



NEWS RELEASE

Nobel House, 17 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3JR

Tel: 020 7238 1133/1134/1128 Fax: 020 7238 5502/5506/5529/6134

Out of Hours Tel: 020 7270 8960 Out of Hours Fax: 020 7270 8125

website: www.defra.gov.uk



STATISTICAL RELEASE

Ref: 257/09

5th November 2009

Municipal Waste Management Statistics for England 2008/09

Defra today published estimates from the Department's 2008/09 survey of municipal waste. These estimates are based on data submitted by all local authorities to WasteDataFlow (www.wastedataflow.co.uk). The figures for financial year 2008/09 show a further increase in recycling, a decrease in total municipal waste and a decrease in the amount sent to landfill.

These data replace the provisional estimates published for the first three quarters of 2008/09 in February, May and August 2009.

Municipal waste arisings and management

The total amount of collected municipal waste has decreased by 1.2 million tonnes to an estimated 27.3 million tonnes in England in 2008/09 compared to 28.5 million tonnes in 2007/08, a decrease of 4.1 per cent. The average annual change in municipal waste over the five years to 2008/09 was a decrease of 1.2 per cent.

In total, 49.0 per cent (13.4 million tonnes) of municipal waste had some sort of value (recycling, composting, energy from waste and fuel manufacture) recovered from it in 2008/09, a rise from 45.1 per cent (12.9 million tonnes) in 2007/08.

The proportion of municipal waste being recycled or composted increased from 34.0 per cent in 2007/08 to 36.9 per cent in 2008/09. The proportion of waste incinerated with energy recovery increased, from 11.1 per cent in 2007/08 to 12.2 per cent in 2008/09.

The proportion of municipal waste disposed in landfill has continued to decrease, from 54.4 per cent in 2007/08 to 50.3 per cent in 2008/09.

The tonnage of municipal waste disposed of into landfill has also decreased again, from 15.5 million tonnes in 2007/08 to 13.8 million tonnes in 2008/09.

Household waste and recycling

In 2008/09, household sources accounted for 89.0 per cent of municipal waste arisings (24.3 million tonnes), or 473 kg of household waste per person, of which 178 kg was recycled. This equates to 1072 kg per household, of which 403 kg was recycled.

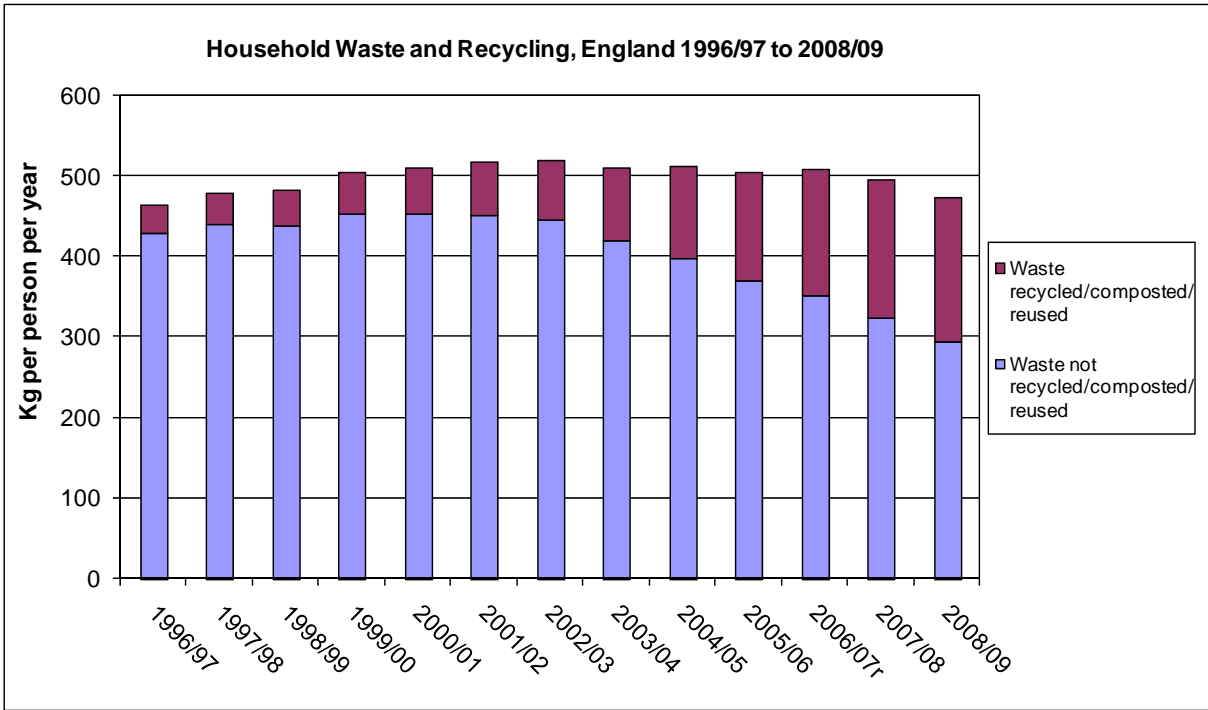
The amount of waste collected from household sources decreased by 3.8 per cent in 2008/09, from 25.3 million tonnes in 2007/08 to 24.3 million tonnes in 2008/09. The average annual change in total household waste over the last five years is a decrease of 0.9 per cent.

