

Transport and Environment Committee

10am, Tuesday, 27 October 2015

Landfill and Recycling

Item number	8.1
Report number	
Executive/routine	
Wards	All

Executive summary

This report updates the Committee on performance in reducing the amount of non recyclable waste sent to landfill and on increasing the amount of waste recycled for the period April to July 2015.

Whilst total annual waste arisings increased in 2014/15 by 1.2%, monthly arisings to date (April - July 2015) are 4.9% lower than for the same period in 2014/15.

The amount of non recyclable waste disposed of in the period April – July is down 8% on the same period in 2014/15. The projected tonnage of landfill to year end is 107,932, which is less than the Capital Coalition Pledge target of 118,000 tonnes.

The percentage of waste recycled in the period April – July 2015 has increased compared to the same period in 2014/15, with the average recycling rate to date increasing by 1% to 44.2%. The forecast end of year recycling rate for 2015/16 is 42.2%.

Links

Coalition pledges	P44, P49, P50
Council outcomes	CO17, CO18, CO19
Single Outcome Agreement	SO4

Landfill and Recycling

Recommendations

- 1.1 It is recommended that Committee notes the contents of this report.

Background

- 2.1 At the meeting of the Transport and Environment Committee on 15 January 2013, members requested regular updates on performance in reducing the amount of waste sent to landfill and increasing recycling.

Landfilled Waste and Recycling

- 2.2 Capital Coalition Pledge 49 outlines the Council's commitment towards increasing recycling levels across the city and reducing the proportion of waste going to landfill. This includes targets to reduce annual landfill tonnage to 118,000 tonnes and to increase the percentage of waste that is recycled to 50%.
- 2.3 Significant progress in implementing the changes required to deliver both service improvements and landfill savings have been made, including the implementation of managed weekly collections in September 2012, and the kerbside recycling redesign, which commenced in September 2014 in a five phase roll out.

Complaints

- 2.4 At the meeting of the Transport and Environment Committee on 27 August 2013, members requested that the performance reports also include updates on complaints made about waste services.
- 2.5 There are 242,878* residential dwellings in Edinburgh which receive multiple refuse and recycling collections. On average there are approximately 480,000 collections a week. Current complaints targets are based on the number of collections carried out, but are not adjusted for seasonal variation.
- 2.6 The figures also include complaints that may be made in error, for example where a resident has not presented their bin and misses the collection, and then contacts the Council to report a missed collection.

** source: Corporate Address Gazetteer*

Waste Arisings

3.1 Prior to 2014/15, the tonnage of total waste (waste arisings) had been falling, with consistent reductions in waste arisings experienced since 2006/7 (Figure 1). Waste arisings in 2014/15 however increased by 1.2%. It was forecast that the rising trend in total waste would continue in 2015/16 (Figure 1).

