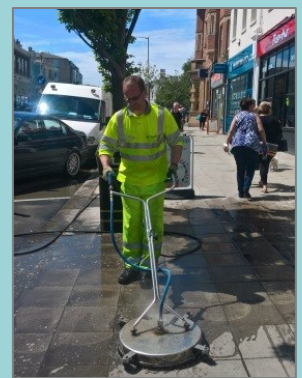


Kent Resource Partnership

Annual Report – 2021/22





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

Email: krp@kent.gov.uk

www.kentresourcepartnership.org.uk

Contents

Foreword	4
Background	5
Where does our recycling & waste go?	6
Engaging residents	7
Kent Understanding Plastics- Recoup Project	11
Working together against waste crime	13
Performance	15
Further Information & Contact Details	18



Foreword



*Cllr Nicholas Kenton, Chairman of KRP &
Cabinet Member for Planning & Regulatory Services,
Dover DC*

This annual report provides a snapshot of what the 13 Kent Councils have achieved in 2021/22. This year has been busy with activities and initiatives across all aspects of waste and environmental crime. Colleagues have taken part in 60 op assist days, facilitated over 4000 volunteers to collect over 5000 bags of litter, collected 293,002 tons of material for recycling, composting & reuse, and sent 380,676 tons of waste for disposal.

In 2021/22 we saw a drop in the amount of municipal waste sent to landfill. This resulted in an improvement in the overall landfill diversion rate which has increased to 98.8% compared to 97.9% in 2020/21. We also saw a marginal reduction in the amount of waste collected per household. As a partnership we are committed to providing Kent residents with the best possible value for money service. In 2021/22 on average having your waste and recycling collected and disposed of, cost just £157 per household, per year. Breaking this down further, that's an average cost of £3.02 per household, per week.

In 2021/22 we have also seen a drop in our fly tipping figures across the county, in 2021/22 we saw 22,864 fly tipping incidents across Kent, compared to 25,052 in 2020/21. The number of enforcement actions increased by 14% from the previous year. This shows teams across Kent are working hard to prosecute fly tippers and disrupt organised crime groups.

With the lifting of lock down restrictions and life returning to some kind of normality we had the opportunity to work in partnership with Recoup to engage with Kent residents to help increase our understanding of plastics. You may have seen recoup colleagues in front of supermarkets explaining what types of plastics can be recycled at kerbside or received our recycling plastics leaflet, more details on the project can be found on page 11.

To keep up to date with the latest recycling and waste crime work undertaken by Kent Councils please follow the Kent Resource Partnership on twitter, @KentResource and YouTube, @kentresourcepartnership, plus follow your local council on social media and follow the hashtags, #KeepKentClean, #Kentrecycles and #KentDoes.

Background

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

These are:- Ashford Borough Council, Canterbury City Council, Dartford Borough Council, Dover District Council, Folkestone & Hythe District Council, Gravesham Borough Council, Kent County Council, Maidstone Borough Council, Sevenoaks 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 was first adopted in 2007 to manage Kent's municipal waste. It is planned to be refreshed this coming year;
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.

