



**UNITED KINGDOM WITHOUT
INCINERATION NETWORK**

**MOVING AWAY FROM INCINERATION
TOWARDS A CIRCULAR ECONOMY**

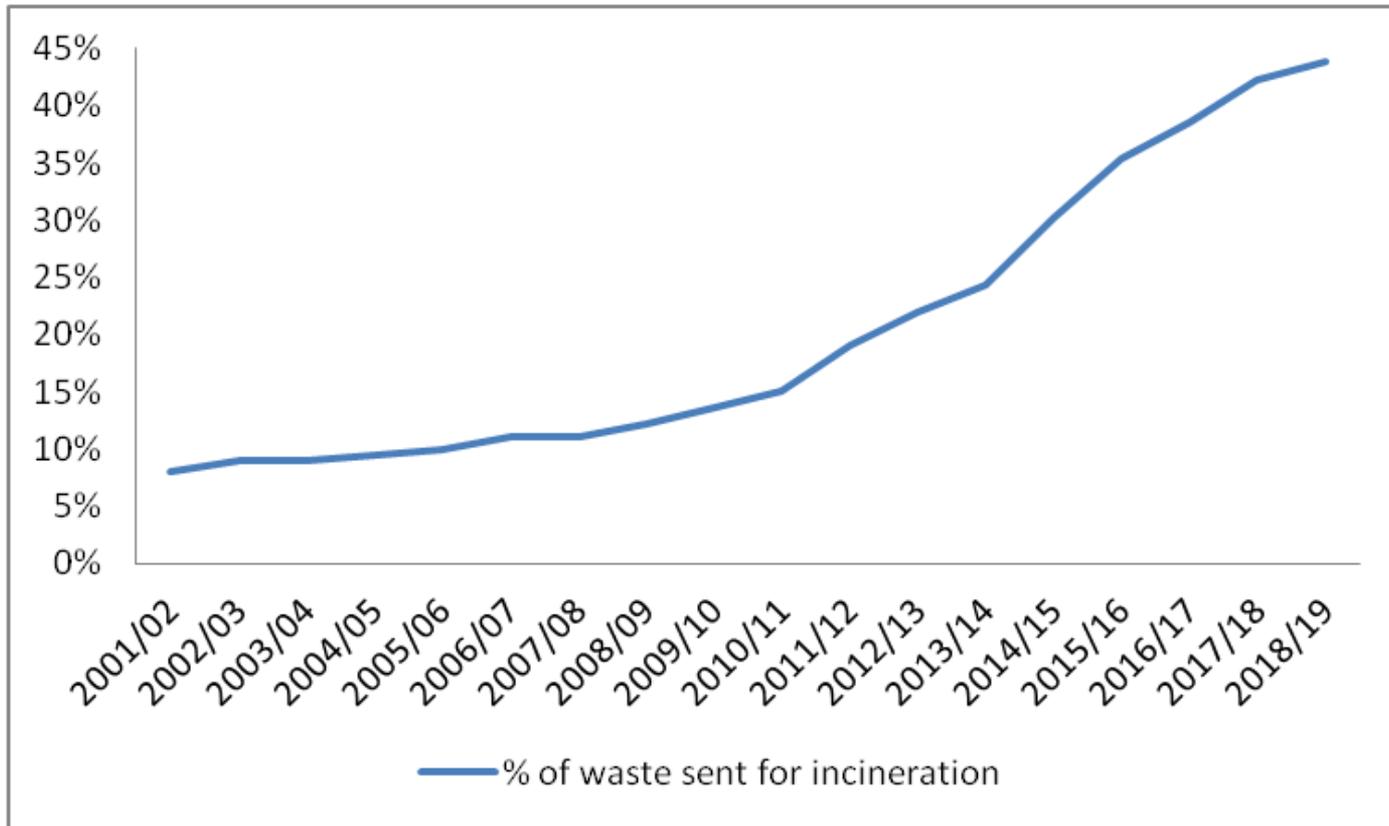
***Policy Suggestions for
England's Green Recovery***

**SHLOMO DOWEN, UKWIN
TUESDAY 8TH DECEMBER 2020**

UKWIN

- Founded 2007 with Friends of the Earth's support
- Only national UK-wide network supporting local anti-incineration campaigns and campaigners
- Currently working with around 50 local groups
- Together with our members we have helped prevent more than 100 incinerators
- Working nationally to inform waste and resource policies and decisions, debunking greenwash, etc.
- Maintain a website at <https://ukwin.org.uk/>

