

WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
VARIATION IN RECYCLING RATES ACROSS OXFORDSHIRE
REPORT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES MANAGER

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The report is for information

1. PURPOSE

To provide information on the breakdown of waste recycled and composted by district in Oxfordshire and identify tonnage of residual waste still going to Landfill.

2. RECOMMENDATION

That the information provided be noted.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1. Recycling performance depends on a combination of factors including scheme design, operation and householder participation, which in turn is shaped by deprivation and the rural nature of the district.

3.2. Table 1 shows percentage of each waste stream by district.

Table 1	WODC	VOWH	SODC	OxCity	Cherwell
Recycling excluding unwanted items	26.96%	30.44%	29.53%	30.13%	23.87%
Rejects in or outside the recycling stream	1.74%	2.42%	2.73%	1.21%	1.51%
Food waste	8.81%	11.57%	11.20%	10.73%	0.00%
Garden Waste	23.34%	20.67%	21.89%	9.09%	0.00%
Mixed garden & food waste	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.45%	31.36%
ERF excluding unwanted items	36.64%	34.04%	33.79%	44.05%	41.57%
Recycling, reuse and composting	59.11%	62.68%	62.62%	50.4%	55.23%

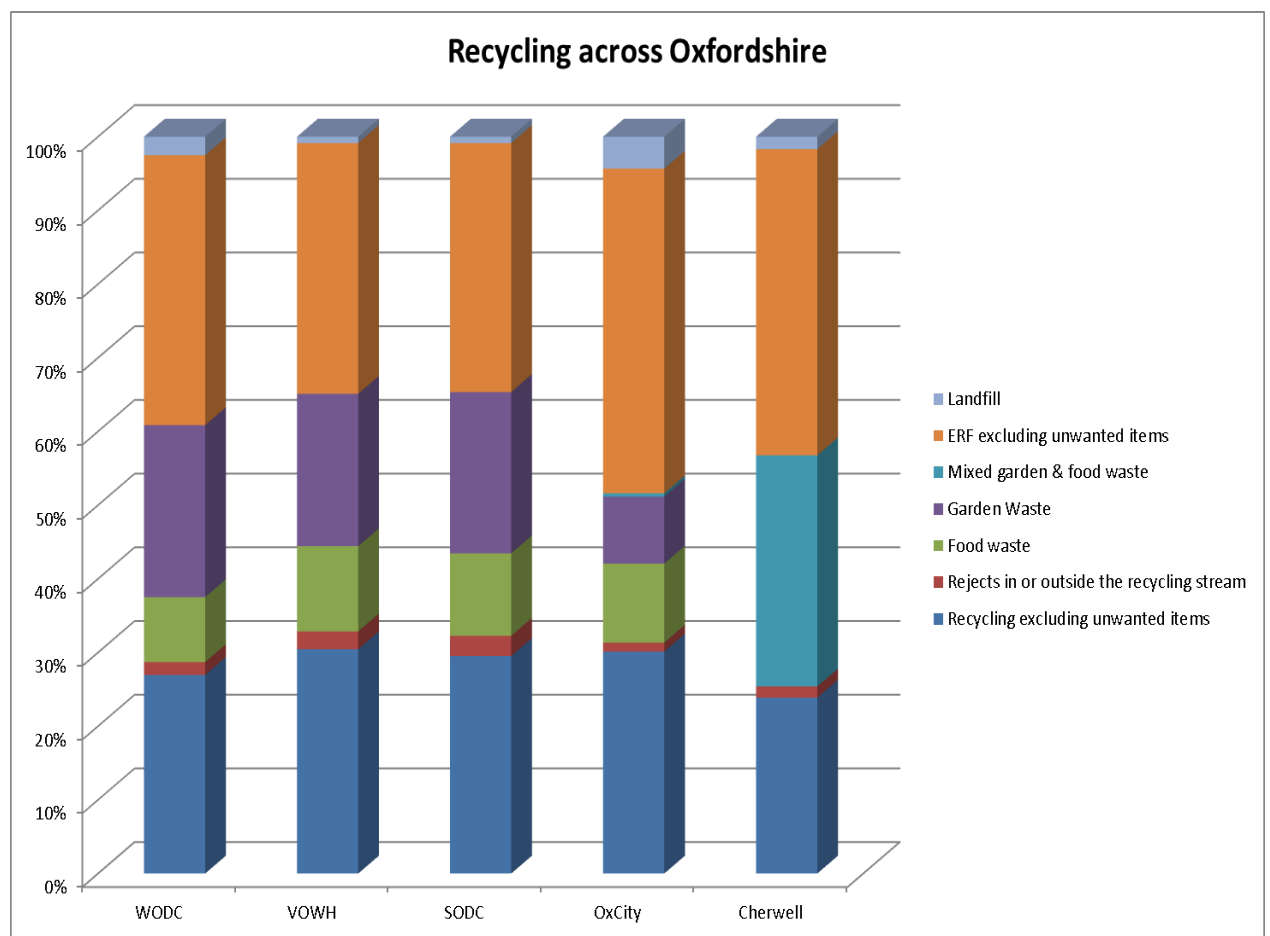
3.3. If waste cannot be recycled then it will go to Energy from Waste plant at Ardley. 95% of Oxfordshire’s residual waste now goes to the EfW plant but some materials cannot be disposed of safely in this way including some building materials and fridge freezers.

3.4. Table 2 shows the tonnage of recycling, materials rejected from recycling waste stream (non-recyclable waste), food waste, garden waste, residual waste sent to Energy from Waste and residual waste sent to landfill. Figures are for all waste – kerbside collections and bring sites.

Table 2

	WODC
Recycling excluding unwanted items	11,266.42
Rejects in or outside the recycling stream	726.63
Food waste	3,682.20
Garden Waste	9,750.82
EfW excluding unwanted items	15,307.69
Landfill	1,049.73

The bar chart below provides a visual representation by waste stream for each authority.



- 3.5. WODC introduced a commingled collection service of recyclates with glass collected separately in October 2018. All other Oxfordshire Councils had been operating a commingled for a longer period of time. Commingled collection services increase the amount of material captured compared to a kerbside sort
- 3.6. The level of public understanding of what is accepted significantly impacts the quality of the recyclates and therefore the overall recycling rate. Unwanted items in the recycling stream are classed in the data as “rejects in or outside the recycling stream”. These tonnages adversely impact scheme recycling performance.
- 3.7. Cherwell collect food and garden waste together rather the separately. This results in a higher gate fee (charge levied for each tonne of waste received at the processing facility) for the County Council as the Disposal Authority. City collected garden and food waste together until end of April 2018, after which they moved to a separate collection.
- 3.8. South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse collect their bulky waste on an RCV where the items are crushed and can therefore be disposed of at the ERF
- 3.9. WODC introduced a chargeable collection of garden waste in April 2018. All other Oxfordshire Councils had been operating a chargeable service for a longer period of time. It should be noted that WODC and SODC are both classed by the ONS as districts with at least 80% of their population in rural settlements and larger market towns. This correlates with the highest garden waste tonnages coming from these areas.

4. FURTHER ACTION

- 4.1. It was anticipated that the introduction of garden waste charges would see a reduction in the participation in this scheme however the reduction in participation was far lower than predicted. This coupled with a service change will have had a short term impact on recycling performance so further promotion was always planned for 2018/19. It was agreed at Cabinet in June that funding would be set aside from the Councils underspend to bring in additional resources for a door knocking campaign to tackle contamination in the recycling stream and promote recycling, food waste and garden waste services. This work should have a notable and direct impact on recycling performance and progress can be reported to future meetings of this Committee.

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Background Papers: None