

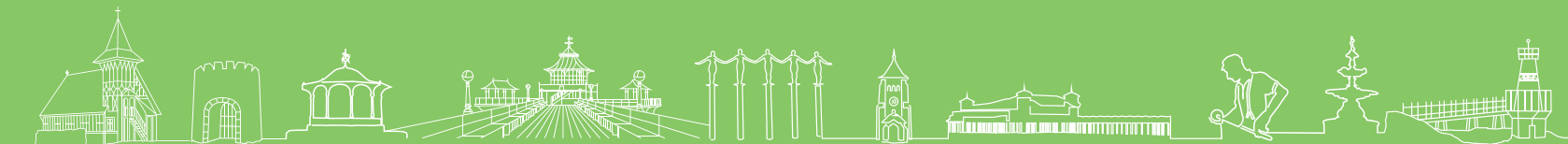
# North Somerset Council Recycling and Waste Strategy Annual Progress Summary

April 2019 – March 2022

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Our ambition is for North Somerset to be open, fair, and green; a place where all our residents have the opportunity to live well and to enjoy a quality, sustainable environment with access to great education, jobs, housing and travel. We will work to tackle the climate emergency, create a place of opportunity where people can live safely, be happy and have purpose. We'll ask our communities for their opinions, listen to them and work with them to deliver positive futures for everyone

The recycling and waste strategy 2021-2030 has now been published for a year. As per our commitment within the strategy we are now publishing the first annual review of progress in delivering this strategy for our residents and other various stakeholders. This will ensure the strategy continues to be relevant to North Somerset and we are honouring our values to be open, fair, and green.



## Contents

|                                     |          |
|-------------------------------------|----------|
| <b>A reminder of our targets</b>    | <b>2</b> |
| <b>Our progress</b>                 | <b>3</b> |
| Reducing Waste                      | 3        |
| Reuse                               | 3        |
| Recycling                           | 4        |
| Composting                          | 5        |
| Commercial Waste Service            | 5        |
| Enforcement and Environmental Crime | 6        |
| Street Cleansing                    | 7        |
| <b>Summary</b>                      | <b>8</b> |

## A reminder of our targets

**Our recycling and waste strategy** is focused on working with residents, local community groups, businesses and town and parish councils to contribute towards North Somerset's aim to be carbon neutral by 2030; as well as changing the way we operate our waste services to achieve:

1. a reduction in residual waste (waste that is not recycled or reused) of 15% below the level of 2019/20 by 2030
2. a recycling rate of 70% by 2030
3. divert all non-recyclable, kerbside collected household waste away from landfill by end of 2022
4. review and update recycling facilities at all flat blocks and continue to introduce food waste collections in phases in line with the Environment Act (2021) by 2023

5. expand the commercial waste service to serve more businesses, schools and events in North Somerset each year
6. tackle incidents of litter and fly-tipping in North Somerset through improved reporting, increasing education and enforcement activities
7. improved appearance of our streets and open spaces
8. progress towards a circular economy where waste is treated as a valuable resource rather than disposed of

### Recycling and Waste Strategy 2021-2030



## Our progress

### Reducing Waste

Figure 1 shows the changes in residual (non-recyclable) waste tonnages from the pre-pandemic baseline figure in 2019, to 2022. We have yet to make any progress towards target 1 in the strategy – a reduction in residual waste (waste that is not recycled or reused) of 15% the level of 2019/20 by 2030. The main reason for this was the pandemic. Tonnages rose significantly during lockdown due to a large proportion of people being at home. Hence waste was being presented and collected at kerbside rather than in commercial collections at schools and places of work. Tonnages have begun to reduce again in 2021-22.

Figure 1:

| April-March             | Total amount of residual waste (tonnes) |        |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------------|--------|
| 2019-2020 baseline year | Kerbside: 29,299<br>HWRC: 8,658         |        |
| 2020-2021               | Kerbside: 33,011<br>HWRC: 7,224         | ▲<br>▼ |
| 2021-2022               | Kerbside: 31,494<br>HWRC: 8,593         | ▼<br>▲ |

Figure 2 shows the average amount of residual waste being produced per household.

Figure 2:

| April-March             | Household residual waste (kg per household) |   |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------|---|
| 2019-2020 baseline year | 399.66                                      |   |
| 2020-2021               | 406.83                                      | ▲ |
| 2021-2022               | 405.83                                      | ▼ |

Waste minimisation events were suspended during lock down but resumed in 2022. During lockdown we focussed on reaching people using social media – promoting the national campaigns Plastic Free July, Love Food Hate Waste and Buy Nothing New month.