Incineration rates for English Local Authority Collected Waste



DEFRA 2019

8% in 2001/02

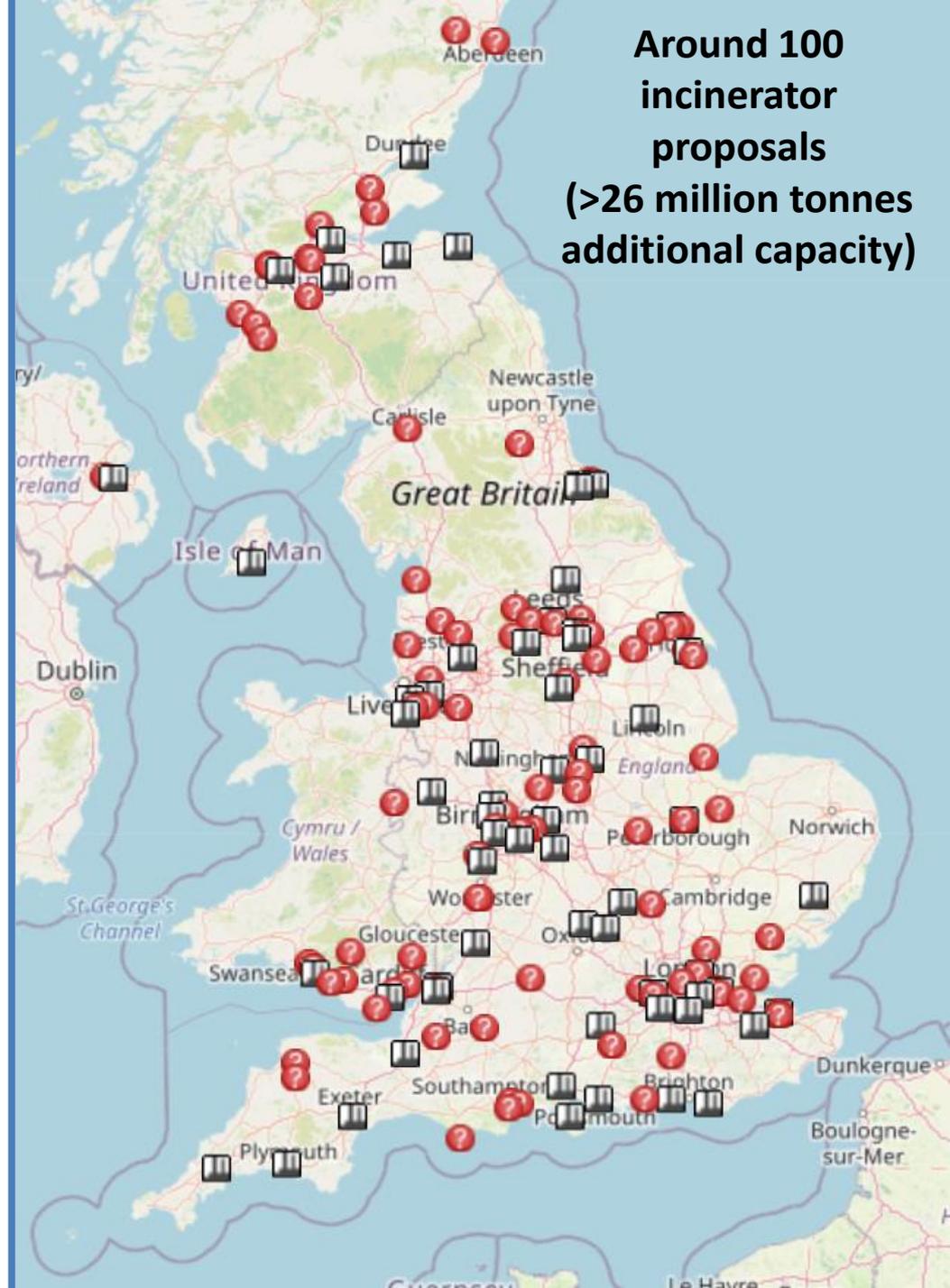
43.8% in 2018/19

Incineration Capacity (UK)

Status	No. of Incinerators	Headline Incineration Capacity
Fully Operational	48 facilities	14.60 million tonnes
In Late Stage Commissioning (Testing)	5 facilities	0.80 million tonnes
Under Construction	12 facilities	3.10 million tonnes
TOTAL	65 facilities	18.50 million tonnes

