected impacts. Alongside this, a summary of other smaller scale, ongoing activities will be included.
- 1.3. Emphasis is placed on close partnership working between the County, who represent the Waste Disposal Authority (WDA) and the district and borough councils, who make up the Waste Collection Authorities (WCA). By focussing on key activities that provide a benefit to both the WCA and WDA there should be significant buy in and a greater chance of success.
- 1.4. The Waste Reduction, Re-use, Recycling and Composting Plan for 2018/19 will have ongoing activities grouped in accordance with the Waste Hierarchy as shown below.

Figure 1 – Waste Hierarchy



- 1.5. Whilst this plan is primarily concerned with recycling and composting it is important to consider all stages of the waste hierarchy in order to look at how the recycling and composting elements fit within the whole of waste management. Focus will be placed on each stage and will highlight what plans Nottinghamshire County Council have for each element of the Waste Hierarchy.

2. Current Status of Recycling in Nottinghamshire

- 2.1. All 7 WCA currently collect mixed dry recyclables including paper, card, tins, cans, plastic bottles as well as yoghurt pots and margarine tubs. These materials are taken either directly or via a dedicated transfer station to the PFI Contract Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) at Mansfield where they are sorted and separated through a variety of methods and processes then baled and sent for reprocessing.
- 2.2. Within the PFI contract there are a number of targets and Key Performance Indicators (KPI) which include a progressive increase in recycling and composting rates across the life of the contract. An ambitious target of achieving 52% of Household Waste being recycled and composted by 2020 was set to align with the European Commission’s Waste Framework Directive target of 50% by 2020. Unfortunately, in light of a number of factors it is looking increasingly unlikely that this target will be met. Despite this, it remains important to have a well formulated plan to help maximise recycling levels.
- 2.3. Although recycling rates in Nottinghamshire had plateaued in recent years, 2016/17 saw the first increase in the rate for many years as it climbed to 44.2%. The recycling rate for Nottinghamshire in 2017/18 will be published in the Communities and Place Performance Report document during autumn 2018 when tonnage figures for all elements of household waste have been finalised. The recycling rates for all WCA and Nottinghamshire as a whole in recent years can be seen in figure 2 below.

Figure 2 – Recycling Rates

	ADC %	BDC %	BBC %	GBC %	MDC %	N&SDC %	RBC %	Recycling Centres %	Overall %
2010/11	34	23	43	37	41	26	54	72	43
2011/12	34	23	42	37	39	26	51	75	43
2012/13	34	22	41	36	36	24	51	80	43
2013/14	33	21	40	37	38	26	51	81	43
2014/15	33	19	39	36	36	27	49	79	43
2015/16	32	20	39	36	35	30	49	79	43
2016/17	41	21	40	37	35	32	50	79	44

- 2.4. Each WCA has its own distinct demographic make-up and challenges with regards to achieving increased recycling rates. After many years of stagnation and even slight falls in recycling rates, 2016/17 bucked the trend with 6 of the 7 districts and boroughs increasing their recycling rates for the year.
- 2.5. Alongside the collection of recyclable materials highlighted above, several WCA offer additional kerbside collection services including garden waste and glass collections. Whilst only 3 districts undertake kerbside collections of glass it should be noted that several others collect significant tonnages through their network of ‘Bring Banks.’ Garden waste collections

are undertaken by all 7 WCA, Bassetlaw District Council having introduced their scheme in 2017.

- 2.6. Within the County there are currently 12 recycling centres that accept household waste from Nottinghamshire residents. In 2016/17 approximately 88,000 tonnes of waste (including inert materials) was collected at the County's recycling centres, and of this 79% was recycled. The recycling centres consistently send high levels of Household Waste for recycling and it is expected that these high levels will be maintained on the release of the 2017/18 figures.
- 2.7. The recycling centres accept a wide range of materials including standard dry recyclables collected at the kerbside such as paper, card, tins etc. but also other materials and items such as metals , electrical goods, garden waste, wood, engine oil and car batteries. 4 of the sites (Beeston, Calverton, Newark and Warsop) also accept paint which, where it is suitable for re-use, is made available free of charge to members of the public, charities, community groups and other organisations by appointment throughout the year. In 2016/17 around 60% of all donated paint was redistributed to members of the public and various groups and organisations.