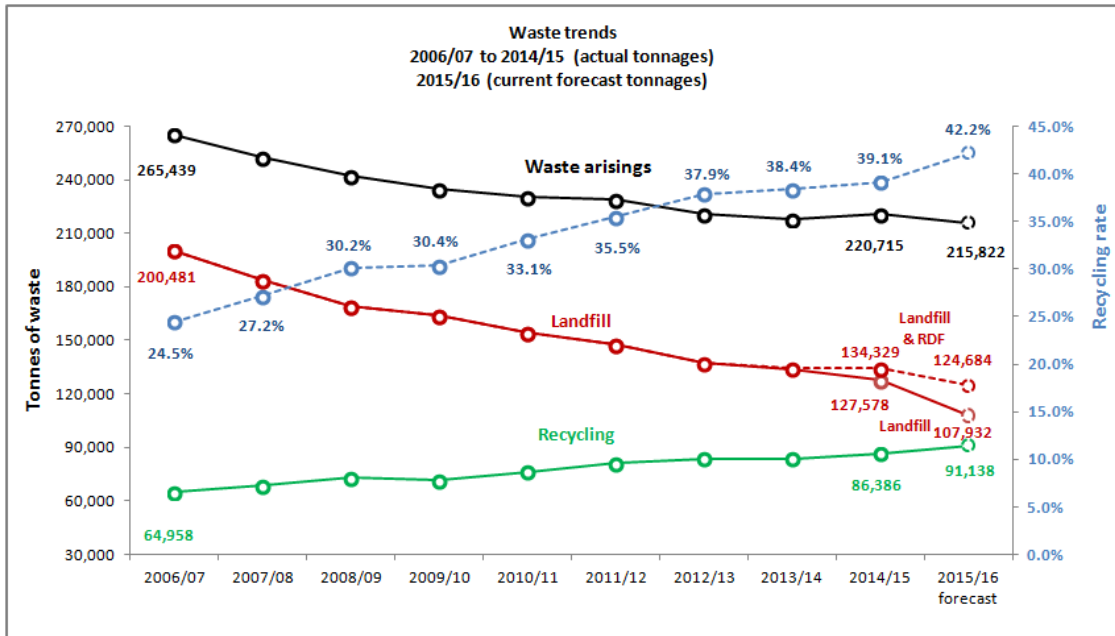


Figure 1 - waste trends 2006/7 to 2015/16 (forecast)

3.2 To date (April to July 2015), there has been a falling trend, with waste arisings 4.9% less than were recorded in the same period in 2014/15 (Figure 2).

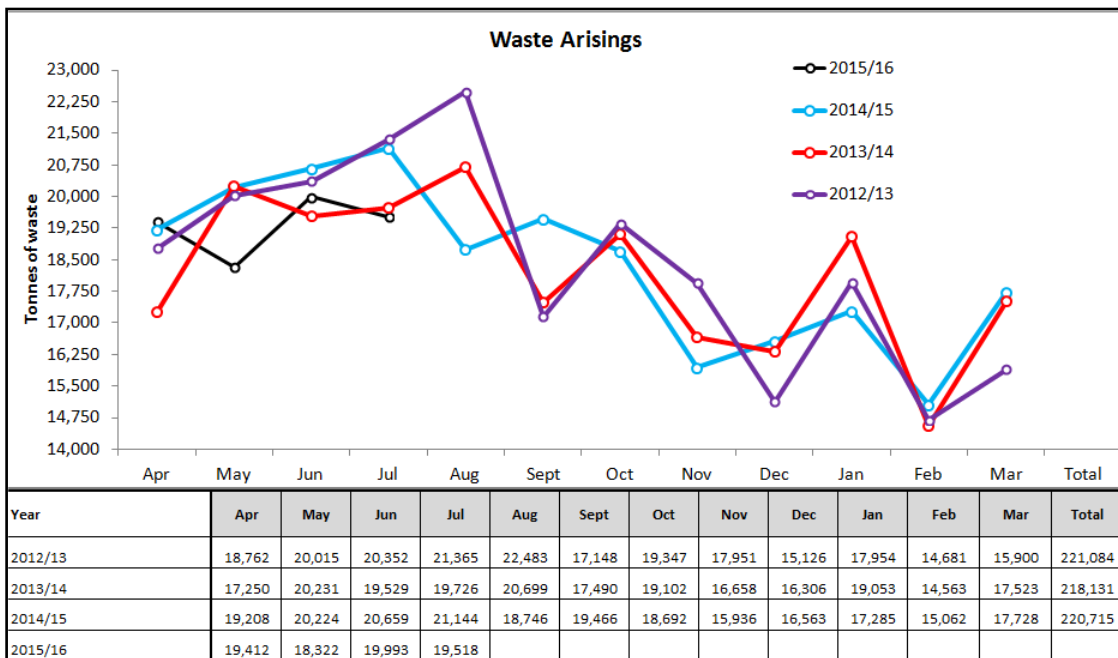


Figure 2 - waste arisings by month

- 3.3 Waste arisings are closely monitored on a monthly basis, and the tonnages used to inform and adjust, if necessary, the end of year forecasts for non recyclable waste and recycling tonnage.