Tolvik 2020

18.5m + 26m = 44.5 million tonnes

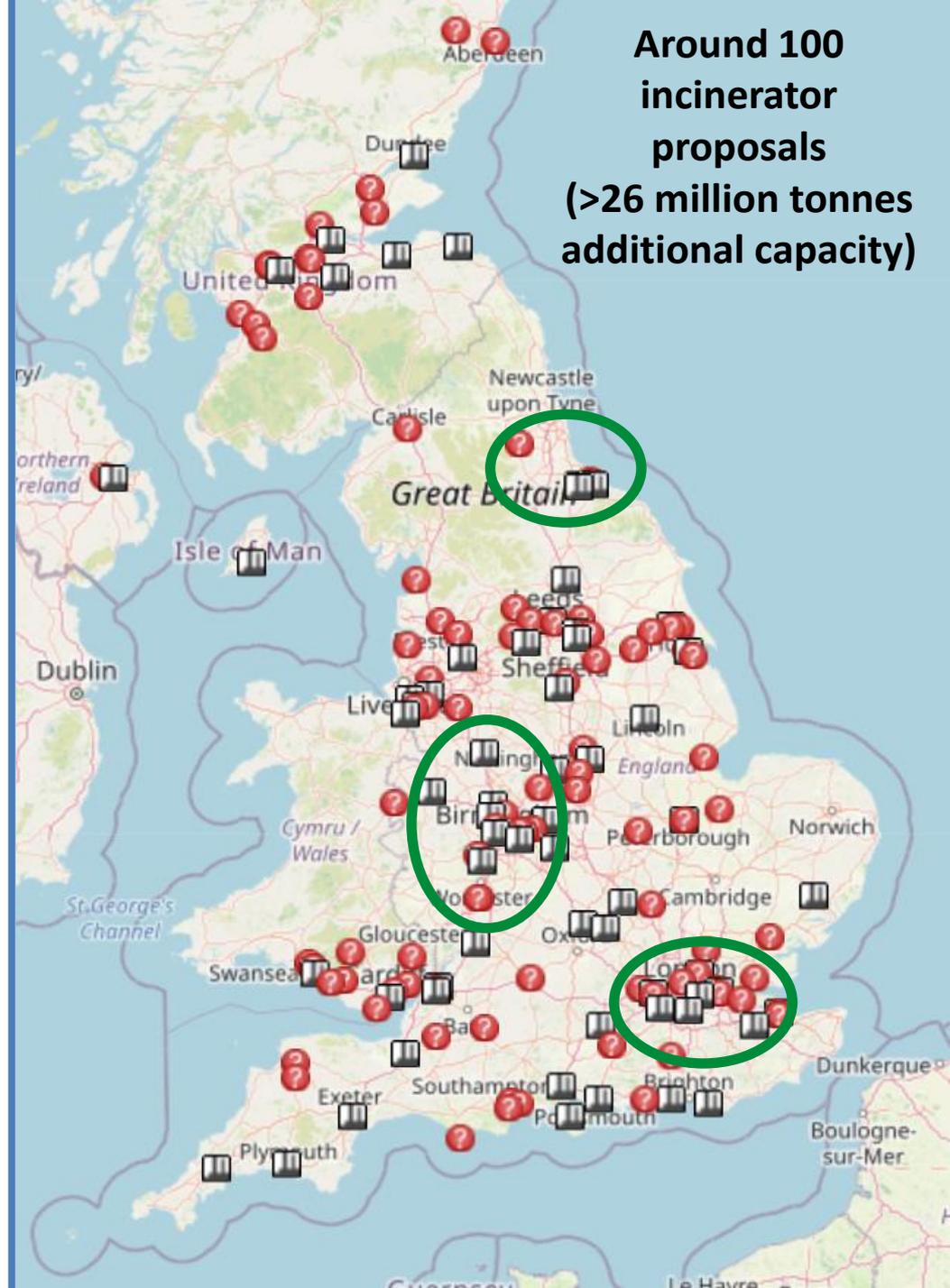


Incineration Capacity (UK)

Status	No. of Incinerators	Headline Incineration Capacity
Fully Operational	48 facilities	14.60 million tonnes
In Late Stage Commissioning (Testing)	5 facilities	0.80 million tonnes
Under Construction	12 facilities	3.10 million tonnes
TOTAL	65 facilities	18.50 million tonnes

