

Kent Resource Partnership

Annual Report – 2018/19





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Contents

Foreword	4
Background	5
KRP Performance	6
Kent Councils – New Contracts	9
Resource & Waste Strategy	10
Engaging with Kent Citizens	11
Food Recycling with WRAP	16
Joint Action Against Fly Tippers	17
KRP Annual Conference	18
Kent’s Recycling & Waste – Where does it go?	19
Further Information & Contact Details	20



Foreword



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



*Cllr Andrew Buchanan
Vice-Chairman of the KRP &
Cabinet Member for Environment & Land Management,
Ashford BC*

As with previous years, the Kent Resource Partnership (KRP) has been extremely busy. This Annual Report provides a snapshot of what the 13 Kent councils have achieved in 2018/19. It reflects KRP performance, actions and engagement activities taken forward. This is in addition to 1.5 million Kent citizens receiving their recycling, waste, street cleansing, and environmental protection services.

Provisional figures for 2018/19 saw the 13 Kent councils handle over 711,000 tonnes of household waste. Recycling and composting increased by 0.5% to 47.2%. The KRP is proud of this achievement and feel that the timing of Government's new Resource & Waste Strategy provides a springboard to help the KRP achieve even greater performance in future. Policies such as an extended producer responsibility regime for packaging producers and recycling consistency, will undoubtedly help performance. 51.1% of Kent's household waste was used to generate energy and only 1.7% went to landfill. Residual waste fell by 5kg per household.

The total cost of waste resource management for 2018/19 across the 13 Kent councils was just over £97 million. On average this equates to £150 per household, per year. If this were to be broken down further, that's an average cost of £2.89 per household, per week.

Notable actions this year include:- the procuring and awarding of new recycling and waste contracts for a number of councils, engaging with citizens by delivering the 1st KRP Communications Calendar, working with WRAP to improve food recycling, combining forces to tackle fly tipping and working with the resource and waste sector to help deliver ambitions set out in the Resource & Waste Strategy.

If you have any questions on the report or would like to find out more about the KRP, please contact the KRP Manager, Paldeep Bhatti. 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:- 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 has since been refreshed in 2017/18 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.



KRP Performance

Subject to validation from Government later this year, the KRP performance for 2018/19 continues to generally align with targets outlined within our Strategy. The residual household waste per household figure was **535.5 kg/h’hold** – a marginal improvement to the previous year. **47.2%** of household waste was recycled & composted, **51.1%** to generate energy with only **1.7%** sent to landfill.

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

Council	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	% Decrease (over six years)
Ashford Borough Council	441.4	350.6	370.4	354.3	327.2	359.5	-18.6%
Canterbury City Council	433.6	425.0	465.2	460.1	470.5	443.9	2.4%
Dartford Borough Council	626.0	598.6	618.5	634.3	619.2	605.4	-3.3%
Dover District Council	364.6	373.7	394.4	374.8	343.6	354.4	-2.8%
Folkestone & Hythe District Council	442.7	416.4	414.0	422.1	400.2	373.6	-15.6%
Gravesham Borough Council	567.4	497.7	483.9	512.2	431.7	432.2	-23.8%
Maidstone Borough Council	443.4	424.2	441.5	420.7	403.6	403.3	-9.0%
Sevenoaks District Council	589.5	596.3	596.1	567.4	558.9	553.2	-6.2%
Swale Borough Council	519.5	491.3	520.0	498.6	490.3	489.9	-5.7%
Thanet District Council	473.1	468.9	483.9	475.7	452.5	437.7	-7.5%
Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council	553.8	556.7	569.0	563.1	548.3	548.6	-0.9%
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council	526.9	515.8	523.2	479.2	471.2	456.2	-13.4%
KRP	580.0	567.3	584.5	567.0	540.9	535.3	-7.7%

Source: Waste Data Flow (provisional figures for 2018/19 and are subject to slight change. Final figures, including national figures, to be published by Defra at the end of 2019).

