

Kent Resource Partnership

Annual Report – 2016/17



ASHFORD
BOROUGH COUNCIL



CANTERBURY
CITY COUNCIL

DARTFORD
BOROUGH COUNCIL



DOVER
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Gravesham
Borough Council



MAIDSTONE
BOROUGH COUNCIL



Folkestone
Hythe & Romney Marsh
Shepway District Council



Swale
BOROUGH COUNCIL



thanet
district council



TONBRIDGE & MALLING
BOROUGH COUNCIL



Tunbridge Wells
Borough Council



Kent County Council
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For general enquiries or if in doubt as to whom to contact for any of the 13 Kent councils:-

Paldeep Bhatti, Kent Resource Partnership Manager,
c/o Sevenoaks District Council,
Argyle Road, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN13 1HG

Tel: 01732 227128

Email: paldeep.bhatti@kentrp.org.uk

www.kent.gov.uk/krp

Foreword



*Cllr Rory Love,
Chair of KRP & Cabinet Member for Customers,
Communications & Digital Delivery, Shepway District Council*



*Cllr Jill Anderson,
Vice-Chair of the KRP & Cabinet Member for Housing and
Environment Services, Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council*

2016/17 has been a busy year for the Kent Resource Partnership (KRP). With our ‘new look’ Annual Report, we aim to showcase the great work carried out by the 13 Kent councils when delivering recycling, waste and street cleansing services to over 1.5 million residents across Kent. Our new annual reports will keep you informed and keep us accountable for the services our Member Councils provide for the residents of Kent.

2016/17 saw just over 731,000 tonnes of household discarded material handled in Kent with provisional figures showing just over 46% sent for recycling & composting, just under 51% sent to generate energy and just under 3% sent to landfill. This represents progress over the previous year, with the proportion sent to landfill halved. The total cost of waste resource management for 2016/17 across the 13 Kent councils was just under £98 million. This equates to an average cost of £155 per household per year. Or put another way, the Councils of Kent deliver a streamlined recycling and waste service for an average of just £2.99 a week per household. Another £16 million was invested in keeping our streets clean.

Key Partnership activities this year include: a Kent-wide campaign on food recycling; numerous anti-litter initiatives (linking in with this year’s national anti-litter campaign - the Great British Spring Clean); starting an intelligence-led approach to tackling fly-tipping; pursuing ever higher health & safety standards through the latest training; and proactively engaging with the resource industry through our Annual Conference. And we published our Materials End Destinations Report which shines a spotlight on where Kent’s household materials end up, bringing transparency to how much is processed within Kent, within the UK or sent abroad.

We’d love to hear your comments on our ‘new look’ Annual Report. Do get in touch with Paldeep Bhatti, the KRP Manager, who will be pleased to tell you more about our work. Email paldeep.bhatti@kentrp.org.uk or phone 01732 227128.