Tolvik 2020

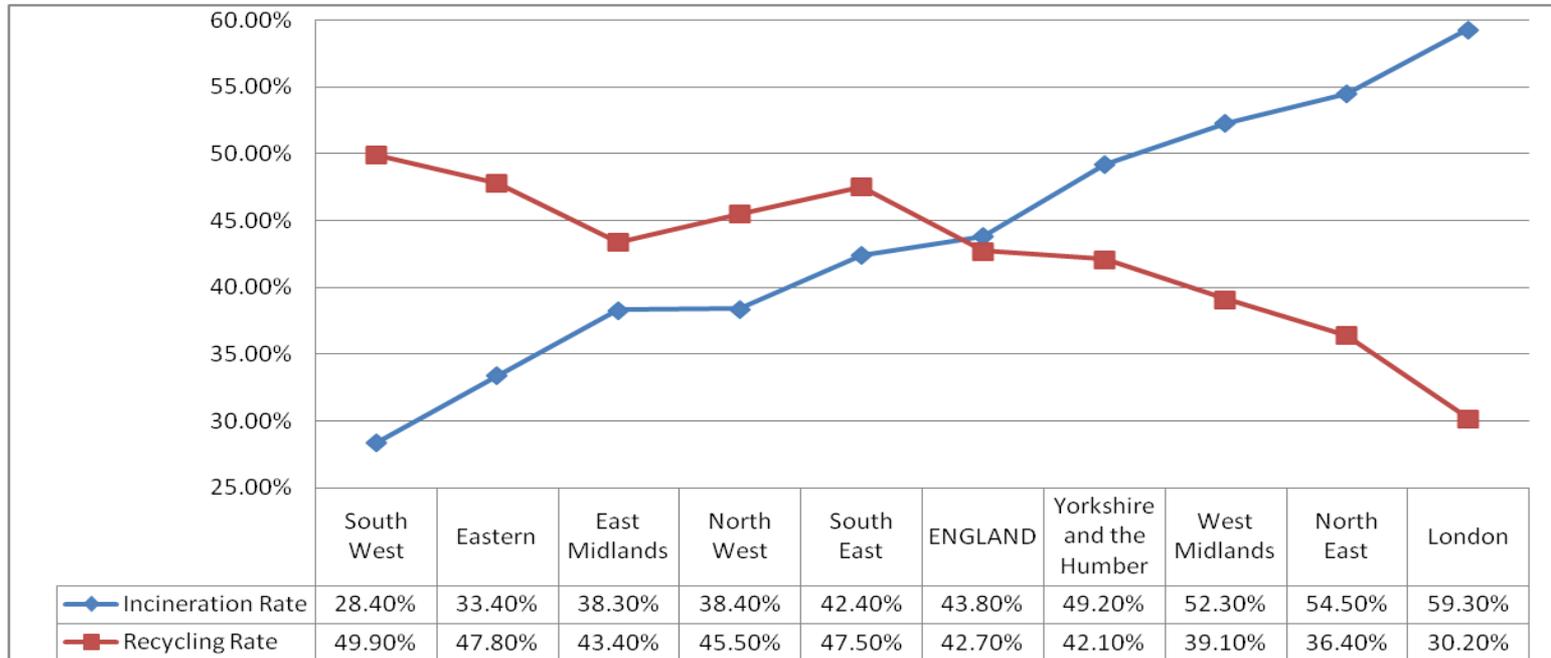
18.5m + 26m = 44.5 million tonnes



Around 100 incinerator proposals (>26 million tonnes additional capacity)

Adverse Impacts on Recycling

English Regional Local Authority Collected Waste (LACW) incineration and recycling rates in 2018/19

