

Draft Resources and Waste Strategy for Leicestershire 2022-2050

Summary Document



Have
your
say

Why a Resources and Waste Strategy?

The Strategy examines what happens to your waste and recycling and how this can help reduce climate change and save raw materials. The way we view 'waste' has changed; it is no longer something to just get rid of, but it is potentially a valuable resource, to be retained and reused, or better still avoided altogether. Using the resources from waste can help to reduce the raw materials we need for producing new goods, which in turn has environmental, social, and financial benefits.

Who is the Strategy for?

The Strategy is for all the residents, businesses and communities of Leicestershire. It will be delivered by the Leicestershire Waste Partnership (LWP)¹ (comprising Leicestershire County Council, Blaby District Council, Charnwood Borough Council, Harborough District Council, Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council, Melton Borough Council, North West Leicestershire District Council and Oadby and Wigston Borough Council). The Partnership is seeking your views to help shape our Resources and Waste Strategy.

What is the Strategy?

The Strategy is a document that sets out the vision for the county on what will happen to your waste. It reflects global current thinking on achieving net zero climate change targets and describes the recycling and waste management services which will be delivered in Leicestershire from 2022 up to 2050.

The vision of the Strategy is:

To work towards a circular economy and contribute to achieving net zero carbon by 2050 in Leicestershire. This means fully embracing the waste hierarchy by preventing waste and keeping resources in circulation for as long as possible, through reuse, repair and recycling, to realise their maximum value whilst minimising environmental impacts.

¹ Note that the Strategy does not cover Leicester City which is a unitary authority with its own waste collection and disposal arrangements

It is supported by objectives and 11 pledges that sit alongside national policy changes - setting the direction for long term management of material resources for the benefit of the residents and communities of Leicestershire.

The focus is on waste prevention (avoiding waste generation in the first place) and developing more initiatives on reuse of goods - both at the Household Waste and Recycling Centres (HWRC) and in the community. The Strategy also sets out pledges to provide more recycling services and divert more waste away from landfill. The draft pledges are set out in the following table.

Draft Resources and Waste Strategy Pledges	
Pledge 1	All Councils within the Partnership will review their purchasing activities and internal waste management services to seek to promote waste prevention, reuse and recycling to support the objectives of this Strategy and lead by example.
Pledge 2	The Partnership pledge to support and encourage waste prevention activity across Leicestershire. This will include working with stakeholders, residents and communities to prevent unnecessary waste arising, for example through food waste reduction campaigns such as Love Food Hate Waste.
Pledge 3	The Partnership pledge to continue delivering reuse services and expand activities where practicable, working in partnership with other stakeholders and to signpost to places that advocate for waste prevention and reuse, in support of developing a circular economy. This includes a pledge to continue to improve the collection of items for reuse at HWRCs and explore the development of re-use shops at suitable sites.
Pledge 4	The Partnership will implement and promote separate food waste collections to all households, subject to confirmation of Government policy, legislation and the provision of funding. This will be as soon as required and when contracts and circumstances dictate. The County Council will procure Anaerobic Digestion capacity to treat the collected food waste in a manner that contributes to effective carbon emissions reduction across the county and improves soil quality.
Pledge 5	The Partnership will explore the use of alternative fuels for collection vehicles and the transportation of waste and resources to further reduce carbon emissions of the service and improve air quality.

Draft Resources and Waste Strategy Pledges

Pledge 6	The Partnership will continue to offer a garden waste collection system to Leicestershire residents. This will follow Government guidelines as to the form of the collection and will be subject to legislation and total Government funding. The Partnership will continue to procure composting capacity to treat the collected garden waste in a manner that supports carbon reduction and improves soil quality.
Pledge 7	The Partnership shall ensure that the full range of recyclables (as specified by Government and subject to funding) are collected from residents (and businesses where applicable) across Leicestershire by 2025, or as soon as possible when contracts and circumstances dictate.
Pledge 8	The Partnership shall continue to explore the viability of adding extra materials to recycling collections (e.g. for batteries, small electric goods or clothing) aiming to keep Leicestershire's performance above the national average.
Pledge 9	The Partnership will put in place collection systems to contribute towards the achievement of the national 65% recycling target by 2035, this may include restricting residual waste capacity to encourage greater materials separation, carbon savings and resource recovery. Improvements in materials recovery at Household Waste Recycling Centres will also contribute towards the national target.
Pledge 10	The Partnership will continue to allocate a communications budget sufficient to help promote good recycling behaviour and maximise resource recovery to support the circular economy and low carbon objectives of this Strategy.
Pledge 11	The County Council will reduce waste sent to landfill to less than 5% by 2025, well in advance of the 10% national target by 2030. The County Council will undertake future procurement processes for residual waste treatment (alternatives to landfill) in line with the vision and objectives of this Strategy.

How has the draft Strategy been prepared?

LWP has worked with independent specialists, Frith Resource Management, to prepare the draft Strategy. The process has included undertaking an options appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) which accompany this consultation.

