



Stratford-on-Avon District Council

Waste & Resources Plan

2026-2028



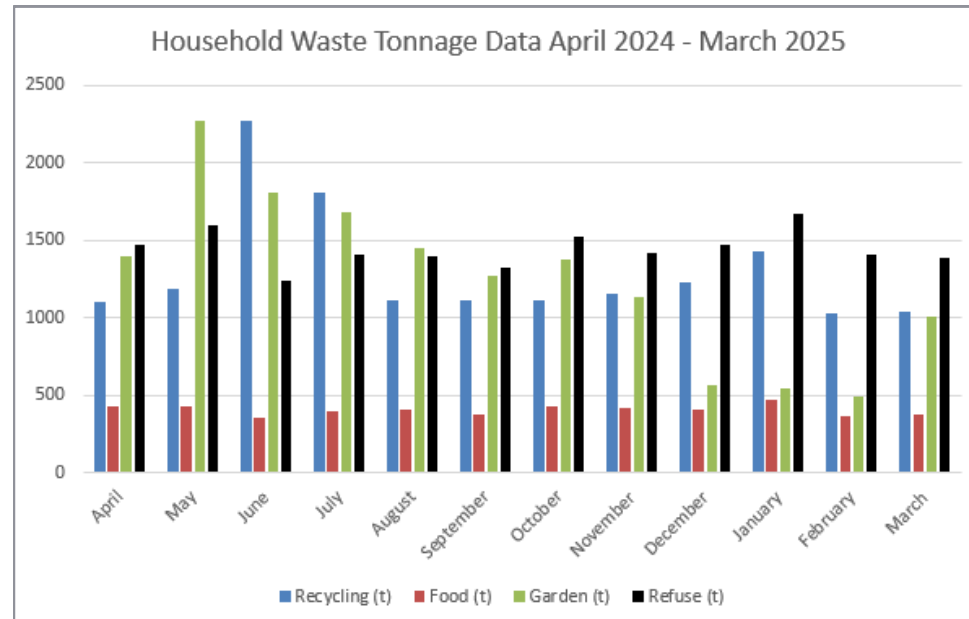
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Introduction

In July 2019, Stratford-on-Avon District Council declared a 'Climate Emergency'. District Councillors pledged to take local action to contribute to national carbon neutral targets. The Council is also trying to reduce total carbon emissions across the District, by at least 55% by 2030, to become a 'Net Zero' District.

This Waste & Resources Plan is an important part of these efforts, considering the importance of household recycling and it's assistance in reducing the amount of carbon emissions in the atmosphere.



Our latest annual household waste tonnage data shows that whilst there are rises and falls in the amount of non-recyclable waste we collect, it generally remains the biggest waste stream out of our four different waste collection services.

Our primary goal is to reduce the amount of non-recyclable waste that we collect, and instead increase the total amount of household recycling across the District. This Plan outlines the steps that we are going to take in order to try and achieve this and how our goals fit within both a local and a national context.

123+ Waste Collections

In August 2022, Stratford-on-Avon District Council, along with Warwick District Council, introduced the 123+ service. The 123+ service was designed to reduce the amount of non-recyclable household waste and to encourage residents to recycle more.

How does it work?

- 1** Food waste is collected separately once a week, every week, using a food waste caddy.
- 2** Dry recycling is collected every fortnight, using a blue-lidded wheeled bin, or in some cases, a black recycling box.
- 3** Household (non-recyclable) waste is collected every three weeks, using a grey wheeled bin.
- +** Garden waste is a chargeable collection, collected every fortnight for those subscribed to the service, using a green wheeled bin with a valid permit.

Biffa Waste Services Limited (Biffa) is the Council's waste collection contractor. As of April 2026, Biffa currently empty bins from 144,041 households across both Stratford-on-Avon and Warwick Districts, which equates to around 14.75 million collections per year.

Where does the waste get taken?

- Food waste is taken to the Severn Trent Green Power's Anaerobic Digestion (AD) facility in Coleshill, North Warwickshire.
- Dry recycling is taken to and processed at Sherbourne Materials Recovery Facility (MRF), in Coventry.
- Household (non-recyclable) waste is taken to and processed at the Coventry & Solihull Waste Disposal Company's Energy from Waste site incinerators.
- Garden waste is taken to and processed at an In-Vessel Composter (IVC) facility at Ufton, near Southam.



How are we currently doing?

What we collect in our recycling



Paper and cardboard



Plastic pots, tubs, trays and bottles



Glass bottles and jars



Plastic bags, crisp packets, food and confectionary wrapping



Tins, aluminium cans, foil and aerosols



Tetrapak and cartons

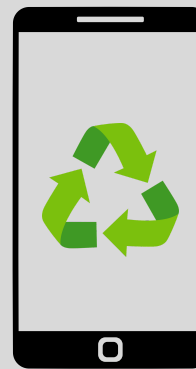


Bubble wrap and cling film



Garden Waste Subscriptions

In 2025-26, **48,320** residents subscribed to our garden waste collection service!