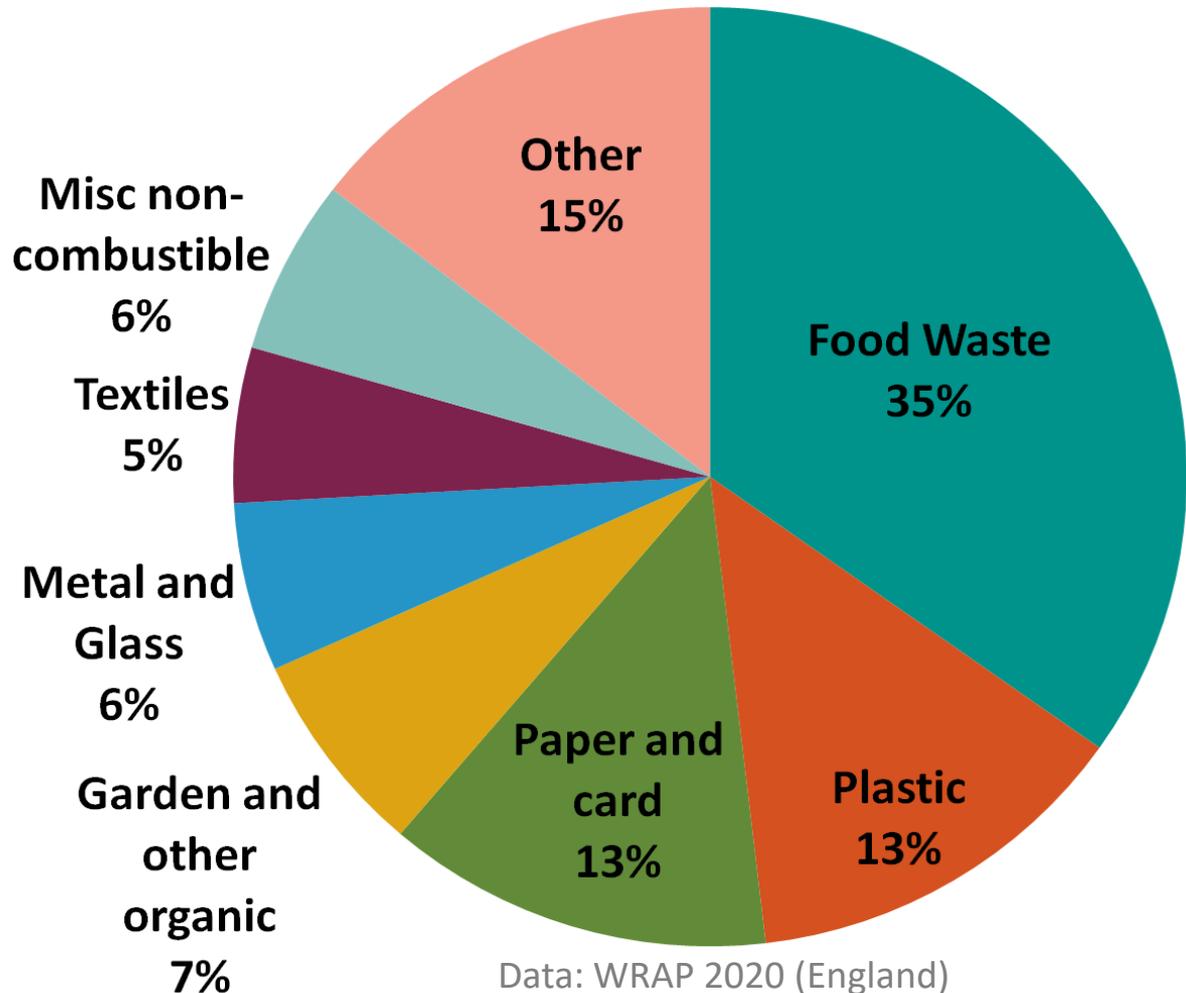


DEFRA 2020

John Grogan MP: “...Is it true that the areas with the most incinerators have the least recycling?” Prof. Nicky Gregson: “Yes, there is a distinct trade-off. **The areas with higher levels of incineration have the lowest recycling rates.**”
– Oral Evidence of Prof. Gregson, Durham University to HCLGCOM (May 2019)

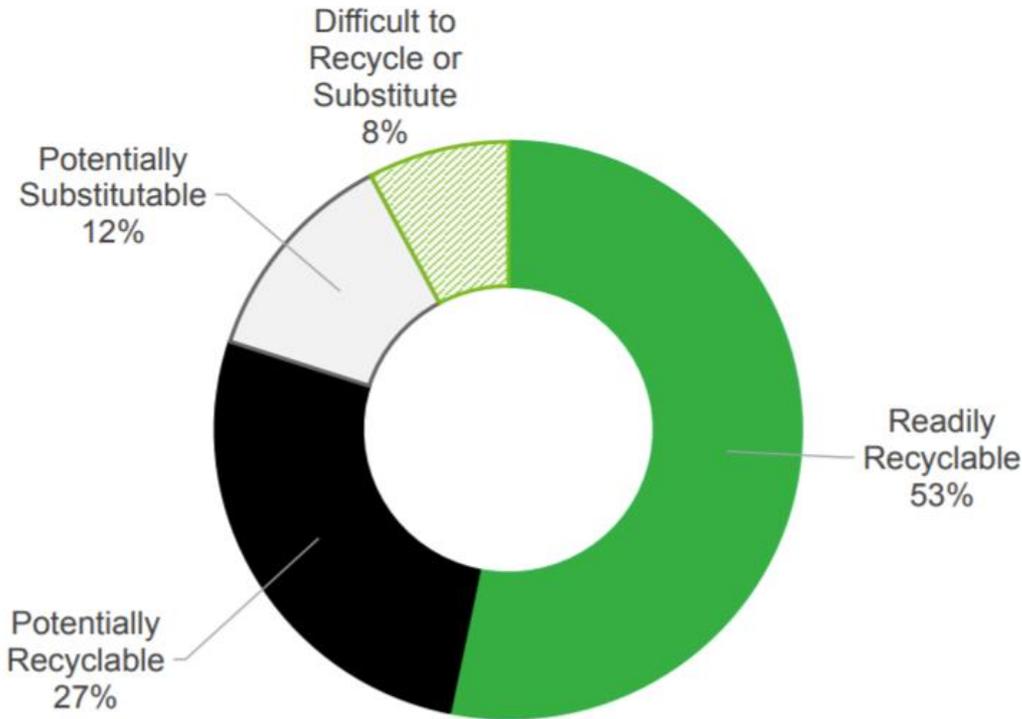
What's going to incineration?

