

Simpler Recycling and Food Waste Collections, where we are in Nottinghamshire

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County Council**

Current Framework

- Nottinghamshire County Council as Waste Disposal Authority operate within a two-tier local authority structure.
- The County Council delivers its obligations predominantly through a 26-year PFI contract with Veolia Nottinghamshire.
- The seven borough and district councils, as Waste Collection Authorities, all carry out collection services in house.
- Nottingham City Council are a unitary authority and sit outside of this arrangement.

Nottinghamshire Performance

2022/23 Year Outturns

- Residual waste per household per annum: 573.79kg
- Percentage of Household Waste sent for reuse, recycling or composting: 41.3%
- Percentage of Local Authority Collected Waste sent to landfill: 5.4%





Current Service Provision



- Residual waste is collected on a fortnightly basis by WCAs, mostly using 240l containers.
- Garden waste is offered to residents as a charged service by the WCAs.
- Currently no food waste collection service is offered.



Current Service Provision



- Dry recycling is collected on alternate fortnights, with most WCAs offering a 240l container to residents.
 - Paper, cardboard, tins and cans, and some plastics (bottles, yoghurt pots, margarine tubs)
- Glass collection sits outside of the Veolia contract and WCAs make their own arrangements for its collection and recycling.
 - Currently 5 out of 7 WCAs offer a kerbside glass collection service with the remaining 2 WCAs operating an effective bring bank service.

Work Undertaken/Ongoing

In light of the Government's proposals the following pieces of work have been undertaken or are ongoing in Nottinghamshire:

- Joint Waste Management Board / Joint Officer Board Meetings
- WRAP Option Appraisal Modelling
- Graduate Research Project
- Veolia are currently reviewing solutions for Simpler Recycling implementation nationally and locally.

WRAP Options Appraisal Modelling

- This was a high-level modelling exercise undertaken at the end of 2022 to provide an appraisal of future collection service options.

Options	Dry recycling		Food	
	Frequency / vehicle	Container	Frequency / vehicle	Container
Option 1	Fortnightly comingled (inc. glass) RCV	240 litre wheeled bin	Weekly 7.5T Dedicated vehicle	1x 7 litre caddy, 1x 23 litre bin
Option 2	Fortnightly two stream (separate paper/card) RCV split back	240 litre wheeled bin, 140 litre wheeled bin for paper/card	Weekly 7.5T Dedicated vehicle	1x 7 litre caddy, 1x 23 litre bin
Option 3	Fortnightly two stream (separate glass) RCV split back	240 litre wheeled bin, 140 litre wheeled bin for glass	Weekly 7.5T Dedicated vehicle	1x 7 litre caddy, 1x 23 litre bin
Option 4	Fortnightly two stream (separate paper/card) RCV with pod	240 litre wheeled bin, 140 litre wheeled bin for paper/card	Weekly Co-collected with dry recycling	1x 7 litre caddy, 1x 23 litre bin
Option 5	Four-weekly two stream (separate paper/card) RCV	2x 240 litre wheeled bins	Weekly 7.5T Dedicated vehicle	1x 7 litre caddy, 1x 23 litre bin
Option 6	Fortnightly multi-stream Resource Recovery Vehicle (RRV)	3x 55 litre boxes	Weekly Co-collected with dry recycling and 7.5T Dedicated vehicle	1x 7 litre caddy, 1x 23 litre bin
Option 7	Weekly multi-stream Resource Recovery Vehicle (RRV)	3x 55 litre boxes	Weekly Co-collected with dry recycling	1x 7 litre caddy, 1x 23 litre bin

- Each option was assessed for each WCA against quantitative and qualitative criteria, as well as how closely the option aligns with the Resource and Waste Strategy for England.

WRAP Options Appraisal Modelling – Stage 1

Based on the financial, recycling and carbon performance measures used in the analysis, the option that came out on top for all 7 WCAs was a four-weekly dual stream recycling service (separate paper/card one collection, carton, metals and glass the next) and a separate weekly food waste collection service.

Why?

- The quality of materials collected are preserved.
- Whole system costs are kept to a minimum.
- Recycling performance is strong.
- Residual tonnage is expected to decrease.
- The system is flexible to allow future changes (ie plastic film)

WRAP Options Appraisal Modelling – Stage 2

Stage 2 of the analysis explored a series of sensitivities applied to the favoured option, including restricting residual capacity, and changing the forecasted yields of the food waste.

- Restricting residual capacity provides an increase in recycling rate and net carbon emission savings, with the performance of three-weekly collections exceeding the performance of reduced bin capacity.
- They also modelled the anticipated yield of food waste and the effects of this on recycling rates, carbon emissions and financial savings.

Graduate Research Project

This has been commissioned on behalf of the Nottinghamshire Joint Waste Management Board and is intended to review current service provision and explore the opportunities that may arise from Simpler Recycling.

- **Phase 1** – Examining the current recycling and waste management practices in Nottinghamshire and comparing them to regional and national best practice. A review of the WRAP options from 2022 to ensure the assumptions are still valid.
- **Phase 2** – Considering opportunities for WCAs to work closer together to deliver frontline services, reduce carbon emissions, deliver operational efficiencies and achieve the desired service outcomes.
- **Phase 3 (Provisional)** – Exploring waste disposal arrangements across the EMCCA region, to better understand the range of services on offer and any contracts that could be aligned to increase operational and financial efficiencies.

Food Waste Collections

- Nottinghamshire's WCAs have secured a Transitional Arrangement with Defra to defer food waste collections until October 2027.
- The County Council remain in ongoing discussions with Veolia around how the service will integrate into the current contractual framework.
- Subject to the appropriate planning and permitting permissions being secured, the County Council expect that the food waste will be managed through the current network of transfer stations.

Risks

- Simpler Recycling for Trade Waste commencing a year earlier in 2025
- Procurement delays and logistical challenges
- Availability of funding (revenue and capital)
- Lack of holistic approach in implementing the each of the RWS proposals
- Timeframes
- ETS
- Uncertainty in the market
- Staff resource, contractor resource, legal, technical and financial resources
- Political changes at a national and local level

What's next?

- Revisit the WRAP Options Appraisal Reports.
- Coordinate a joint position within Nottinghamshire's Local Authorities.
- Secure the support of the Elected Members at both WCA and WDA level, to work towards a viable solution for Nottinghamshire.
- Work with Veolia to model how the proposed changes will impact on the waste infrastructure within Nottinghamshire.
- Finalise costings and agree split of capital and revenue budgets.