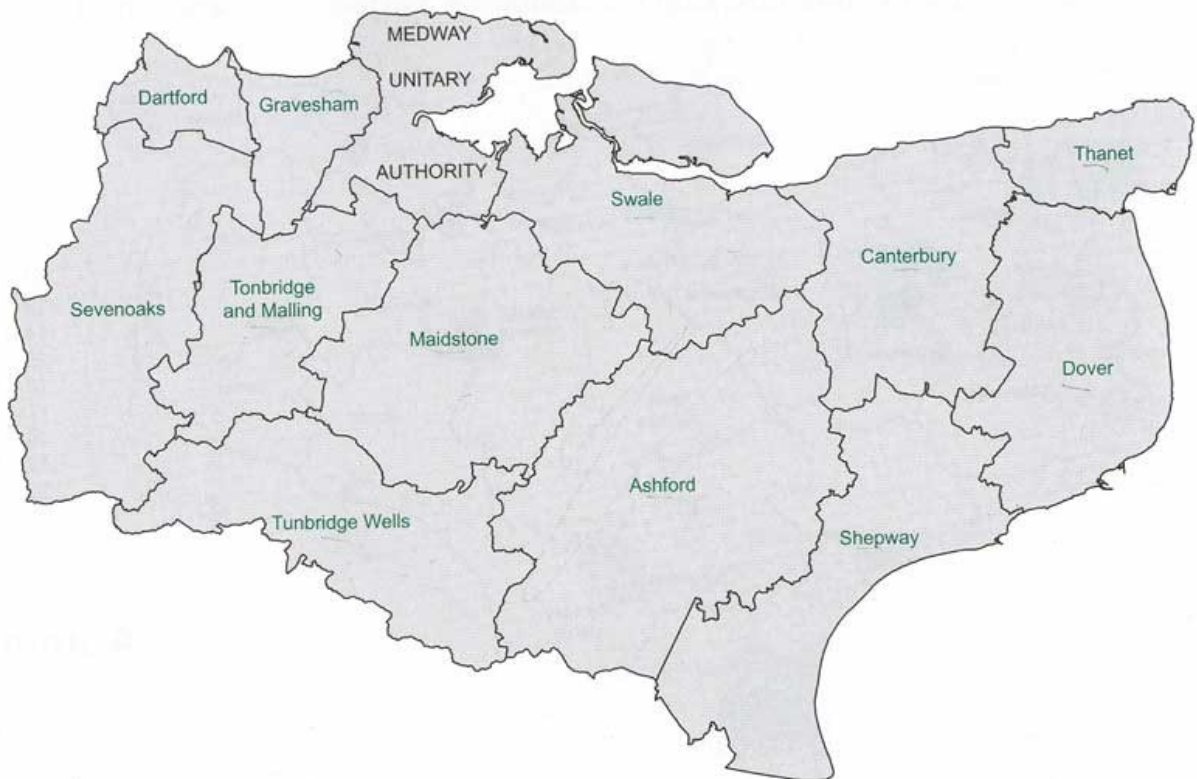
Background

The Kent Resource Partnership (KRP) is made up of the 13 Kent councils.

These are (in alphabetical order):- Ashford Borough Council, Canterbury City Council, Dartford Borough Council, Dover District Council, Gravesham Borough Council, Kent County Council, Maidstone Borough Council, Sevenoaks District Council, Shepway District Council, Swale Borough Council, Thanet District Council, Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council and Tunbridge Wells Borough Council.

The purpose of the KRP is to deliver the following three strategic objectives:-

1. Deliver the Kent Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (KJMWMS). This strategy had been adopted in 2007 to manage Kent's municipal waste. It has since been refreshed in 2012/13 to cover the period up to 2020;
2. Deliver financial and performance benefits to Kent taxpayers; and manage risks to finance and performance as appropriate; and
3. Contribute to, and set a national lead, in delivering projects that manage supply chain issues in the leanest and most effective ways; securing value from discarded materials; and proactively identifying innovation and excellent practices.