Figure 3 shows we haven't been able to achieve target 3 – divert all non-recyclable, kerbside collected household waste away from landfill by end of 2022.

Figure 3:

| April-March             | Tonnage of non-recyclable waste collected at kerbside sent to Landfill |   |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|
| 2019-2020 baseline year | 9,830.77                                                               |   |
| 2020-2021               | 6,436.36                                                               | ▼ |
| 2021-2022               | 6,291.12                                                               | ▼ |

There has been a reduction year on year, but we have not achieved zero waste to landfill. This is partly due to planned maintenance shutdowns each year for a period of up to 4 weeks at the Viridor Energy from Waste plant where this waste is normally delivered. During these shutdowns, waste is diverted to landfill. As such, going forward this target will be amended to the following: “to maximise diversion of all non-recycling, kerbside collected household waste away from landfill and show year on year improvements”.



## Reuse

Figure 4 below shows the tonnage of material that has been diverted for reuse over the target period. This includes textiles, paint, bric-a-brac and gas bottles. The tonnage dropped significantly over during lockdown however tonnages in 2021-2022 did begin to recover.

Figure 4:

| April-March             | Tonnage of material diverted for reuse |   |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------------|---|
| 2019-2020 baseline year | 590.39                                 |   |
| 2020-2021               | 375.55                                 | ▼ |
| 2021-2022               | 553.60                                 | ▲ |

We also run an innovative scheme collecting and repurposing Christmas trees in partnership with Noahs Arc Zoo Farm (As shown in the images on the right), Weston Rotary Club and St Peters Hospice. Most of the trees are chipped for land regeneration with some being used for animal enrichment at the zoo. As shown in figure 5, since the scheme started in 2020 it has grown annually and raised a considerable amount of money for the charities involved.

Figure 5:

| April-March             | Total number of Christmas trees collected |   |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------|---|
| 2019-2020 baseline year | No data                                   |   |
| 2020-2021               | 3,355                                     |   |
| 2021-2022               | 5,354                                     | ▲ |



## Recycling

Figure 6 shows North Somerset's recycling rate (percentage of household waste sent for reuse, recycling or composting) very slightly dropped from 60.6% in 2019/2020 to 60.4% in 2020/2021. Nationally there was an overall trend in reducing recycling rates which actually saw North Somerset rise to an all-time high of 7th position in the local authority league table.

The recycling rate in 2021/2022 dropped again to 59.5%. This reduction is partly due to the introduction of the annual, chargeable garden waste service in April 2021. Since the introduction of the annual charge, we have seen a reduction in the number of people using the service and a subsequent drop in the tonnages of garden waste collected. Garden waste tonnages are included in how recycling rate is calculated overall. This means that there has been no progress yet towards target 2 of the strategy, to achieve a recycling rate of 70% by 2030.

Figure 6 also shows the dry kerbside recycling rate (without garden waste). This shows that whilst the introduction of the chargeable service for garden waste did have an impact, there has been a slight decline in percentage recycling rate also.

The 2021 waste strategy consultation showed that 62% of respondents said increasing recycling was one of their top three priorities whilst 23% said it was their top priority. As such, we remain committed to

increasing our recycling rate and meeting our target of 70% by 2030.

Figure 6:

| April-March             | Percentage recycling rate (including garden waste and HWRC tonnages) |   |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|---|
| 2019-2020 baseline year | 60.6%                                                                |   |
| 2020-2021               | 60.4%                                                                | ▼ |
| 2021-2022               | 59.5%                                                                | ▼ |
| April-March             | Position in recycling league table of local authorities in England   |   |
| 2019-2020 baseline year | 9th                                                                  |   |
| 2020-2021               | 7th                                                                  | ▲ |
| 2021-2022               | 12th                                                                 | ▼ |
| April-March             | Percentage dry kerbside recycling rate (excluding garden waste)      |   |
| 2019-2020 baseline year | 46.7%                                                                |   |
| 2020-2021               | 46.3%                                                                | ▼ |
| 2021-2022               | 45.7%                                                                | ▼ |

We have begun working towards target 4 – reviewing and updating recycling facilities at all flat blocks and continuing to introduce food waste collections in phases in line with the Environment Act (2021) by 2023. We are updating signage on the bins, improving collection efficiency by swapping smaller bins for larger bins and working on route optimisation.