3. Brief summary of 2017/18 Activities and Investments

- 3.1. Several of the 2018/19 key activities will build on those introduced in 2017/18 which included the following;

Bassetlaw Green Waste Collection Service

- 3.2. The Bassetlaw Green Waste Collection was introduced in March 2017 and despite a modest start following the introduction of the scheme tonnages have since started to rise and look on course to achieve the anticipated 2017/18 tonnage of around 3,000 tonnes. The biggest uptake of the scheme, as expected, was in the urban areas of Worksop and Retford.
- 3.3. The introduction of this scheme was supported by the County Council through a financial contribution towards the capital costs of implementing the service. It is expected that this will not only increase recycling rates for the District and therefore the County, but should also reduce disposal costs by moving green waste away from the residual stream.
- 3.4. Modelling suggested that the impacts of the scheme in year 1 would be modest as it becomes established with an expected 2% increase in the Recycling Rate for Bassetlaw District Council and a 0.1% increase in the recycling rate for the county as a whole.

Year 2 of Ashfield Green Waste Incentive Scheme

- 3.5. After a successful first year of the scheme in 2016/17 that saw significant increases in green waste tonnage and falls in residual tonnages in the Ashfield District. It was hoped that this trend would continue into the second year, prior to the reintroduction of the charged service in 2018/19.

Build on the Success of the Newark and Sherwood Green Waste Collection

- 3.6. 2016/17 saw the expansion of the Newark and Sherwood green waste collection to cover the whole of the district and in 2017/18 it was hoped that this would continue to become a well-established scheme with more repeat subscribers.

Monitoring and Enforcement of the Recycling Centre Registration Scheme

- 3.7. Despite a number of challenges and delays around full enforcement of the Recycling Centre Registration Scheme it has proved to a success. The scheme has achieved savings in waste disposal savings and a reduction in waste arisings at recycling centres despite a light touch approach to enforcement.

4. Key Activities for 2018/19

- 4.1. A number of key activities will form the basis of the 2018/19 plan. These will be defined as those that are likely to have the biggest impact, be this on the recycling rate, overall tonnage or significant financial implications. Following the key activities there will be a brief summary of the ongoing actions as aligns with the waste hierarchy.

Build on the introduction of the Bassetlaw Green Waste Collection Service

- 4.2. Bassetlaw District Council introduced their chargeable green waste collection service in March 2017 meaning that the whole county now has the opportunity to access a green waste collection service.
- 4.3. During 2017/18 the Bassetlaw Green Waste Collection service was in its infancy and it is hoped that as this service becomes established it will achieve a larger take-up during 2018/19 and generate an increased tonnage of green waste. It is hoped that in 2018/19 Bassetlaw will generate increased levels of green waste to boost their own and the County's overall recycling rates. As of January 2018 a total of 3,369 households had signed up to the scheme for 2018/19 with 178 of these being either new customers or existing customers ordering an additional bin.

Expected impact of activity for 2018/19 – Marginal increase in recycling rate

Countywide Recycling and Contamination Communications Campaigns

- 4.4. Recent years have seen rising levels of contamination in dry recycling across Nottinghamshire and the country as a whole. The average contamination figure of 12% has far exceeded the PFI contract target of 5% and has at times reached levels of 20% on some waste collection rounds. As a result the County Council is facing additional recovery and disposal costs due to rejected materials.
- 4.5. In order to combat this an effective communications campaign is required in order to help residents reduce and manage their waste effectively. Planned activities will be in line with the Council's Communications Policy and carried out in conjunction with the district and borough councils, the Council's Communications and Marketing team and Veolia.
- 4.6. It is intended to have seasonal and themed campaigns throughout the year which will provide a comprehensive guide to what can be recycled in Nottinghamshire as well as reminding residents of materials that are unsuitable for recycling or that cannot currently be recycled.
- 4.7. Plastic remains a material that many residents find confusing when it comes to what can and cannot be placed in the mixed dry recycling bin. Nationally, only 56% of plastic bottles make their way into the recycling stream. This represents huge potential to divert significant amounts of recyclable waste out of the residual waste stream. A focussed campaign for

Nottinghamshire will be undertaken to target these materials in order to boost recycling and support the principles behind the circular economy.