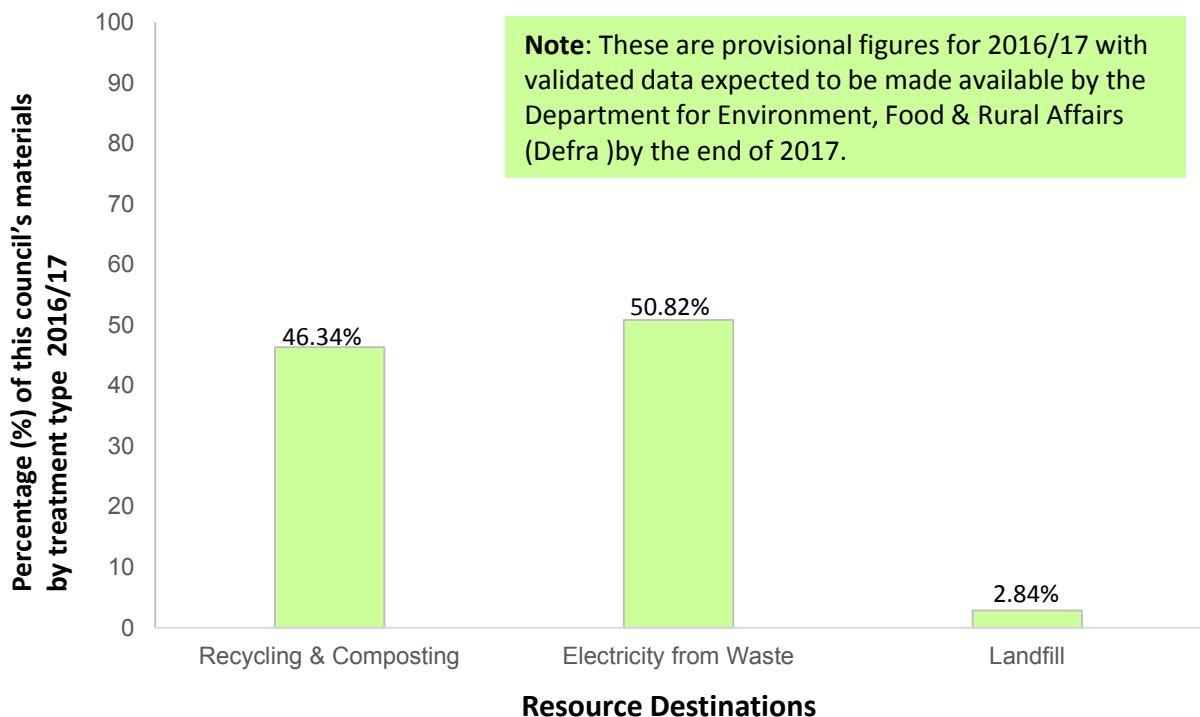


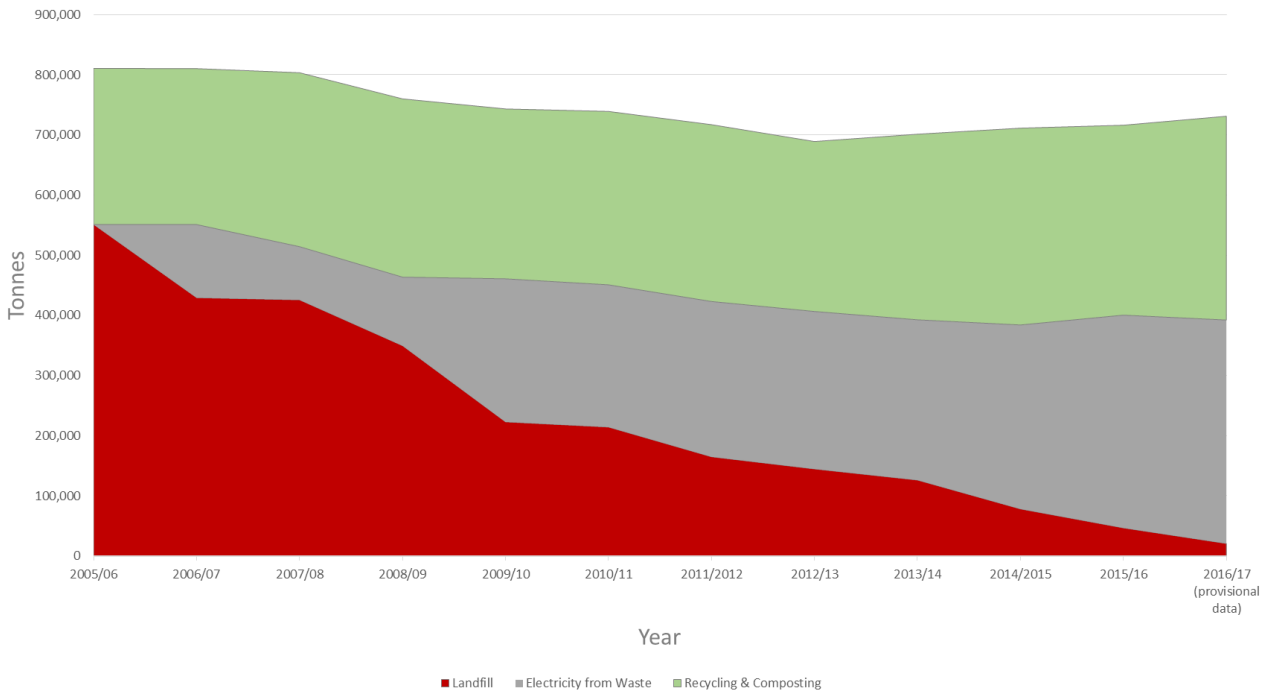
Performance Summary

Overall the KRP are making steady strides towards our medium goal targets for 2020/21 which include; to reduce household waste arisings by at least 10% based upon our 2010/11 baseline levels; recycle/compost at least 50%; and send no more than 5% to landfill.

Subject to final validation by the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra) later this year, it is estimated Kent's total household discarded material handled in 2016/17 was just over 731,000 tonnes. This represents a modest 1% reduction compared to 2010/11 baseline levels. Of the 731,000 tonnes handled in 2016/17, just over 46% was sent for recycling & composting, just under 51% was sent to generate energy and just under 3% sent to landfill.

The total cost of waste resource management for 2016/17 was just under £98million. On average, this equates to £155 per household, per year. Breaking this down further, that's an average cost of £2.99 per household, per week. Just over £16million was also invested in keep our streets clean.





The graph above looks at a broader picture which reflects the KRP's tonnage performance going as far back as 2005/06. Over the course of 12 years, the KRP has seen a slight dip in the total household discarded material handled in Kent though in recent years this has begun to increase. A number of reasons could be attributed to the shift of spending behaviours of Kent residents as well as an increase in Kent's population which has seen many new homes being developed across Kent to accommodate.

The shift from household discarded material being sent to landfill has been impressive over this same period. From sending over 550,000 tonnes to landfill in 2005/06, has now reduced to as little as 20,000 tonnes sent to landfill for 2016/17.

Pictured below is the Energy from Waste facility, based in Allington Maidstone.



Partnership Working with Resource Industry

In 2016/17, the KRP continued to listen, engage and work with many key organisations across the resource sector. It is recognised the recycling & waste services delivered to Kent residents by the KRP form only one part of a wider supply chain across the resource sector.

Outlined below are the various memberships & working groups the KRP contributed to in 2016/17. A brief summary including the remit of each memberships & working groups are noted below:-

