



# Essex Recycling Partnership Monitoring Report



Essex Recycling Partnership

Quarter 1 - 2015

# Essex Recycling Partnership- Q1 2015/16 report

## **Summary**

This report outlines the progress made by the Essex Recycling Partnership to achieve the project objectives and commitments made within the project bid submitted to the Department for Communities and Local Government in November 2014.

Contained herein is an evaluation of the outputs delivered following the first quarter of the schemes implementation between April and June 2015. This report seeks to provide a comparative analysis of District-level performance between Q1 2014/15 and Q1 2015/16, analysing the non-data outputs and evaluating these against performance commitments made within the bid.

As this is the first quarterly report to be produced, few conclusions can be drawn regarding the success of the scheme or progress to achieving objectives. Notwithstanding this, some trends between performance in quarter 1 2014/15 and the same quarter 2015/16 have been identified, providing a useful basis for discussion in this and future reports as well as for consideration among partners. The report for quarter 2 will be published in late October 2016.

As to be expected when implementing a new scheme there have been some localised issues with discussion of these outlined in an 'issues log' section later in the report. Most importantly the first quarter's monitoring has identified issues regards data collection with some incorrect data being provided by partners and new intelligence suggests that the final bid may have overestimated potential benefits. Additionally, there have been challenges for partners in collating the data required leading to some incomplete data sets.

The partners have discussed these issues at the first partnership meeting on September 4<sup>th</sup> and implemented mitigations to ensure the quality and reliability of future data submissions.

## **Background to the scheme**

In March 2015 a partnership of four Essex District Council's secured £896,468 of funding from the Department for Communities & Local Government (DCLG) to develop and implement "Recycling Reward Schemes" in Braintree District Council, Epping Forest District Council, Harlow District Council and Tendring District Council. These councils are working together as part of the coordinated scheme which will reward residents for doing the right thing and reducing and recycling their waste.

The outcome for this partnership is to maximise participation, increase capture rates of recycled materials and enhance customer satisfaction. Over the lifetime of the project the scheme will be delivered to 114,500 properties and 97 schools through targeted education initiatives and an incentivised rewards scheme resulting in:

- 97 schools adopting weekly food recycling.
- 11,000 properties in flat blocks receiving a new recycling service.
- Total projected financial benefits of £396,757 over the course of the scheme.
- A projected total reduction in landfill waste of 9154 tonnes.

The four Districts' activities vary due to the different levels of service provided in each locale at the start of the scheme though all share the same aim of improving the volume and quality of recyclate collected in each district to remove total waste tonnage sent to landfill. Braintree District Council and Epping Forest do not currently provide recycling schemes to flats, so the starting project in these authorities will focus on providing the capital infrastructure required for commencement of a collection scheme in these localities.

In Tendring the authority already runs a recycling service for flats. The focus of their project will be to replace the existing waste receptacles in flats with lockable units to reduce contamination of recycled materials. The authority will also work with Braintree District Council to introduce a food waste service for schools and have bid for the capital infrastructure to support this.

Harlow Council already runs a successful recycling scheme in both schools and flats the project in their area is focused on increasing community engagement and understanding of recycling. They will provide five highly visible 'Greenredeem' kiosks in central locations within the district to facilitate this educational activity and to reward residents for recycling on-the-go.

## **Quarter 1 objectives & progress**

The key focus of the first Quarter of 2015/16 (April-June) for the four districts was to finalise the design and commence early implementation of the scheme. There were seven key objectives in Q1 to be met by the four districts and these were:

<b><i>Objective</i></b>	<b><i>District</i></b>
Contact Head teacher's to arrange meetings with schools	BDC / TDC
Contact local businesses with regard to signing up to reward scheme	HDC
Create coherent branding required for communications	All LA's in partnership
Negotiate contract with Greenredeem for Kiosk installation	HDC
Meet with head teachers and carry out surveys in schools	BDC / TDC
Contact flat management companies to discuss programme	BDC / EFDC/ TDC
Agree sites for placement of "Green redeem" Kiosks	HDC

Braintree District Council had four objectives for quarter 1, of these they achieved four. BDC began implementing the scheme in their district at the start of the quarter, contacting schools and flats to seek their commitment to taking part in the scheme. Good collaboration with partners has been achieved. In the initial project plan BDC had agreed to contact local businesses in regard to signing up to a recycling reward scheme however on evaluation of the project implementation plans the timeline has been amended and this objective will now take place in Q4 2015-16 and Q1 2016-17.

Tendring District Council was responsible for meeting four objectives however have only achieved one objective; Primary schools have been written or contacted with a number of schools already signed up, however there will be no contact during summer holidays. Progress to achieving the three other quarterly objectives continues in order to achieve these and new objectives in Quarter 2 2015-16. Similarly to Braintree following evaluation of the project implementation, Tendring District Council also plan to contact local businesses in regard to signing up to a recycling reward scheme Q4 2015-16 and Q1 2016-17 once the development work has been completed.

