



Subject:	NIEA Municipal Waste Statistics Annual Report 2015/16
Date:	10 January 2017
Reporting Officer:	Nigel Grimshaw, Director City & Neighbourhood Services Department
Contact Officer:	Tim Walker, Head of Waste Management

Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	This report provides an overview of the NI Environment Agency (NIEA), Northern Ireland Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste Management Statistics, Annual Report 2015/16.
1.2	The report contains the validated data on Belfast's recycling rate and its performance in meeting the legislative obligations contained within the NI Landfill Allowance Scheme (NILAS), which measures the diversion of biodegradable (primarily food & garden waste) waste from landfill.
1.3	These figures are used to determine the progress of NI in relation to meeting the legal requirements outlined in the Waste Framework Directive (i.e. 50% household recycling rate by 2020) and also compliance with the Landfill Directive.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to; <ul style="list-style-type: none">Note the contents of the report.
3.0	Main report
	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.1	<i>Recycling Rate</i> – Members may recall that at the Committee meeting of 9 June 2015, during discussions on the Interim Waste Plan 15/16, it was noted that the recycling rate was

projected to decrease from 44% (2014/15) to 40%. Over the 2015/16 financial year, the total amount of household waste collected was around 142,000 tonnes with 57,000 tonnes being recycled or composted. This resulted in a final validated recycling rate of 40%, in line with projections. The comparative performance of Belfast is displayed in Figure 1.

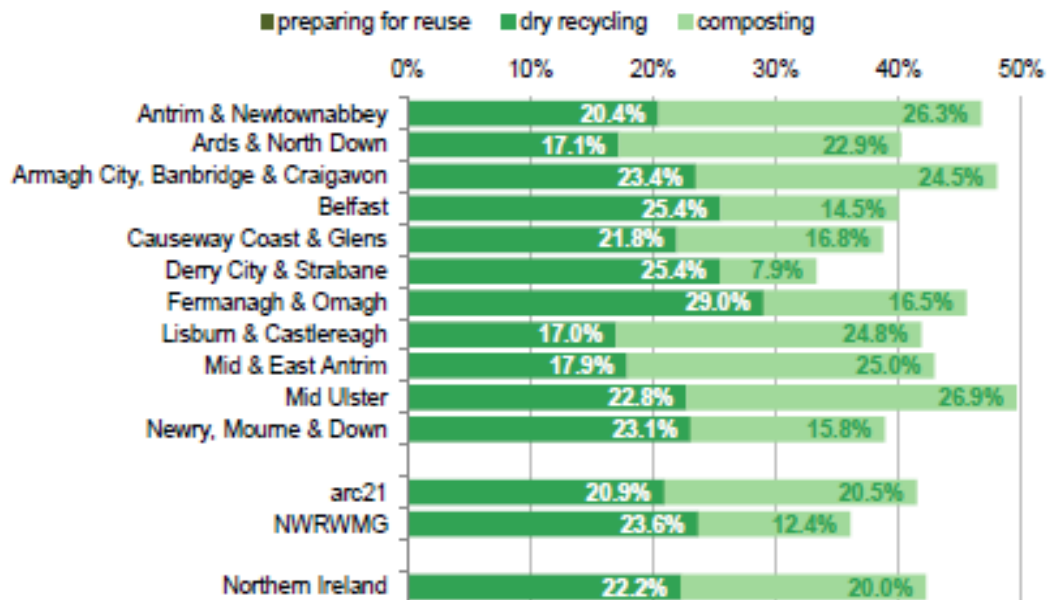


Fig 1: Comparative household waste recycling rate 2015/16

- 3.2 The decline in the Council's recycling rate is primarily due to a number of factors, including continued growth in the amount of waste generated, the impact of additional waste tonnages from households which transferred under local government reform (LGR), and ongoing challenges within the local market place.
- 3.3 Post the Great Recession, the five years leading up to 2013/14, councils across NI witnessed a 15% reduction in the amount of waste collected. Since then, this trend has reversed with waste rebounding by 6% in three years. These increasing volumes of waste bring ongoing financial challenges and, in some instances, neighbouring councils have changed their operating practices to mitigate this impact. This has affected the volume and types of waste being deposited at Household Recycling Centres (HRCs) in particular, including Belfast's, and has also increased waste tourism between councils.
- 3.4 As part of the LGR process around 21,000 households transferred to Belfast. In December 2016, the 2015/16 year's waste data was released which showed that, despite the positive work of the Waste Education team, several of these new neighbourhoods were not