Expected impact of activities for 2017/18 – Successful communications campaigns should boost the recycling rate and reduced waste disposal costs.

Reintroduction of Green Waste Collection Charge in Ashfield

- 4.8. 2018/19 will see the reintroduction of a charge for the green waste collection service following the 2 year free incentive. During the 2 free years, tonnages of green waste have significantly increased alongside a fall in residual waste. This resulted in a rise in Ashfield's recycling rate, climbing from 32% to 41% during the first year of the scheme, with green waste tonnages looking to be maintained in year 2.
- 4.9. It is inevitable that there will be a falloff in the number of households utilising the green waste collection service once the charge is reintroduced but it is expected that the number of sign-ups will be significantly higher than the figure prior to the 2 free years. As of 9th January there had been 3,317 sign-ups to the scheme for April 2018, this is 4 times higher than at that time of year before the free service was introduced. Ashfield DC have every confidence that they will reach the 20,000 subscribers they require to meet the modelled numbers set out at the start of the project.
- 4.10. Ashfield have undertaken significant promotion of the scheme well before the reintroduction of the charge and it is hoped that the fall off of Ashfield's recycling rate can be minimised. The recycling rate for the district for 2018/19 should represent an increase compared to before the free service was offered.

Expected impact of activity for 2018/19 – Recycling rate for Ashfield should remain above the 2015/16.

Review of Recycling Centre Registration Scheme

- 4.11. The Recycling Centre Access Registration Scheme has proved successful making savings in waste disposal costs during its first full year. It is acknowledged however that the registration process could be easier for Nottinghamshire residents. Therefore, a review of this will be done to ensure the use of the recycling centres remains limited to Nottinghamshire residents but the registration process is eased.
- 4.12. Maintaining the registration scheme will ensure significant savings continue to be made by allowing only Nottinghamshire residents utilise the recycling centres whilst out of county residents will be directed to facilities in their local authority.

Expected impact of activities – Maintain significant financial savings and reduce overall waste arisings.

Investigate the Feasibility of a Glass Collection Scheme in Mansfield

- 4.13. Mansfield District Council are keen to introduce a glass collection scheme for residents in the district should sufficient capital be raised. A feasibility study will therefore be undertaken to see whether an acceptable payback period for any capital funding from the County Council can be achieved. This will be based on the level of funding required against the predicted capture rates of glass should a scheme be introduced.

Expected impact of activities – Scope to achieve an increase in Mansfield DC’s recycling rate should the scheme prove feasible.

5. Prevention

- 5.1. These measures are taken before a substance, material or product becomes waste ensuring there is less waste in the first instance. A number of activities aimed at waste prevention that were covered in the 2017/18 plan will continue throughout 2018/19.

Home Composting

- 5.2. Home Composting continues to be encouraged through the sale of discounted home composting bins as part of the National Framework Agreement with Straight Ltd. In addition to this home composting continues to be promoted through local media such as parish council newsletters and where possible, taking opportunities to promote through district councils.

Communications and Signposting

- 5.3. Nottinghamshire County Council will support activities that aim to reduce waste including sign-posting to the Real Nappies Campaign and the Mailing Preference Service. 'Emailme' is the County Council's email service that can be tailored by individuals to provide the information they're interested in. The Waste and Recycling service has continued to grow its numbers since it started in April 2014 with current subscriber numbers standing at 9,933 (correct 17/01/18). 'Emailme' continues to be promoted through a variety of ways including signs at recycling centres, bus shelter adverts and lamp post banners as well as promotional campaign materials.
- 5.4. Campaigns promoting the prevention of food waste through the Love Food Hate Waste campaign and clothes through the WRAP campaign on textiles will continue to be supported and signposted to through regular communications such as 'Emailme'.