Table 1 (above) shows residual waste decreasing per household. Over the past six years there has been a general reduction year-on-year. This has been assisted by councils moving towards similar collection methods across Kent i.e. recycling collected fortnightly, residual waste collected fortnightly and a weekly food recycling service. This has in turn driven the desired behaviours from citizens and supported the KRP in achieving its targets. Since 2013/14, the KRP’s residual waste per household tonnage has seen a percentage decreased of 7.7%.

With housing and population growth expected, the KRP continues to emphasise the role of minimising waste in the first place. The KRP will therefore continue to support Courtauld 2025 (led by WRAP) and other campaigns which promote reducing waste or reuse.

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

Council	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	% Increase (over six years)
Ashford Borough Council	41.9%	55.3%	53.1%	55.1%	56.6%	53.4%	27.4%
Canterbury City Council	48.5%	48.4%	43.2%	44.4%	43.5%	46.3%	-4.5%
Dartford Borough Council	26.6%	27.6%	25.6%	25.2%	25.2%	25.9%	-2.6%
Dover District Council	44.2%	42.4%	41.7%	44.7%	47.3%	47.0%	6.3%
Folkestone & Hythe District Council	44.6%	47.6%	44.0%	42.5%	45.3%	48.0%	7.6%
Gravesham Borough Council	24.5%	34.2%	35.0%	34.5%	40.7%	42.2%	72.2%
Maidstone Borough Council	46.6%	49.1%	47.8%	49.9%	51.1%	51.4%	10.3%
Sevenoaks District Council	32.8%	33.4%	31.9%	38.3%	38.1%	37.5%	14.3%
Swale Borough Council	34.2%	40.3%	36.9%	41.6%	41.2%	42.7%	24.9%
Thanet District Council	30.3%	33.9%	31.6%	33.8%	34.9%	36.3%	19.8%
Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council	43.1%	42.4%	41.5%	42.5%	41.7%	41.9%	-2.8%
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council	46.3%	46.7%	45.6%	49.1%	48.4%	47.8%	3.2%
KRP	43.6%	45.6%	44.1%	46.3%	46.7%	47.2%	8.3%

Source: Waste Data Flow (provisional figures for 2018/19 and are subject to slight change. Final figures, including national figures, to be published by Defra at the end of 2019).

Table 2 (above) shows the KRP’s recycling & composting performance over the past six years. The recycling & composting rate for 2018/19 was 47.2% - an increase of 0.5% points, compared to the previous year. The KRP performance was again above the average for English County Councils.

Since 2013/14, the KRP’s recycling & composting performance has seen a percentage increase of 8.3%.



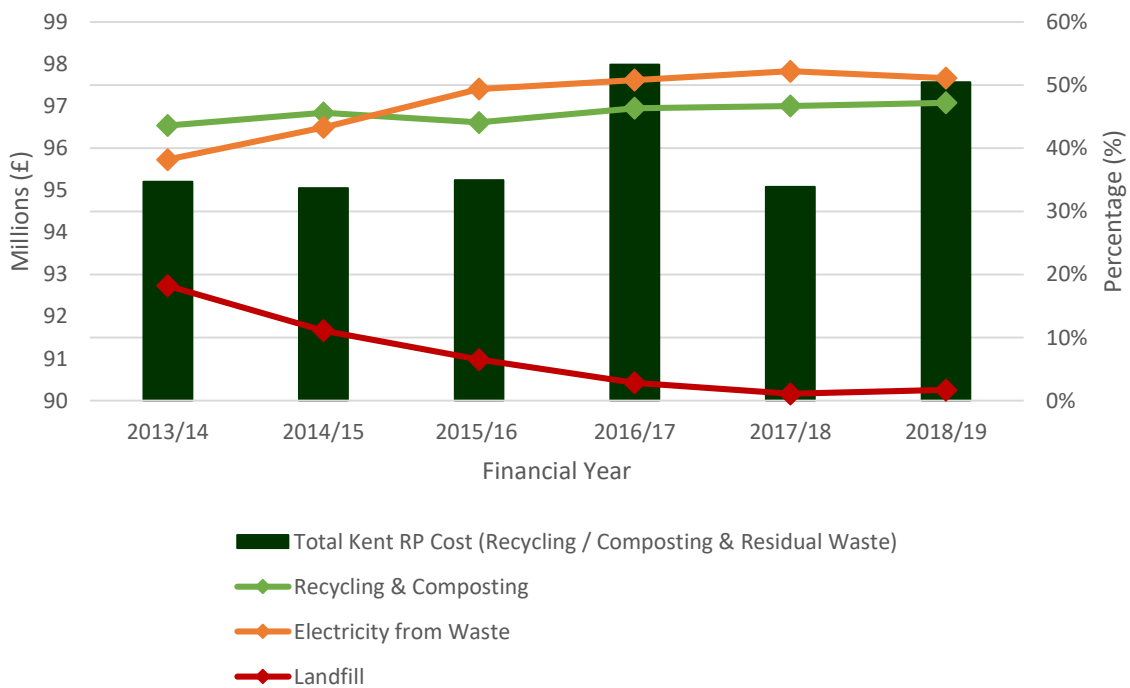
Table 3: NPI 193 – Percentage of Municipal Waste sent to Landfill