The proportion of household waste recycled (including composting and reuse) has continued to increase, rising from 34.5 per cent in 2007/08 to 37.6 per cent in 2008/09. This increase in the national recycling rate of 3.1 percentage points is slightly lower than the increase of 3.6 percentage points observed in 2007/08 and 4.2 percentage points in each of the two years prior to that.

In absolute terms the amount of household waste sent for recycling or composting has increased by 4.7 per cent, from 8.7 million tonnes in 2007/08 to 9.1 million tonnes in 2008/09.

Household waste not re-used, recycled or composted is described as residual (or 'black bag') waste. In 2008/9 the amount of household residual waste collected was 15.2 million tonnes, a decrease of 8.3 per cent from 2007/08. This equates to 295kg per person, or 669kg per household.

The chart below shows the changes in household waste and recycling per capita.



Regional variations

There continues to be variations in household recycling and composting rates between different regions, with regional recycling rates ranging from less than 30 per cent in London to nearly 45 per cent in the East and East Midlands regions.

The proportion of municipal waste sent to landfill also varies by region; from the West Midlands with 33 per cent of their municipal waste going to landfill, to the North West with at 59 per cent.

The tables showing summary estimates, by region, from the 2008/09 WasteDataFlow survey, together with results from earlier years may be found on the Defra web site at:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/evidence/statistics/environment/wastats/index.htm>

Table 1 shows a breakdown of municipal waste, by region 2000/01 – 2008/09.
Table 2 shows the management of municipal waste, by region 2000/01 – 2008/09.
Table 3 shows the recycling and recovery rates for household and municipal waste, 2000/01 – 2008/09.

Table 4 shows household waste and recycling per capita and per household, 1983/84 – 2008/09.

Table 5 shows the regional household recycling rates, rates of municipal waste to landfill and residual household waste per household – 2000/01 – 2008/09.

Table 6 shows a national breakdown of municipal waste for each quarter of 2008/09.

NOTES FOR EDITORS

1. These tables are the final release of data from WasteDataFlow for 2008/09 and are national and regional estimates based on local authority returns in England.
2. For 2008/09 there was a 100% response rate on WasteDataFlow. The data entered into WasteDataFlow are also used by the Environment Agency to monitor biodegradable municipal waste sent to landfill by local authorities under the Landfill Allowances Trading Scheme (LATS).
3. This is the fifth annual set of results to be produced from the WasteDataFlow system. Some care should be taken when comparing 2004/05 onwards with previous years results from the Municipal Waste Management Surveys.
4. Household waste includes household collection rounds ('bin' waste), other household collections such as bulky waste collections, waste from services such as litter collections, waste from civic amenity sites and wastes separately collected for recycling or composting through bring/drop off schemes, kerbside schemes and at civic amenity sites. Municipal waste is that which comes under the possession or control of the Local Authority and includes household waste and other wastes collected by a waste collection authority or its agents, such as municipal parks and gardens waste, beach cleansing waste, commercial or industrial waste, and waste resulting from the clearance of fly-tipped materials.
5. The amount of waste sent for reuse, recycling and composting is that which is accepted by the reprocessor. As such it excludes any recycling rejects that occur during collection, sorting or further treatment. Waste diverted for recycling from the residual stream by further processing is included in the recycling tonnages.
6. Defra's Waste Strategy 2007 for England set out targets for the management of municipal and household waste. These include a target to recycle or compost at least 40 per cent of household waste by 2010. Further information and the 2008/09 annual progress report can be found on the Defra website.

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/waste/strategy/index.htm>

7. The chart showing household waste and recycling figures is also one of the supporting indicators (indicator 19) of sustainable development as set out in the UK Government's Sustainable Development Strategy, *Securing the Future*, launched on 7 March 2005. On 30 July 2009 an update of the national indicators was published both as a free pocket booklet *Sustainable development indicators in your pocket 2009*, available to order as a free publications, and as a download here on the sustainable development website:

www.defra.gov.uk/sustainable/government/progress/data-resources/sdiyp.htm

A National Statistics publication

National Statistics are produced to high professional standards set out in the National Statistics Code of Practice. They undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure they meet customer needs.

Press Enquiries: 020 7238 5337; Public Enquiries: 08459 335577;

Press Notices available via DEFRA website

<http://www.defra.gov.uk>

END