

Transport and Environment Committee

10am, Tuesday, 7 June 2016

Landfill and Recycling

Item number	8.2
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 2015 to March 2016 (2015/16).

Total annual waste arisings decreased in 2015/16 by 1.2% compared to 2014/15.

The amount of non recyclable waste disposed of in 2015/16 decreased by 5.8% compared to the previous year. The tonnage of waste disposed of as landfill in 2015/16 was 114,543 tonnes, which is less than the Capital Coalition Pledge target of 118,000 tonnes and a 10.2% decrease on 2014/15.

The citywide recycling rate in 2015/16 was 42.0%, a 2.9% increase on the 39.1% recycled in 2014/15.

Links

Coalition pledges	P44, P49, P50
Council priorities	CP8, CP9
Single Outcome Agreement	SO4

Landfill and Recycling

Recommendations

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

Background

Landfilled Waste and Recycling

- 2.1 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%.
- 2.2 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 and is now fully rolled out to all eligible households.

Complaints

- 2.3 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.
- 2.4 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.
- 2.5 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 or presents their bin on the incorrect day, and then contacts the Council to report a missed collection.

* source: *Corporate Address Gazetteer*

Waste Arisings

- 3.1 The city generated less waste in 2015/16, with waste arisings reducing by 1.2% compared to 2014/15. Overall, 218,138 tonnes of waste was produced (Figure 1)