Council	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	% Decrease (over six years)
County Wide Total	18.2%	11.1%	6.5%	2.8%	1.1%	1.7%	-90.7%

Source: Waste Data Flow (provisional figures for 2018/19 and are subject to slight change. Final figures, including national figures, to be published by Defra at the end of 2019).

Table 3 (above) shows the amount of household waste sent to landfill over the last six years. For 2018/19, the KRP accomplished a 98.3% landfill diversion rate. Whilst the amount sent to landfill has increased slightly compared to last year, the KRP is still below its 2% target. This year’s increase was partly due to the Energy for Waste facility at Allington closing for maintenance work in March 2019. The aim continues to be to maintain this high level of performance and if possible achieve a 100% landfill diversion rate. Over the last six years, the amount sent to landfill has seen a percentage decrease of 90.7%

Table 4: Overall KRP Performance vs Cost – 2013/14 to 2018/19



Source: Waste Data Flow & the 13 Kent councils

Table 4 (above) shows the KRP’s total cost of waste resource against its performance over the last six years. It can be seen that the total cost of waste resource managed for 2018/19 was just over £97million. For 2018/19, on average this equates to £150 per household, per year. Breaking this down further, that’s an average cost of £2.89 per household, per week.

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

Kent Councils – New Contracts

In March 2019, Tonbridge & Malling BC and Tunbridge Wells BC began its new joint recycling, waste collection and street cleaning services contract with Urbaser.

Urbaser were awarded the eight-year contract to deliver improved recycling service to 101,000 Kent households across both areas following a detailed procurement exercise. Whilst the new contract began in March, the roll out of its new and improved services begins in late September 2019.



The new service includes: - weekly collection of food; fortnightly collection of residual waste; alternative weekly collection of mixed dry recyclables and a separate fortnightly collection of garden waste as an opt-in chargeable service; and additional collections of textiles, household batteries and WEEE. This new service aligns with the majority of other Kent councils.



In June 2019, Dartford BC began its new recycling, waste collection and street cleaning services contract with Urbaser. The new contract continued to deliver the same service delivered by the previous contractor. This decision was supported by Dartford citizens when they responded to the councils 'Big Bin' consultation in 2017/18.

Resource & Waste Strategy



In December 2018, the Government launched its much anticipated Resource & Waste Strategy. The Strategy sits alongside the Government's 25 Year Environment Plan, the Bioeconomy Strategy and the Clean Growth Strategy which sets out how the UK plans to cut carbon emissions to combat climate change and drive economic growth. Some of the key ambitions within the Strategy include; businesses & manufacturers to pay the full cost of recycling or disposing of their packaging waste, exploring the possibility of a deposit return scheme and introducing plans for a consistent approach to recycling across England – all subject to consultation.

In February, Defra launched three major consultations on these key ambitions. At the same time, HM Treasury also launched its own consultation on placing a tax on plastics packaging. The Partnership swiftly took action which included: - establishing its initial views on the questions outlined within the consultations; engaging with a range of key stakeholders across the resource & waste industry and putting in place an efficient process to approve final consultation responses. During the consultation period, the Partnership worked with:- INCPEN, LARAC, NAWDO, CIWM, Resource Association and the other councils in the South East.