6. Preparing for Reuse

- 6.1. These measures involve checking, cleaning or repairing components or products that have become waste so that they can be used without any other type of processing. Products and/or components salvaged in this way are thus removed from entering landfill or being disposed of in other ways.
- 6.2. There are 4 recycling centres in Nottinghamshire (Beeston, Calverton, Newark and Warsop) that offer a Community RePaint, paint reuse scheme whereby Nottinghamshire residents can deposit surplus or unwanted paint. The paint is then assessed for usability and sorted by type and colour with the paint being unsuitable for reuse being sent for treatment in the appropriate manner. The reusable paint is then sorted by type and colour and made available to members of the public, community groups and charities by appointment, free of charge. A total of 8 public evenings are being made available in 2018/19 alongside regular bookable appointments for charities and community groups.
- 6.3. The Furniture Reuse Network indicates that each year around 10 million items of furniture are thrown away and that 3 million of these could easily be reused. There are a number of furniture reuse schemes within the county and these will be promoted via the Council website as well as signposting to any relevant district council sites.

7. Recycling

- 7.1. This represents any recovery operation by which waste materials are reprocessed into products, materials or substances whether for the original or other purposes. Recycling and composting activities compile the majority of this action plan in order to achieve an increased recycling and composting rate for Nottinghamshire.

Business Cases and Feasibility Studies

- 7.2. The County Council will continue to look at how capture rates can be maximised through new initiatives and partnership working with the district and borough councils. Glass and plastic bottles are materials that are found in large amounts in the residual waste stream. Ongoing work will be done to look at options around increasing capture rates of these materials.
- 7.3. Consideration will continue to be given to other schemes and collections should there be a feasible business case, in particular for the garden waste collection schemes. Food waste collections will not be ruled out but there is currently no viable business case due to the costs surrounding collection and treatment along with the lack of suitable treatment sites.

Recycle for Nottinghamshire Education

- 7.4. Recycle for Nottinghamshire Education was launched in autumn 2015 and aims to unite all Nottinghamshire's waste reduction and recycling educational activities for easy signposting; Including activities for children, adults, groups and schools. Throughout 2018/19 work will continue to focus on engaging with Nottinghamshire Schools that have not previously had any interaction with the service and where possible all will be encouraged to take part in an educational activity including a recycling tour of the Mansfield MRF, host a 3R's (Reduce, Reuse Recycle - Play in a day, or have a visit onsite from the Schools Waste Action Club Education Officer.
- 7.5. A new lesson plan has been implemented which focuses on a recycling and contamination based message. This was implemented with a view to encouraging children and their families to make sure they're recycling everything they can at home and to help focus on reducing the levels of contamination within the recycling waste stream. This helps tie in the Recycle for Nottinghamshire Education aims with the overall business objectives of the County Council's Waste Management Team. In addition to this, the Recycle for Nottinghamshire Education will continue to work directly with members of the general public in delivering the recycling message through community group information sessions and events throughout the year.
- 7.6. The County will continue to look for ways to work in partnership with the district and borough councils around education, promoting MRF visits, school engagement and work with local groups for various ages, particularly in areas where contamination is particularly high.

- 7.7. Educational engagement and resident information will continue to be available to all residents via various online platforms, and will be promoted at events across the County, via talks and presentations to groups, and through workshops at the MRF.

8. Other Recovery

- 8.1. Whilst the main focus of this strategy document is to increase the recycling rate, it is still important to consider how waste that isn't being reused or recycled can still be moved up the waste hierarchy.
- 8.2. The new Contract Waste Transfer Station (WTS) located at Kirkby in Ashfield is became fully operational in March 2017 and accepts residual waste from the Mansfield and Ashfield districts. This waste is shredded, baled and wrapped and utilised as a refuse derived fuel (RDF) in Germany until 2020. Thereafter the Ferrybridge Multifuel 2 (FM2) plant near Castleford will be used, ensuring this waste is diverted from landfill.
- 8.3. Residual waste from the boroughs of Broxtowe, Gedling and Rushcliffe will continue, subject to availability, to be sent to the Eastcroft Energy from Waste facility in Nottingham, an agreement that allows for the acceptance of up to 68,000 tonnes of residual waste. Residual waste from Newark and Sherwood and Bassetlaw District Councils will continue to be sent to the Sheffield Energy Recovery Facility. Both the Eastcroft and Sheffield facilities provide heat as part of district heating schemes directly to homes and businesses within the vicinity.
- 8.4. In addition to the above, following a recent market test, Recycling Centre residual waste is now sent for RDF (Refuse Derived Fuel) and SRF (Solid Recovered Fuel) rather than being sent to landfill.