Our Council App

Helping you to recycle smarter!

As of February 2026, there are 60,214 residents using our app to notify them of their waste collection schedule and to check how to dispose of their items correctly!

60% household recycling rate

2022 - 2023

61% household recycling rate - (third highest in England)

2023 - 2024

>62% household recycling rate

Projected for 2024-2025

Goals for 2026 - 2028

Increase Household Recycling Rates

Increasing household recycling rates is vital for saving resources, cutting carbon emissions, and reducing the amount of waste sent to landfill or incineration. Higher recycling levels help protect the environment, lower waste disposal costs, and support a more sustainable, circular economy for our communities.



Our Commitment: We are working to boost household recycling rates by promoting food waste recycling, supporting local repair cafés and encouraging residents to recycle the correct materials. These actions reduce waste, cut carbon emissions, and help improve overall recycling performance.

Reduce Contamination Levels

Recycling contamination happens when non-recyclable items are put in the recycling bin, or when recyclables are not cleaned. This causes loads to be rejected, increases the time and cost of sorting, and can even damage machinery - especially from items such as textiles, batteries, and soft plastics.



Our Commitment: We are launching a focused contamination project to help selected areas recycle correctly. We will offer clear guidance and on-the-ground education so residents know what goes in each bin, improving recycling quality and reducing contamination.

Reduce Carbon Emissions

Reducing carbon emissions in the waste and recycling services is important because it lowers pollution, improves local air quality, and supports climate-change goals. Using cleaner vehicles, efficient routes, and better recycling processes saves fuel, cuts costs, and strengthens the Council's environmental leadership.



Our Commitment: We will continue to work with Biffa, our waste contractor, to optimise collection routes, trial lower-emission technologies and reduce the environmental impact of operations across the District.

National Context

UK wide events and how this will impact us

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)



The Government is introducing EPR in 2026. This is where packaging producers have to either fund recycling programmes or pay fees depending on how recyclable their products are; the less recyclable their product is, the more they will have to pay. Residents may see a change in their packaging.

Net Zero Commitments

The UK has committed to become Net Zero by 2050. This means that carbon emissions caused by the waste sector will need to be cut, with a focus on increasing recycling and reuse of materials. This supports the Council's mission to increase recycling rates and reduce the amount of household (non-recyclable) waste collected.



Local Government Reorganisation

The Government's proposed restructure of local authorities in several part of England, means that waste collection and waste disposal will be under a unitary authority. This may affect collection schedules and vehicles, existing policies and waste communications.



Deposit Return Scheme (DRS)

The Government is set to launch the DRS in 2027. Customers will have to pay a refundable deposit on certain containers. They will be able to recycle these containers at their local supermarket and have their money returned to them. This encourages consumers to recycle although it could have an effect on our kerbside recycling tonnage.



Simpler Recycling

The Government is making it mandatory for councils to separate household waste into four main streams, by April 2026; dry recycling, food waste, garden waste and non-recyclable waste. The Council introduced this in 2022, so will continue to provide it's existing service.



Timeline of Events

A key part of increasing household recycling rates is expanding opportunities for reuse while helping residents recycle the correct materials. We are developing a District-wide repair café network, with Shipston Repair Café launching in April 2026 in partnership with the Stour Health and Wellbeing Partnership. During 2025 and early 2026 we have also been rolling out food waste collections to communal properties, to encourage the full use of the service. Alongside promoting general recycling, and clearly explaining what can and cannot go in each bin, this will run hand-in-hand with the contamination project to improve recycling quality and reduce waste across the District.

Our contamination project will run from now until the end of 2026, focusing on improving recycling quality in areas that need the most support. We will carry out targeted engagement, provide clear guidance on what goes in each bin, and conduct regular bin checks to identify issues early and offer direct feedback. By working closely with residents over several months, we aim to reduce contamination, improve the quality of collected recycling, and encourage long-lasting positive recycling habits.

Our carbon emissions reduction project will run from now until the end of 2028, focusing on cutting emissions across our waste and recycling operations. We will work with Biffa to optimise vehicle routes, trial lower-emission technologies, and reduce unnecessary mileage wherever possible. Alongside operational changes, we will monitor fuel use, review collection efficiencies, and identify areas where small adjustments can deliver meaningful savings. By taking a targeted, data-driven approach and engaging staff throughout the process, we aim to lower our carbon footprint, improve service efficiency, and build long-term practices that support a cleaner, more sustainable District.