Non recyclable waste

- 3.4 Waste that cannot be recycled is disposed of as landfill or diverted as refuse derived fuel (RDF).
- 3.5 Waste processed as RDF, whilst it is included in waste arising tonnages, is not counted as recycling or landfill. Currently some of the waste collected at Community Recycling Centres that cannot be recycled, and a proportion of non recyclable waste collected via kerbside collections, are disposed of as RDF.
- 3.6 It has been forecast that 107,932 tonnes of non recyclable waste will be disposed of via landfill and 16,752 tonnes diverted as RDF in 2015/16, with the overall tonnage of non recyclable waste forecast to be 124,684 tonnes (Table 1). This is 9,646 tonnes less than the 134,330 tonnes of non recyclable waste disposed of in 2014/15 (Table 1). Capital Coalition Pledge 49 sets a target of reducing landfill tonnage to 118,000 tonnes which, due to the diversion of non recyclable waste as RDF, is forecast to be achieved in 2015/16.

	Non recyclable waste			Recycling	
	Landfill tonnes	RDF tonnes	Total tonnes	Tonnes	Rate %
Forecast 15/16	107,932	16,752	124,684	91,138	42.2%
Actual 14/15	127,579	6,751	134,330	86,386	39.1%
Difference			-9,646	4,752	3.1%

Table 1 – non recyclable waste and recycling forecasts 2015/16

- 3.7 In the year to date (April-July 2015/16), 8% less non recyclable waste (landfill and RDF) has been disposed of than for the same period in 2014/15. The tonnage of non recyclable waste is closely monitored on a monthly basis and is used to ensure accuracy in the forecasting of the Waste Service disposal budget.
- 3.8 The City of Edinburgh and Midlothian councils are working together to deliver a sustainable solution for the disposal of non-recyclable residual waste which will see the eradication of disposal via landfill by 2018. More information can be found at www.zerowastefuture.com.

Citywide recycling rate

- 3.9 The citywide recycling rate for 2015/16 is currently forecast to be 42.2%. This is less than the 44.1% forecast at the start of 2015/16, and less than Capital Coalition Pledge 49 target of a recycling rate of 50%. If achieved, it will be a 3.1% improvement on the rate of 39.1% recorded in 2014/15. It is forecast that 4,752 tonnes more waste are to be recycled in 2015/16 than were recycled in 2014/15 (Table 1).
- 3.10 To achieve a 50% recycling rate in 2015/16 would require an additional 16,773 tonnes of waste to be diverted from landfill over what has been forecast. A breakdown of how the different recycling schemes in the city contributed to the total tonnage of recycling collected in July 2015 and collected year to date, compared to 2014 is detailed in Table 2.

Recycling Stream	Jul-14		Change	YTD		Change	
	Tonnes	Tonnes		Apr - Jul (2014)	Apr - Jul (2015)	Tonnes	%
Community Recycling sites	2,087	1,800	-287	7,661	6,961	-700	-9%
Food Waste	451	698	247	1,857	2,592	735	40%
Garden Waste - kerbside	3,250	3,190	-60	12,424	11,218	-1,206	-10%
Kerbside - Red/blue boxes	1,179	567	497	4,764	2,377	1,307	27%
- New Service bin/box	0	1,108		0	3,694		
Recycling Banks (supermarket)	582	481	-101	2,203	2,050	-153	-7%
Packaging bins - on street communal	297	306	9	1,203	1,200	-2	0%
Paper bins - on street communal	159	163	4	603	671	68	11%
Other streams (include Trade and special uplift)	744	710	-33	2,965	2,603	-363	-12%
Mechanised street sweepings	223	282	59	1,261	1,301	40	3%
Total Recycling	8,972	9,306	335	34,941	34,667	-274	-1%
Recycling rate	42.4%	44.2%	1.8%	43.0%	44.0%		1.0%

Table 2 – recycling by waste collection stream

- 3.11 It can be seen in Table 2 that, whilst kerbside recycling schemes have increased, the tonnage of recycling collected via the garden waste brown bin collection and recycling deposited at community recycling centres has fallen compared to last year by 10% and 9% respectively. This reduction has offset the gains recorded in kerbside and food recycling. Notwithstanding this, due to falling overall arisings, we have experienced a 1% improvement in the recycling rate in the period April to July compared to the same period in 2014/15 (Table 2).
- 3.12 A summary of the current and past recycling rate by month is detailed in Figure 3.