In May 2019, the Partnership submitted its responses to all four consultations. The responses reflect support to the principles of extended producer responsibility and consistent approach to recycling across England. There was a consensus that Government initially ought to focus its efforts on delivering these two ambitions before exploring a deposit return scheme. There is also an appreciation more work is still to be done over the coming months and the 13 Kent councils stand ready to support Government with delivering its ambitions, as outlined with the Strategy.

Engaging with Kent Citizens

Over the last year, the KRP has made great strides to improve communication and engagement with Kent residents in a coordinated way. In 2018/19, the KRP agreed its first ‘Communications Calendar’ which saw a joint effort to focus on:- reducing avoidable food waste, improving the quality and quantity of recycling and tackling street scene issues including littering and fly tipping.

Shown below is a snapshot of the campaigns delivered, including outcomes: -



Recycle Week – Sep 2018

In September, Kent councils supported ‘Recycle Week’ – the national recycling campaign led by WRAP. Main activities included:- all 640,000 households in Kent receiving a leaflet which outlined what plastic packaging could be recycled around the home, recycling roadshows across the County and effective social media engagement.

Results of the campaign saw a 1% tonnage increase in plastic packaging, 10% tonnage increase for all recyclable packaging with household waste tonnages remaining the same, compared to the same period for the previous year.



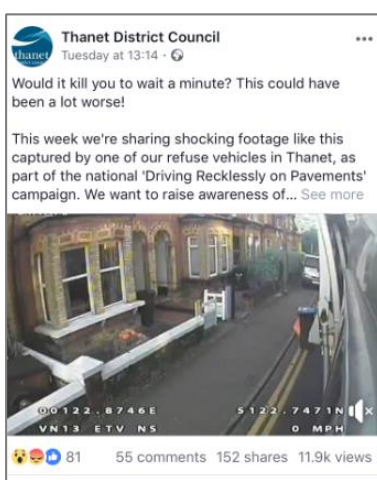
Working with WRAP ahead of the campaign, Kent councils also adopted social normative language in its social media engagement. The campaign was evaluated online using #KentRecycles. It was estimated over 139,000 social media accounts had been reached with a total of 618,000 impressions gained.



Driving Recklessly on Pavements – Feb 2019

In February, Kent councils worked with Kent Police to launch the #stopDROPs campaign across the County. The social media campaign aimed to raise awareness of the dangers collection crews faced when some motorists chose to drive recklessly on pavements to get around their recycling & waste vehicles. The campaign saw councils share genuine CCTV footage from recycling & waste vehicles and highlighted some top tips for motorists when travelling around vehicles.

The estimated reach for #stopDROPs was over 226,000 social media accounts, with over 374,000 impressions gained. The campaign also gained positive media coverage across national, local and resource and waste industry outlets. During the upcoming year, Kent councils have been tasked with tracking how many incidents take place across Kent, as well as what enforcement action was taken forward by Kent Police.



Great British Spring Clean – March & April 2019

Similar to previous years, the KRP supported the ‘Great British Spring Clean’ led by Keep Britain Tidy. Activities included:- community litter picks, deep cleans, high-speed road litter picks, anti-litter signage across Kent and social media coverage using #KeepKentClean.

Outcomes of the campaign included: -

- Over 250 litter picks across Kent;
- 4,078 litter volunteers involved across Kent;
- 4,838 bags of litter (via parish/town councils & community groups);
- 828 bags of litter (via Highways England); and
- Over 136,000 social media account reach (via #KeepKentClean).

This was the largest Kent campaign, compared to previous years.





Food Recycling with WRAP

Earlier this year, WRAP invested just over £160,000 into Kent by partnering with Swale BC and Thanet DC to deliver a food recycling campaign. The aims of the campaign were to:-

- Recycle more food waste;
- Reduce the amount of food waste going to generate energy or landfill;
- Reduce contamination within the food waste collection.

After evaluating past tonnages for all Kent councils, WRAP agreed the two councils had the greatest scope to improve its food recycling rates given their relatively low capture rates. In June, the two councils delivered the food recycling campaign. The campaign was underpinned by past campaigns facilitated by WRAP. Residents across the two areas received:-

- Free caddy liners;
- A bin sticker for the residual bin; and
- A food recycling leaflet.

