

WASTE

Introduction

The task of achieving sustainable waste management is presenting a major challenge in Hertfordshire, as it is everywhere else in the United Kingdom.

Household waste is made up of 'dustbin' waste collected by the district councils, waste received at the Household Waste Sites, litter, street sweepings and waste that has been recovered for recycling. Around 79% of the household waste produced in Hertfordshire in 1999/00 was disposed of in landfill sites but these sites are running out of space and fewer are being created. In fact, the latest calculations show that, in Hertfordshire, we will run out of landfill space by 2008.

In 1999/00, 336,851 tonnes of waste was put into domestic dustbins, an increase of 3.9% on 1998/99, and 102,080 tonnes was disposed of through the Household Waste Sites, a reduction of 14% on the previous year. Over the same period recycling and composting in the county increased by almost 25% to 67,575 tonnes.

Indicator WS1: Household Waste per Capita

We measure the amount of household waste produced per capita by adding together:

- what is collected by the 10 district and borough councils
- what is received at the 19 Household Waste Sites
- what is taken out of the stream for recycling by the county council and the district/borough councils,

and dividing the resulting total by the population of Hertfordshire.

The 1999/00 figures show an overall increase of 4.5% compared to the previous year.

Indicator WS2: Waste Produced per Household

Another possibly more reliable approach to quantifying household waste production is to divide the total amount of waste generated by each district by the number of households in Hertfordshire, and in doing so, calculate how much waste is produced per household. The figures for 1999/00 show an overall increase of 5.7% in relation to those for 1998/99.

The graph below shows the data for indicators WS1 and WS2:

INSERT WASTE GRAPH A

Indicator WS3: Percentage of Waste Recycled

Recycling is an important element of any successful waste management strategy in that it has the benefit of reducing the amount of waste requiring disposal. In 1999/00, more than 13% of household waste produced was recycled. The total amount recycled exceeded 67,000 tonnes and the eleven Hertfordshire councils are determined that the percentage of waste being recycled in the county will continue to increase. The graph below shows the individual recycling performance percentages for the Hertfordshire district/borough councils.

INSERT WASTE GRAPH B

In order for these figures to go up from last year, the amount of waste recycled in the district has to increase at a greater rate than the increase in total amount of waste collected.

In 1999/00 the county council recycled 22.7% of the waste received at its 19 Household Waste Sites. Recycling figures for Hertfordshire include the household waste collected for recycling by the ten Hertfordshire district/borough councils and various voluntary groups for which the County Council has paid recycling credits. Included in the amount is the material that is collected at bottle banks, can banks and paper banks etc. Not included is the trade waste recycled by businesses and charity shops. The effect of waste minimisation initiatives, such as home composting, are not shown as there is no reliable way of accurately measuring their effect. They are, however, extremely beneficial in reducing the amount of waste needing to be disposed of.

WasteAware

The Hertfordshire WasteAware campaign, now in its fourth year, made further progress in raising awareness of the significant waste management issues that must be faced in Hertfordshire. The county council and the 10 district/borough councils have continued to promote the principles of the waste hierarchy: **reduce, reuse, recycle and recover**.

The WasteAware website contains a lot of useful information: www.wasteaware.org.uk

**For Further Information on Waste Contact: Ray Greenall, Hertfordshire
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