

Throughout this document ‘Devon’ refers to the administrative area of Devon County Council and ‘Torbay’ refers to the administrative area of Torbay Council.

Economic Prosperity, Health and Wellbeing

Waste is a by-product of economic and social activity. Waste can also be an input to economic activity – whether as a useful material or in the form of electricity or heat from an energy recovery facility. Historically, waste production has been intrinsically associated with economic prosperity; as we grow and consume more ‘stuff’



The Exeter Energy from Waste Facility received its first consignment of waste in April 2014. It treats up to 60,000 tonnes of residual, non-recyclable waste from households across Exeter, East Devon and Teignbridge.

we produce more waste, which needs to be managed appropriately. The management of municipal waste in Devon and Torbay costs £52 and £10 million respectively each yearⁱ. However, there are signs that waste production is starting to become ‘decoupled’ from economic prosperity due to new economic instruments and better consumer awarenessⁱⁱ. Managing waste in more efficient ways provides economic opportunities - the recycling industry employs more than 40,000 people and contributes around £3 billion of additional value each year to the UK economyⁱⁱⁱ. The inappropriate treatment and disposal of waste can cause significant air, water and soil pollution, leading to detrimental effects on human health and natural capital, leading to damage to the economy.

Fly-Tipping

Fly-tipping poses a threat to humans and wildlife from potentially dangerous materials that can damage our environment and spoil our enjoyment of our towns and countryside. Fly-tipping incidents fluctuate each year (Figure 1^{iv}) and trends are difficult to identify within the data.

Current and Predicted Waste Arisings

Local authority collected waste (LACW) is managed by a network of transfer stations, composting facilities, landfill sites, energy from waste facilities and civic amenity sites, the latter allowing the public to dispose of waste that has not been collected from the kerbside.

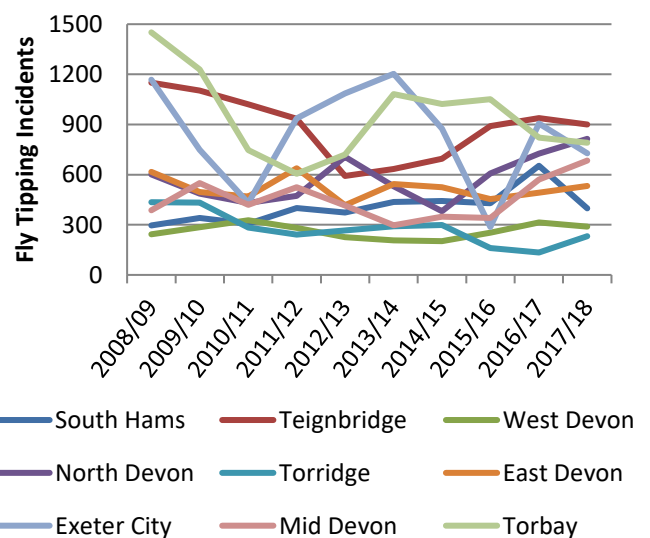


Figure 1 – Annual Fly-tipping Incidents in Devon’s Districts and Torbay

Arisings across Devon reduced by 12% between 2008/09 and 2016/17 from 430k tonnes to 379k tonnes, resulting in 457kg of LACW per person. In Torbay, LACW decreased by 11% from 75k tonnes to 67k tonnes over the same period resulting in 444kg of LACW per person.^v This is despite of a rising population in both areas. This reduction can be partly attributed to packaging waste becoming more lightweight but also the economic downturn that has led to fewer resources being consumed and discarded.

The most recent data on arisings of commercial and industrial waste (2009)^{vi} is shown in Table 1. This demonstrates that commercial and industrial waste exceeds the production of LACW. The 2009 data shows a 34% reduction in total waste arising since the previous survey in 2002.

Waste Management

Rates of recycling, reuse and composting of LACW in Devon and Torbay have seen great improvement since 2004/5 (Table 2^{vii}). Slight reductions between 2011/12 and 2016/17 in some areas are attributed to reduced budgets for householder education, and a significant reduction in paper waste because of digital media. Just 18% of LACW is disposed of to landfill.

50% of commercial and industrial waste was reused, recycled or composted in 2009, which is an improvement on 30% in 2002. 25% was landfilled in 2009 compared with 34% in 2002.

Future Waste Management

Predicted, future tonnages of LACW for Devon and its treatment route is shown in Figure 2^{viii}. This predicts an increase in the tonnage of waste arising alongside increased recycling rates, leading to overall reductions in

	Devon	Torbay
Animal & Vegetable Wastes	29	6
Chemical Wastes	57	9
Common Sludges	12	1
Discarded Equipment	21	3
Healthcare Waste	10	2
Mixed Waste	143	23
Metallic Wastes	19	2
Mineral	8	2
Non-Metallic	175	21
Total	474	69

	04/05	11/12	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18	19/20
East Devon	16.4	48.5	46.2	45.6	46.1	54.2%	63
Exeter	20.7	36.2	33.8	33.4	31.6	30.8%	40
Mid Devon	17.8	49.2	48.2	50.8	53.4	51.8%	60
North Devon	22.1	44.6	44.2	44.5	44.5	45.5%	60
South Hams	24.6	54.8	53.4	52.9	54.7	53.9%	60
Teignbridge	27.0	57.3	53.7	54.3	55.7	55.4%	63
Torridge	24.4	43.6	45.0	42.6	42.2	41.2%	52
West Devon	28.6	59.9	56.5	54.5	53.8	51.2%	65
Devon	32.7	55.3	55.8	55.1	55.7	54.0%	63
Torbay	21.9	42.7	42.0	42.6	41.5	42.4%	51

residual waste. The opening of the Exeter Energy from Waste plant and a similar facility in Plymouth are together taking 120,000 tonnes of Devon's waste each year^{ix}. The Plymouth facility also takes waste from Torbay.