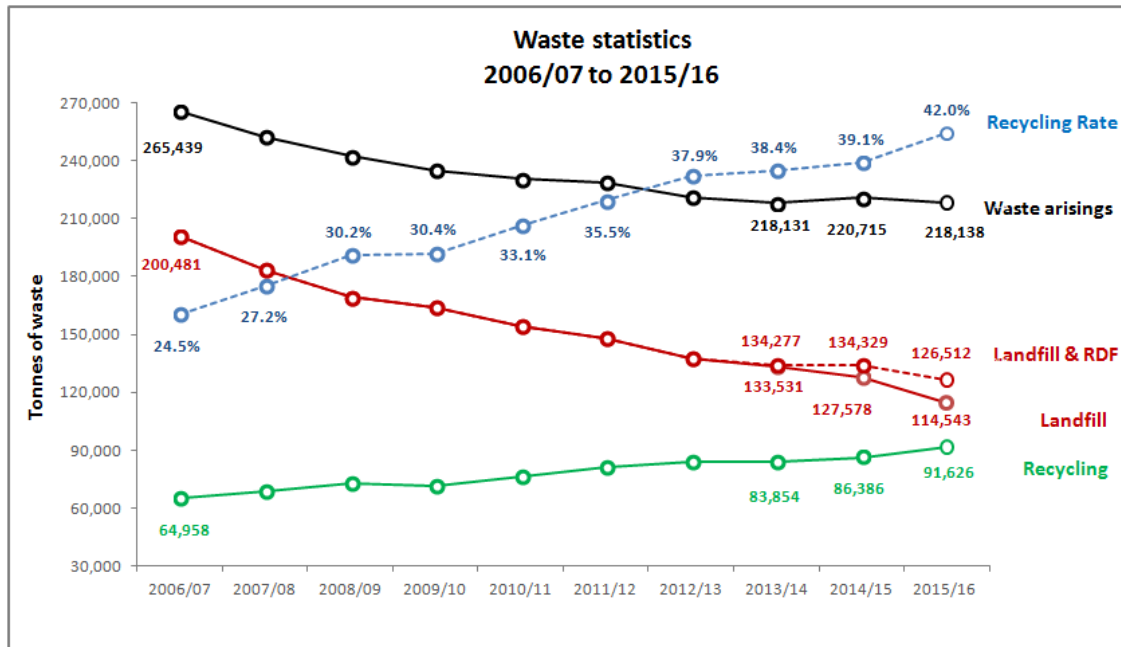


Figure 1 - waste trends 2006/7 to 2015/16

Non recycled waste

- 3.2 Waste that is put in landfill bins and containers is disposed of as landfill or diverted as refuse derived fuel (RDF). Waste disposed of as RDF, whilst included in waste arising tonnages, is not counted as recycling or landfill. Some of the waste collected at Community Recycling Centres that cannot be recycled is currently disposed of as RDF.
- 3.3 In total 126,512 tonnes of waste was collected from landfill bins and containers (Table 1) in 2015/16 of which 114,543 tonnes of was disposed of via landfill and 11,969 tonnes diverted as RDF. This is 7,817 tonnes (5.8%) less than was disposed of in 2014/15 (Table 1). Capital Coalition Pledge 49 sets a target of reducing landfill tonnage to 118,000 tonnes this target was not only met but exceeded by 3,457 tonnes in 2015/16.

	Non recycled waste			Recycled waste		Waste Arisings
	Landfill tonnes	RDF tonnes	Total tonnes	Tonnes	Rate %	Tonnes
14/15	127,578	6,751	134,329	86,386	39.1%	220,715
15/16	114,543	11,969	126,512	91,626	42.0%	2178,138
Difference	-13,035	5,218	-7,817	5,240	2.9%	-2,577

Table 1 – non-recycled waste and recycling 2014/15 & 2015/16

- 3.4 At the meeting of the Transport & Environment Committee on 25 August 2015 members approved the decision to cease acceptance of commercial waste at Community Recycling Centres. This took effect on 23 October 2015. In the period November 2015 to March 2016, the landfill skip waste arisings at Community Recycling Centres reduced by approximately 1,500 tonnes over what had been forecast at the commencement of 2014/15.
- 3.5 The City of Edinburgh and Midlothian Councils are working together to deliver a sustainable solution for the disposal of non-recycled 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

- 3.6 The 2015/16 citywide recycling rate was 42.0%. against a Capital Coalition Pledge 49 target of 50%., This is a 2.9% improvement on the previous year (2014/15). In addition, 5,240 tonnes more waste was recycled in 2015/16 than was recycled in 2014/15 (Table 1).
- 3.7 Multiple recycling collections are provided in the city to cater for the differing needs of householders. A comparison of how each of the different recycling streams in the city contribute to the total citywide amount of recycling collected in March 2016 and year 2015/16 is detailed in Table 2. A breakdown of the recycling by collection stream is detailed in Figure 2.

	March 2015	March 2016	Change	YTD Apr - Mar (2014/15)	YTD Apr - Mar (2015/16)	YTD Change	
Recycling Stream	tonnes	tonnes	tonnes	tonnes	tonnes	tonnes	% change
Garden Waste - kerbside	1,117	1,594	477	22,152	22,664	512	2%
Community Recycling Centres	1,739	1,672	-46	21,769	20,310	-1,459	-7%
Kerbside Recycling - green bin & boxes	1,384	1,879	495	15,557	20,095	4,538	29%
Food Waste	527	830	303	5,815	8,769	2,954	51%
Recycling Banks (glass,paper,textiles,books)	591	453	-138	6,783	5,902	-881	-13%
Packaging bins - on street communal	233	436	202	3,590	4,112	522	15%
Other streams	412	315	-97	4502	4089	-413	-9%
Mechanised street sweepings	268	201	-67	3,255	3,131	-124	-4%
Paper - wheeled bins	176	97	-79	1,920	1,475	-444	-23%
Manual Street sweeping	69	90	20	1,043	1,079	36	3%
Total Recycling	6,516	7,568	1,052	86,386	91,626	5,240	6.1%
Recycling rate	36.8%	41.9%	5.1%	39.1%	42.0%		2.9%