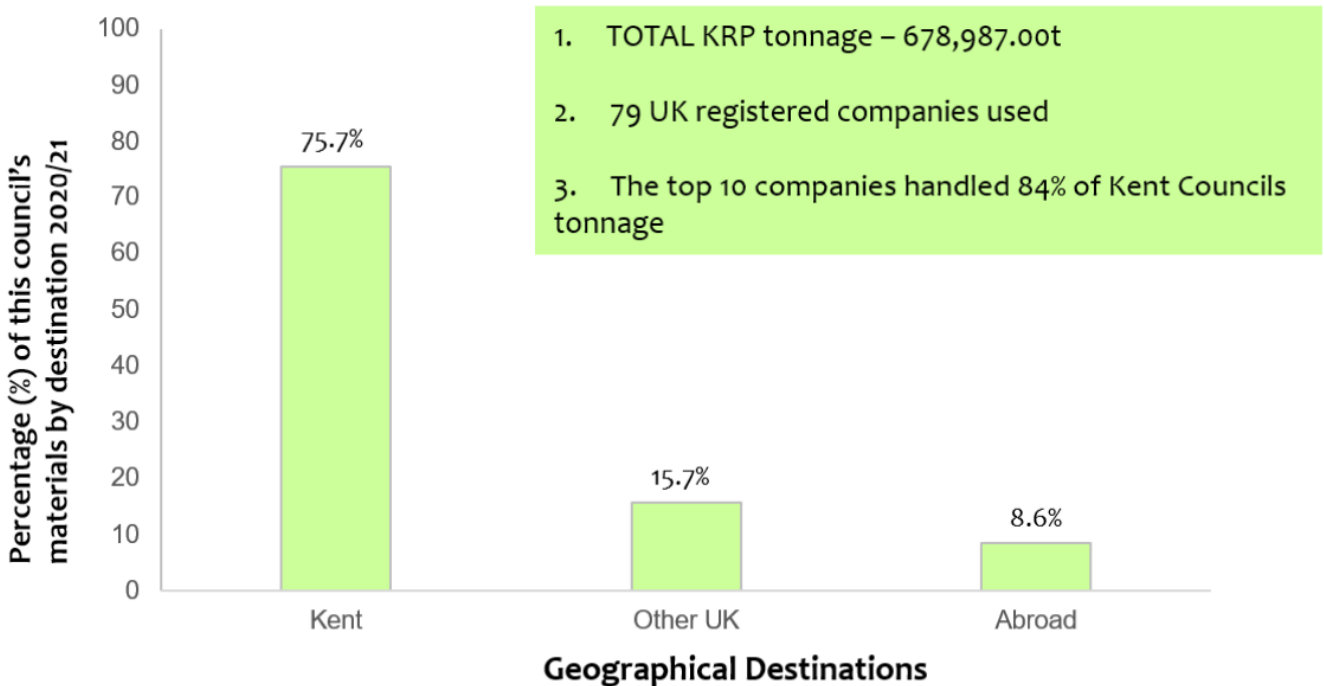


Where does our recycling & waste go?

We believe it is important residents know where their waste and recycling is sent for processing which is why we publish the data each year. The total municipal waste/recycling collected by the 13 Kent Councils in 2020/21 was 678,987 tonnes a reduction of 0.92% from the previous year.

As per the graph below, 75.7% of all waste and recycling collected stayed in Kent for processing, reducing the distance our waste and recycling travels is great for the environment and will reduce carbon emissions on transport. 15.7% of all waste and recycling collected stayed in the UK and was sent for processing in other areas outside of Kent. 8.6% of all waste and recycling collected was sent abroad for processing, this is a figure we are working to reduce each year.

Landfill avoidance is a top priority and only used as a last resort, in 2020/21 just 2.1% of all waste collected was sent to landfill. We recycled and composted 44.0% and as a partnership we are committed to improving our recycling rate. We continue to work together and support one another to maximise opportunities across Kent to take part in campaigns and trials to improve how much we recycle. See the full report [here](#).



Engaging with Kent Residents

The 13 Kent Councils within the Kent Resource Partnership work collaboratively to look for opportunities to work together on communications. Each Council has a representative who attends the KRP Resident Communications Project Group. This group meets at least 3 times a year to create a communications calendar. Working together creates several benefits including, economies of scale and sharing of expertise and resources to successfully deliver each campaign. Every Council is committed to delivering joint communications which can run alongside their own local messages to support and maximise recycling.

Please see a snapshot of the Kent-wide campaigns delivered in 2021/22-

Food Waste Action Week

Kent Councils support Love Food Hate Waste in their mission to tackle wasted food and it's impact on climate change. There are several factors contributing to how wasting food harms the environment. There are easy steps citizens can take to help lower their food waste, including, saving leftovers and shopping smarter by planning ahead before going to the shops. You can find out more hints and tips for how to reduce your food waste [here](#).