The campaign was also supported via the councils social media accounts. Full evaluation of tonnage is expected to take place later this year.



Joint Action Against Fly Tippers

The KRP continue to make great strides to tackle fly tipping across the County by working together. The last two years has seen the KRP fund an Intelligence Analyst post as part of a pilot. This additional resource has worked closely with council Enforcement Officers to gather vital intelligence, support enforcement action taken forward by councils, coordinate ‘days of actions’ on suspected fly tippers and be one of the lead links between councils and the Kent Police, Environment Agency and National Farmers Union.



During the course of the pilot, the Intelligence Analyst has provided 80 detailed subject profiles and analytical products, has conducted over 600 individual checks as part of research and development on 379 investigations. As a result, the number of intelligence reports submitted has increased by 20% compared to the same period the previous year. Due to the success of the pilot, the KRP has agreed to continue funding this post until 2023.

In October 2018, the Intelligence Analyst - along with Dover DC’s Environmental Crime Officer – delivered a presentation to over 50 delegates at LARAC’s national conference. The presentation included insights into how Kent councils were maximising intelligence to tackle fly tipping across the County. This tactic was seen as best practice.



KRP Annual Conference

In September 2018, over 100 delegates from across the resource and waste industry attended the KRP's Annual Conference. The overarching aim of the conference was to inspire and encourage joint working towards achieving greater results for the environment. The conference was therefore titled, 'The Power of Partnerships'.

Delegates were fortunate to receive presentations from high quality speakers such as:- Sam Corp of Environment Services Association, Jennie Probert of Hertfordshire Waste Partnership, Dr Mark Caul of Tesco, Myriam Moeyersons of Bio-Based & Biodegradable Industries Association, Claire Shrewsbury of WRAP and Kathy Illingworth of Valpak Consulting.

The day offered a great opportunity for delegates 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 forum. The conference was also followed on social media using the #KRPCConf. It was estimated 34,000 accounts were reached on the day.



Kent's recycling & waste – Where does it go?



In April, the KRP published its Materials End Destinations Publication for 2017/18. This was the 7th publication in as many years which looked to reflect where all of Kent's household recycling and waste actually ended up.

Key headline figures were that Kent councils processed 708,000 tonnes of household recycling and waste. 76.1% was processed within Kent, 15.2% within the UK and 8.7% sent abroad. This was generally in line with performance from previous years. The disposal outlets used by Kent County Council also helped keep transport and environmental costs low to Kent citizens.

This year the KRP have been keen to explore how key headline figures from Materials End Destinations Publications can be reflected to Kent residents succinctly. Later in 2019/20, the Partnership will be sharing short videos to reflect what happens to each waste material type and explain the reprocessing journey once collected from the doorstep. The aim is for these short videos to be maximized via councils websites and social media accounts. As part of the research process, in November councillors and officers attended the local composting facility in West Malling (run by New Earth Solutions) which processed Kent's food and garden waste.

Details of the Materials End Destinations Publication for 2017/18, which includes a council-by-council tonnage breakdown, can be found [here](#).

Further Information & Contact Details

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

Ashford Borough Council	Cllr Andrew Buchanan	Tracey Butler
Canterbury City Council	Cllr Neil Baker	David Ford
Dartford Borough Council	Cllr Steve Brown	Sheri Green
Dover District Council	Cllr Nicholas Kenton	Roger Walton
Folkestone & Hythe District Council	Cllr Stuart Peall	Roger Walton
Gravesham Borough Council	Cllr Lee Croxton	Nick Brown
Kent County Council	Cllr Michael Payne	David Beaver
Maidstone Borough Council	Cllr Derek Mortimer	Jennifer Shepherd
Sevenoaks District Council	Cllr Margot McArthur	Richard Wilson
Swale Borough Council	Cllr Tim Valentine	Martyn Cassell
Thanet District Council	Cllr Mrs Ash Ashbee	Gavin Waite
Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council	Cllr Robin Betts	Robert Styles
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council	Cllr Ronen Basu	Gary Stevenson

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