Kerbside Household Residual



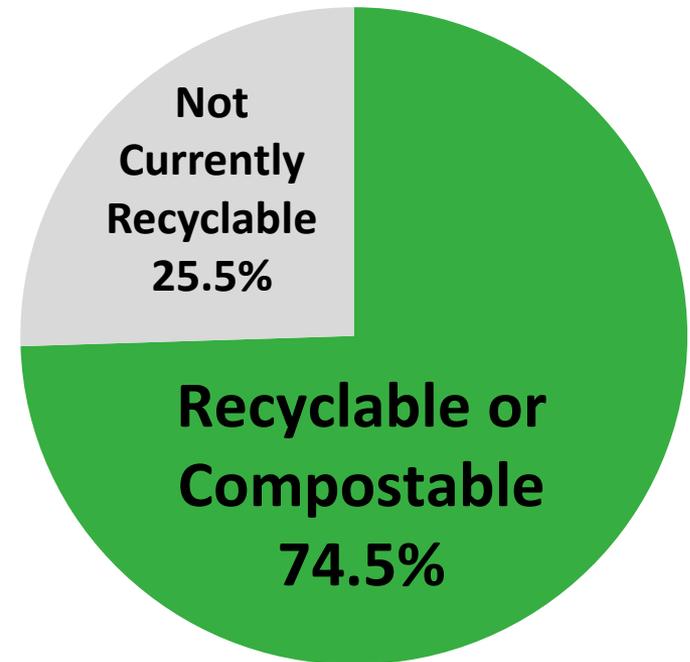
'Residual'? Really??

Residual: Household



DEFRA 2020 (England)

Residual: C&I



Data: WRAP 2020 (Wales)

74.5%-80% of the 'residual' stream could have been recycled or composted

Circular Economy



Incineration:

- wastes finite resource,
- squanders nutrients, and
- is a 'leakage' to be minimised.

Recycling creates 10-20 times more jobs than incineration per tonne of waste treated

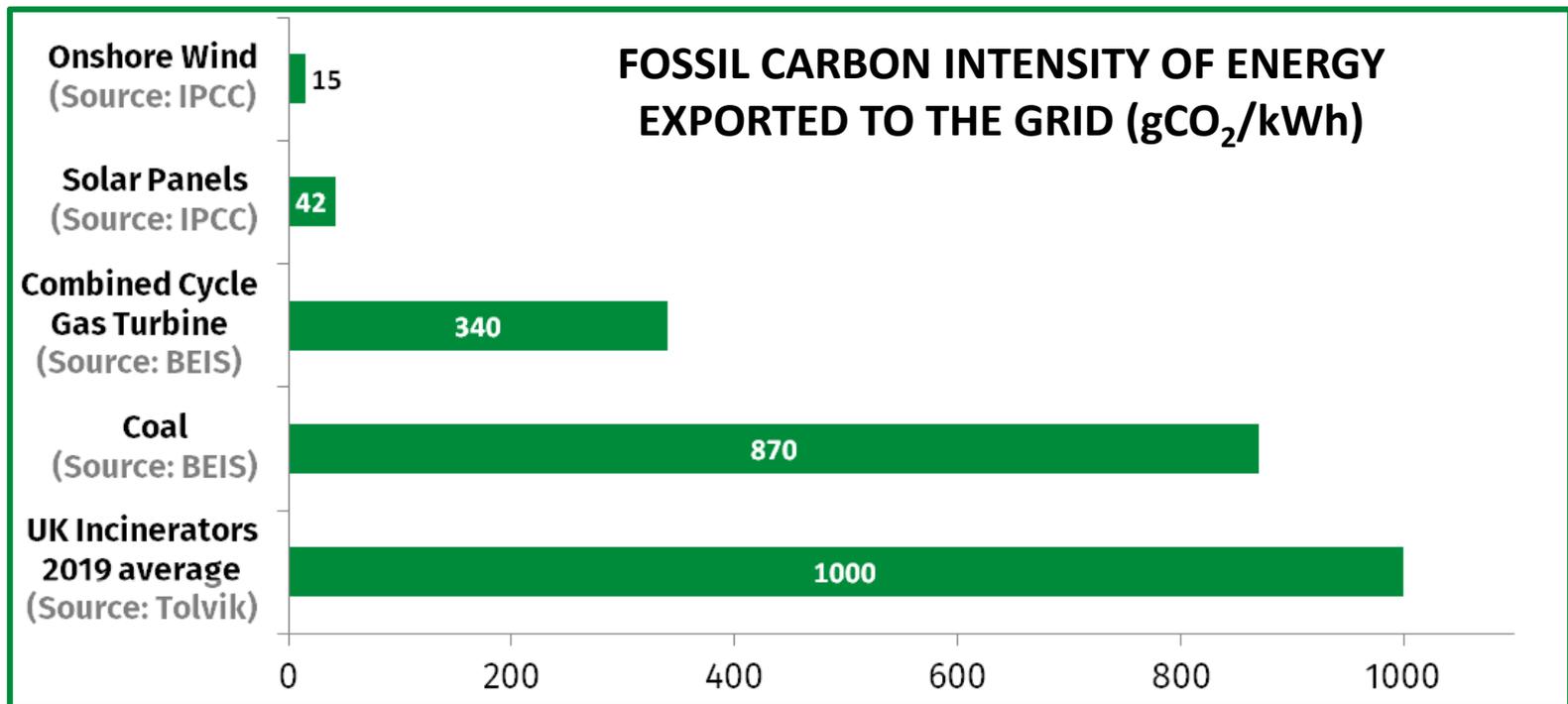
According to WRAP the circular economy could create **between 200,000 and 500,000 new jobs**, and these jobs could be focussed in areas of high unemployment.