- **Local Authority Recycling Advisory Committee (LARAC)** - Represents local authority recycling officers with the aim to be the leading voice for local authorities on recycling, waste and resource management.
- **National Association of Waste Disposal Officers (NAWDO)** – A network for senior waste managers at local authorities with statutory responsibility for waste disposal.
- **WRAP’s Courtauld 2025 – Consumer Engagement Working Group** - To act as a strategy and advisory group on the whole approach to working with consumers on reducing food waste.
- **WRAP’s National Communications Advisory Panel (NCAP)** – Brings together local authority waste communications officers to share information and best practice and provides an opportunity for local authorities’ input on the strategic development of the national communications campaigns.
- **Resource Association** – Its mission to support the development of a sustainable and healthy industry by providing a voice, forum and leadership for the materials reprocessing and recycling industries, as well as related environmental and social interests.
- **REcycling Of Used Plastics Ltd (RECOUP)** – Working in collaboration with all stakeholders to promote, develop, stimulate and increase the levels of plastics recycling within the UK.



Food Recycling Campaign

In 2016/17 the KRP focused its recycling communications on food. The rationale behind this was underpinned by results from a Kent-wide residual waste audit which took place the previous year. Audit results demonstrated there was an opportunity to increase food recycling as food ranged from 23% to 37% within the residual waste stream across Kent. This particularly offered an opportunity to the Kent councils who already provided weekly food recycling services.

The campaign objectives were:-

- To increase capture of food recycling via existing services;
- To encourage further resident participation (especially to those who received a food recycling service); and
- Contribute towards the KRP's target of achieving 50% recycling by 2020.



From January to March 2017, over 370,000 households across areas in Kent which provided a weekly food recycling service received a 'no food waste please' sticker on their residual bins. Over 88,000 households across the Dartford and Tonbridge & Malling areas received a food wheel which offered helpful advice on how to keep food fresher for longer thus focusing on reducing food waste.

