

# Waste



Sustainable waste management continues to present a major challenge in Hertfordshire, as it does throughout the UK. It is clear that we need to prioritise individual waste reduction strategies, for example by avoiding over-packaged goods, re-using shopping bags and composting our organic waste.

In 2001/2, the waste produced in Hertfordshire totalled approximately 2 million tonnes. Around 529,000 tonnes of this was household waste. This equates to a 1.7% increase in household waste from the 2000/1 figure of 520,000 tonnes.

Around 77% of the household waste produced in Hertfordshire in 2000/1 was disposed of in landfill sites, but these sites are running out of space and fewer are being created. The latest calculations show that, in Hertfordshire, we will run out of landfill space by 2008. About 7% of our waste goes to a waste incinerator in North London where it is burnt to recover energy in the form of electricity.

## INDICATOR WS1 - Household Waste per Capita

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

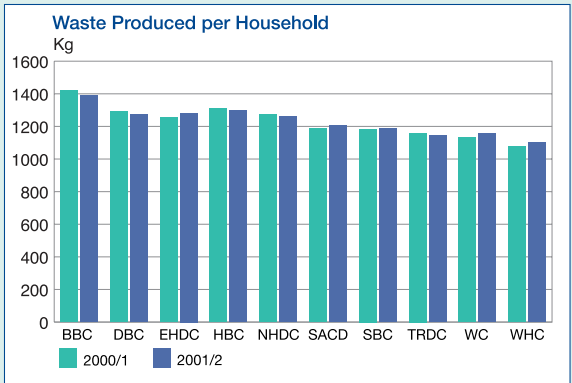
- what is collected by the 10 district and borough councils
- what is received at the 19 Household Waste Recycling Centres
- what is taken out of the stream for recycling by the county council and the district/borough councils,

and dividing the resulting total by the population of Hertfordshire.

The average waste per capita for 2001/2 recorded a slight increase at 499kg compared with 497kg for 2000/1. This shows an overall increase of 0.4% when compared to the previous year, which is the lowest rate of increase for 6 years.

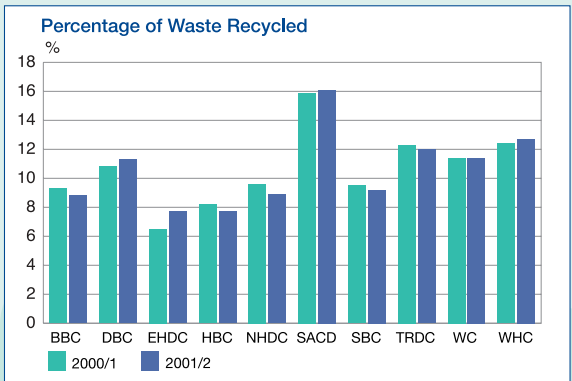
## INDICATOR WS2 - Waste Produced per Household

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.



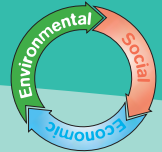
The figures for 2001/2 show an almost negligible increase in relation to those for 2000/1, continuing a trend over the past two years of declining growth in household waste production.

## INDICATOR WS3 - Percentage of Waste Recycled





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In 2001/2, 15.1% of household waste produced was recycled. The total amount recycled was almost 80,000 tonnes. This reflects the commitment of Hertfordshire's ten district and borough councils to increasing the county's recycling levels to more than 20% by the year 2003/4 and 30% by 2005/6. This has been done through the implementation of the Hertfordshire Waste Strategy, which began in October 2002.

In 2001/2 the county council recycled 28.4% of the waste received at its 19 Household Waste Sites. Their Home Composting Sponsorship Scheme has encouraged many residents to purchase composting units at a reduced cost, with the result that now more than 50,000 units have been purchased.

## Campaigns and Major Issues

The Hertfordshire WasteAware campaign ([www.wasteaware.org.uk](http://www.wasteaware.org.uk)), made further progress in raising awareness of the significant waste management issues that must be faced in Hertfordshire, through the promotion of the principles of the waste hierarchy, reduce, reuse, recycle and recover.

The introduction of the Ozone Depleting Substances Regulations in January 2002 created problems for the Hertfordshire waste authorities with the recycling and disposal of discarded fridges. All CFC and HCFC gases must now be removed before fridges are scrapped. In the absence of any suitable treatment plants in the UK, all the fridges need to be temporarily stored until such facilities become available.