70% 36 MILLION 8 MEALS

OF FOOD WASTE COMES FROM OUR UK
HOMES

TONNES OF GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS COULD BE PREVENTED BY
SAVING FOOD FROM OUR BINS IN UK HOMES

COULD BE SAVED EACH WEEK IF WE STOPPED BINNING
OUR FOOD AT HOME

If we have done everything possible at home to avoid food waste then the food waste we just can't avoid which is put out for collection in our food recycling caddy is sent to an anaerobic digestion plant. Where it is turned into farm fertilizer, watch the short film [here](#).



Great British Spring Clean

Kent Councils support Keep Britain Tidy's, Great British Spring Clean every year. Keeping Kent Clean is a top priority to all councils. This year Kent County Council created additional social media assets for councils to use throughout the campaign, including an instructional video for how to safely take part in a litter pick (you can watch this [here](#)).

As always we would like to say a huge thank you and well done to all the residents who gave up their time and volunteered to take part in litter picks, clean ups and other activities to keep Kent clean. **In total 4,078 volunteers collected 5,666 bags of rubbish!** #KeepKentClean on twitter reached 20,045 accounts with 26,767 impressions.

You can find out more and how to take part in your local Great British Spring Clean [here](#).



Recycle Week

The theme this year was, step it up this recycle week. Posts highlighted the emissions that could be saved by residents recycling. For example, We save 18 million tonnes of CO₂ a year by recycling, the same environmental impact as taking 12 million cars off the road.

On twitter #RecycleWeek reached 982,466 accounts with 1, 129,542 impressions and #KentDoes reached 66,634 accounts with 237,385 impressions.

Pumpkin Rescue

A fun engaging seasonal campaign that aims to remind residents that pumpkins are food and can be eaten as well as turned into jack-o-lanterns. Kent Councils work with Hubbub each year to promote how to cook and eat your pumpkin to reduce food waste #PumpkinRescue

Canterbury City Council
23 September at 10:00 · 🌐

Did you know that 33% of all food produced globally is lost or wasted every year? 😞

Or that 8% of all greenhouse gas emissions each year are due to food loss and waste? That's more than all the world's commercial flights combined!

Growing, processing, packaging and transporting the food we eat all contributes to climate change and preventing food waste is one key way you can help the planet. ... See more



👍 You and 7 others 2 shares



Ashford Borough Council
30 October at 08:00 · 🌐

Looking for a scare this Halloween? 🎃👻

Here goes: A terrifying 12.8 million pumpkins are expected to be left uneaten this Halloween, in the UK alone!

After carving, many-a-pumpkin's guts are simply thrown away. Now that's really scary. Here's some handy meal inspo to make the most of your pumpkin this year 🍂

h... See more



👍❤️ 4 3 shares

maidstonebc @maidstonebc · Oct 16

🎃 Halloween is almost here, and while you're buying your pumpkins, remember that there are lots of ways you can use it, besides making a fantastic Jack-O'-Lantern! Here's some inspiration:



Material Focus- recycle your electricals



An issue facing councils nationally not just across Kent is small electricals and batteries being disposed of incorrectly. All waste with batteries should not be thrown out in your general waste, as this can cause fires, harm to crews and damage to vehicles and sites.

This year we started looking at recycling campaigns to help inform residents for how to safely dispose of their unwanted electrical items. We teamed up with material focus to deliver this suite of assets. This is something we will be revisiting as a partnership.

Contamination Animations

Contamination remains a key focus of the partnership and one we have started to tackle with joint social media assets, please see example assets below. Contamination is items placed in the wrong container or sack which can impact on the correctly placed recycling being recycled. This costs councils and tax payers money. We plan to launch further work to tackle contamination across the county in the coming years.



Kent Understanding Plastics- Recoup Project

The 13 Kent Councils have always had a close working relationship with Recoup. We have worked on several projects and campaigns over the years. Recoup is a charity and leading authority providing expertise and guidance across the plastics recycling value chain. Recoup led on the Kent Understanding Plastics ‘Live Lab’ project. The project received funding from several partners including, Smart Sustainable Packaging Challenge at Innovate UK, part of UKRI, as well as industry partners, Veolia, Viridor, British Plastics Federation, Plastics Europe, and Ecosurety. In kind support was also received from PPS Recovery Systems Limited, Ocado Retail, Sainsbury’s, N + P Group and OPRL.