Harlow Council's main objectives are based on the green redeem kiosk scheme which will be implemented in Q3. Although Harlow has yet to confirm hosts or partners, they are working hard at their objectives and ensure introduction of the kiosks in Quarter 3 2015-16. To date various sites have been contacted to find suitable hosts for the Green Redeem kiosks and there is one definite confirmation and final feedback from several others is awaiting confirmation. Local reward partners for the scheme are secured and Green Redeem advise that installation of the kiosks can be carried out expediently once sites for kiosks have been agreed.

Due to significant local issues faced by Epping Forest District Council as a result of the implementation of a new four-day week waste collection service, the authority has been forced to delay the implementation of the Recycling Rewards Scheme. These issues have also affected the quality of the data presented as part of the quarter 1 monitoring. Epping Forest advises that the issues relating to collections are currently being resolved and the authority is confident in their ability to ensure that the scheme becomes active in Quarter 2.

## Performance Analysis

To monitor and evaluate whether the scheme has been a success in Q1 of 15/16, some key parameters have to be analysed, these are:

- Total households benefitting from the scheme
- Total Number of flats taking part in the scheme
- Total Number of Schools taking part in the scheme
- Total Number of Households with weekly residual waste collection
- Total households receiving a weekly food / organic waste collection
- Total Recyclate Collected in the District (t)
- District-Wide Recycling rate (%)
- Total Food Waste Collected (t)
- Total Dry Recyclate Collected (t)
- Total value of recyclate collected in District (£/t) (Dry only)
- Total contamination rate across district (t)

Measuring these parameters helps to show whether the districts as a partnership are performing correctly and meeting their targets. The data can also show us whether each District is individually achieving their designated goals for each Quarter.

### Collated District figure analysis 2014/15 with trends

Year	14/15	14/15	14/15	14/15	15/16	15/16	15/16	15/16
Quarter	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Total recyclate collected in the District (t)	23995	23438	20066	18230	24533	22681	20301	18243
Recycling rate Across District (%)	38.1	37.6	35.1	33.3	38.5	37.0	35.1	33.4
Total food waste collected (t)	7766	7256	5840	4765	7939	6991	5852	4788
Total dry recyclate collected (t)	11395	11751	11485	12064	11441	11612	11737	12013
Total residual waste to landfill / incineration (t)	23445	23637	23578	23516	23529	23567	23542	23527
Total contamination rate of recyclate across District %	2.5	2.4	3.7	2.9	2.9	3.0	3.0	2.9
Total contamination rate of recyclate across District (t)	293	375	556	434	412	443	453	432

Using the 14/15 data between Q1 and Q4 an estimate for Q1 in 15/16 has been calculated, using trend analysis. The seven trends calculated have all increased in Q1 in 15/16 compared to Q1 in 14/15.

An example of a positive increase within the trend analysis is the total dry recyclate collected, where 11,395t increases to 11,441t, which would make the local authorities an extra £2,791.74, based on the Recycling credit rate for 14/15 equalling £60.69 per tonne of dry recyclate.

### Comparison of 2014/15 & 2015/16 data

	Q1 2014/15 actual	Q1 2015/16 actual	Change vs prev year	% Change
Total number of households in the District	222373	222373	0	
Total households benefitting from the scheme	8202	8202	0	0.00
Total Number of flats taking part in the scheme	399	399	0	0.00
Total Number of Schools taking part in the scheme	585	585	0	0.00
Total Number of Households with weekly residual waste collection	83912	83912	0	0.00
Total households receiving a weekly food / organic waste collection	207279	207279	0	0.00
Total Recyclate Collected in the District (t)	23995	23291	-704	-2.94
District-Wide Recycling rate (%)	38	38	0	
Total Food Waste Collected (t)	7766	7149	-617	-7.95
Total Dry Recyclate Collected (t)	11395	11344	-51	-0.44
Total value of recyclate collected in District (£/t) (Dry only)	691535	688467	-3068	-0.44
Total contamination rate across district (t)	293	247	-46	-15.58
Total Number of rejected dry recyclate bins (flats)	228	140	-88	-38.60
Total Tonnage of rejected dry recyclate bins (flats)	0	2	0	
Total Number of rejected Food Waste bins (flats)	45	40	-5	-11.11

There are very few comparisons to be made between the two Q1 periods as the scheme is in its infancy. As outlined previously, there are eight phases within this scheme with only phase one completed at present and consequently only very few results / trends and differences will be noticeable in the first monitoring quarters. The end of 2015-16 evaluation (Q4) will enable a greater depth of conclusions on the effectiveness of the scheme to be reached.

The only discernible differences in the data are positive changes. Total contamination rate across districts has decreased almost 16% from 293 to 247 tonnes of contaminated recyclate. Comparing 2015/16 to 2014/15, contamination rates fell by 0.541% from 2.518% to 1.977% respectively.