Table 2 – recycling by waste collection stream

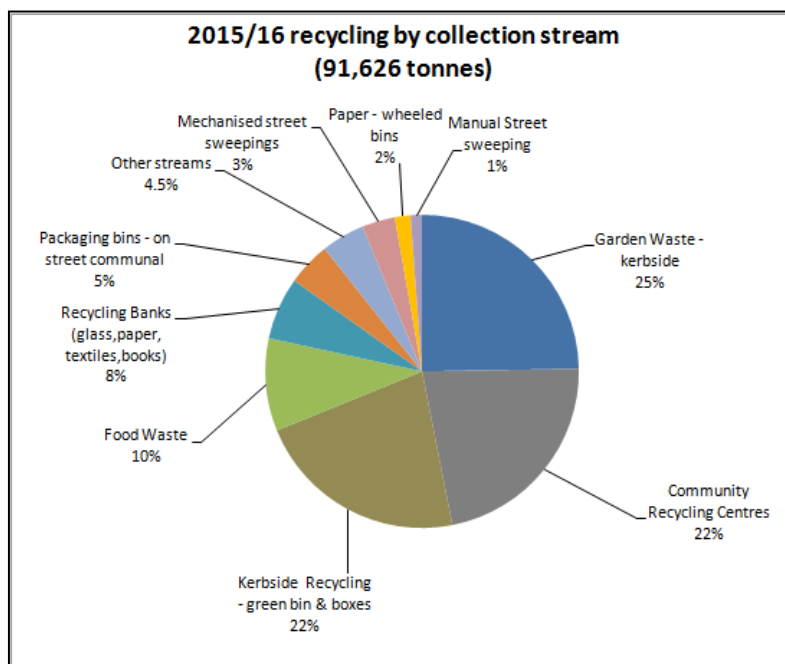


Figure 2 – total recycling by waste collection stream 2015/16

- 3.8 It can be seen in Table 2 that improvements have been achieved in both kerbside recycling and food recycling, with increases in tonnage compared to 2014/15 of 29% and 51% respectively. Other streams have experienced reductions, for example, the tonnage of recycled waste collected at the community recycling centres has reduced by 7% year to date. These reductions have offset some of the gains recorded in kerbside and food recycling.
- 3.9 A summary of the current and past recycling rate by month is detailed in Figure 3.