Aspirational targets for recycling of LACW would see further increases to between 40% and 65% by 2019/20 (Table 2).

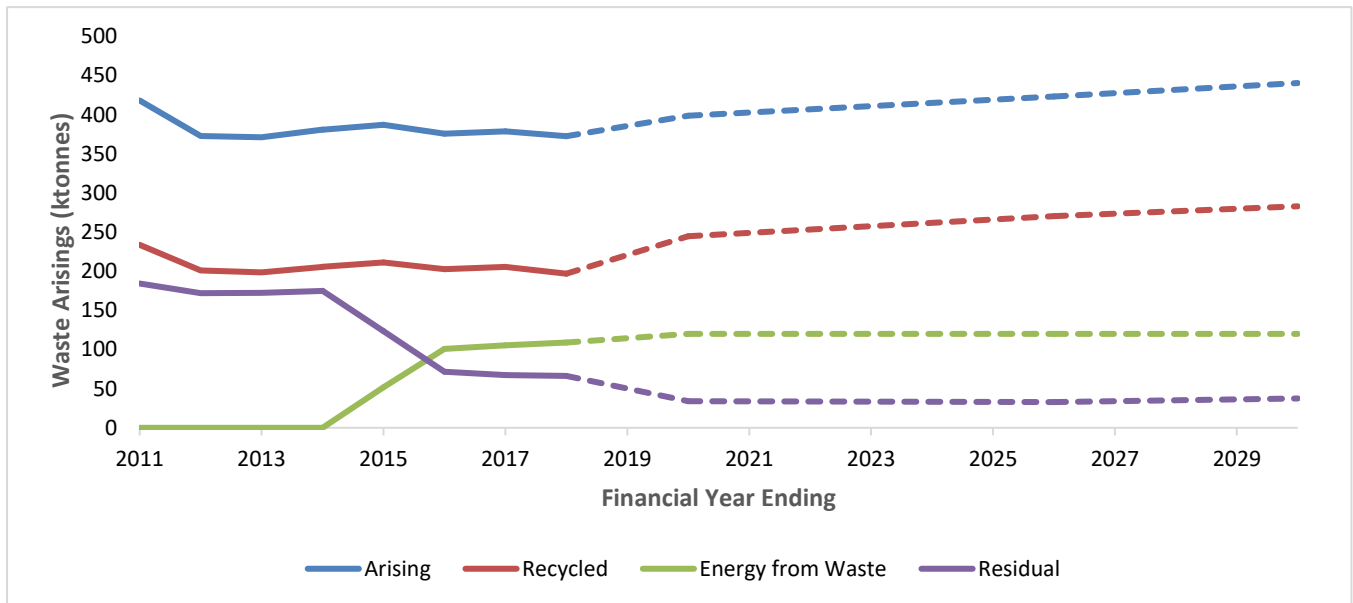


Figure 2 – Actual (Solid Line) and Predicted (Dashed Line) Local Authority Collected Waste Arisings in Devon

ⁱ Devon County Council (2013) *Waste and Resource Management Strategy for Devon Review*. Devon County Council. Available at http://www.devon.gov.uk/dcc_waste_strategy_review.pdf

ⁱⁱ WRAP (2012) *Decoupling of Waste and Economic Indicators*. WRAP. Available at: <http://www.wrap.org.uk/sites/files/wrap/Decoupling%20of%20Waste%20and%20Economic%20Indicators.pdf>

ⁱⁱⁱ WRAP (2013) *Recycle Week 2013 - a celebration and a reminder*. WRAP. Available at: <http://www.wrap.org.uk/blog/2013/06/recycle-week-2013-celebration-and-reminder> (Accessed 19/08/2013)

^{iv} Defra (2017) *Fly-tipping incidents and actions reported by local authorities* Defra. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/env24-fly-tipping-incident-and-actions-taken-in-england>

^v Defra (2017) *Local Authority Collected Waste Statistics – Local Authority Data*. Defra. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/env18-local-authority-collected-waste-annual-results-tables>

^{vi} Defra (2009) *Commercial and Industrial Waste Survey 2009 – Final Report*. Available at: <http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20130125163914/http://www.defra.gov.uk/statistics/files/ci-project-report.pdf>

^{vii} Devon County Council (2013) *Devon Waste & Resource Management Strategy Review March 2013*. Devon County Council. Available at: http://www.devon.gov.uk/waste_management_strategy_review.pdf

^{viii} Devon County Council (2013) *Devon Waste & Resource Management Strategy Review March 2013*. Devon County Council. Available at: http://www.devon.gov.uk/waste_management_strategy_review.pdf and Defra (2017) *Local Authority Collected Waste Statistics – Local Authority Data*. Defra. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/env18-local-authority-collected-waste-annual-results-tables>

^{ix} Devon County Council (2013) *Devon Waste & Resource Management Strategy Review March 2013*. Devon County Council. Available at: http://www.devon.gov.uk/waste_management_strategy_review.pdf