The Kent ‘Live Lab’ project focused on plastics recycling across Kent. The county was split into 3 test areas and each area had a different citizen communication delivered in each phase. Communications tested included, leaflets, focus groups, school engagement, social media posts, news articles, parish council involvement, litter picks, front of shop stands, face to face & online questionnaires, community talks, community magazines and VMS signage. Each phase was measured against the recycling tonnage data and Kent residents understanding of plastic packaging. Key outcomes of these interventions are included on the next page.

The project targeted negative myths arounds plastic packaging and recycling. It was important to ensure there were no conflicting messages about plastics locally. The main take aways from the campaign were, empty, rinse and squish plastic bottles and put the lid back on before recycling. To find out more on how to recycle your plastic packaging please visit [Pledge2Recycle](https://www.pledge2recycle.org.uk).



Key Outcomes

12 COUNCIL DISTRICTS **1 COUNTY COUNCIL** **1900 PARISH COUNCILLORS CONTACTED**

COMMUNITY MAGAZINE CONTENT
170,000 COPIES DISTRIBUTED

LEAFLETS TO 678,000 HOUSEHOLDS

700 SCHOOLS CONTACTED **17,500 SCHOOL CHILDREN** **OVER 3000 RESPONSES FOR CITIZEN INSIGHTS**

HIGH STREET ENGAGEMENT
16 LOCATIONS
3000+ SHOPPERS

9 RESIDENT FOCUS GROUPS AND 9 ADVISORY GROUPS
100+ PARTICIPANTS

LITTER GROUPS CONNECTED WITH A TOTAL OF 2500 MEMBERS
LITTER PICKS IN 6 LOCATIONS

VMS SIGNAGE ON THE A2 (LONDON TO DOVER) OVER A 9 MONTH PERIOD

DEDICATED WEB PAGE
WWW.PLEDGE2RECYCLE.CO.UK/KENT
2500 VISITS

DIRECT CORRESPONDENCE WITH 100+ KENT RESIDENTS VIA E-MAIL OR TELEPHONE

SOCIAL MEDIA
TWITTER
INSTAGRAM
FACEBOOK

#KENTDOES @PLEDGE2RECYCLE REACH OF 680,000

Working together against waste crime

The KRP Dedicated Intelligence Analyst works with enforcement colleagues across the 13 Kent Councils, Kent Police, the Environment Agency and the National Farmers Union. Please see a few examples of successful outcomes from this joined up approach-

A driver was wanted in connection with a fly-tip in Maidstone, and after carrying out intelligence checks and producing briefing documents on the suspected male and the vehicle, he was successfully targeted and stopped on the op assist day. The male was issued with a FPN, and his vehicle was seized by Maidstone BC.

Swale BC successfully prosecuted a male for carrying controlled waste without a waste carrier licence, a scrap dealer licence, or waste transfer notes. The male was found guilty of all charges, and ordered to pay 3 fines, a court levy and prosecution costs totalling over £7,000.

Dover DC prosecuted a male from Ashford for fly-tipping with an alternative charge of failing to prevent the escape of waste. The male was found guilty of fly-tipping and was fined £200, ordered to pay £700 in costs, and a £30 victim surcharge.

Op Assists

An op assist is a 'day of action' to target the most prolific offenders of waste crime. It's led by councils' enforcement officers, supported by Kent Police.