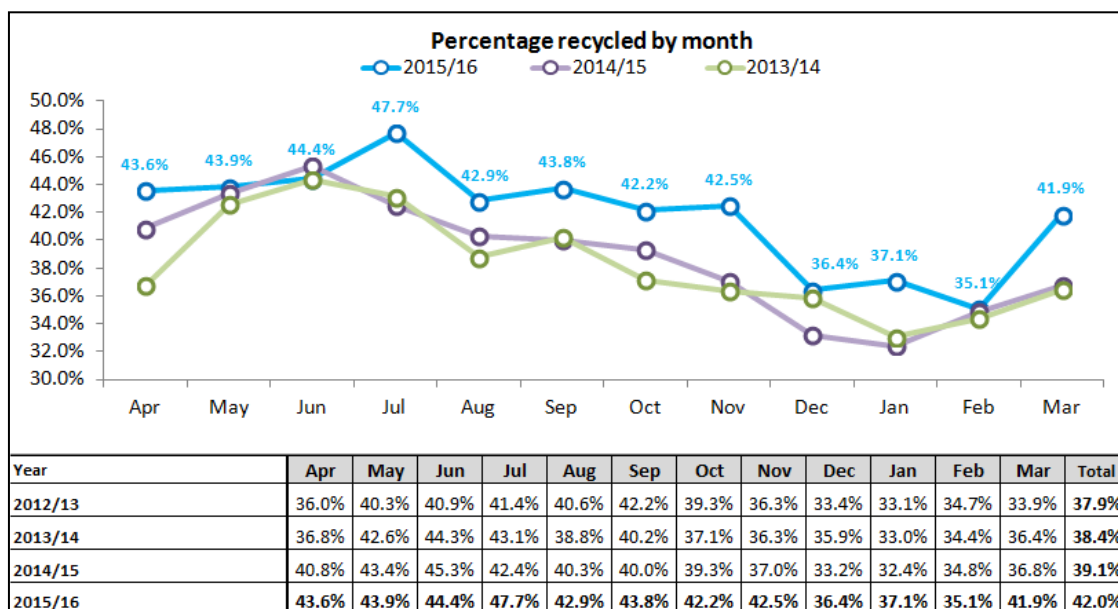


Figure 3 – recycling rate by month

Recycling - New kerbside bin/box recycling service

- 3.10 All phases to roll out a new kerbside green bin and blue box recycling service (a replacement to the previous red and blue box service) have been successfully delivered. All eligible households in the city with a wheeled bin landfill service now have access to the new recycling service.
- 3.11 This is a major change to recycling provision in the city, as the new green bin/blue box service simplifies the recycling process for kerbside residents and increases the range of materials collected. As detailed in Table 2, the new service has had a positive impact on the overall citywide recycling rate, with kerbside tonnages increasing by 29% compared to last year.
- 3.12 In November 2015, prior to withdrawal of the service, the existing multi material box service accounted for 4% of the recycling collected at the kerbside and highlighted that the service was being used by a relatively small number of households. The 50,000 potential users (21% of total households) of the box service were located in flatted properties primarily serviced by on street communal landfill bins. Where properties did not have adequate on street recycling provision, bins have been supplied to provide on street facilities for the recycling of dry mixed recyclate (DMR) and glass. The range of materials that can be recycled in communal DMR bins has increased and mirrors that collected in the green recycling bin.

Enhancement to World Heritage Site recycling services

- 3.13 Householders in the World Heritage Site (modernising waste area) now receive a new enhanced kerbside recycling collection which commenced in late November 2015. Residents continue to use their existing red and blue boxes, but are now able to recycle the same mixture of materials that are accepted via the green bin/ blue box service, with the red box now mirroring the contents of the green bin. Residents present both boxes on the same day and receive a fortnightly collection.

Recycling – food waste

- 3.14 Large increases continue to be experienced in the tonnage of food waste, with 51% more food waste collected in 2015/16 than in 2014/15. Residents have re-engaged with the service, with increases in the tonnage of kerbside food waste recorded at each phase of the new recycling service bin/ box rollout (Figure 4).