“Incinerating materials, regardless of the amount of energy that may be recovered, constitutes a leakage from a circular economy.”

– Source: UN Environment Programme, 2019

Incineration's unpaid carbon cost

- Incinerating **18.5** million tonnes of waste releases around **9.25** million tonnes of direct fossil CO₂ emissions.
- Same as **5.6m** cars being brought onto the road, or a cost to society of around **£1bn** in 2035 (as per BEIS data).



CCC: A step change is needed

*“Achieving significant [greenhouse gas] emission reductions in the waste sector requires a **step-change towards a circular economy, moving away from landfill and incineration...and towards a reduction in waste arisings...**”*

– Committee on Climate Change, June 2020

‘Reducing UK emissions Progress Report to Parliament’

**WHAT POLICIES
COULD MOVE US
AWAY FROM
INCINERATION
AND TOWARDS A
CIRCULAR ECONOMY?**

Moratorium

“End approvals for new incineration facilities and prevent the replacement or upgrade of old plants that are near retirement, in order to support an overall reduction in incineration.” – Greenpeace's Green Recovery Manifesto (June 2020)

An immediate **moratorium on new waste incineration capacity** would:

- Prevent exacerbating incineration overcapacity (whilst making better use of existing capacity);
- prevent pollution harming local air and soil quality, (whilst supporting the move to net zero carbon); and
- support the move towards a more circular economy, including reduction, re-use, and recycling.

Incineration Tax

“There is a good case for carbon taxation on incineration, which produces substantial emissions...a tax on incineration would increase incentives to recycle and/or generate less waste...”

– Zero Carbon Commission, ‘Helping Britain Achieve Net Zero by 2050’ (Sept. 2020)

An **incineration tax** would:

- Promote environmental justice by implementing 'polluter pays' principle;
- Incentivise councils and businesses to reduce, re-use and recycle by ensuring cost to society of incineration reflected in price of treatment; and
- Ensure costs are passed on to producers to reflect the adverse impacts of incineration, providing an incentive for producers to design products that can be re-used and recycled - so products do not end up being incinerated.

Tax revenue should be invested in the top tiers of the waste hierarchy - supporting Councils to create new green jobs.

At £50/tonne, incinerating 18.5m tonnes of waste per annum would raise **£925m a year** to invest in the UK’s Green Recovery.

Municipal waste reduction targets

“Reducing residual waste would help address the environmental impacts of treatment, which can include air (including greenhouse gases), soil and water pollution...We will explore whether a reduction in the per capita tonnage of residual waste could be the basis for a robust, meaningful target...” – Defra (October 2020)

A **reduction target for total municipal waste** in England would:

- Aim to reduce waste by 15% by 2030 and by 20% by 2035 (relative to 2019);
- More closely align England with Scotland and Wales;
- Provide a clear direction of travel to support waste prevention efforts; and
- Help ensure increased recycling does not come at the expense of reduction.