9. Disposal

- 9.1. Whilst every effort is being made to ensure as much waste as possible is reused, recycled and recovered, it is currently inevitable that a certain proportion will still be disposed of without any recovery. Despite this the amount of waste being sent to landfill in Nottinghamshire has fallen dramatically due to the various energy recovery agreements and it is estimated that in 2018/19, less than 10% of household waste will have been sent to landfill, a figure that stood at 29% in 2014/15. Veolia will continue to use their own out of county landfill sites for the small amounts of residual waste that occurs as a result of unplanned outages at the Sheffield and Eastcroft facilities.

10. Challenges and Pressures

- 12.1. The current recycling rate stands at 44% which is significantly short of the ambitious PFI target of 52% by 2020. Attempts to reach the target of 52% come against a backdrop of various pressures and challenges on both a local and national level.
- 12.2. There are currently no statutory targets set by the UK central government for recycling rates and whilst there is the overarching EU Waste Framework Directive target, this lack of direct targets could be contributing to the slowing down or plateauing of recycling rates particularly in light of the uncertainty around the EU targets following referendum result. It is therefore imperative that a suitable strategy and approach is determined in order to best motivate both individuals and district and borough councils as a whole to work towards encouraging an increase in recycling. At this stage central government is considering how to address this challenge. The County Council has expressed a preference to the setting of statutory targets for all local authorities and not just WDA because in a two-tier area such as Nottinghamshire, engagement from WCA is critical to success.
- 12.3. Recent years have seen a modest upturn in the economy and with this there comes an increase in overall waste arisings. This is in contrast to the levels of funding for local authorities which has fallen since the recession following the crash in the economy in 2008. This has meant that it has been difficult to implement schemes that require significant infrastructure or revenue streams. Whilst the economic picture has improved in the last couple of years it is unlikely that major new funding streams will be made available. Once again this means that innovative approaches need to be implemented alongside positive partnership working within the WCA.
- 12.4. National and local political changes have the potential to impact on the success of any reduce, re-use, recycle and composting plan through the setting or removal of statutory targets or increases and decreases in national and local budgets. National changes could also lead to landfill bans on certain waste types and/or an increase in Landfill Tax.
- 12.5. Population increases and movements will also impact on the success of this plan. Sizeable population increases are expected in Nottinghamshire in line with housing growth, and will certainly lead to an increase in overall tonnage. Significant population movement into an area could lead to a fall in recycling rates as new residents in the area may not be familiar with the recycling services on offer.

11. Summary of Key Activities and Priority Areas

- 13.1. As discussed above, the approach to increasing the overall recycling rate for the County will focus around several key activities whilst still maintaining ongoing initiatives and building on previous hard work. The potential growth of the green waste collection service in Bassetlaw offers the best chance of an increase in recycling and composting during 2018/19 as the scheme is still very much in its infancy.
- 13.2. Ensuring an effective Recycling Centre Registration Scheme remains in place will maintain the level of savings generated in the first year of the project. Balancing an effective system against the easing of the registration process for individuals will be key to maintaining these financial savings and reductions in overall waste throughput at the County's recycling centres.
- 13.3. In light of limited funding for new schemes it becomes even more important to maximise the opportunities for increasing the recycling rate through the existing services. With contamination at such high levels and significant amounts of recyclable waste in the residual stream, there remains opportunities to tackle both through well thought out communications campaigns. The key to success will be having all district and borough councils on-side for a consistent approach as well as targeting collection rounds where the biggest impacts can be made.
- 13.4. Achieving the 52% target by 2020 in light of the barriers and challenges that exist is likely to prove very difficult. There does however remain a range of opportunities to increase the current recycling rate through innovative partnership working and focussing on materials that should, but aren't making their way into the recycling stream and this will be key during 2018/19 and beyond.