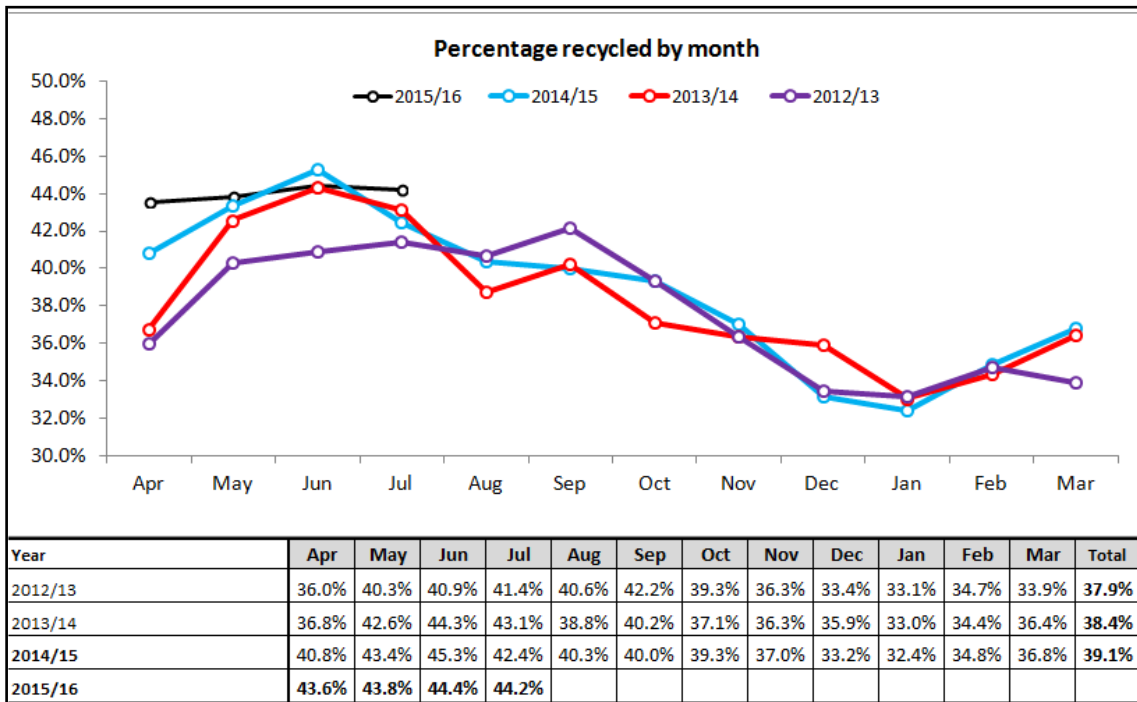


Figure 3 – recycling rate by month

Recycling – food waste

3.13 Large increases have been experienced in the tonnage of food waste collected via the kerbside service, with 55% more food waste collected in July 2015 than was collected in July 2014. Residents have re-engaged with the service, with increases recorded at each stage of the new recycling service bin/ box rollout (Figure 4).