We have rolled out food waste collections to a total of 1,457 flats since 2018 in Weston-super-Mare, Locking Parklands and Portishead. We have an additional 3,810 flats to complete during the 2023/24 financial year. To ensure good engagement, all participating households have received an in-person visit to introduce the service as well as a welcome pack which includes a kitchen caddy, a complementary roll of food waste liners and a food waste leaflet. Figure 7 shows this has contributed towards an increase in the amount of food waste collected.

Figure 7:

| April-March             | Tonnage of food waste collected for recycling |   |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|---|
| 2019-2020 baseline year | 6,980.04                                      |   |
| 2020-2021               | 7,908.44                                      | ▲ |
| 2021-2022               | 7,411.43                                      | ▼ |

## Composting

Promoting composting as the most environmentally friendly way to manage your garden waste contributes to target 8 – progress towards a circular economy where waste is treated as a valuable resource rather than disposed of.

In March 2021, we subsidised the cost of a standard compost bin to £10. As shown in table 8, this increased compost sales substantially. In total, we sold 4,685 220L compost bins over the period April 2019 – March 2022. Using **WRAP's** formula as a basis to calculate the diversion rate, we can estimate that this has diverted an approximate total of 1,222 tonnes from the waste stream.

Figure 8:

| April-March             | No. of compost bins sold |   |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| 2019-2020 baseline year | 255                      |   |
| 2020-2021               | 3,102                    | ▲ |
| 2021-2022               | 1,328                    | ▼ |

In addition to this, we are working on providing ongoing support to our residents to help them compost successfully. For every compost bin sold, we provide access to an online e-learning course on home composting. We also ran five online introductions to composting workshops. This has enabled us to train a total of 571 residents over the period April 2020 – March 2022.

Figure 9:

| April-March             | No. of people completing composting education training |   |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|---|
| 2019-2020 baseline year | N/A Course released in March 2021                      |   |
| 2020-2021               | 226                                                    |   |
| 2021-2022               | 345                                                    | ▲ |

Finally, we launched the **Master Composters Programme** in partnership with Garden Organic in February 2022. Master Composters are trained volunteers who educate others – friends, family, neighbours, and their local communities – in composting. The first two months of the scheme covered in this report were focussed on employing a part time volunteer co-ordinator, promoting and launching the scheme.





## Commercial Waste Service

As shown in Figure 10; we are making good progress on target 5 – expanding the **commercial waste service** to serve more businesses, schools, and events in North Somerset each year – with overall number of customers and customers with a food waste collection increasing year on year.

We have not achieved an increase in the number of events using the commercial waste service yet, primarily because of the covid 19 pandemic and the lack of events which took place.

Figure 10:

| April-March             | No. of customers                                              |   |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|---|
| 2019-2020 baseline year | 213                                                           |   |
| 2020-2021               | 257                                                           | ▲ |
| 2021-2022               | 302                                                           | ▲ |
| April-March             | No. of commercial food waste customers at the end of the year |   |
| 2019-2020 baseline year | 9                                                             |   |
| 2020-2021               | 13                                                            | ▲ |
| 2021-2022               | 18                                                            | ▲ |
| April-March             | No. of events using the commercial waste service              |   |
| 2019-2020 baseline year | 10                                                            |   |
| 2020-2021               | 1                                                             | ▼ |
| 2021-2022               | 3                                                             | ▲ |



## Enforcement and Environmental Crime

In January 2020, we joined and began publicity of the **SCRAP fly tipping campaign**. The campaign highlighted householders responsibility (their duty of care) to dispose of their waste responsibly. The campaign provides an easy checklist to use when employing a contractor to manage waste removal.

The campaign has provided us with a tool to effectively engage with communities and raise awareness.

In May 2021, we contracted LA support (Kingdom) on a one-year trial basis to tackle low level offences such as littering and dog fouling. The trial allowed the waste team to increase patrols across the area, targeting hotspots.



Figure 11 highlights that the LA support contract has allowed us to significantly increase the number of fixed penalty notices (FPNs) issued. Increasing the visibility of enforcement officers and issuing the FPNs on the spot is proven to be an effective way to reduce the number of offences taking place, deterring people from littering and dog fouling. As a result, the contract with LA support has since been extended.

In conjunction with the commencement of the LA support contract, we launched a social media campaign in June 2021. The posts were boosted and raised awareness about SCRAP, littering, dog fouling and the work of LA support.

In 2021, the enforcement team also began work to tackle business who did not have a commercial waste collection in place. This helps to reduce incidents of commercial waste being deposited in domestic waste bins and reduces incidents of fly-tipping of commercial waste. In 2021-2022 seven fixed penalty notices for breaches of Duty of Care were issued.