These communications messages were also supplemented with a number of Kent councils signposting residents to their websites for further information; sharing helpful hints and tips on reducing food waste via their social media channels such as Facebook and Twitter; delivering a number of food recycling roadshows and with pull up banners displayed at council office receptions and depots during the campaign period.

During the campaign, a number of roadshows and events to promote food recycling were delivered in the Maidstone, Swale and Thanet areas. This offered a further chance for councils to listen to its residents, better understand their concerns on food recycling; and potential barriers residents expressed when recycling their food.

Key themes from the roadshows and events delivered seem to suggest Kent residents would prefer further information and transparency on where their food recycling goes, what it was used for and helpful tips to prevent their caddies from smelling. The qualitative data gained is to be embedded into future communications messages delivered by the KRP to its residents.

The full impacts and evaluation of the food recycling campaign is likely to be made available later on in the year, once data has been entered by Kent councils onto Waste Data Flow and validated accordingly.



Collaborative Action on Litter

In May 2016 the KRP sent a jointly written letter with Kent CC to Highways England calling for a collaborative approach to dealing with litter along its high speed roads. This included suggested ways forward such as:- a willingness for Highways England to share their high speed roads programme with the Kent councils and allow for potential joint opportunities to optimise future traffic management closures. It had also encouraged Highways England to work together with the KRP on future anti-litter communications such as its ‘Love Kent, Hate Litter’ initiatives.

Building upon this, the KRP’s relationship with Highways England has gone from strength to strength with a number of Kent councils beginning to maximise Highways England’s high speed roads programme, or at least work towards this approach. The KRP have also worked together with Highways England on delivering a successful ‘Love Kent, Hate Litter’ initiative in July 2016 as well as deliver anti-litter activities as part of the national ‘Great British Spring Clean’ campaign in March 2017. Kent-wide activities included:- community litter picks, deep cleans, high-speed roads litter picks, anti-litter signage across Kent, effective use of social media channels such as Facebook & Twitter etc.

As part of the evaluation of the ‘Great British Spring Clean’ campaign in Kent, it was estimated a total of 2,106 bags of litter was collected. This could be split with 1,236 bags collected by the KRP via community groups and parish & town councils with the remaining 870 bags collected by Highways England.





Intelligence-led Approach to Fly-Tipping

2016/17 saw the KRP continued its efforts to build resilience across the Partnership when tackling enviro-crime activities such as fly tipping.

In November 2016, the KRP recognised an opportunity for a greater collaborative approach to tackling fly tipping in Kent by forming a proactive working group which enabled enforcement officers across the KRP to regularly meet, share good practice and reflect on local investigations which offered beneficial intelligence to neighbouring Kent councils. This newly formed group was named the Kent Environmental Crime Practitioners Working Group (KECPWG) and also included partnership working with the Environment Agency and Kent Police. One of the ongoing objectives of the KECPWG is to enable the KRP to adopt an intelligence-led approach to investigating fly-tipping incidents in Kent.



Also in November 2016, the KRP became Ambassadors of the 'Right Waste, Right Place' (rWrP) campaign. This is an industry led campaign to raise business awareness of Duty of Care and the financial and environmental cost of waste crime. The KRP were proud to be one of the leading local authorities, along with Gloucestershire Joint Waste Team, to be Ambassadors. The KRP aims to continue its efforts in educating its residents on the appropriate processes to disposing of their waste over the coming year, and beyond.



Health & Safety – A Key Priority

The delivery of recycling, waste & street cleansing services to Kent residents in a safe and efficient manner continues to be a high priority for the KRP. In 2016/17, a range of workshops were delivered to KRP officers which looked to add further value to existing training delivered locally. The aim to deliver Kent-wide workshops was also to encourage a culture of shared best practice across Kent and offered the opportunity to learn together as a collective cohort.