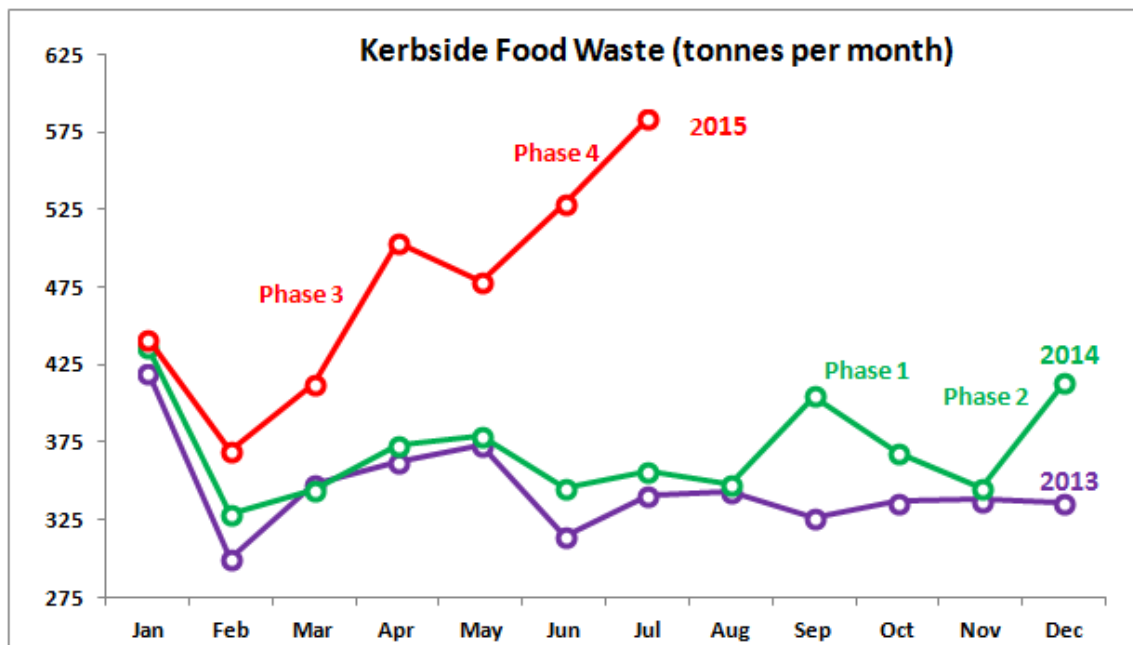


Figure 4 – kerbside food waste tonnages January 2013 to July 2015

Recycling - New kerbside bin/box recycling service

- 3.14 The first four phases of a five phase programme to roll out a new kerbside bin and box recycling service (a replacement to the existing red and blue box service) to 140,000 residents have been successfully delivered. Phase 1 commenced in September 2014/15, phase 2 in late November 2014, phase 3 in late March 2015 and phase 4 was rolled out as programmed in June 2015. Phase 5, to approx 40,000 households was scheduled for October 2015. This is a major change to recycling provision in the city, as the new bin/box service simplifies the recycling process for kerbside residents and increases the range of materials collected. It is forecast that in 2015/16, the new service will have a positive impact on the overall citywide recycling rate which has been accounted for in the end of year forecast of 42.2%.
- 3.15 A summary of the performance of all kerbside recycling at the end of July is detailed in Figure 5. It can be seen that the new recycling service, which currently serves approximately 100,000 households, is outperforming the existing red and blue box service for which, in July, some 90,000 residents were eligible for. Approximately 50,000 households eligible for boxes are located in communal areas, many of which have on street recycling provision via communal paper and packaging banks. As such, it is believed that participation, and as a result the recycling box tonnage uplifted, is low in these areas due to a duplication of service.

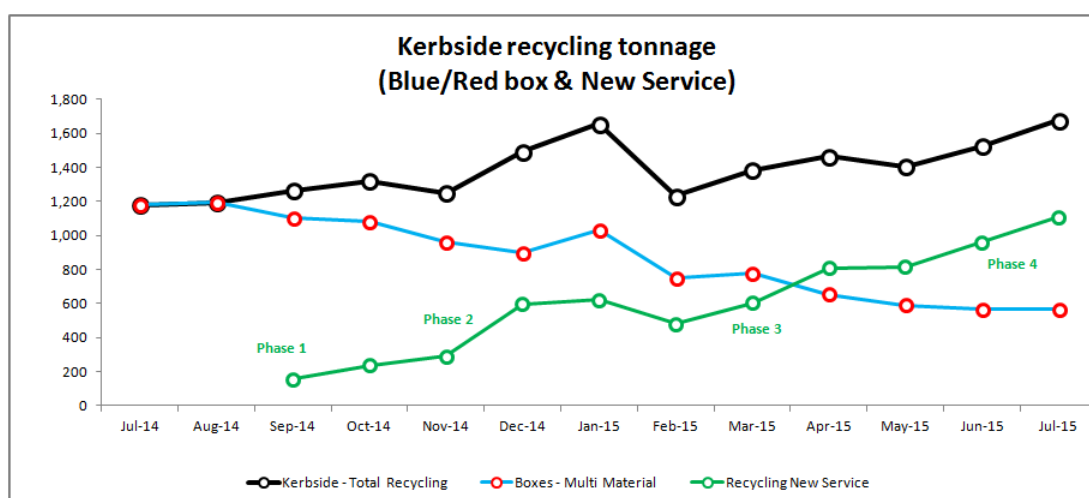


Figure 5 – kerbside recycling tonnages

- 3.16 Residents have engaged positively with the new bin and box recycling service. The tonnage of waste recycled at the kerbside via red and blue boxes and the new bin and box service was 42% greater in July 2015 than was collected in July 2014. On average in July, householders in new recycling service areas recycled 3.7kg/hh/wk, which is a 96% improvement on the city wide average prior to commencement of the service.

