

Green Living

The fifth leaflet in a series produced in September-November 2021 by the Green Living groups of Avenue St Andrew's United Reformed Church, Southampton, and its ecumenical partners, from material in *The Dorset Green Living Guide* and current versions of related websites
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Waste

Waste and recycling

UK Statistics on Waste from the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA), estimate that the proportion of waste from households that was recycled by local authorities in the United Kingdom has risen from 40.3% in 2010 to 46.2% in 2019. The target for the UK to recycle at least 50% by 2020 has not yet been reached. (From reports dated 25 March 2015 and 15 July 2021 <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-waste-data>)

From DEFRA's reports an Annual Recycling Table for England is compiled. The latest shows that Southampton is in the bottom 10% of local authorities for the proportion of household waste sent for reuse, recycling or composting. And there are nine other authorities in this area also in the bottom third of the table.

Each local authority has responsibility to collect waste and to achieve environmental targets for waste disposal. Targets for reducing the amount going to landfill have been much more quickly reached.

But success with recycling depends on each household carefully and accurately using the **local authority** facilities, or collection points set up by **churches or other enthusiasts**, or you might devise your own ways to use unwanted items.

Information about the different facilities of local authorities can be found in local information sheets or on their websites. Here are the webpages of Southampton and some neighbouring authorities:

<https://www.southampton.gov.uk/bins-recycling/>
<https://www.eastleigh.gov.uk/waste-bins-and-recycling>
<https://www.winchester.gov.uk/waste-recycling>
<https://www.newforest.gov.uk/recyclingandrubbish>
<https://www.testvalley.gov.uk/wasteandrecycling>
<https://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/services/recycling-and-rubbish/>
<https://www.hants.gov.uk/wasteandrecycling>

From **Annual Recycling Table for England**

<https://www.letsrecycle.com/councils/league-tables/2019-20-overall-performance/>
Published March 2021, sourced from DEFRA data

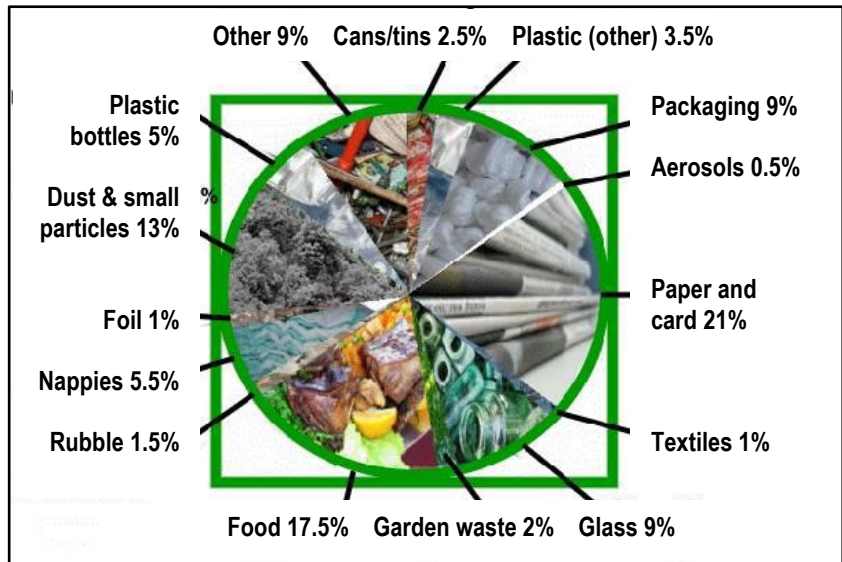
Rank of 341 local authorities in England	Local Authority	Percentage of household waste sent for reuse, recycling or composting	Collected household waste per person (kg)
1	Three Rivers (in Herts)	64.1 %	349.5 kg
18	Dorset	58.9	454.1
38	Isle of Wight	55.5	440.4
53	BCP (Bournemouth-Christchurch-Poole)	53.9	437.9
173	Eastleigh	43.1	319.8
198	Hampshire	41.7	428.9
234	Winchester	38.1	307.0
249	Test Valley	36.9	336.4
267	East Hampshire	34.6	300.7
271	New Forest	34.1	318.8
277	Fareham	33.4	301.4
292	Havant	31.8	324.9
301	Basingstoke & Deane	30.6	342.0
310	Southampton	29.3	340.5
319	Portsmouth	26.7	330.4
332	Gosport	24.8	283.9
341	Barrow-in-Furness	18.8	352.6



So much is wasted!

A quiz question, perhaps for discussion

How much of this bin's contents do you think could have been disposed of separately from general household waste?



Can we reduce the total we dispose of?

Some suggestions to consider, perhaps with others

Which of these do you already do to reduce waste?

What more could you try, and suggest to other people?

What other ways have you found and would recommend?

- a) Use a battery charger and rechargeables for camera, torch etc.
- b) Instead of single-use plastic, equip yourself with reusable coffee cup and flask, beeswaxed cloth wraps, cloth shopping bags or haversack
- c) Instead of plastic, use items made of bamboo e.g. cutlery, toothbrush, ear buds, chopping boards
- d) Get a regular milk delivery in returnable glass bottles <https://www.findmeamilkman.net/>
- e) Fix broken items at a Repair Café, e.g. at Freemantle Baptist Church or St Denys Community Centre <https://transitionsouthampton.org/projects-repair-cafe/>



But why do we have so many things?

“The Story of Stuff is a 20-minute, fast paced, fact-filled look at the underside of our production and consumption patterns,” says *The Dorset Green Living Guide*.

The Story of Stuff reckons that after the Second World War the United States government decided to revive its economy by getting people to consume more and more. Industrialists would extract resources and produce goods as cheaply as possible, ignoring costs borne by local cultures, environment and workers.

They would persuade people to buy more by planned obsolescence of the goods and by advertising frequent new versions and new products. Britain and the West took a similar line.

“The Story of Stuff exposes the connections between a huge number of environmental and social issues, and calls us together to create a more sustainable and just world.”

Since that first video in 2007, the team has produced a range of videos, e.g. on electronics, water, cosmetics, plastics, microfibres, to prompt conversations and chart a path to a more just and sustainable future. You can access the videos through their home page <https://www.storyofstuff.org/>.

So, “The options for dealing with waste, in order of preference [as in *The Dorset Green Living Guide*]:

1. **Avoid** – do you really need it?
2. **Reduce** – do you need as much of it?
3. **Reuse** – can it be fixed, used by others?
4. **Recycle** – can it be broken down and used again?
5. **Landfill and incineration** – the last resort.”