



How councils can improve their recycling rates

There is a significant gap between the councils with the highest recycling rates and those that lag behind. South Oxfordshire District sent 67% of their household waste for recycling, reuse or composting in 2015. In just one year Richmondshire District increased their recycling and composting rates by 14.7 percentage points, from 37.7% in 2014/15 to 52.4% in 2015/16. Lessons can be learnt from higher performing and rapidly improving areas.

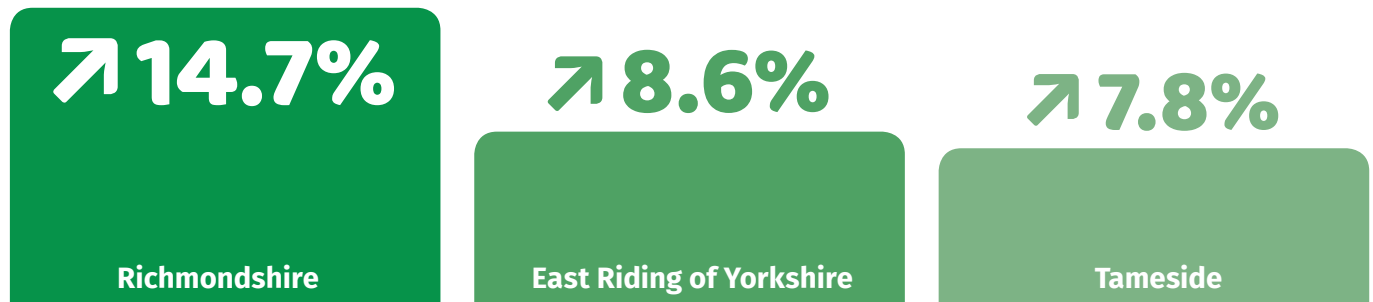
Invest to save: Good quality recycling and composting may require short-term investment to yield long-term cost savings.

Council Waste Officers, Environment Portfolio Holders, Council Leaders, Chief Executives and Mayors are all able to work for their Council to achieve higher levels of waste reduction, reuse and recycling. There is also a great opportunity for councils to work together, especially where one council is responsible for collecting waste and another is responsible for treatment.

Ways councils can improve recycling rates

- Provide a weekly food waste collection for composting or anaerobic digestion
- Ensure waste contracts reward reductions in residual waste by avoiding or exiting long-term waste incineration contracts
- Invest in waste education to save money that would otherwise be spent on disposal
- Introduce a re-use scheme for local bring sites (HWRCs)
- Promote re-use networks such as Freegle and Freecycle, including to those seeking bulky waste collection
- Enhance commitment to green procurement and give preference to buying items that can be (or that have been) recycled
- Provide a free garden waste service for grass cuttings and hedge trimmings
- Introduce kerbside glass collection

Councils with the greatest improvement in recycling (2015/16)



What some of the higher-recycling councils collect			
	South Oxfordshire District (household recycling rate of 67% in 2015/16)	North Somerset (household recycling rate of 59% in 2015/16)	South Cambridgeshire (household recycling rate of 57% in 2015/16)
Food Waste Collection	Kerbside	Kerbside	Kerbside
Glass Jars & Bottles	Kerbside	Kerbside	Kerbside
Cartons (e.g. Tetra Paks)	Kerbside	HWRCs	Kerbside
Batteries	Kerbside	HWRCs	Kerbside
Textiles (clothes)	Kerbside	Kerbside	Recycling points
Food Trays	Kerbside	Not Yet	Kerbside
Plastic Bottle Tops	Kerbside	Not Yet	Kerbside