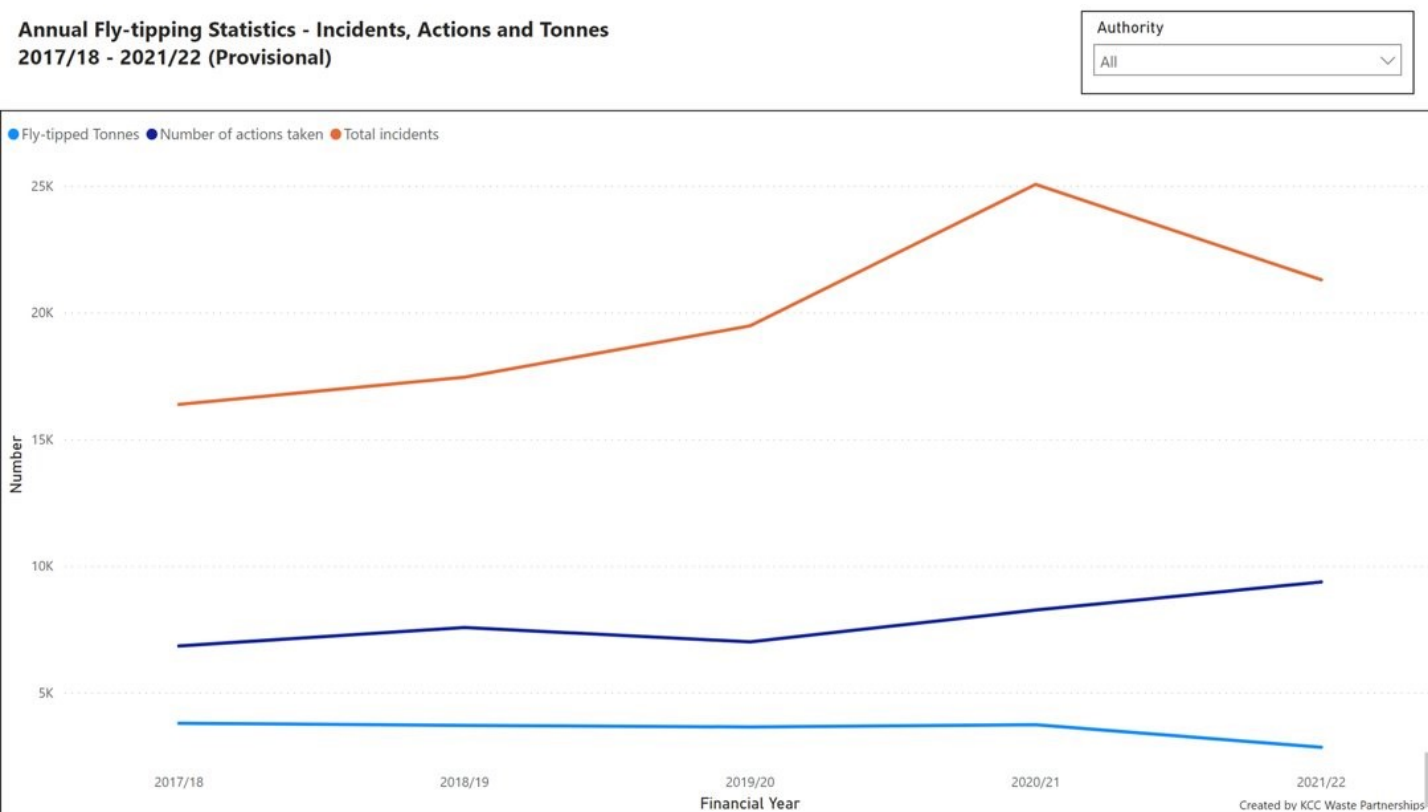
Key outcomes from 2021/22 are-

- 60 op assists took place
- 478 vehicles were stopped & searched
- 43 fixed penalty notices issued
- 66 local producer notices issued
- 90 vehicles seized for police offences and/or waste offences
- 22 arrests for other crimes



Fly tipping data

Enforcement officers across Kent are working tirelessly to stop fly tipping and environmental waste crime. As you can see from the graph below in 2021/22 there has been a drop in fly tipping incidents and volumes, alongside an increase in enforcement actions taken. In Kent our total number of fly tips reduced by 8.7% from 2020/21 and our number of enforcement actions increased by 14%.



This trend has also been seen nationally in 2021/22, the national total number of fly tipping incidents was 1,091 million this is a reduction of 3.8% from the previous year. Local authorities carried out 506,696 enforcement actions in 2021/22 an increase of 11%, 51,119 actions from 455,577 in 2020/21.



Performance

Please see our performance figures for 2021/22. The figures are the official waste and recycling statistics released by Defra. The residual waste per household figure was 554kg/h'hold – this is a slight decrease from the previous year.