This work has contributed towards progress on target 6 – tackle incidents of litter and fly-tipping in North Somerset through improved reporting, increasing education and enforcement activities.

Figure 11:

### Measures of success towards targets

| April-March             | PSPO Litter                         |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 2019-2020 baseline year | None                                |
| 2020-2021               | 889                                 |
| 2021-2022               | 1,464 ▲                             |
| April-March             | PSPO Dog Fouling                    |
| 2019-2020 baseline year | None                                |
| 2020-2021               | 5                                   |
| 2021-2022               | 5                                   |
| April-March             | Failing to provide a poo bag        |
| 2019-2020 baseline year | None                                |
| 2020-2021               | None                                |
| 2021-2022               | 1 ▲                                 |
| April-March             | No. of fixed penalty notices issued |
| 2019-2020 baseline year | 0                                   |
| 2020-2021               | 1,059                               |
| 2021-2022               | 1,094 ▲                             |



## Street Cleansing

As shown in Figure 12, the number of street cleansing requests received over the period April 2019 – March 2022 has remained relatively constant with a slightly lower number in 2021/22. This demonstrates that in collaboration with our contractors, Glendale Services, we have provided a consistent level of street cleansing over the target period despite budget cuts.

Figure 12:

| April-March             | No. of service requests about street cleanliness |   |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|---|
| 2019-2020 baseline year | 1,084                                            |   |
| 2020-2021               | 1,116                                            | ▲ |
| 2021-2022               | 933                                              | ▼ |

The photos on this page demonstrate some of the good work carried out by our contractors Glendale Services:

Footpath near Green Pastures:





## Pill



North Somerset Council currently have around 900 litter bins situated throughout the district. Officers continually monitor locations to ensure that all bins are used properly and are in locations that help keep the vicinity clear of litter.

We have installed restrictor plates on litter bins in some areas to stop residents putting bags of household waste litter bins. Through carrying out investigations and networking with other councils we have identified that litter bins in some areas increases littering and removing of these bins has made the area cleaner. Officers carry out inspections and will remove litter bins where they feel it is required.

Our volunteer litter picking scheme, **Adopt-A-Street (AAS)**, has also grown hugely since its launch in 2018. Under the scheme, volunteers choose a street that they would like to “adopt”. We then provide litter picking equipment (gloves, litter picker and bags), online training and safety information that volunteers need to help keep their “adopted” street free from litter.

As shown in Figure 13, the covid 19 pandemic restricted the number of new volunteers we were able to recruit. However, during April 2021 – March 2022 we recruited 118 new volunteers.

These actions have made positive contributions towards target 7 – improving the appearance of our streets and open spaces

Figure 13:

| April-March             | No. of new adopt a street litter pickers |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| 2019-2020 baseline year | 25                                       |
| 2020-2021               | 17 ▼                                     |
| 2021-2022               | 118 ▲                                    |



## Summary

The recycling and waste strategy 2021-2030 sets out the steps we are going to take and how we will monitor and measure our progress over this period. In the first full year since publication this report demonstrates that despite challenging times through the pandemic, the council is making progress on its strategy.

Work in the coming year will include:

- Further flats food waste recycling service roll out – supporting targets 1, 2 and 4
- A waste reduction campaign – supporting targets 1, 2 and 3
- Development and promotion of the master composter programme – supporting targets 1 and 8
- Continued growth of the commercial waste service – supporting target 5

- Continued development of enforcement activities – supporting target 6
- Improved appearance of our streets and open spaces as well as looking at new environmentally friendly equipment such as electric vehicles – supporting targets 7 and 8

### **The updated recycling and waste strategy targets are as follows:**

1. a reduction in residual waste (waste that is not recycled or reused) of 15% below the level of 2019/20 by 2030
2. a recycling rate of 70% by 2030
3. a year on year reduction of all non-recyclable, kerbside collected household waste tonnages sent to landfill.
4. improve recycling facilities at flat blocks and continue to introduce food waste collections in phases in line with the Environment Act (2021) by 2024
5. expand the commercial waste service to serve more businesses, schools and events in North Somerset each year
6. tackle incidents of litter and fly-tipping in North Somerset through improved reporting, increasing education and enforcement activities
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This publication is available in large print, Braille or audio formats on request.

Help is also available for people who require council information in languages other than English.

For all enquiries please contact Recycling and Waste Team  
01934 888 802 • [recycling&waste@n-somerset.gov.uk](mailto:recycling&waste@n-somerset.gov.uk)