	<p>participating in the kerbside recycling schemes to their full potential.</p>
3.5	<p>This issue has also been affected by events in the local marketplace. It has been noted that this is of limited size and that it potentially lacks maturity, as well as having a patchy record with criminality. The absence of large, multi-national waste management companies such as Veolia, Biffa, Viridor, Suez/Sita, FCC &c. places a heavy reliance on relatively small companies, some with limited track records or expertise in meeting the growing regulatory requirements associated with the waste industry.</p>
3.6	<p>A further factor contributing to the Council's lower recycling rate is the level of contamination being recorded in the dry recycling bins. This has increased from around 10% in 2012/13 to current levels of 13%. This may have occurred due to better recording practices, higher quality standards being required by reprocessors and householders placing incorrect materials in their recycling bins. The contaminated material results in loads being rejected and has a negative impact on the quality of the final material, both of which negatively affect the revenue the Council receives for the sale of these materials. By way of example, based on current levels of contamination, the cost of processing the Council's dry recyclables waste is around £350,000 per annum. If the level of contamination across the arc21 group was reduced to below 5%, the Council would receive an income of approximately £800,000 – a spread of around £1.15 million. Within arc21, an internal Contamination Working Group has been formed to tackle this issue and a report will be presented to Committee in due course outlining methods to address this issue.</p>
3.7	<p>Members will be aware that the Council is presently developing its next strategic waste plan (the Waste Agenda) to improve management of the challenges outlined above while supporting a major shift in emphasis towards jobs and delivering a value for money service – a three pronged approach; environmental, financial and societal benefits which will deliver a Circular Economy for Belfast. This waste plan will be presented for Members' consideration shortly.</p>
3.8	<p><i>NILAS</i> - The Landfill Allowance Scheme (NI) Regulations 2004 (as amended) place a statutory responsibility on councils, in each scheme year, to landfill no more than the quantity of biodegradable municipal waste for which they have allowances. In order to ensure compliance with these targets, the amount of biodegradable municipal waste sent to landfill is monitored. This indicator is also used to monitor performance under the Local Government (Performance Indicators & Standards) Order (NI) 2015.</p>

3.9 Under the NI Landfill Allowance Scheme (NILAS) regulations councils have been allocated a number of allowances (each allowance represents 1 tonne of BLACMW) for each year until 2019/20. In 2015/16, the Council sent 45,200 tonnes of biodegradable waste to landfill, using up around 91% of its annual allowance.

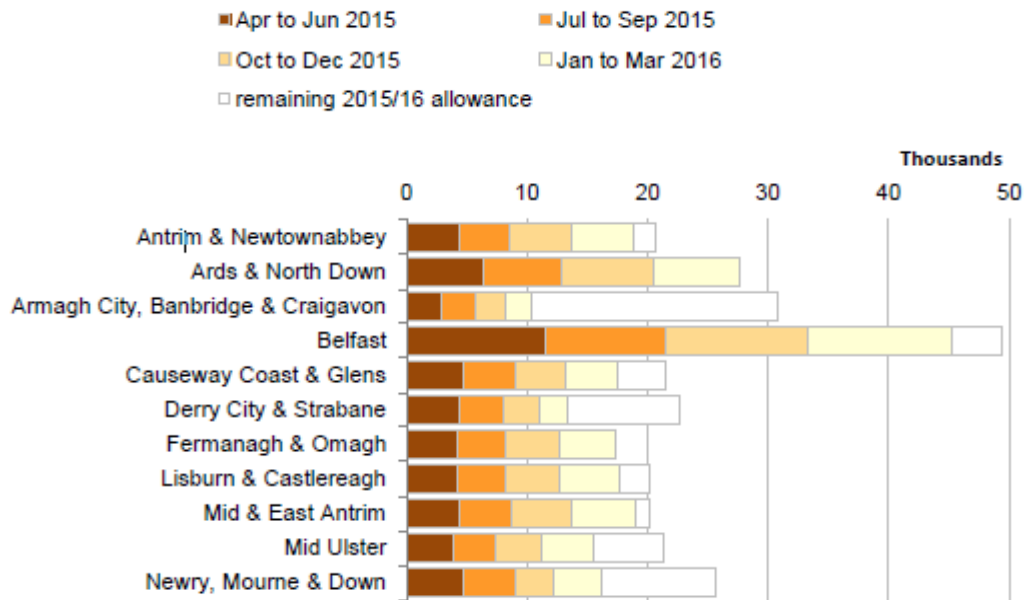


Fig 2 : NILAS Compliance

3.10 The Council met its NILAS obligations firstly by diverting waste to recycling or composting processors through its kerbside collection schemes and network of recycling centres and bring banks, and secondly by sending a proportion of the residual waste to a contractor for treatment which resulted in a relatively small element being recycled and a significantly greater proportion of this waste being made into a Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF) for energy recovery in Europe. Following the EU referendum in June 2016, the future market for this is currently uncertain.

3.11 *Household Waste Generated* - There are two key performance indicators which look at household waste arisings (i) per capita and (ii) per household. It is noteworthy that the Council generated the smallest amount of household waste per person at 418 kg and also generated the smallest quantity of household waste per household at 0.97 tonnes per household in 2015/16. This is compared with an NI average of 465 kg of household waste collected per capita and 1.18 tonnes per household.

<p>3.12</p> <p>3.13</p>	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>There are no finance or resource issues associated with this report.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>There are no relevant equality and good relations implications associated with this report.</p>
<p>4.0</p>	<p>Appendices – Documents Attached</p>
	<p>The full NIEA Waste Management Statistics report for 2015/16 and associated tables can be accessed via the link https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/northern-ireland-local-authority-collected-municipal-waste-management-statistics-2015</p>