Table 1: NPI 191 – Residual Household Waste per Household (kg/h'hold)

Council	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	Perf. (compared to previous year)
Ashford Borough Council	327.2	359.5	352.2	431.9	422.0	-9.9
Canterbury City Council	470.5	443.9	427.6	467.5	424.0	-43.5
Dartford Borough Council	619.2	605.4	607.9	679.4	655.7	-23.7
Dover District Council	343.6	354.4	356.5	419.1	436.0	16.9
Folkestone & Hythe District Council	400.2	373.6	401.0	442.6	427.6	-15.0
Gravesham Borough Council	431.7	432.2	427.5	477.0	487.7	10.7
Maidstone Borough Council	403.6	403.3	410.0	449.8	392.1	-57.7
Sevenoaks District Council	558.9	553.2	554.3	624.7	581.2	-43.4
Swale Borough Council	490.3	489.9	512.3	537.7	525.6	-12.1
Thanet District Council	452.5	437.7	459.4	511.2	510.4	-0.8
Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council	548.3	548.6	487.0	483.7	471.9	-11.8
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council	471.2	456.2	430.0	443.7	444.1	0.4
KRP	540.9	535.3	528.6	554.4	554.0	-0.4

Source: National figures, published by Defra March 2023





Table 2: NPI 192 – Percentage of Household Waste Recycled & Composted

Council	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	Perf. (compared to previous year)
Ashford Borough Council	56.6%	53.4%	54.2%	50.5%	51.7%	1.2%
Canterbury City Council	43.5%	46.3%	45.7%	40.9%	44.9%	4.0%
Dartford Borough Council	25.2%	25.9%	24.3%	24.5%	24.3%	-0.2%
Dover District Council	47.3%	47.0%	47.1%	47.8%	43.7%	-4.1%
Folkestone & Hythe District Council	45.3%	48.0%	44.2%	48.1%	45.3%	-2.8%
Gravesham Borough Council	40.7%	42.2%	42.5%	43.7%	42.4%	-1.3%
Maidstone Borough Council	51.1%	51.4%	49.2%	49.7%	52.8%	3.1%
Sevenoaks District Council	38.1%	37.5%	38.0%	36.6%	38.8%	2.2%
Swale Borough Council	41.2%	42.7%	40.5%	41.4%	41.7%	0.3%
Thanet District Council	34.9%	36.3%	34.8%	35.0%	34.4%	-0.6%
Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council	41.7%	41.9%	46.4%	51.6%	44.9%	-6.7%
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council	48.4%	47.8%	50.2%	47.5%	47.8%	0.3%
KRP	46.7%	47.2%	46.7%	44.0%	43.5%	-0.5%

Source: National figures, published by Defra March 2023

Table 2 (above) shows our recycling & composting performance over the last five years. For 2021/22 we recycled 43.5% of the waste we collected. We are still ahead of England's national recycling and composting rate of 42.5%.

We continue to work together with our residents to reduce, reuse and recycling as much as we can.