The amount of rejected dry recyclate bins decreased 38.6% from 228 tonnes to 140 tonnes, the majority of that decrease came from Epping Forest where their rejected bins decreased from 228 tonnes to 126 tonnes.

Food Waste bins rejected decreased from 45 tonnes to 40 tonnes an 11% decrease, however this data isn't taken from all four districts, Epping Forest were the only District include this figure in their data.

	15/16 Trend Data	15/16 Actuals	% Change
Total recyclate collected in the District (t)	24533	23291	-5.1
Recycling rate Across District (%)	39	37.61	-2.3
Total food waste collected (t)	7939	7149	-10.0
Total dry recyclate collected (t)	11441	11344	-0.8

The trend data created using Q1-Q4 14/15 overestimated all 15/16 actual data, specifically the food waste collected which was exactly 10% less than what was expected in the trend data.

## **Progress towards meeting our key commitments**

From the data provided by partners we are able to make the following conclusions on the progress being made to meeting the key commitments as set out in the Recycling Rewards Scheme Bid.

**97 schools adopting weekly food recycling-** Presently no new schools have begun to receive a food recycling scheme, which is in line with the project plan. Discussions are continuing with schools and the

**11,000 properties in flat blocks receiving a new recycling service-** 8,202 properties in flat blocks are currently involved in this scheme, which isn't a bad number to have involved in the early stages of a new scheme. The scheme has 76% of the properties needed to meet its target.

**Total financial benefits of £396,757 over the course of the scheme-** The financial benefits of the scheme in the first quarter of 15/16 is £2,791.74, based on the Recycling credit rate equalling £60.69 per tonne of dry recyclate. It is anticipated that once the scheme is fully implemented the financial benefits of increased recyclate will increase exponentially and at this point it is too early to see real financial impacts due to early scheme roll-out.

**A total reduction in landfill waste of 9154 tonnes-** the amount of waste sent to landfills will reduce when more recyclate is collected, however between Q1 14/15 and Q1 15/16 the percentage change in recyclate collected reduced by 2.94%

The "outputs and benefits" section of the original bid document outlined three future positive impacts that would come from implementing this scheme. The three key data points to analyse within this document against real data now are; change in Volume of recyclate collected, Total households benefitting from the scheme and also contamination rate across the district.

Change in total recyclate collected between Q1 14/15 and Q1 15/16 was -704 tonnes, according to the data put together in the final bid, the amount of recyclate collected should have increased 1,490.

The total households benefitting from the scheme in Q1 15/16 is 8202, which is some way off of the predicted 114,398 predicted for households benefitting in the final bid. The validity of the Q1 data for 2015/16 or final bid should be investigated by partners with necessary amendments put in place to ensure the continued validity of the analysis.

The contamination rate predicted for the 15/16 annum was 642t, which is a quarterly figure of 161 tonnes of contaminated recyclate. However the actual 15/16 Q1 figure is some way off of that, 247 tonnes of recyclate were contaminated.

## **Q2 15/16 trends and predictions.**

Using 14/15 actual data and also the figures for Q1 of this financial year, trend data can be created to predict what the likely figures are going to be for Q2, these numbers could be used as targets if needed.

			<b>ACTUALS</b>			<b>TRENDS</b>
Year	<b>14/15</b>	<b>14/15</b>	<b>14/15</b>	<b>14/15</b>	<b>15/16</b>	<b>15/16</b>
Quarter	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
Total recyclate collected in the District (t)	<b>23995</b>	<b>23438</b>	<b>20066</b>	<b>18230</b>	<b>23291</b>	22174
Recycling rate Across District (%)	<b>38.1</b>	<b>37.6</b>	<b>35.1</b>	<b>33.3</b>	<b>37.6</b>	36.6
Total food waste collected (t)	<b>7766</b>	<b>7256</b>	<b>5840</b>	<b>4765</b>	<b>7149</b>	6734
Total dry recyclate collected (t)	<b>11395</b>	<b>11751</b>	<b>11485</b>	<b>12064</b>	<b>11344</b>	11577
Total contamination rate across district (t)	<b>293</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>556</b>	<b>434</b>	<b>247</b>	376

The total recyclate collected in the district is predicted to drop from 23,291t in Q1 to 22,174t in Q2, which is quite a substantial negative drop, so this may need to be considered.

The total contamination rate is predicted to rise from 247t to 376t from Q1 to Q2, which is quite a large jump. However it is only 1 tonne more than Q2 in the previous financial year, so it is not a too much of an issue.

## **Issues Log**

In future quarters, it would be recommended that a new data set is added on total tonnage of residual waste collected in the district which would make it easier to analyse whether the scheme is resulting in less residual waste collected which is a key benefit of this project.

In future quarters monitoring all partners must ensure that data is completed in the "data collection template". A lack of data provided by some partners made it difficult to analyse numbers correctly against the final bid predictions and also means that trend data could be incorrect and therefore future targets could be a significantly different from their intended position.