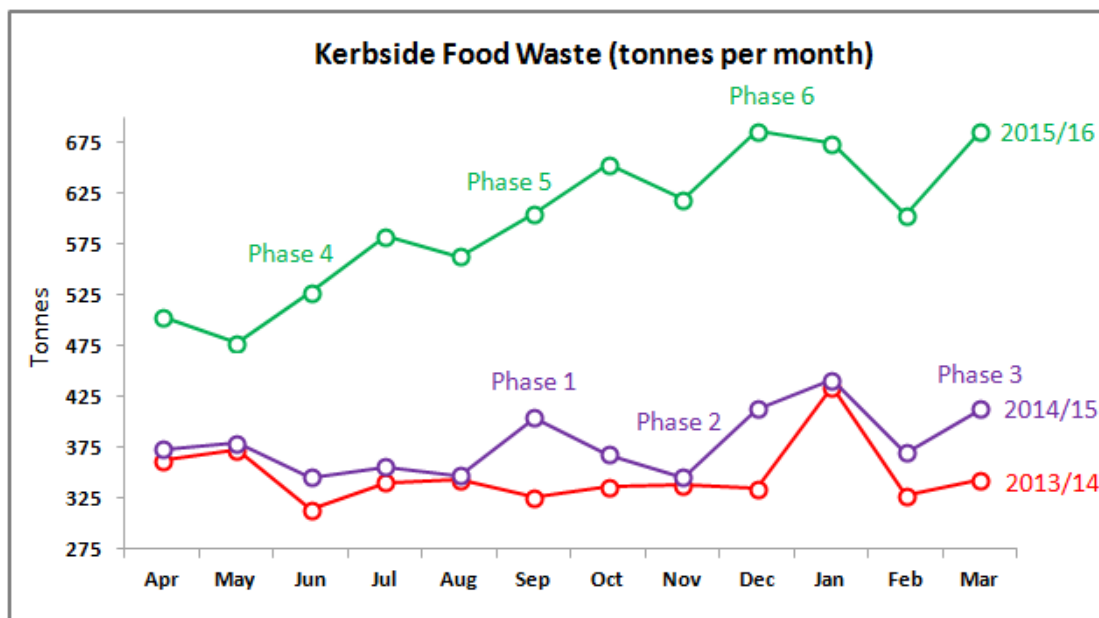


Figure 4 – kerbside food waste tonnages, April 2013 to March 2016

Complaints

3.15 Weekly complaint numbers since 2013 are detailed in figure 5 below.

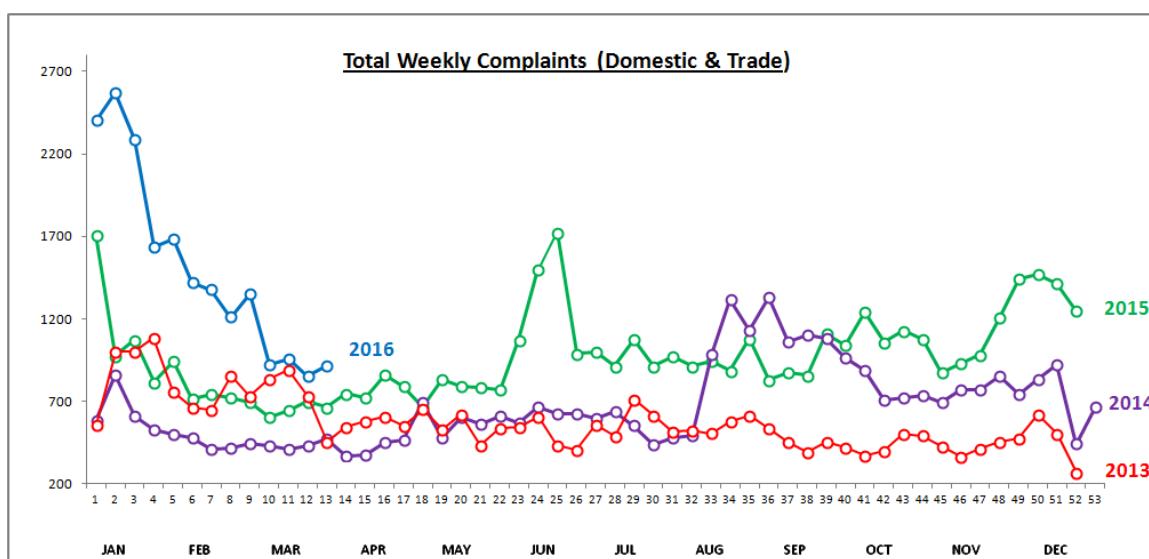


Figure 5 – weekly complaint number January 2012- March 2016 by month

- 3.16 On average to date (April to March), 1133 complaints a week were received to Waste Services. With approximately 480,000 collections a week, this translates to 0.23% of collections resulting in a customer complaint. The majority of complaints received were regarding the non-collection of waste (96% of complaints).
- 3.17 A breakdown of complaints regarding non-collection of waste in March 2016 by collection stream is detailed in figure 6.

