

Waste

Greenhouse gas emissions from waste management practices currently account for approximately 5% of the territorial carbon footprint for the East Riding. These are mainly comprised of methane released from landfill sites, with some also from waste-water treatment and the incineration of waste. In East Riding, a large proportion of our waste is classified as household, commercial, industrial or agricultural waste.

To reduce the carbon footprint of our waste activities in the East Riding, we will need to reduce the amount of waste we produce by keeping resources in use for as long as possible and preventing waste through the re-use of materials and products where possible. The waste hierarchy is a useful guide for reducing emissions in waste management practices, prioritising action further up the hierarchy.



As well as focusing on waste management practices, our ambition is to help East Riding become a circular economy. This means moving away from the linear process of taking materials from the earth, making products out of them and throwing them away. We want to create a more cyclical process where materials flow, there is a focus on recovery or regeneration of resources and we design products that can be 'made and made again'. It is important we consider material use and the life cycle of products because based on what we use in our average daily lives across East Riding, over a third of our personal carbon footprint is from the purchase of goods (including food and diet).

The circular economy, in particular, will require partnership action across all sectors of society, as a unitary local authority only has limited control over the full lifecycle of products and materials.

What we have done

- Our statutory function for waste includes daily household waste and recycling collections covering an operational area of 933 square miles. We operate a three wheeled bin scheme collecting household waste. This includes:
 - **Green Bin Waste** - for household waste that cannot be recycled, this is taken to a waste transfer station where waste is filtered, shredded and turned into refuse derived fuel. It is then used in a multi fuel energy processing plant at Ferrybridge to generate electricity.
 - **Blue Bin Waste** - all waste in the blue bin is taken to a material recycling facility in Teeside where it is sorted into different materials to be sent for reprocessing. The majority of materials are sent to UK reprocesses.

- **Brown Bin Waste** – all waste in the brown bin is taken to an in-vessel composting facility where it is processed over time to become compost. Each year the Council holds compost giveaways for residents and provides free compostable caddy liners to all residents to encourage food waste recycling.

As an authority, we have been recognised for our excellence in waste management and recycling. In 2020 we won APSE Service Team of the Year for waste and recycling. In 2020/21 we have reused, recycled and composted 60.8% of household waste and process a high proportion of municipal waste (that cannot be recycled, reused or composted) into refuse derived fuel.

- We operate a chargeable commercial and business waste collection service for general waste and mixed dry recyclables from over 3,800 businesses, alongside a similar service for bulky household waste. All waste is diverted from landfill to electricity generation.
- The Council manages 10 Household Waste Recycling Sites (HWRS). These are places to take used or unwanted household items, such as extra garden waste, furniture, household electrical items and batteries. FCC Environment operate these on behalf of the Council. Waste management on these sites adhere to the waste hierarchy approach, with a recycling rate of 79% and achieving 0% waste being sent to landfill. All waste that cannot be reused, recycled or composted being sent away to a site to be processed into fuel.

We also promote the reuse of products at the HWRS sites with a reuse shop at the Humberfield site and more recently have set up a project to sell unwanted large domestic appliances (e.g. fridges, freezers) that are brought to the recycling sites, with all money going to the Dove House Hospice.

- The Council also has waste, recycling and sustainability officers leading on engagement and campaigns to encourage waste reduction and recycling. This has included:
 - Engagement with schools and community groups supporting best practice in waste management and behaviour change to influence waste reduction and recycling.
 - Campaigns on social media and communication platforms encouraging composting, less food waste and more recently have created a Council app which helps distinguish which items of rubbish should go in which household waste bin.
 - Engagement with internal members of staff, particularly through our Environmental Policy and ISO14001:2015 process, on sustainable waste management practices and pollution prevention across the Council.

Key Challenges & Opportunities

Challenges to Delivery

- **Covid-19 pandemic** – This pandemic has brought new challenges to waste management, in particular the huge amount of extra medical waste produced which have limitations on how it may be recycled or reused.
- **Commercial waste** – The local authority has limited influence over the management of commercial waste, particularly if they do not use the Council's collection service.
- **Control on production** – Many of the products we consume originate from outside the area, and even the country, meaning we have limited control locally over sustainability in the early stage of a products lifecycle
- **Collection of waste** - We are still awaiting clarity on national changes, through the Environment Act, for the collection of separate waste streams and the impacts this will have, particularly if food waste has to be collected separately from other compostable waste.
- **Transfer of waste** -The transfer of commercial and industrial waste between companies and organisations for alternative or re-use is hampered by overly complex and restrictive waste legislation.
- **Replacement products** There is limited capacity for the large-scale repairing of products, which means that it is more practical, and often cheaper, for individuals and organisations to purchase replacement products and dispose of faulty items, rather than repair them.

Opportunities

- **Environment Act** – The act that came into law in November 2021 plans to extend producer responsibility for waste, create a deposit return scheme for single use drinks containers and further charges for single use plastics.
- **Saving money** – Having sustainable waste management practices in place as an organisation can reduce the amount of waste your business produces, saving disposal costs.
- **Sustainability** – As well as reducing carbon emissions, circular economy principles have wider sustainability benefits, including lowering demand on the finite resources we have available and reducing pollution like plastics.
- **Waste heat** – With the large industrial sector we have on the Humber there is the potential to utilise the waste heat produced from industries to be made available for third parties, without it simply being discharged into the atmosphere.
- **Product efficiency information** – Legislation has come into place, through the Environment Act, giving powers for Government to introduce new resource efficiency information on products, including labelling on the recyclability and durability of products.
- **Yorkshire Circular Economy** - Initiatives by organisations , such as CATCH, are working to instill a circular economy approach across the Humber Industrial Cluster, including the re-use of waste products.

Areas of Action

Please note that until the final Climate Change Strategy has been approved, we have chosen to use the wording 'East Riding of Yorkshire Council can.' Once the Strategy has been fully consulted on internally and with the public we will commit to 'East Riding of Yorkshire Council will.'

East Riding of Yorkshire Council can...

- Continue to review our household waste management procedures using the waste hierarchy principle, increasing the percentage of waste to be reused, recycled and composted, with the remainder sent for energy recovery.
- In line with the Environment Act, review the efficiency of our household waste collections.
- Enable reuse and repair above recycling through setting up and organising sites where household waste in good condition can be donated rather than disposed of.
- Explore innovative means to engage with Council staff to improve sustainable waste practices.
- Work with key partners, such as FCC Environment and Hull City Council, to continue to set up initiatives to help increase sustainable waste management, based on the success of previous schemes like trialling bag sorting at household waste sites or the electrical item collection events.
- Engage with the public, schools & communities to support learning and share best practice, including on:
 - Preventing waste
 - Waste contamination
 - Maximising the value of products through repair and re-use opportunities.
- Work with partners and businesses to reduce commercial waste, encouraging re-use and recycling.
- Work with local government and waste industry bodies to influence and implement the resources and waste strategy for England through extended producer responsibility, consistency in recycling collection and the deposit return scheme.
- Explore new opportunities for the utilisation of waste heat across East Riding.

How might you reduce your carbon footprint?

- Consider how a product is packaged. Can you reuse or recycle these materials?
- Avoid single-use plastics where possible and use reusable shopping bags and cups.
- Use your brown kitchen caddies to store food waste at your home before transferring it to your brown wheelie bin.
- Have you considered donating old clothes, rather than throwing them away?
- Do you have any unwanted domestic large appliance still in good working order?
You can donate these at your local recycling site.

<https://www.eastriding.gov.uk/environment/bins-rubbish-recycling/tips-and-recycling-sites/recycling-site-finder/>