

Draft
**Recycling and
Waste Strategy**
Summary
document



Our Vision

We only have one planet and all waste goes somewhere. This is a mission to achieve 'zero waste' and is an important part of protecting our planet.

As a council we have declared a climate emergency, and as the waste we produce has associated carbon emissions this strategy will form part of the climate emergency work.

We must think of waste as being a resource from which as much value as possible should be recovered.

Our strategy is focused on working with residents, locally community groups, businesses and town and parish councils to contribute towards North Somerset's net zero carbon aims, 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% the level of 2019/20 by 2030
2. a recycling rate of 70% by 2030
3. zero waste to be sent to landfill from household kerbside collections by the end of 2021
4. improved recycling facilities and offer food waste recycling collections to flats
5. offer the commercial waste service to all local businesses and schools and be the main waste removal service for events in the area
6. reduced incidents of litter and fly-tipping and improve reporting of fly-tipping
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.

Our achievements

- In 2019/20 we achieved a recycling rate of 60.6% which placed North Somerset Council in the top 10 for recycling rates in England and the highest in the South West.
- Between 2016/17 and 2019/20 residual waste per household reduced from 485kg per household to 400kg per household.
- Between 2016/17 and 2019/20 there was a 44% reduction in residual waste at recycling centres.
- Implemented an energy from waste contract to divert non-recyclable household waste from landfill.
- Implemented a commercial waste service.
- Introduced the collection of small electrical items (WEEE) at kerbside in 2017/18.
- North Somerset is ranked as a High-flyer in Eunomia's Carbon Index.



Why we need a waste strategy

Despite achieving one of the highest recycling rates in England in 2019/20, our previous waste audit found 45% of the average household black bin was recyclable material.

The council continues to be under financial pressure and the disposal cost of general waste has increased to £110 per tonne, due to an increase in landfill tax and treatment costs. The strategy will play a key role in diverting recyclable material from landfill or energy from waste to ease financial pressure and preserve natural resources.

This waste strategy will set out the steps we are going to take and measure our progress over the next 10 years.

Actions

Aim: Help residents to reduce waste at home.

- Action:**
- Promote and provide advice on how residents reduce their waste.
 - Raise awareness of unnecessary packaging and alternatives: reusable containers, packed lunches, beeswax wraps.
 - Advice to reduce paper: prevent junk mail, reduce paper towels.
 - Promote waste free products in the home such as, DIY cleaning products.
 - Provide information and advice to residents to help them reduce food waste at home.

Why Help and encourage residents to reduce waste at home through better buying choices.

Supports target: (1) A reduction in residual waste of 15% the level of 2019/20 by 2030.

(8) Progress towards a circular economy.

Aim: Reduce single-use items

Action: Promote reusable nappies through the North Somerset Nappy Scheme.

Why? Switching to reusable nappies even part time will help reduce waste and save families money.

- Action:**
- Promote reusable sanitary products:
 - Feminine hygiene products
 - Adult incontinence products
 - Promoting alternatives to single-use items (i.e. plastic bags, wet wipes, drink bottles, coffee cups, straws).
 - Promote refill options: Promote local refill/zero waste shops, work with 'City to Sea' to encourage local businesses and cafes to create refill water points.

Why? Reduce single-use items and promote alternatives.

Supports target: (1) A reduction in residual waste of 15% the level of 2019/20 by 2030.
(8) Progress towards a circular economy.

Aim: Encourage and promote re-use of unwanted items.

- Action:**
- Work with existing groups to establish a reuse network within North Somerset, supported by the council.
 - Promote workshops and council run reuse events to provide education for reuse and skill learning, upcycling, care & repair such as bike repair schemes or wood recycling projects.
 - Collaborations with repair groups, charity organisations and housing associations through supplying furniture or items for re-use.

- Why?**
- To promote re-use and reduce waste.
 - Support community reuse.
 - Divert waste from landfill to reuse.

Action: Open re-use or repair shop.

Why? Further demonstrate, support and promote the value of re-use.

Action: Launch or promote a re-paint scheme with community re-paint and Resource Futures.

Why? Divert waste from landfill to reuse.

Supports target: (1) A reduction in residual waste of 15% the level of 2019/20 by 2030.
(8) Progress towards a circular economy



Aim: Reduce food waste in the residual bin

Action: Continue to promote and provide containers for weekly food waste collections.

Why? To increase awareness and engagement of the service.

Action: Communicate information and advice to residents to help reduce food waste in line with national campaigns such as Love Food Hate Waste.

Why? To increase awareness of food waste and reduce avoidable food waste

Supports target: (1) A reduction in residual waste of 15% the level of 2019/20 by 2030.
(2) A recycling rate of 70% by 2030.

Aim: Improve recycling in flats

Action: Work in partnership with resident groups and managing agents.

Why? To help encourage recycling and ensure the facilities are suitable for the building.

Action: Roll out of food waste collections.

Why? To divert from residual waste.

Action: Improve recycling facilities with better signage.

Why? To promote recycling and make it easier to recycle.