Recycling - Domestic communal

3.17 While provisions exist which allow people to recycle paper, mixed packaging and food using the on street communal bin system, Waste Services is looking to enhance this service to achieve:

- An emphasis on balancing the bin capacity provided for recycling versus landfill;
- combined paper and packaging collections in a single stream, to mirror that used in new service kerbside collection areas; and
- an increase in the number of points at which glass can be recycled on the kerbside.
- where applicable, the withdrawal of the existing red and blue box service to remove duplication of recycling services in those streets where communal recycling facilities already exist.

3.18 Waste Services is currently operating two communal recycling pilots which address these aims. These are programmed to complete in the second quarter of 2015/16 and, once evaluated, it is hoped that this approach can be rolled out across this city. Further information on the pilots can be found on the Council [website](#).

Complaints

3.19 Weekly complaint numbers since 2013 are detailed in figure 6 below.

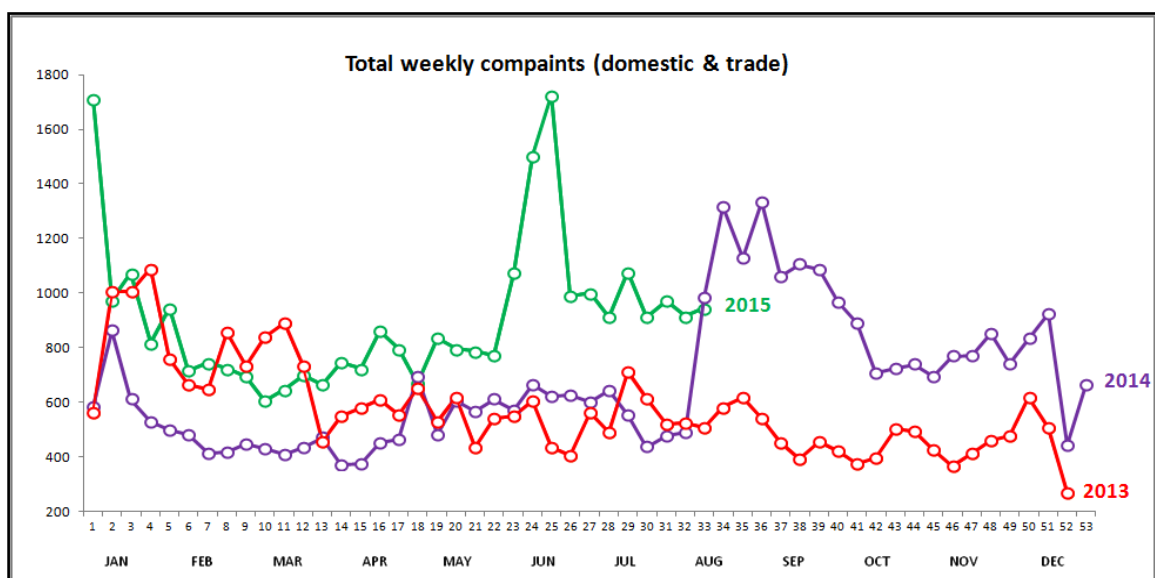


Figure 6 – weekly complaint number 2012-2015 by month

3.20 On average to date (April to July), 936 complaints a week were received by Waste Services. With approximately 480,000 collections a week, this translates

to 0.2% of collections resulting in a customer complaint. The majority of complaints received were regarding the non-collection of waste (96%).

3.21 A comparison of complaint numbers regarding non-collection of waste in July 2014 and July 2015 by collection stream is detailed in figure 7.