The options appraisal has examined, by a modelling exercise, both the current and several alternative ways of delivering the collection, recycling, treatment and disposal services. The appraisal looks at costs and recycling rates as well as factors influencing local decision making. It has also considered national policy and changes that are being considered by the Government but are not yet in place. Key future considerations will be the implementation of two schemes; Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), which will make producers of packaging pay for 100% of the collection / recycling / disposal cost of their materials and a Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) for single use drinks containers (bottles and cans) aiming to encourage recycling at a wider (national) level. There are also national policies around food and garden waste collections.

The Options Appraisal is a background document providing evidence to support the draft Leicestershire Resources and Waste Strategy.

The SEA of the Leicestershire Resource and Waste Strategy has been documented in an Environmental Report. This report considers the environmental impacts of the alternative ways of delivering the Strategy and how they sit within central and local policy and the local environment. The key parts of the draft Strategy have been assessed against a wide range of (mostly environmental) criteria, known as sustainability objectives, to ensure that an appropriate strategy has been developed. The process has also involved input from statutory consultees; Natural England, Historic England, and the Environment Agency.

The draft Environmental Report is available for comment from stakeholders and the public. To provide feedback, please see Section 9 of the draft Environmental Report.

The Strategy has also involved undertaking an Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment (EHRIA), which considers any potential adverse impacts on a particular community or group of people.

You can view the documents at www.leicestershire.gov.uk/have-your-say/current-engagement
For paper copies of the survey questions, please email lesswaste@leics.gov.uk or call **0116 3057005**.

The closing date to complete the consultation survey is 25th April 2022.

You can find out more about reducing, reusing and recycling your waste at www.lesswaste.org.uk

Glossary

Term	Acronym	Definition
Anaerobic Digestion	AD	Anaerobic digestion is a process by which micro organisms break down biodegradable material in the absence of oxygen to produce biogas (consisting of methane and carbon dioxide) which can be used to generate energy. It is a common treatment method used for food waste collected by Local Authorities.
Circular Economy	CE	A circular economy aims to reach maximum efficiency in the use of resources and materials. This means moving away from an economic model of 'take-make-dispose' and ensuring the life of a product is extended by as much as reasonably possible. Examples of good circular economy practice include sharing, leasing, reusing, repairing, refurbishing and recycling existing materials and products for as long as possible to reduce and avoid waste.
Deposit Return Scheme	DRS	<p>A Deposit Return Scheme involves paying a deposit for an item (added to the retail price at point of purchase) which is then redeemed when it is returned to a designated point.</p> <p>Through the National Resources and Waste Strategy for England, the Government has announced that a DRS for England, Wales and Northern Ireland will be introduced from 2025 for drinks containers.² The aim of the scheme is to boost recycling rates, reduce littering and improve the quality of material collected for recycling.</p>

² Introducing a Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) in England, Wales and Northern Ireland: Executive summary and next steps - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Term	Acronym	Definition
Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment	EHRIA	<p>An Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment is a process designed to ensure that a policy, project or scheme does not unlawfully discriminate against any protected characteristic. These are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Age - Disability - Gender reassignment - Marriage and Civil Partnership - Pregnancy and maternity - Race - Religion or belief - Sex - Sexual orientation
Extended Producer Responsibility	EPR	<p>Extended Producer Responsibility is a policy tool which requires producers to be responsible for the packaging they place on the market at the end of its life. It is intended to promote packaging design which considers resource inputs and easier end of life recovery (e.g. reuse or recycling) of the resources within the packaging. The new EPR system announced in the national Resources and Waste Strategy (which is intended to be implemented from 2024) will require packaging producers to pay for the full net costs of collecting, handling, recycling and disposing of packaging waste.</p>
Household Waste Recycling Centres	HWRC	<p>Household Waste Recycling Centres are facilities operated by Local Authorities to provide a site for residents wanting to dispose of their household waste and recycle a wide range of materials, further to the service provided at the kerbside.</p>
Leicestershire Waste Partnership	LWP	<p>Referred to as ‘the Partnership’, LWP comprises Leicestershire County Council (the Waste Disposal Authority) and the seven Leicestershire Waste Collection Authorities (the District and Borough Councils). Leicester City Council is an associate member and manages its waste via separate arrangements as a Unitary Authority.</p>

Term	Acronym	Definition
Net Zero		<p>Net Zero means achieving a balance between the total greenhouse gas emissions produced and subsequently released into the atmosphere, and the total emissions removed from the environment (for example through natural carbon sinks such as forest and oceans).</p> <p>The net zero target for the UK is defined as the total greenhouse gas emissions released into the atmosphere being equal to or less than the emissions removed from the environment.³</p>
Residual Waste		The waste remaining after the separation of materials for reuse, recycling, composting and/or anaerobic digestion.
Strategic Environmental Assessment	SEA	A Strategic Environmental Assessment is a systematic decision support process, aiming to ensure that environmental and possibly other sustainability aspects are considered effectively in policy, plan and program making. ⁴
Waste Hierarchy		<p>The waste hierarchy indicates an order of preference for action to reduce and manage waste.</p> <p>It suggests how waste should be managed with the primary goal to prevent and minimise waste, followed in turn by re-use, recycling and composting, disposal with energy recovery and ending with disposal without energy recovery (i.e. landfill) as the least preferred option.</p>

³ Net zero and the different official measures of the UK's greenhouse gas emissions - Office for National Statistics

⁴ Strategic environmental assessment and sustainability appraisal - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)