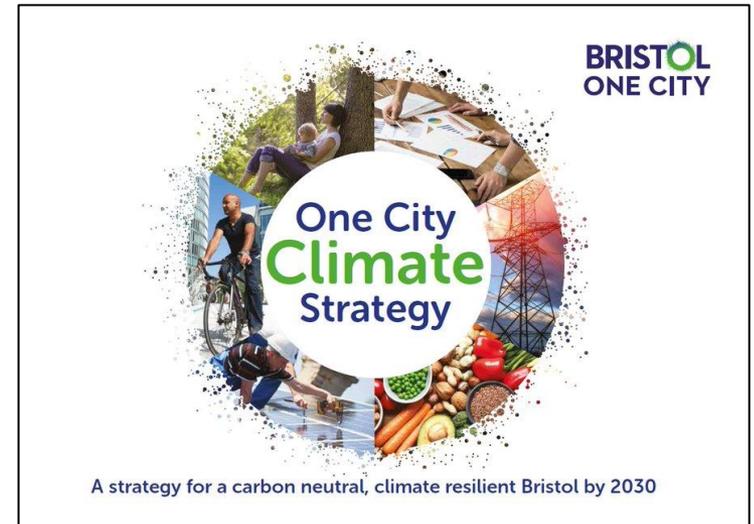
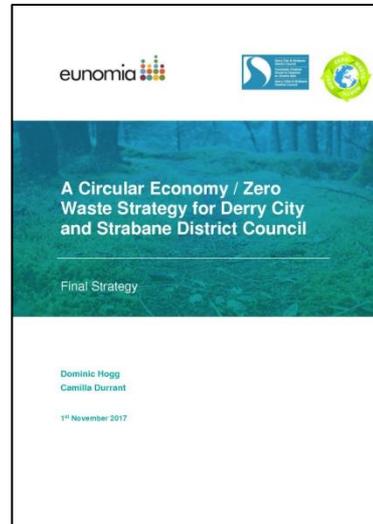
A **reduction target for residual municipal waste** in England would:

- Aim to reduce residual waste from 27.8m tpa in 2016 to no more than 17m by 2035 to bring residual arisings in line with existing incineration capacity;
- Help address incineration overcapacity; and
- Support efforts to increase recycling and reduce waste arisings.

A Circular Green Recovery

- Learning from zero waste cities (e.g. Milan)

- Investing more in:
 - education
 - reduction
 - reuse
 - sorting
 - recycling

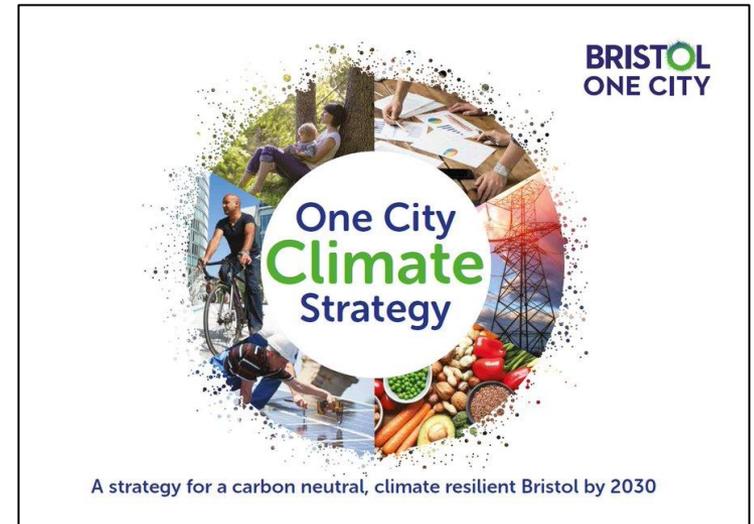
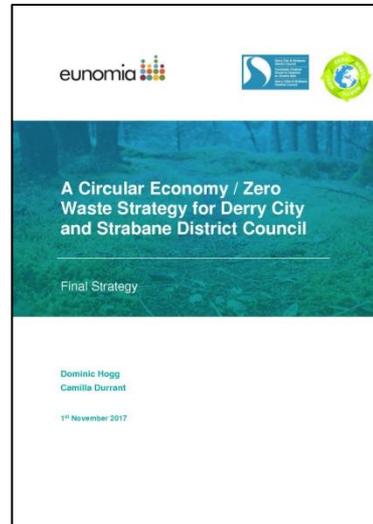


- Phasing out single-use products
- Reducing, redistributing, and/or composting food waste
- Recycling and/or composting paper and card
- Reusing, repairing and renovating more textiles and furniture
- Greening procurement, e.g. buying recycled/recyclable goods

A Circular Green Recovery

- Learning from zero waste cities (e.g. Milan)

- Investing more in:
 - education
 - reduction
 - reuse
 - sorting
 - recycling



- Phasing out single-use products
- Reducing, redistributing, and/or composting food waste
- Recycling and/or composting paper and card
- Reusing, repairing and renovating more textiles and furniture
- Greening procurement, e.g. buying recycled/recyclable goods