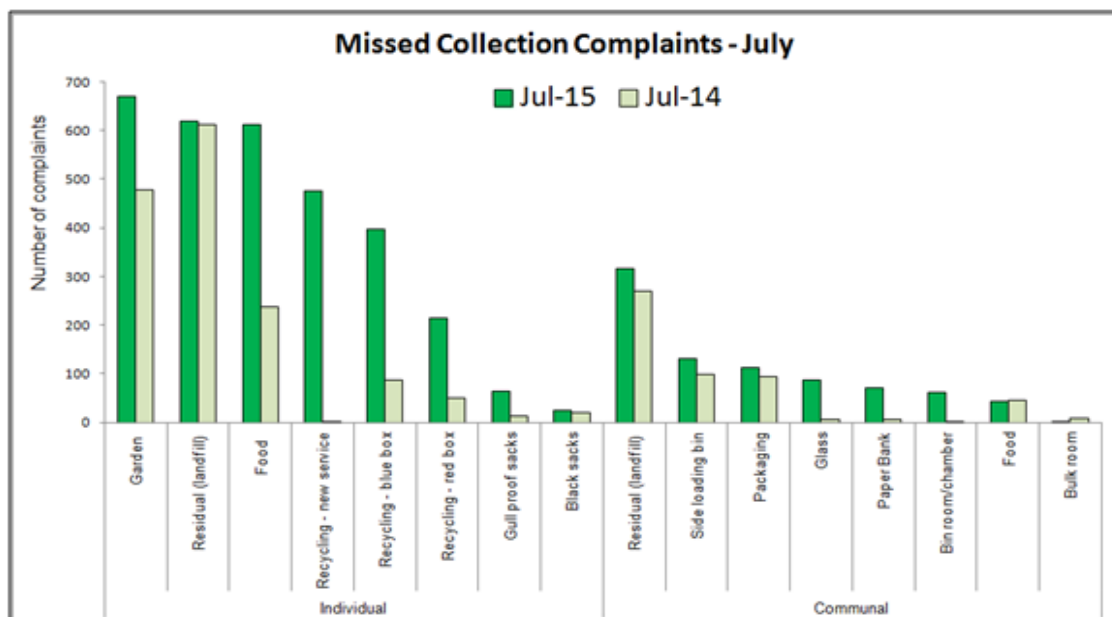


Figure 7 – complaint numbers by collection stream

3.22 The new bin and box recycling service, which is replacing the existing red and blue boxes in a phased approach, is having a positive impact on recycling tonnage in the city as outlined in section 3.17. The citywide service change for some 140,000 wheeled bin households is, however, increasing the number of complaints received each month regarding kerbside recycling. Citywide, 1,866 more missed collection complaints were recorded in July 2015 than were recorded in July 2014. Of these, complaints regarding the existing red and blue box service and new bin and box recycling services accounted for 51% of the increase (945 additional complaints). It is anticipated that once fully rolled out, and when residents become fully accustomed to the new service, complaints regarding recycling will reduce.

3.23 As outlined in section 3.14, the service is experiencing increases in kerbside food waste. Whilst this is positive for recycling tonnages, it places significant pressure on the largely fixed food collection routes, with vehicles requiring more trips to tip and as a result, less time available for collections. Procurement of larger capacity food vehicles and the design of new food routes to reflect increased participation is ongoing, with rollout of both anticipated in the winter 2015/16.

3.24 Waste Services does not currently differentiate between types of complaints, for example, between complaints from addresses that are known to have been missed for operational reasons, and complaints where a bin has been missed in error.

- 3.25 Reporting missed collections via the council website, rather than phoning the contact centre is becoming increasingly popular, with 1,097 (28%) complaints recorded by residents this manner in July 2015. Improving the accuracy of complaints received via the website is ongoing as, currently, residents are able to log a complaint multiple times, log a complaint when scheduled collections are still ongoing, and log a complaint where bins have been tagged as contaminated.

Measures of success

- 4.1 Achievement of the Council's targets for increasing recycling and reducing landfill.

Financial impact

- 5.1 At the meeting of the Transport and Environment Committee on 25 August 2014, members requested that overall disposal and landfill expenditure be included in future reports. Non recyclable material is currently disposed of as refuse derived fuel (RDF) and as landfill. In addition, there are charges associated with transporting landfill waste by rail from the transfer station at Powderhall to the landfill site at Dunbar. Monthly disposal expenditures for 2015/16, including a comparison with the same period in 2014/15, are detailed in Table 3 below.