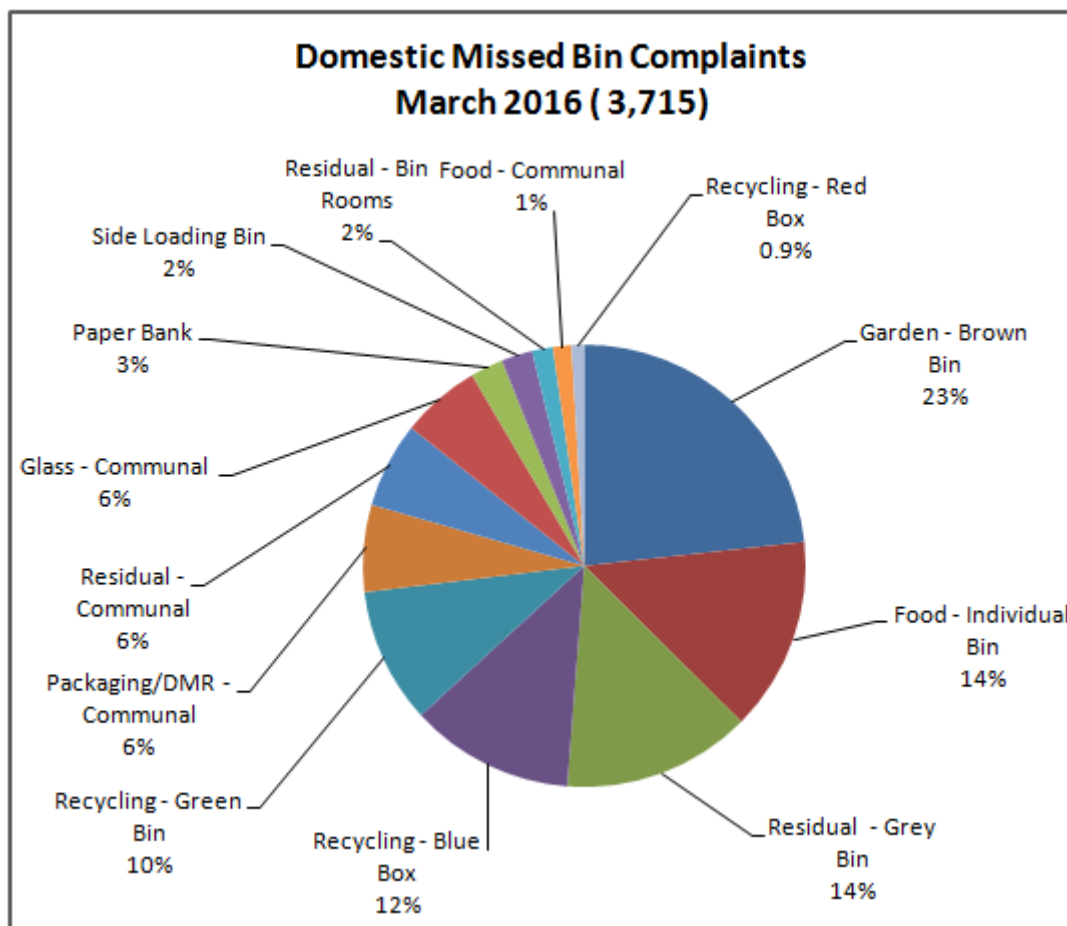


Figure 6 – complaint breakdown by collection stream (March 2016)

- 3.18 The new bin and box recycling service is having a positive impact on recycling tonnage in the city, with year to date kerbside recycling tonnages increasing by 29% as outlined in section 3.9. The citywide service change for some 140,000 wheeled bin households has, however, increased the number of complaints received each month regarding kerbside recycling. In 2015/16, 18,935 more missed collection complaints were recorded in 2014/15. Of these, increases in complaints regarding kerbside recycling (bin and box) services accounted for 71% of the increase (13,486 additional complaints).
- 3.19 Actions to address the increase in complaints regarding kerbside recycling and to reduce complaint levels across all collection services and provide consistent service standards have been put in place. These include the following:
- 3.20 Refuse staff are now working in one specific area alternating green bin recycling collections with grey general waste collections. This has allowed crews to improve their knowledge of their specific areas and the consistency of staffing has allowed a better insight to the needs of the customers in the area to be gained.
- 3.21 In addition, supervisors are now also working in a single area allowing them to build a more in-depth understanding of the customer's needs. They also now retain the same crews, which assists them in effectively managing the performance of individual staff.