During November and December 2016, the KRP worked with Dr David Thomas of Greenwich University to deliver a first phase of the Institution of Occupational Safety & Health's (IOSH) four day workshop programme. This programme saw 28 officers across the KRP benefit from these workshops, by attending at least one workshop. The four day workshops covered the following:-

- Day 1: General Fire, Health & Safety
- Day 2: Risk Management & Risk Assessment
- Day 3: Accident Investigation
- Day 4: Competence, Contractor Monitoring & Supervision

In February 2017, the KRP also worked with the Association for Public Service Excellence (APSE) trainer, Alan Plom to deliver a one day workshop focused on safe working along highways and verges. This workshop was delivered twice to 35 officers across the KRP.



Annual Conference

Thursday 22 September 2016 saw just over 100 delegates from across the resource industry attend the KRP's Annual Conference at its usual venue of the Canterbury Cathedral Lodge conference centre. Given the KRP's activities for the year as well as national issues, the conference's sub themes included:- even better partnership working, tackling issues of local/national importance, and communicating effectively with the public in the most efficient ways to secure best value. With this in mind, the title was the 'Fitter, Litter, Twitter' Annual Conference.

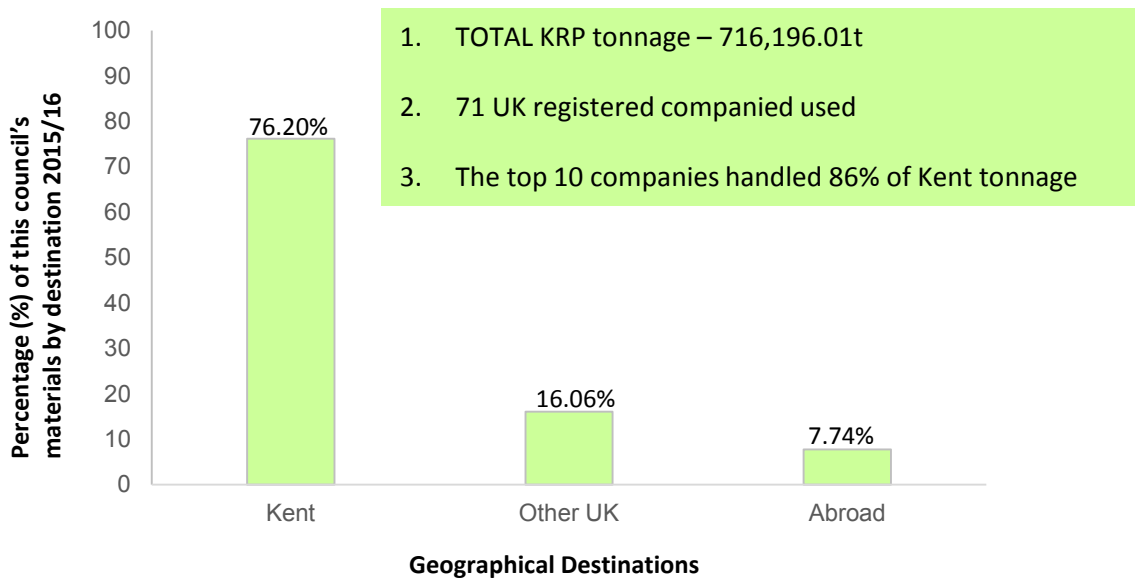
Delegates on the day were fortunate to hear presentations from high quality speakers from across the industry such as:- David Palmer-Jones of Suez Environment & President of the European Federation of Environmental Services Association, Andrew Bird of Local Authority Recycling Advisory Committee (LARAC), Trewin Restorick of Hubbub, Rachel Campbell of Clean Up Britain, Jules Qusted-Williams of Littergram, John Twitchen of Env23 and Alistair Moses of Ceris Burns International.

The Annual Conference offered a great opportunity for KRP Members and Officers, as well as others across the resource industry, to hear speakers views on issues of national and local relevance, and to provide views amongst each other on future direction in a much welcome open forum.