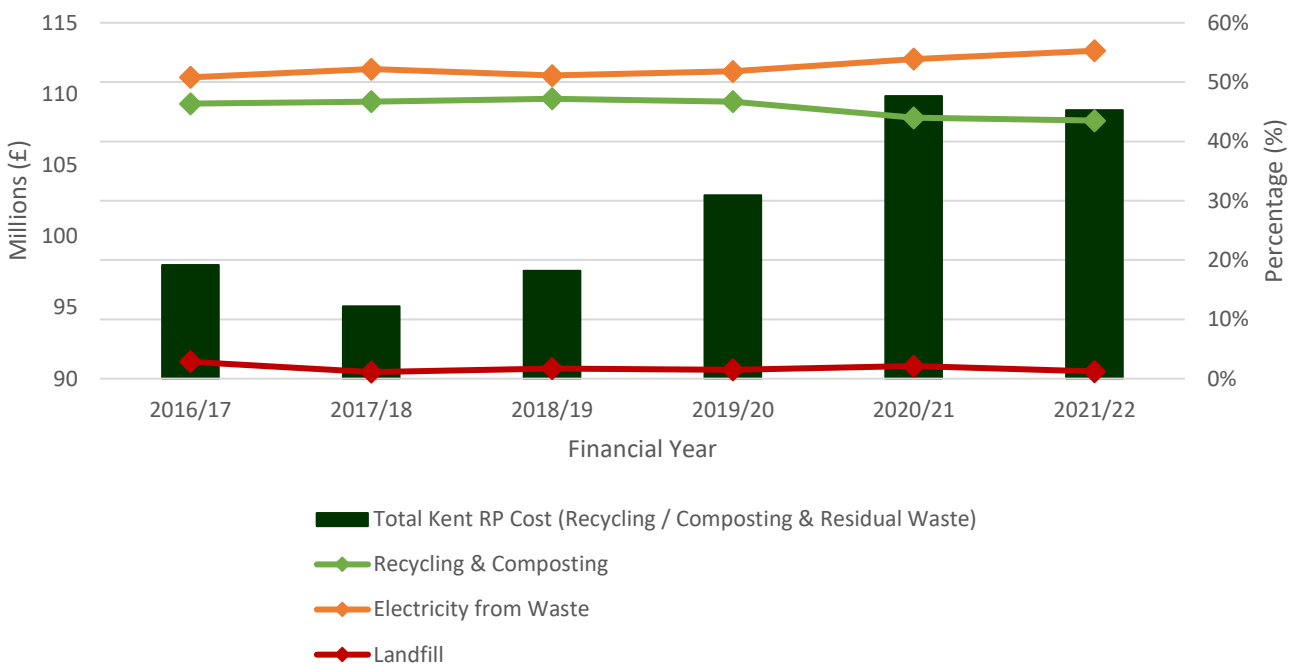
Table 3: NPI 193 – Percentage of Municipal Waste sent to Landfill

Council	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	Perf. (compared to previous year)
Kent County Wide Total	1.1%	1.7%	1.5%	2.1%	1.2%	-0.9%

Source: National figures, published by Defra March 2023

Table 3 (above) shows the amount of household waste sent to landfill over the last five years. For 2021/22, we achieved a 98.8% landfill diversion rate. We continue to aim to maintain this high diversion rate for the good of our environment. England’s total figure of waste sent to landfill is 8.1% and so we are one of the leading authorities nationally in landfill avoidance.

Table 4: Overall KRP Performance vs Cost – 2016/17 to 2021/22



Source: National figures, published by Defra March 2023 & figures provided by the 13 Kent councils

Table 4 (above) shows our total cost of waste resource against performance over the last six years. It can be seen that the total cost of waste resource managed for 2021/22 was over £108 million. For 2021/22, on average this equates to £157 per household, per year. Breaking this down further, that’s an average cost of £3.02 per household, per week.

Just over £16 million was also invested in keeping Kent clean.

Further information & contact details

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

Ashford Borough Council	Cllr Matthew Forest	Tracey Butler
Canterbury City Council	Cllr Andrew Cook	Sarah Randall
Dartford Borough Council	Cllr Steve Brown	Dave Thomas
Dover District Council	Cllr Nicholas Kenton	Roger Walton
Folkestone & Hythe District Council	Cllr Stuart Peall	Roger Walton
Gravesham Borough Council	Cllr Lee Croxton	Stuart Alford
Kent County Council	Cllr Susan Carey	David Beaver
Maidstone Borough Council	Cllr Martin Round	Jennifer Stevens
Sevenoaks District Council	Cllr Margot McArthur	Adrian Rowbotham
Swale Borough Council	Cllr Julian Saunders	Martyn Cassell
Thanet District Council	Cllr Robert Bayford	Gavin Waite
Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council	Cllr Piers Montague	Robert Styles
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council	Cllr Luke Everitt	Gary Stevenson

Website: www.kentresourcepartnership.org.uk

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

Email: krp@kent.gov.uk

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

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

Information in this publication may be used without charge and without licence subject to the original context for information being maintained and “Kent Resource Partnership” being accredited as the source.

Publication Date: May 2023.

© Copyright 2021 of Kent County Council on behalf of the Kent Resource Partnership