- 3.22 As outlined in section 3.9, the service continues to experience significant increases in kerbside food waste, with tonnages in 2015/16 51% higher than the same period in 2014/15. Whilst this is positive for recycling, 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. New food routes to reflect increased participation have been designed and will be rolled out in the first quarter of 2015/16. Procurement of larger capacity food vehicles is ongoing with delivery of new vehicles anticipated in 2016/17.
- 3.23 Reporting missed collections via the council website, rather than phoning the contact centre, is becoming increasingly popular, with 36% of missed collection complaints recorded by residents in this manner in March 2016. Steps to improve the accuracy and validity of complaints received via the website are ongoing, as currently complaints received via the web include when residents have logged a complaint: multiple times, when scheduled collections are still ongoing, when it is not the collection day for the service and when bins have been tagged as contaminated.

Service Changes

- 3.24 As part of the approved budget for 2016/17, a number of changes are being made to waste collection services throughout the course of the year. These changes are detailed below:
- A re-routing exercise for residual waste bins, dry mixed recycling bins, food waste bins and glass recycling boxes for all individual households – May 2016.
 - The cessation of trade waste collections for external customers – July 2016.
 - Moving from a 2 weekly (in summer months) and 4 weekly (in winter months) garden waste collection service to a 3 weekly (all year round) – September 2016.
- 3.25 It should be noted that the approved budget assumed a move to a 4 weekly glass collection service. However, having undertaken modelling of potential efficiencies, officers are now confident that the same level of saving can be made whilst maintaining the existing 2 weekly glass collection service. As such, the planned change to 4 weekly collections will now no longer take place.

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 2015, members requested that overall disposal and landfill expenditure be included in future reports.
- 5.2 Non recyclable material was disposed of as refuse derived fuel (RDF) and as landfill in 2015/16. In addition, there are charges associated with transporting landfill waste by rail from the transfer station at Powderhall to the landfill site at Dunbar. Quarterly disposal expenditures for 2015/16, including a comparison with 2014/15, are detailed in Table 3 below.
- 5.3 The decreasing trend in non recycled waste outlined in section 3.3 is reflective of the reduction in waste monthly disposal costs observed in 2015/16. Taking into account the impact of indexation for inflation on the landfill contracts disposal costs for non-recycled waste are estimated to have reduced by £536,087 in 2015/16 compared to the previous year.

	2014-15					2015-16					
	Quarter 1 (Apr- Jun)	Quarter 2 (Jul-Sep)	Quarter 3 (Oct-Dec)	Quarter 4 (Jan-Mar)	Total Q1-Q4	Quarter 1 (Apr- Jun)	Quarter 2 (Jul-Sep)	Quarter 3 (Oct-Dec)	Quarter 4 (Jan-Mar)	Total Q1-Q4	Forecast Q1-Q4
Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF)	£55,210	£168,940	£186,679	£592,557	£1,003,386	£682,390	£289,335	£252,878	£8,562	£1,233,165	£1,233,165
Landfill	£3,575,719	£3,693,154	£3,170,648	£3,326,398	£13,765,919	£2,858,095	£3,275,643	£3,044,740	£3,416,144	£12,594,622	£12,594,622
Freight / Haulage	£239,482	£274,379	£260,465	£257,337	£1,031,664	£204,138	£337,601	£346,365	£236,019	£1,124,123	£1,437,095 *
Total monthly disposal costs	£3,870,411	£4,136,473	£3,617,793	£4,176,292	£15,800,969	£3,744,623	£3,902,579	£3,643,983	£3,660,725	£14,951,911	£15,264,882*

* forecast includes the proposed re-indexed contract handling fee which is currently being evaluated by officers.

Table 3 -Disposal expenditure 2014/15 and 2015/16

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 have supported the implementation of all phases of the new bin/box recycling service. Communication materials were sent to all residents who were receiving changes to their recycling service in the final phase of the project.
- 9.2 The team have also worked with the Waste Strategy team to resolve and answer customer enquiries while residents adjust to the changes in service. Recycling Advisors have been assisting the team and have carried out visits to offer help and advice to residents.

Background reading/external references

- 10.1 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.

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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 priorities	CP8 – A vibrant, sustainable local economy
	CP9 – An Attractive City
Single Outcome Agreement	SO4 – Edinburgh’s communities are safer and have improved physical and social fabric
Appendices	N/A