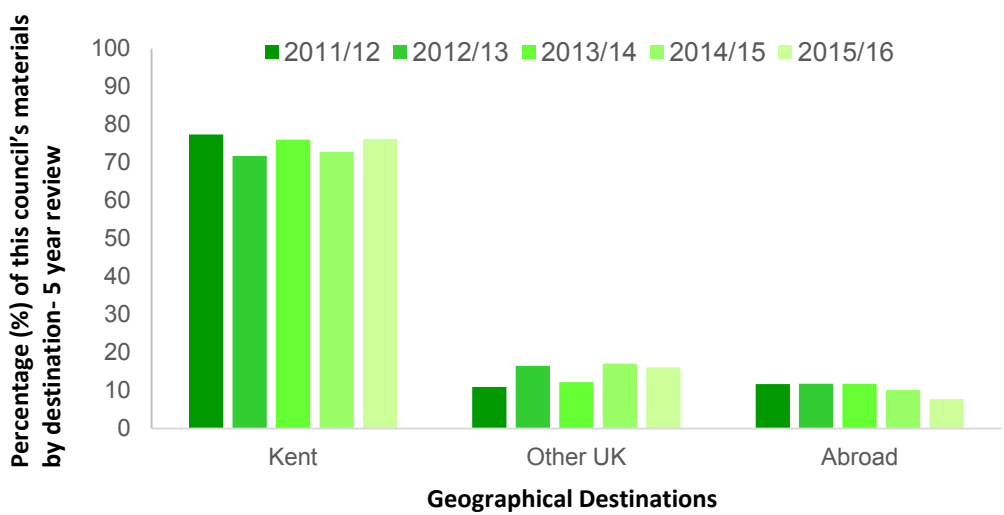


Materials End Destinations - 2015/16

Latest findings from the 2015/16 Materials End Destinations Publication show the KRP’s tonnage was just over 716,000 tonnes. The KRP are delighted to report that over 92% of Kent’s materials were reprocessed within the UK, with just under 8% sent abroad for treatment. Of this 92%, more than 4 tonnes out of every 5 was handled within the County, keeping transport and environmental costs low.



With this being the KRP’s fifth annual publication the opportunity to provide comparisons with previous years back to 2011/12 demonstrated a high level, consistent performance in minimising ‘waste miles’ with the large majority of tonnage across the 5 years reprocessed with Kent. The full publication can be found on the KRP’s web page. (web link [here](#))



Further Information & Contact Details

KRP Members Board and senior managers (as at time of print);

Ashford Borough Council	Cllr Clair Bell	Tracey Butler
Canterbury City Council	Cllr Neil Baker	David Ford
Dartford Borough Council	Cllr Arron Bardoe	Sheri Green
Dover District Council	Cllr Nicholas Kenton	Roger Walton
Gravesham Borough Council	Cllr Alan Ridgers	Nick Brown
Kent County Council	Cllr Matthew Balfour	David Beaver
Maidstone Borough Council	Cllr John Barned	Jennifer Shepherd
Sevenoaks District Council	Cllr Matthew Dickins	Richard Wilson
Shepway District Council	Cllr Rory Love Cllr Stuart Peall	Roger Walton
Swale Borough Council	Cllr David Simmons Cllr Sue Gent	Martyn Cassell
Thanet District Council	Cllr Lin Fairbrass	Gavin Waite
Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council	Cllr Jill Anderson	Robert Styles
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council	Cllr Ronen Basu	Gary Stevenson

Website: www.kent.gov.uk/krp

For general enquiries or if in doubt as to whom to contact for any of the 13 councils:

Paldeep Bhatti, Kent Resource Partnership Manager,
c/o Sevenoaks District Council,
Argyle Road, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN13 1HG,
Tel: 01732 227128
Email: paldeep.bhatti@kentrp.org.uk

Published by the Kent Resource Partnership on behalf of the following KRP constituent councils:-

Ashford BC, Canterbury CC, Dartford BC, Dover DC, Gravesham BC, Kent CC, Maidstone BC, Sevenoaks DC, Shepway DC, Swale BC, Thanet DC, Tonbridge & Malling BC and Tunbridge Wells BC.

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Publication Date: September 2017.

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