Disposal Costs 2015/16	April 2015/16	May 2015/16	June 2015/16	July 2015/16
Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF)	£217,518	£245,733	£204,948	£161,117
Landfill	£955,030	£943,488	£960,342	£1,028,191
Rail Freight	£65,661	£72,346	£66,130	£65,711
Total disposal spend	£1,238,209	£1,261,567	£1,231,420	£1,255,018
Disposal Costs 2014/15	April 2014/15	May 2014/15	June 2014/15	July 2014/15
Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF)	£20,287	£20,585	£20,709	£21,177
Landfill	£993,657	£1,215,046	£1,383,116	£1,221,484
Rail Freight	£73,601	£65,402	£100,479	£88,229
Total monthly disposal costs	£1,087,545	£1,301,032	£1,504,304	£1,330,890

Table 3 - Monthly disposal expenditure

Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact

- 6.1 The information contained in this report is a review of the current performance of landfill and recycling. This report does not impact on any existing policies and no risks have been identified pertaining to health and safety, governance or compliance. Further, there are no regulatory implications that require to be taken into account.

Equalities impact

- 7.1 The Council is meeting its public sector duty to advance equal opportunity for residents to recycle by using a range of communications methods. Written information is available through leaflets and electronic media. Road shows and door knocking visits provide face to face contact with residents and visits from recycling advisers are available on request. All material can be translated on request. Consultation was carried out via demographically representative focus groups and via on line and written questionnaires to ensure that a full and representative range of views were obtained. Assistance with the presentation of recycling and waste containers is available for those who require it to ensure everyone has access to these services. The above has ensured that information is available for all within the equality and rights framework.

Sustainability impact

- 8.1 Increased recycling will help to divert waste from landfill and support the achievement of greenhouse gas reduction targets, and reductions in local environmental impact.

Consultation and engagement

- 9.1 The Community Engagement team within Waste Services has supported the implementation of all 5 phases of the new service, and is now focusing on the final phase. This phase will see a further 40,000 households added and will complete the roll out to approximately 140,000 households. Support has included comprehensive targeted communications for residents, briefings for key stakeholders and community groups, events, dealing with enquiries and door to door engagement to over 8000 households.
- 9.2 Communications on the new recycling service have been well received by residents. A survey of Phase 4 residents, undertaken in July 2015, found that 80% agreed or strongly agreed that the information they received about the new service was easy to understand. Further, 78% agreed or strongly agreed that they were given all the information they needed about the new service. These are slightly lower than the average satisfaction scores for the combined first four phases of 84% of residents strongly agreeing that the information they received about the new service was easy to understand, and 87% agreeing or strongly agreeing that they were given all the information they needed about the new service. There were fewer surveys carried out by door knocking than in previous stages which may partially explain the slightly lower figures, and survey participation rate.
- 9.3 Waste Services is supporting each phase of the rollout with recycling advisors working alongside crews on recycling routes. This assists the team to deal with

any immediate issues householders may have, and also to accurately identify householders who would benefit from further guidance in utilising the new recycling service fully.

Background reading/external references

N/A

John Bury

Acting Director Services for Communities

Contact: Andy Williams, Service Support Unit Manager

E-mail: andy.williams@edinburgh.gov.uk | Tel: 0131 469 5660

Links

Coalition pledges	P44 – Prioritise keeping our streets clean and attractive P49 – Continue to increase recycling levels across the city and reducing the proportion of waste going to landfill P50 – Meet greenhouse gas targets, including national target of 42% by 2020
Council outcomes	CO17 – Clean – Edinburgh’s streets and open spaces are free of litter and graffiti CO18 – Green – We reduce the local environmental impact of our consumption and production CO19 – Attractive Places and Well maintained – Edinburgh remains an attractive city through the development of high quality buildings and places and the delivery of high standards and maintenance of infrastructure and public realm
Single Outcome Agreement	SO4 – Edinburgh’s communities are safer and have improved physical and social fabric
Appendices	N/A