Supports target: (1) A reduction in residual waste of 15% the level of 2019/20 by 2030.
(2) A recycling rate of 70% by 2030
(4) Improve recycling facilities and offer food waste recycling collections to flats

Aim: Promote composting

Action:

- Provide discounted compost bins.
- Provide free online webinars and workshops to support efficient home composting.
- Encourage home composting through attending local events.
- Provide information on home composting through social media and leaflets.
- Support local community composting sites.

Why? Encourage local composting of garden waste at home and in communities.

Supports target: (8) Progress towards a circular economy

Aim: Improve recycling engagement and participation.

Action: Target communication material to address: contamination, unsorted recycling, low participation.

Why? Gives residents the information and confidence to recycle more.



Action:	Door knocking to support individual households.
Why?	Provides face to face supports and gives residents to ask questions.
Action:	Improve recycling facilities in flats and introduce food waste recycling.
Why?	Increase recycling by providing the facilities and information needed.
Action:	Encourage better use of current recycling collections and recycling centres.
Why?	To increase awareness of the recycling services on offer and increase recycling.
Action:	Continue to grow North Somerset's recycling and waste social media pages
Why?	To reach a large proportion of residents daily and engage in reducing waste and provide recycling information.
Supports target:	(1) A reduction in residual waste of 15% the level of 2019/20 by 2030. (2) A recycling rate of 70% by 2030. (8) Progress towards a circular economy.

Aim: Expand commercial waste service

Action:	Promote recycling and waste collections from local businesses and one-off events.
Why?	Encourage local businesses and events to register.
Action:	Increase food waste recycling collections by targeting schools.
Why?	Encourage local schools to businesses to recycle food waste.
Supports target:	(5) Offer the commercial waste service to all local businesses and schools and be the main waste removal service for events in the area

Aim: Reduce litter

Action:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Install signs to warn people of the potential fine they could receive for dropping litter to discourage people from doing it. • Extend the contract with L A Support after their one year trial to reduce environmental crime such as littering.
Why?	To deter people from littering and fly-tipping household waste.

Action:

- Support litter pickers through the Adopt-a-Street scheme.
- Plan and attend education events.

Why? Engage with communities and raise awareness.

Supports target: (6) Reduce incidents of litter and fly-tipping and improve reporting of fly-tipping

Aim: Reduce fly-tipping

Action: Campaign on householder duty of care and business duty of care.

Why? To ensure residents carry out duty of care.

Action: Increase the number of Duty of Care checks on businesses.

Why? To ensure waste is being managed legally.

Action: Create a council approved waste collector scheme that the public can use to ensure they are fulfilling their Duty of Care.

Why? To ensure residents can check their waste is responsibly disposed of.

Action: Use social media to raise awareness of issues of waste crime.

Why? To show the environmental damage caused by waste crime.

Action: Work towards getting better outcomes from investigations.

Why? To successfully prosecute offenders.

Action: Install cameras around fly-tipping hotspots.

Why? To capture evidence of waste crime.

Action: Improve reporting of fly-tipping across the whole district.

Why? To make reporting a fly-tip easier.

Supports target: (6) Reduce incidents of litter and fly-tipping and improve reporting of fly-tipping

Aim: Clean and safe streets and open spaces within North Somerset

Action: Review litter bin locations and types.
Why? To make litter bin collections efficient and make sure bins are placed for best use by the public.

Action: Work with town and parish councils to improve street scene.
Why? To improve efficiencies, use resources more effectively and empower town and parish councils.

Action: Plan education events.
Why? Engage with communities and raise awareness.

Action: Monitor trends to identify problem areas.
Why? To focus time and attention.

Action: Increase uptake in our Adopt-a-Street voluntary litter picking scheme.
Why? To support local voluntary community groups.

Action: Continue to ensure that all areas used for events are back to Grade A standard as set out under the code of practice for litter (Environmental Protection Act 1990).
Why? To remove litter from the environment after events to a high standard.

Supports target: (7) Improve the appearance of our streets and open spaces.

Action: Trial an 'On the go' recycling service
Why? To reduce residual waste.

Supports target: (2) A recycling rate of 70% by 2030

Aim: Improve recycling centre facilities

Action:

- Divert waste for re-use via a re-use shop.
- Investigate options to expand upon the material accepted for recycling including; plastic film and bags, carpets and mattresses (see appendix ten for more information).
- Trial bag splitting. Where staff at the recycling centres can ask residents to open black bags of waste to check everything that can be recycled is recycled, and not going in the non-recyclable skip.
- Accept commercial waste from small to medium sized local businesses.
- Trial a booking system to visit a recycling centre to minimise waiting times

Why? To increase recycling and reduce residual waste disposal.



Supports target: (1) A reduction in residual waste of 15% the level of 2019/20 by 2030.
(2) A recycling rate of 70% by 2030.
(8) Progress towards a circular economy.

Options for future consideration

- The provision of a smaller black bin on fortnightly collections or three/ four weekly black bin collections to reduce recyclable waste in the black household bin
- Hydrogen or electric collection vehicles
- The expansion of infrastructure including additional recycling centres, new depot and waste transfer station and a depot in the North of the district



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Please contact 01934 888 802